

**STATEMENT TO THE 19TH CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE  
UNITED NATIONS FRAMEWORK CONVENTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE**

Warsaw, Poland, November 22, 2013

**Securing Sustainable Water for All: A Sustainable Development Goal**

While the world negotiates a climate change agreement, water disasters continue to wreak havoc. These extreme weather events reverse hard-won development gains. Two weeks ago Typhoon Haiyan tore through the Philippines. The cost of such disasters cannot just be expressed in economic terms. These are first and foremost human tragedies.

Global Water Partnership (GWP) has consistently delivered the following message: water is central to climate change adaptation, and to sustainable development.

What must be done?

**First**, in the context of the post-2015 development framework, world leaders need to prioritise a Sustainable Development Goal on *securing sustainable water for all*.

Water is a ‘connector’—supporting all development goals across sectors, and is key for national adaptation planning.

A goal that is agreed by all countries, to ‘Secure Sustainable Water for all’, will promote coherence on adaptation and contribute to the resilience of countries to the impacts of extreme events.

**Second**, we welcome the recommendation by the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA) to consider ‘water resources’ as part of efforts to enhance the effectiveness of the Nairobi Work Programme.

This work now needs to be funded.

Investment in better water resources management *now* is much cheaper than dealing with the impacts after the extreme events have hit home.

Countries with robust water management systems, institutions, and water infrastructure are better able to cope with climate change impacts.

Let us safeguard development and build resilience, by helping countries, and their people, including the poor and the most vulnerable, women and children, to become more water secure.

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Chair, Global Water Partnership

*The GWP Organization is an admitted observer to the UNFCCC as an IGO.*

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