

STOCKHOLM STATEMENT

A Call for A Sustainable Development Goal on Water

As an outcome of broad consultations prior to and during the 2013 World Water Week in Stockholm, we call upon the United Nations and its Open Working Group to propose a **Sustainable Development Goal on Water**.

Water is at the core of sustainable global development and is a cross cutting resource. Within the post-2015 development agenda water should be considered and integrated into all relevant areas, such as energy and food security. Given the centrality of water for individuals, ecosystems and economic development, water is a powerful tool for cooperation across borders, sectors and communities.

A dedicated goal on water is necessary for a world where all people can live in safety and dignity.

By the year 2030, the following should have been achieved:

A doubling of global water productivity

The demand for water resources is increasing dramatically and this presents significant development risks. Growing population and economies coupled with urbanisation and climate change, exert mounting pressure on water resources all over the world.

To meet the demand, there is great potential to use water more productively and derive significant benefits from cross-sectoral coordination. Allocating water equitably and efficiently within the ecological constraints will require improved management of water quality, use and reuse of water resources. These measures will help manage the increased demand – allowing the required growth in the provision of food, energy, goods and services, underpinning socio-economic development.

Through stronger and smarter incentives for water use and innovative governance, it is possible to globally double the value from each litre of water used.

A realisation of the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation

Investing in water and sanitation is a moral imperative, a basic requirement for safety and dignity and is compelling from an economic reality.

Women and children often carry a disproportionate share of the burdens of water provision and lack of safe sanitation with serious repercussions on their health, security and education as well as their opportunities for development and prosperity.

Political leadership and innovative governance are of critical importance to the realisation of the human right to safe water and sanitation.

Increased resilience to water-related disasters

Water is the fundamental link between the climate, the human society and the natural environment. Water-related disasters such as floods and droughts are the worst and most frequent natural calamities.

Increasing resilience to water related disasters by comprehensive risk management, sustaining healthy ecosystems and improving water quality are prerequisites for the provision of safe water, food, energy and other basic needs for people and societies in the future we want.

Wise water management, building on ecosystem-based approaches, is essential for securing resilience. Integrating water resource management at all levels in the planning, building and governing of our societies will save lives, livelihoods and assets.