

**Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment:
The power behind successful sustainable development and
Sustainable Development
Rio de Janeiro June 20, 2012**

The Global Water Partnership (GWP) is a network and partnership of over 2,550 partner organizations including government departments, regional, civil society organizations, research and academic institutions and private sector partners, now active in more than 80 Country Water Partnerships, and supported by 13 Regional Water Partnerships. We are an Intergovernmental Organization, with a mission to support the sustainable development and management of water resources at all levels and a vision of a water secure world.

Our work focuses around four goals: supporting the preparation and implementation of IWRM plans and strategies, contributing to addressing global challenges such as climate change adaptation, food security and urbanization, generating and sharing knowledge and, enhancing the quality and effectiveness of our Network.

The involvement of both women and men in all aspects of our work is one of the Dublin principles that help define GWP. GWP is committed to support and spearhead activities that can assist water stakeholders at all levels to make this principle central and operational globally, regionally and at the national level.

As part of the implementation of our current (2009-2013) Strategy, GWP is developing strategies on gender and youth with several partners and strategic allies contributing in different ways. The GWP Global Gender Strategy aims to facilitate the development of gender responsive policies and programs where they do not yet exist across our Partnership, as well as to continue to further equal gender participation at all levels where the Partnership is engaged including in our Partnership structures (which have explicit guidelines on this matter).

Africa Example

We have, together with other partners, helped the African Ministers Council on Water establish the Policy and Strategy on Gender Mainstreaming in Africa's Water Sector.

The AMCOW Gender strategy aims to support countries without gender policies and in building knowledge and skills in how to mainstream gender. There is increasing concern about the need to develop indicators to measure, monitor, evaluate and report upon the progress being made on the ground implementing gender-related actions. GWP plans to contribute towards the development of indicators for the implementation of the AMCOW gender strategy in partnership with FAO and IWMI to help track progress on gender work at the national level. In addition, GWP will, working closely with existing Gender - focused and other groups, to place more emphasis on informal and professional networking and information management by creating an alliance of partners at all levels. Such an alliance

will make it possible to establish a knowledge base on gender and water resource management in Africa. We are working on developing similar support strategies in our other Regions.s

GWP's commitment to Women Ministers and Leaders for the Environment is to:

1. Support at least 30 countries in the next 5 years to have domestic gender mainstreaming policies and instruments in water resource management that are regularly monitored, evaluated and reported.
2. Encourage and support government departments, water development agencies, non-governmental organizations and capacity building organizations in those countries to institutionalize and integrate gender perspectives in their work on the ground.
3. Contribute to addressing the intergenerational dimension for long term sustainability by developing strategies and tools to engage young women, men and children at different levels- international, regional and country.

We will continue to find ways to contribute to the work of this Network, through the implementation of our global Gender Strategy as well as in our other work.

Thank you