



***High Level Political Forum Breakfast Meeting:***

***Strengthening the Business Case for WASH***

*Date and Time: July 17, 7-9 AM  
Location: UN Global Compact Offices  
685 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue, 12<sup>th</sup> Floor  
New York NY*

**Context:**

In response to former UN Deputy Secretary-General Jan Eliasson's call for those in the water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) sector to strengthen their engagement with the private sector in order to expand access to WASH, a partnership was formed among leading companies, UN agencies and civil society partners called WASH4Work (W4W).

W4W aims to strengthen businesses contribution to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly SDG 6 on water and sanitation, by mobilizing business to address WASH challenges in the workplace, in communities where companies operate and across supply chains.

The partners are a diverse group which includes Alliance for Water Stewardship, Diageo, Gap Inc., Global Citizen, the International Labor Organization, Sanitation and Water for All, the United Nations Foundation, the Global Compact CEO Water Mandate, The Toilet Board Coalition, Unilever, UNICEF, WaterAid, the World Business Council for Sustainable Development, the Water Supply and Sanitation Collaborative Council and Water & Sanitation for the Urban Poor.

**Background and objectives:**

The session will demonstrate the importance of WASH in the workplace, supply chains and communities while illustrating what leading organizations and governments are doing to both promote and scale-up WASH action as it relates to the private sector. The results of the WBCSD's WASH at the workplace Pledge Impact Report will help to set the stage for some of the actions the business community has taken over the last 4 years. While progress has been made, we know more needs to be done to catalyze action by the private sector if we are to contribute toward achieving transformational change at scale against SDG6. WASH4Work, a coalition of 15 organizations was established to mobilize business action in the workplace, in communities where companies operate, and across supply chains. In support of WASH4Work's agenda, a new guide developed by W4W partners WaterAid, Diageo, Unilever and Gap Inc. will be highlighted as a key resource to engage and support business action. The guide helps businesses to plan the evidence-gathering from WASH interventions and calculate the return on investment (ROI). The guide will ultimately strengthen the internal financial business case for action on WASH with evidence of the ROI of WASH interventions.

The objectives of this breakfast discussion will be to;

- Heighten awareness among the broader business community, NGOs, government and civil society of the importance of WASH in the workplace, in communities where companies operate, and across supply chains;

# WASH 4WORK

- To facilitate greater engagement between the public and private sectors to learn from each other, tackle challenges and create an enabling environment that promotes WASH in the workplace.
- Engage other leading businesses in WASH4Work by demonstrating the value the Coalition can bring to their business.

## ***Agenda:***

**7:00 – 7:15 AM: Breakfast**

**7:15 AM: Welcome remarks and Framing the Session**

- Isabella Pagotto, Senior Policy Advisor / Programme Manager, Global Programme Water (GPW), Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation
- Lila Karbassi, Chief of Programmes, UN Global Compact
- Guy Hutton, Senior Advisor, WASH Section, UNICEF

**7:30 AM: How do we Drive Greater Business Action and What is the Role of Government?**

- Filippo Veglio, Managing Director, People, World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD)
- Eric Ostern, Director, Global Partnerships & Advocacy, Unilever
- Ruth Romer, Private Sector Advisor, WaterAid
- David Croft, Global Sustainable Development Director, Diageo
- Isabella Pagotto, Senior Policy Advisor / Programme Manager, Global Programme Water (GPW), Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation

**8:05 AM Discussion with the floor/audience**

**8:35 PM Main Messages from the session & Call to Action**

- Jason Morrison, Head, CEO Water Mandate & President, the Pacific Institute