

ECOSOC Partnership Forum 27 January 2026
Statement by Christopher Williams, CEO, Safe Water Network

Greetings

I wish to thank H.E. Ambassador Thapa, President of ECOSOC and the Bureau Members for their efforts to steer ECOSOC 80 to elevate actions for the 2030 Agenda.

It gives me pleasure to address you today in my capacity as CEO of Safe Water Network. Founded by Paul Newman in 2008, the organization is the third largest water provider in Ghana. It serves as partner organization of in the Office of the Prime Minister of India and provides technical assistance to underserved communities in Africa and Asia.

The status of SDG attainment is worrisome. Less than 20% of the targets have been attained. The climate crisis threatens our planetary ecosystem. Disasters rage as our collective appetite for humanitarian assistance wanes. The political consensus that created the SDGs no longer exists.

So, where does this leave us? My simple message is that we must step back and recognize that very design of Agenda 2030 offers crucial pathways forward. Consider three design elements:

1. **Planetary Reach.** The 2030 Agenda was adopted on the understanding that climate crisis and inequality are planetary challenges. They know no boundaries. This means there is common ground among industrialized nations with deteriorating water infrastructure and agrarian countries that lack water infrastructure. And difficulties among all nations facing depleting aquifers.
2. **Multi-Target Impact.** The SDGs are linked. When member States invest resources to achieve SDG 6.1, for example, they are channeling resources that will not only improve access to safe water but will also empower women, improve health outcomes, increase school performance, and generate employment. One investment, multi-target impact.
3. **Collective Action:** Precisely because the SDGs are planetary and because targets are linked, Agenda 2030 provides the basis for collective action. We see this in the actions from hundreds of stakeholders consolidated by the GA at the high-level meeting on Water in 2023. And progress on implementation of these actions set for the UN Water Conference hosted by Senegal and UAE. SDG collective action also triggers alliances for water solutions that are national, regional and global

Let me conclude by inviting you to join a collective action inspired by the SDGs known as the Campaign for Safe Water. Co-organized by Global Citizen and Safe Water Network, the Campaign will mobilize \$100 million for safe water solutions towards the attainment of SDG 6.1

Thank you,

Chris