



VICEMINISTRY OF WATER AND BASIC SANITATION

INTERACTIVE DIALOGUE THEME PROPOSAL

Reaching the last mile: regulatory and technological innovations to achieve SDG 6

Sustainable Development Goal 6 (SDG 6) establishes the blueprint for ensuring availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all. To ensure the universalization of access to these services we must reach those who are located in rural and semi-urban areas where they still lack basic services due to difficulties in implementing traditional solutions.

This challenge requires the implementation of “*Differential Schemes*”: institutional reforms, including technical, operational and management conditions, that allow the regulatory frameworks to adapt the formulation of projects that contribute to improve the conditions of access to drinking water and basic sanitation in rural areas where there is traditionally a lag in this area, and where the use of conventional technologies and solutions is not sustainable.

Based on this premise, there is a range of technological and organizational possibilities for access to drinking water and basic sanitation services in rural populations and dispersed communities. Given that the current territorial conditions make it unfeasible to apply conventional service delivery models, we propose an interactive dialogue that focuses on the set of technical, operational, and management conditions that would guarantee this access, based on the use of non-conventional technologies, as well as guidelines and regulatory instruments that allow the implementation of differential schemes.

Taking into account the need to ensure that every any and all solutions effectively leave no one behind, it's critical to consider the following: (i) availability of the resource not only for personal, but also for domestic uses; (ii) accessibility; (iii) affordability - that the price of the service does not become another obstacle; (iv) acceptability - that the solutions are tailored to the cultural context of the communities; and (v) quality - that the water is suitable for human consumption..

In addition to the aforementioned, the dialogue would be an important opportunity to promote joint cooperation projects to strengthen technical capacities on alternative water solutions in rural areas, and the development of non-conventional systems for water supply and sanitation. Consequently, yielding the perfect environment to discuss collaborative initiatives in science, research and innovation for the sustainable development of water resources at the local, national and regional levels.

Further challenges to address within the dialogue include allocating more resources and improving the efficiency of investments. To achieve the SDG 6 by 2030, National Governments need to make a greater investment in the Water and Sanitation sector. This includes establishing favorable conditions to promote foreign investment, the development of public – private partnerships, and other initiatives or financial mechanisms that allow for the development of ambitious infrastructure, not only on urban areas, but also in the rural and semi-urban areas where investments may differ given the magnitude of the projects.

This dialogue would contribute to the objectives of the ‘Water for Sustainable Development’ 2018-2028” decade, which calls upon all stakeholders to galvanize actions around the framework in



order to accelerate achievement of the water-related goals and targets and overcome the global crisis. The reevaluation of current national frameworks and analysis of how they may be an obstacle in achieving SDG 6 and consequently why they need to be updated, as well as the furtherance of cooperation and partnerships towards differential schemes, is a step forward.

In conclusion, the dialogue aims to facilitate access to knowledge and the exchange of good practices via the presentation of different cases, such as the Peruvian or Colombian differential schemes, but also of innovative technologies, as may be the case for desalination machines developed by countries with desertic regions.

Other topics to consider for the interactive dialogues:

- 1) circular economy and water reuse models
- 2) Regulatory framework and conditions for technology transfer.
- 3) Management and corporate governance models for the provision of water and sanitation services.
- 4) Public-Private partnerships to expand infrastructure
- 5) water markets