



**High-level event on water and food security:  
“Innovations for a Changing Climate”  
New York, USA 27 September 2012**

**Statement by  
Christiana Figueres, Executive Secretary  
United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change**

Mr. Secretary-General,  
H.E. Minister of Foreign Affairs of Qatar,  
Excellencies,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

I would like to start by thanking the State of Qatar for this very important initiative. Through this initiative, the government of Qatar shows its leadership not only as President of COP 18, but as a government living up to its domestic responsibility, as well as its responsibility as a member of the global community of nations.

I applaud you for this initiative because it puts a human face to the challenges of climate change. The water-food-energy nexus is the crux of the climate change challenge, but it is also the heart of the solution. The water-food challenge is – as the Minister has stated – acute in the Gulf, but it is not limited to the Gulf.

I therefore thank Qatar for showing the way, for motivating others in the Gulf and beyond the Gulf, to move from rhetoric to action, to move from discussing the challenge to offering the solutions. The time for discussing the challenges is long gone. It is now urgent to put the solutions on the table.

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