

HIGH LEVEL INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON WATER COOPERATION

Statement on behalf of the Global Water Partnership
by
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Dushanbe, Tajikistan, August 20-22, 2013

Thank you, Chair, Your Excellencies, Ladies, and Gentlemen.

As we discussed in the High Level Panel on Sectoral Synergies, there is no productive economic sector which is independent of water – the global water cycle is truly the lifeblood of all our economies. The trouble with water is that it is more politics than economics – it needs high level political commitment to make real progress.

I believe this conference provides us with an historic opportunity to establish this high level political commitment.

The nations of the world decided at the Rio+20 conference in 2012 that a set of Sustainable Development Goals would be established. A Sustainable Development Goal on water would ensure the political will and political attention that water deserves, through until 2030.

GWP, through its partners, and working together with UN-Water, recently carried out 22 national consultations on the Post-2015 Development Framework, and the role of water. The voices of the stakeholders in these countries predominantly agree that water is essential for national development, and that a goal of “water sustainability for all” is worthwhile. The synthesis report was an official document which informed the UN Open Working Group of countries in their discussions on the SDGs in May this year. In the next phase, 26 more countries will be holding national consultations on the role of water in the Post-2015 Development agenda. These further consultations will be based upon a draft proposal for the structure of the water SDG – the goal itself and its targets – an opportunity to test the goal and its implications in 26 specific countries, later this year.

So I appeal to all the participants here, and especially the country representatives: let us take this opportunity of this historic conference to work together, to call for a global goal on “water sustainability for all.” To agree such a goal, the United Nations needs further political commitment from many countries. I would like to thank our hosts, the Government of Tajikistan, for their foresight to hold the conference at this moment. **This is a unique time in history – decisions made in this high level international conference to foster water cooperation will influence the future to 2030, for all of us!**