

**68th Session of the UN General Assembly  
Special event of the President of the General Assembly to follow up the efforts made to achieve  
the Millennium Development Goals**

**Round Table 4**

**Statement by the Chair of the Global Water Partnership (GWP, Stockholm)  
Dr. Ursula Schaefer-Preuss, New York, 25th September 2013**

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Chair, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is an honor and privilege to present to you, on behalf of the Global Water Partnership, a broad based inter governmental network with headquarters in Stockholm, Sweden some key points related to the targets proposed for the water goal:

1. Water and Energy are the two great systems which are fundamental to the well-ordered functioning of economies and societies.
2. Energy is now getting the attention it deserves, however some economists still appear to believe that the water cycle can be dealt with piece by piece – some under agriculture, another piece under health, some under ecosystems, etc.
3. The Global Water Partnership believes that a dedicated water goal is now imperative, in order to focus attention and political will upon this neglected system which is so vital for sustainability.
4. Water resources must be managed in an integrated way, in order to ensure sustainability.
5. The human right to water and sanitation has now been recognised internationally, and the good work of the MDG targets related to water and sanitation must be continued and expanded until all have access to safe and sustainable water.
6. Unsafe water which is contaminated and polluted is highly dangerous. Water sources and watercourses must be protected from industrial effluent and from unsafe sanitation practices such as open defecation.
7. Extreme climate events such as floods and droughts also bring great dangers and economic damage in their wake – caused by either too much or too little water. We must build water secure societies which can deal with the water threats from both sides of the spectrum. Increased investment in water infrastructure is essential to build these more resilient communities and economies.
8. Chronic water scarcity is a reality in many countries, and competition over water by different sectors and interests is increasing. Increased water use efficiency must be combined with better institutions to manage water, for all the thirsty sectors, in an integrated way.

We do hope that these important issues will be duly reflected in the ongoing discussions for the Post 2015 Agenda. The GWP is prepared to be actively involved with its partner organizations in this important discussion.

I thank you very much.