**SWA High-level Meetings of Finance and Sector Ministers**

**April 2017. Washington D.C., USA.**

The Sanitation and Water for All global partnership (SWA) was established to address widely recognized obstacles to improving access to sanitation and drinking water such as low political prioritization, insufficient financing and a lack of reliable and comprehensive data. To complement and support government-led, national cycles of planning, implementation and review, SWA convenes government ministers, their advisors, and other key stakeholders to engage in policy debate, exchange lessons learned and hold each other mutually accountable for progress.

In April 2017, SWA will hold a series of ministerial meetings in Washington D.C., USA, at the time of the World Bank Spring Meetings. These meetings will build on previous SWA High-level Meetings of Ministers of Finance (in 2010, 2012, and 2014) and of Ministers responsible for Sanitation, Water and Hygiene (in 2010, 2012, 2014 and 2016). The 2016 SWA Meeting of Ministers of Water, Sanitation and Hygiene was the first occasion for the sector to come together after the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) were agreed. Countries and their partners discussed national planning to meet the challenges of the water, sanitation and hygiene-related targets and required resources.

In 2017, SWA will hold a Finance Ministers’ Meeting (FMM) on or around 21 April. This meeting will be convened by the World Bank on behalf of the SWA partnership. In the preceding days, a Sector Ministers’ Meeting will be convened by UNICEF on behalf of SWA, involving those ministers responsible for water, sanitation and hygiene who have accompanied their finance counterparts to Washington D.C.

Collectively, these meetings comprise the SWA 2017 High-level Meetings.

**Finance Ministers’ Meeting**

The Finance Ministers’ Meeting (FMM) on or around 21 April will focus on the question of how to finance the achievement of universal, sustainable access to safely managed sanitation, water and hygiene. The World Bank will convene this 2-hour meeting. Ministers will discuss the policy trade-offs inherent within the choices they need to make. Presentations based on analytic work being done in the lead up to the meeting will address the following questions: How can SDGs be financed by a mix of efficiency gains and additional financing sources mobilized at the level of the countries themselves? How can international cooperation best support institutional development, elimination of inequalities, efficiency gains and access to the domestic finance required to meet the SDGs?

**The main objective of the Finance Ministers’ Meeting is to get endorsement of key policy principles on sector financing required to meet the water, sanitation and hygiene-related SDG targets, with an explicit focus on eliminating inefficiencies and achieving universal access.**

**Sector Ministers’ Meeting**

In the days preceding the FMM, UNICEF will convene those ministers responsible for water, sanitation, and hygiene who are accompanying their finance ministers to Washington D.C. This one-and-a-half-day meeting, will build on the discussions held in Addis Ababa in March 2016. In particular, ministers will consider the [Building Blocks](https://www.google.ch/url?sa=t&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&source=web&cd=1&cad=rja&uact=8&ved=0ahUKEwiziNegkYDRAhXB1RoKHQdPA6UQFggaMAA&url=http%3A%2F%2Fsanitationandwaterforall.org%2F%3Fwpdmact%3Dprocess%26did%3DODU0LmhvdGxpbms%3D&usg=AFQjCNHDk_fEaPZ1Ypm-pusYJNa3hoOlVg&sig2=e63aXalp1r68o6KnCU7uEQ&bvm=bv.142059868,d.d2s) needed to establish the foundations for a strong sector. These are: Sector Policy / Strategy; Institutional arrangements; Sector Financing; Planning, monitoring, and review and Capacity development. They will also discuss the [SWA Collaborative Behaviours](http://sanitationandwaterforall.org/about/the-four-swa-collaborative-behaviours/). These Behaviours, endorsed by the partnership as a whole in 2015 are: 1) Enhance government leadership of sector planning processes; 2) Strengthen and use country systems; 3) Use one information and mutual accountability platform; and 4) Build sustainable water and sanitation sector financing strategies.

The **objectives of the Sector Ministers Meeting** are to:

* Raise awareness among Ministers of the challenges of the WASH targets of the SDGs and the changes required to meet them;
* Follow-up on and exchange learning on the Building Blocks of a strong sector (presented at the 2016 SMM) - in terms of financing, institutions, capacity, planning, and policy and strategy - that support progress and development effectiveness in order to eliminate inequalities and achieve sustainable universal access;
* Enable Minsters and senior representatives of development partners to discuss the essential collaborative behaviours that foster increased development effectiveness;
* Discuss attracting and utilizing adequate finance, in advance of the Finance Ministers’ Meeting.

**To find out more**

**As planning for the 2017 HLMs continues, updated information will be posted on** [**www.sanitationandwaterforall.org**](http://www.sanitationandwaterforall.org)**. Details about planned webinars and contact details of the SWA Secretariat team can be found here.**