

# Global Dialogue on Water Security and Sustainable Growth

*Stockholm World Water Week*

Monday 2 September 2013, 17:45-18:45

Venue: Room K2, Stockholmssmässan, Stockholm, Sweden



**Exceptional water challenges require an exceptional response. After centuries of taking water for granted, many countries are now aware that water stresses and increasing risks can jeopardize their economies and development gains.**

Understanding and communicating the economics of water security is a powerful way to translate the risks, opportunities, challenges and tradeoffs of water security into useful information for high level policy makers. The OECD Secretary-General Mr Angel Gurría will launch a new report, "Water Security for Better Lives", at this side event that will provide a foundational framework for helping governments identify, target, and manage risks in an integrated way.

Building on this and other work, GWP and the OECD propose a global dialogue process that is underpinned by new knowledge and rigorous, quantified evidence on the growth dimensions of water security. A country-level consultation process will link interactively with an expert task force of economists and physical scientists and with the high-level global dialogue panel, enabling the participants to enter into evidence-based discussions about the economic implications of alternative pathways toward water security.

The output of this Global Dialogue will be a milestone report on "Water Security and Sustainable Growth" in 2015. The Global Dialogue will also highlight the issue of water security within the Post-2015 Development Framework, and will provide substantive material (including usable metrics) to the Open Working Group for the Sustainable Development Goals.

## Programme

Opening Statement. *Dr Ursula Schaefer-Preuss, GWP Chair*

Launch of OECD publication. *Mr Angel Gurría, OECD Secretary General.*

Statement by a representative of President Ellen Sirleaf Johnson, Liberia, Goodwill Ambassador for Water and Sanitation (tbc).

Discussion: Moderated by *Dr Claudia Sadoff, GWP Technical Committee.*

Closing Remarks.

# PANEL



As **President of Liberia**, **Ms Sirleaf Johnson** is the first female elected Head of State in Africa. Furthermore, in 2011, she was one of a trio of women to win the Nobel Peace Prize "for their nonviolent struggle for the safety of women and for women's rights to full participation in peace-building work." She served as Minister of Finance under President Tolbert until the 1980 coup d'état, after which she left Liberia and held senior positions at various financial institutions. After spending several years in political exile, Ms Sirleaf Johnson returned in 1997 working for the World Bank and Citibank in Africa. In 2005, she ran for President, and in 2006, she was officially inaugurated.



Holding a PhD in Economics, **Dr. Ursula Schaefer-Preuss** became GWP's Chair in January 2013. Prior to joining GWP, she was Vice President of the Asian Development Bank in Manila for Knowledge Management and Sustainable Development, where she was responsible for the Regional and Sustainable Development Department and Economics and Research Department. Previous positions include Director General of Germany's Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development, and Chief of Cabinet of the Federal Minister for Economic Cooperation and Development. Furthermore, she has held posts as Alternate Executive Director of the Inter-American Development Bank, in the Permanent Mission of the Federal Republic of Germany to the United Nations in New York, and the German Embassy in Khartoum, Sudan.



As the OECD Secretary-General since 2006, **Mr Angel Gurría** has reinforced the OECD's role as a platform for global dialogue and debate on economic policy issues while pursuing internal modernisation and reform. Prior to joining OECD, Mr Gurría held the position as Mexico's Minister of Foreign Affairs and Mexico's Minister of Finance and Public Credit. Furthermore, he has participated in various international not-for-profit bodies, including the Population Council, and the Center for Global Development. He chaired the International Task Force on Financing Water for All, and continues to be deeply involved in water issues, being a member of the United Nations Secretary General Advisory Board (UNSGAB) and of the World Economic Forum's Global Agenda Council on Water Security.



**Dr Claudia Sadoff** holds a PhD in Economics. Currently on leave from her position as a Lead Economist with the World Bank, she now chairs the GWP-OECD Task Force on Water Security and Sustainable Growth, serves as a member of the GWP's Technical Committee, a Senior Advisor to the International Water Management Institute, and a member of the Panel of Experts for the World Bank's program of Cooperation on International Waters in Africa. With the World Bank, Dr Sadoff has served as the leader of the South Asia Water Initiative, the Water Resources Anchor Team Leader, and Coordinator of the World Bank's Nile Team.

*The mission of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) is to promote policies that will improve the economic and social well-being of people around the world. The OECD provides a forum in which governments can work together to share experiences and seek solutions to common problems. We work with governments to understand what drives economic, social and environmental change.*

*The Global Water Partnership (GWP) is an intergovernmental organisation and a global network of 13 Regional Water Partnerships, 84 Country Water Partnerships and more than 2,800 Partner organisations in 167 countries. The GWP network is committed to building a water secure world.*