



United Nations



Joint Statement of the High Level Panel on Water

October 28th, 2016

We congratulate the Government of Morocco and the UNFCCC Secretariat for holding a successful Conference of the Parties that advances action on the Paris Agreement and focuses on the key issue of adaptation to climate change, and we are encouraged that momentum is building toward recognizing the key role that water plays in mitigating and adapting to climate change. The early entry into force of the Agreement has opened the avenue for early actions.

We are concerned that, unless action is taken soon, the combined effects of climate change, growing populations and urbanization will aggravate water scarcity in many regions, spur migration, and spark conflict. Water-related disasters will be more frequent and more severe, hampering sustainable development by causing political, social and economic upheaval in many countries. 80% of climate change impacts are channeled through water. Successful adaptation efforts focused on water are likely to significantly reduce these climate change impacts.

We believe that a more focused attention to issues relating to water can significantly help to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Water pumping, treatment and its distribution, use up to 8% of the global energy generation, a share likely to increase in enhanced water scarcity conditions. At the same time delivering cleaner sources of energy will also in many cases require large amounts of water. Liquid waste, including waste water is the source of another 5-6% of the global greenhouse gas emission. We therefore call for a holistic and integrated approach to water management that will lead to better and more efficient use of energy and contribute to the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions. It can be significantly reduced by proper management.

We recognize the significance of water in the vast majority of Nationally Determined Contributions submitted by state parties to the UNFCCC. We call on all Parties to the UNFCCC to translate these commitments into concrete plans for implementation.

We encourage the United Nations to facilitate the surfacing and sharing of lessons and good practices that inform the design of climate-smart water plans.

We encourage a significant allocation of climate finance, including the Green Climate Fund, to be used towards water resilient infrastructure and services, given the proven links between climate change and risks to water security.

We call on multilateral development banks and other financiers to launch initiatives and mechanisms that can assist countries in the preparation and financing of the next generation bankable climate-smart water projects.

We encourage states and organizations to adopt measures aimed at more efficient allocation of water among food and energy production sector, cities and the industrial sector.

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