The Bangkok Declaration

World Toilet Summit 2026 · Bangkok, Thailand

Sanitation in a Changing World: Safe Toilets. Equal Futures.
Adopted on the occasion of World Toilet Day, 19 November 2026

Preamble

We, the delegates of the World Toilet Summit 2026, gathered at the Asian Institute of Technology in Bangkok, representing governments, utilities, communities, civil society, academia, development partners, the private sector and innovators

Recalling the World Toilet Organization's founding in Singapore in 2001, the designation of 19 November as an official United Nations observance in 2013, and the recognition of the human right to water and sanitation by the United Nations in 2010;

Alarmed that 3.4 billion people still lack safely managed sanitation and that progress towards Sustainable Development Goal 6.2 remains far off track;

Recognizing that urban growth and climate extremes challenge sanitation systems, while untreated waste threatens water security and contributes to climate change;

Convinced that progress requires political leadership, inclusive institutions, sustained financing and measurable results, and determined to carry Bangkok's momentum to the 2026 United Nations Water Conference next month;

Affirming that safe sanitation protects both the dignity and personal safety of users, particularly women and girls, and public health across the full sanitation service chain;

Declare our shared resolve as follows.

I. Our Shared Vision

1. Sanitation is a human right, a public-health imperative and an investment in dignity, equity, economic opportunity and a healthy environment.
2. Safe toilets enable children to stay in school, women to participate fully in society, sanitation workers to work with dignity and communities to protect their water resources.
3. **We commit to shift from infrastructure to reliable services, from isolated projects to strong systems, from coverage to safely managed outcomes, and from waste disposal to safe resource recovery.**

II. Five Commitments to Move Beyond Business as Usual

1. Plan for everyone

Advance Citywide Inclusive Sanitation (CWIS) or use appropriate urban and rural sustainable service delivery models, covering sewered and onsite systems. Give institutions clear mandates and measure equitable, safe and sustained services, not just assets built.

2. Put women where decisions are made

Ensure women are represented in decisions and provide gender-responsive, accessible toilets in schools, healthcare facilities, workplaces and public spaces, with privacy, lighting, water, soap and facilities for menstrual health and hygiene.

3. Protect sanitation workers

Protect and professionalize sanitation workers through equipment, fair conditions, social protection and safer mechanized practices. Safe services cannot rely on unsafe work.

4. Make sanitation part of climate action

Integrate climate-resilient sanitation into national and local climate plans, adaptation strategies, including NDCs and NAPs, and climate finance pipelines, and also ensuring that sanitation policies strategies and plans incorporate climate resilience.

5. Recover resources

Enable safe reuse of treated water, nutrients, energy and recovered materials through appropriate standards, monitoring, markets and public trust. Circular solutions must protect health and make economic sense locally.

III. Financing Sanitation Sustainably

Ensure finance along the whole lifecycle, not construction alone. Governments and utilities should ensure that finance covers operation, maintenance and safe treatment through predictable public budgets, affordable tariffs and accountable performance. Ensuring that no-one is left behind; use results-based, blended and climate finance where appropriate; and develop investable projects and viable local enterprises. Public support and private investment must reinforce accountability, affordability and service continuity, including when an operator withdraws.

IV. Inclusive Governance and Results

Apply regulation, enforceable standards, appropriate technology and transparent indicators of safety and equity.

Rules must deliver results: every sanitation system needs reliable operation and maintenance, safe management of sludge and effluent, accountable institutions, and evidence of improved services and cleaner water.

V. Responsible Users and Clean Toilets

Promote good knowledge attitudes and practices among the population, shared responsibility and respect for cleaners. Public toilets must be safe, accessible, clean and professionally maintained throughout their operating life, drawing on practical initiatives such as the World Toilet Organization's Happy Toilet Programme.

VI. Partnerships and the 2026 UN Water Conference

We will work across sectors and regions to turn tested innovations into affordable services at scale. We call on participants to carry this Declaration's priorities to the United Nations Water Conference in Abu Dhabi, 8–10 December 2026, , to mobilize partnerships, financing and action on SDG 6, especially sanitation and hygiene under target 6.2. We encourage partners to take those priorities to the Post 2030 agenda as well.

VII. A Call to Action

A declaration is only as strong as the action that follows. We call on:

- Governments and city authorities to prioritize sanitation, clarify responsibilities, enforce appropriate standards and fund reliable services;
- Development banks, investors and development partners to mobilize financing and help develop bankable, inclusive and climate-resilient sanitation programmes;
- Utilities and operators to deliver affordable, transparent and accountable services and report on results;
- Researchers, innovators and industry to validate, adapt and scale solutions that work; and
- Educators, media and communities to promote responsible use and end the taboo around sanitation.

A Call to Each of Us

We were reminded of the power of a "Mister Toilet", in the spirit of Jack Sim, founder of the World Toilet Organization. Every country, city and home needs a sanitation champion. That champion can be you.

Wherever you work or live, choose one aspect of sanitation, take responsibility for it and keep going.

You do not have to do everything. You only have to do something, and keep doing it. Somewhere a girl is waiting to stay in school, a cleaner is waiting to be seen, and a river is waiting to run clean. A declaration is signed by delegates; it is won by people like you.

Be the Mister Toilet, or the Madam Toilet, of your home, your street, your workplace, your city and your country. Start where you stand. Start today.

We close where sanitation begins: at home. Choose your one thing, start this week, and ask one other person to join you.

Safe toilets. Equal futures.