This document summarizes key messages from the regional evaluation entitled “Water as cross-cutting factor in the SDGs under review at the HLPF 2019 in Latin America and the Caribbean.” Three regional evaluations (Africa, Arab states and Latin America and the Caribbean) aim to inform intergovernmental discussions by highlighting SDG 6 interlinkages with SDGs 4, 8, 10, 13, 16 and 17.

Acknowledging and investing in stronger links between the SDG 6 on water and the various other water-related SDGs is an efficient and effective strategy for lifting millions of people from poverty and achieving the 2030 Agenda. Efforts to achieve SDG 6 will benefit socioeconomic development and the environment in Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) and will thus inherently advance progress for other SDGs, as shown in the following examples.

**GOOD WATER GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT EMPOWERS PEOPLE, INCLUSIVITY AND EQUALITY IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN.**

**IMPROVING EDUCATIONAL OUTCOMES THROUGH WATER**
- Globally, 10.7% of the boys and 9.7% of the girls that were not enrolled in primary nor secondary schools in 2016 resided in LAC. Many LAC schools have basic sanitation services but not clean drinking water services. Further, there is not sufficient data to determine the proportion of LAC students with basic water services nor the reason for which certain populations or regions do not have access. Providing basic drinking water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) services to schools that do not have access can improve enrollment, attendance and educational outcomes in LAC.

**REDUCING INEQUALITIES THROUGH WATER**
- The proportion of the population living in rural areas has decreased in the last 30 years; therefore, the proportion of the population dependent on agriculture-related employment has decreased. Agriculture remains the principal water-consuming industry and the most vulnerable to climate change.
- LAC has reduced the differences in access to clean water and sanitation services between rural and urban populations and between populations of different income groups. However, indigenous communities remain especially vulnerable to inequalities in access to clean water and sanitation services, particularly in rural areas.

**FOSTERING ECONOMIC GROWTH AND CLIMATE-RESILIENT COMMUNITIES THROUGH WATER**
- Water resource heterogeneity across LAC is important for societal stability and job security. LAC has the greatest water resources per capita, but has extensive arid and semiarid regions and urban conglomerates that are water-stressed. 37% of the employed population works in sectors directly related to natural resources.
- Adapting to climate change and increasing climate-resilience of LAC communities to extreme weather events is a key priority for social stability and economic growth. LAC has three of the world’s four most vulnerable countries to extreme weather events, which implicate job and economic stabilities, and which can lead to migration.

**SUSTAINING TRANSBOUNDARY STABILITY THROUGH WATER**
- Many water resources are distributed across multiple LAC countries, increasing the variability of interests and the complexity of their management. Effective transboundary water resources management is necessary for socioeconomic development and to reduce risks to peace and security.

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LATIN AMERICAN & THE CARIBBEAN: POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

Below are policy recommendations to better take SDG 6 into account when implementing the SDGs in review.

**WASH Data for Education & Equity** - Generate detailed information on the existence, absence, characteristics and functioning of WASH facilities in schools.

**WASH Oversight for Education** - Define a responsible party for ensuring the operation of WASH services in schools, connecting the education, water and health sectors.

**WASH in New Schools** - Limit the construction of new schools to those with at least basic WASH services.

**Water-related Research & Education** - Offer opportunities for specializations in research and management of water resources.

**Investment in Water-related Research and Development (R&D)** - Significantly upscale investment in R&D of effective water resources management and increasing access to WASH services.

**Technological Innovation** - Adopt policies to foment the development of innovation capacities that take advantage of technological advancements and the latest water-sector Information and Communication Technology (ICT) tools.

**Water Use Efficiency & Sustainability** - Prioritize efficiency and sustainability in water resources management. Decouple economic growth from environmental degradation, such as by promoting the development of sustainable tourism (SDGs 8.2 and 8.9).

**Information & Technology Asymmetries** - Address the asymmetries of access to information and technology to implement improved water-related policies and risk prevention.

**Economic Risk Management** - Identify climate-related natural hazards and strengthen or develop national strategies for natural disaster risk management.

**Reducing Inequalities through accelerated and inclusive action on SDG 6**

**Human Rights** - Reform public policy and legal and institutional frameworks to include the human rights to clean drinking water and decent sanitation. Prioritize investments in these human rights, especially for vulnerable populations.

**Ensuring inclusive access to education and improving educational outcomes through WASH**

**WASH Access Inclusion & Investment Gaps** - Identify and close inclusion and investment gaps using socioeconomically disaggregated data.

**Equitable Water Resources Protection** - Improve water quality, reduce untreated wastewater and eliminate hazardous waste, especially in the environments of vulnerable populations.

**Water Governance** - Provide legal, institutional and economic support for improved water governance, including for Integrated Water Resource Management (IWRM), wastewater management, and sustainable financing.

**Adaptation & Mitigation** - Advance and invest in climate change mitigation and adaptation, including nature-based activities, water resources management knowledge and technological capacities, and climate-resilient water and sanitation infrastructure.

**Security & Risk Management** - Invest in prediction and early warning systems, with reliable risk assessments and with comprehensive security protocols for water infrastructure.

**Promoting just and peaceful societies and accountable and effective water governance**

**Institutional Accountability** - Advance transparency, participation and accountability in water-related policy and decision-making.

**Outreach with Social Media** - Use new possibilities for communication related to water issues, such as social media.

**Transboundary Cooperation** - Use water as a foundation for cooperation and understanding to coordinate the protection and sustainable utilization of transboundary water resources.

**Facilitating SDG 6 achievement through strengthened Means of Implementation (MOIs)**

**Capacity- & Cooperation-building** - Support capacity-building in science, technology, and innovation, and develop greater and better stakeholder cooperation mechanisms.

**Inclusive Participation** - Mandate the principle of participation in all water-related projects and policies.

**Institutions & Partnerships** - Take advantage of social and political awareness after climate-disasters to strengthen institutions and long-term partnerships at all scales.