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# Take a pledge and help to save water

Have you ever thought of ways that you can use to conserve water? How about taking the pledge to save it?

With this pledge, you agree that water is a precious resource and we must work together to protect our supplies. As Covid-19 continues to ravage the globe, a frequent prevention message is: wash your hands with soap.

However, what happens when there is no access to a reliable wa-

ter supply?

This crisis has demonstrated how fragile the global system is, and how many areas need to be changed.

Covid-19 has shown us that we are unnecessarily exposed to many risks just because resources are wasted or distributed unfairly.

Water is one of the best examples, with more than 80% of the world's wastewater released untreated into nature, and more than

half the global population living without access to improved sanitation.

This is posing dangerous risks we cannot afford. Especially not when there are new wastewater technologies available, that let us not only reuse water but recover nutrients and generate energy.

The water and sanitation sector has long been advocating most of what is required for the response to this pandemic – universal access to safe water, sanitation and hygiene services.

We must use 2021 to strengthen water and sanitation services, not just to combat this pandemic, but to prevent one in the future.

■ *Khulekani Ngcobo, Department of Water and Sanitation*

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