

Statement made at the Side Event on the Occasion of the President of the General Assembly's Thematic Debate on Water, Sanitation, and Sustainable Energy in the Post 2015 Development Agenda, New York, February 18, 2014

Distinguished guests and colleagues, thank you for the opportunity to say a few words today.

I would like to acknowledge the excellent work of UN Water in preparing this Technical Advice on a Possible Water Goal. It pulls together the needs and desires of so many people worldwide.

The vision of the Global Water Partnership is for a water secure world. We are committed to equitable and sustainable management of water resources because we have seen the impact this can make on the livelihoods and well-being of people and communities.

Throughout 2013, we worked with UN Water and other partners on a series of country level consultations on the Post-2015 Development Agenda. 'Securing Sustainable Water for All' integrates the aspects of water we know are required for inclusive, sustainable growth and development. The suggestions of the UN Water Technical Paper for five target areas reflect what has been articulated on the ground around how crucial these interdependent aspects are to an inclusive, sustainable development agenda.

Human development, economic and social development, poverty reduction and the environment all depend on securing sustainable water. Water is the medium that integrates our greatest human development challenges in health, food, energy, climate change, and livelihoods. Water-related disasters – floods and droughts - pose some of the greatest global threats to development progress and economic stability. Water is a driver of economic growth, and integrated management of water resources can lead to inclusive and sustainable growth in our societies.

Quite simply, how we tackle water management determines whether or not our economies and communities flourish or perish. This is the rationale for highlighting water in the post-2015 development framework.

This year we are working in partnership to undertake a series of country-level consultations using the UN Water Technical Paper and suggested dedicated water goal. It is our hope this work will contribute to a continuing connection to country-level efforts and priorities for a Post-2015 Development Agenda.

Today in fact, the first such country consultation is being held in Pakistan. Pakistan is considered a water stressed country, yet over the last five years Pakistan has suffered three major floods. In 2010, the country experienced a super flood which devastated the country, and over 2,000 people lost their lives. Like so many countries, securing sustainable water for all is a human development imperative in Pakistan - not in a distant future, but today.

It is because of this that The Global Water Partnership has been suggesting a dedicated water goal, to focus our global community's actions and potential for success in a Post-2015 Development Agenda. We will continue these efforts, and we look forward to continuing to work in partnership to secure water for all.