



Federal Ministry for the  
Environment, Nature Conservation,  
Building and Nuclear Safety



## Invitation

### Side event

### ***“Towards a World Water Quality Assessment - providing evidence and understanding to tackle the global water quality crisis and help meet water related SDGs”***

30 November 2016, 12:00-13:00h

Room Tisza Gallery, Building D

Water quality lies at the heart of SDG 6, being central for ensuring drinking water, sustainable sanitation and functioning ecosystems and their multiple services. It also connects to achieving many other SDGs, such as those related to human health, food security, sustainable consumption and production and biodiversity.

A side event being organized by Germany, UN-Water and UN Environment (UNEP) will explore how water quality is increasingly under threat from pollution and wastewater linked to economic development and demographic pressure, which is being exacerbated by climate change. The side event will explore data gaps and methodological challenges, which need to be overcome in order to enable the setting of quality targets both for water and related ecosystems.

The side event will also see the launch of a new UN-Water Analytical Brief making a case for a comprehensive World Water Quality Assessment, which builds upon a recent report by UN Environment articulating the current water quality situation, *Snapshot of the World's Water Quality*. In elaborating on the potential of a world water quality assessment, speakers will present how understanding, protecting and improving water quality will help countries achieve the multiple targets of a global water agenda and interlinked goals. The second part of the session will be highly interactive, with short interventions on necessary requirements, including resources, and options for partnerships, and the opportunity to raise issues from the floor.

### PROVISIONAL AGENDA

- 12:00 Introductory remarks: Mr Thomas Stratenwerth; Head, Water Management Directorate, BMUB, Germany
- 12:05 Welcoming address and launch of the "UN-Water Analytical Brief on a World Water Quality Assessment": Joakim Harlin, Vice-Chair, UN-Water

- 12:15 The World Water Quality Assessment in the work of UN Environment: Hartwig Kremer, Head GEMS Water Unit, UN Environment
- 12:20 World Water Quality Assessment: "From a Snapshot to a full assessment": Joe Alcamo, University of Kassel
- 12:30 Interventions and moderated discussion
- 12:55 Summary and conclusion: Hartwig Kremer, UN Environment

We welcome your participation and look forward to fruitful discussions.

Yours sincerely,



Thomas Stratenwerth  
Head, Water Management Directorate  
BMUB, Germany



Joakim Harlin  
Vice-Chair, UN-Water



Hartwig Kremer  
Head GEMS Water Unit  
UN Environment