

Comments on Concept Paper:

Accelerating the implementation of SDG 6 in Latin America and the Caribbean

23 November 2022

The following comments respond to the request for feedback on the draft concept paper “*Accelerating the implementation of SDG 6 in Latin America and the Caribbean*”, prepared by the Natural Resources Division of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC).

- Compliments to the Natural Resources Division for preparing an excellent contribution to the UN 2023 Water Conference through analysis and consultation. We note the effective highlighting of the specific issues of and recommendations for Caribbean SIDS, and collaboration with the ECLAC subregional headquarters for the Caribbean.
- In the context of financing, the authors may wish to mention significant inefficiencies in water utilities in the Caribbean. For example, is it possible that reducing the relatively high share of non-revenue water can provide a significant share of the investment financing needs highlighted in the paper? Recent reports suggest that this may be an useful strategy to improve efficiency and financial performance of Caribbean utilities, thus facilitating increased investment and accelerated progress on SDG 6 (Janson, Burkhard and Jones 2021) (Burdescu, et al. 2020).
- In responding to the Secretariat’s request for good practices and recommendations to advance the implementation of SDG 6, the authors may wish to expand on the key messages and/or tangible outcomes of the 2021 and 2022 Regional Water Dialogues. For example, consider highlighting some of the country-level actions mentioned in [your report](#), such as the member states who developed intergovernmental agreements, established social tariffs, etc. Relatedly, were any of the experiences and strategies shared in the 2021 Dialogues then leveraged in other ECLAC Member States, or do they have the potential for broader application beyond the LAC?
- The paper omits the section on Guiding Questions to shape discussions during the 2023 Water Conference. In lieu, consider sharing the overarching questions or objectives of the various sessions planned for the 2023 Regional Water Dialogues.

References

- Burdescu, Ruxandra, Caroline van den Berg, Nils Janson, and Oscar Alvarado. 2020. *A Benchmark for the Performance of State-Owned Water Utilities in the Caribbean*. Washington, D.C.: World Bank. <https://openknowledge.worldbank.org/bitstream/handle/10986/33251/K880429.pdf?sequence=2&isAllowed=y>.
- Janson, Nils, Lindsay Burkhard, and Sara Jones. 2021. *Caribbean Water Study*. Inter-American Development Bank. <https://publications.iadb.org/publications/english/document/Caribbean-Water-Study.pdf>.