



## **GLOBAL WATER PARTNERSHIP**

### **STATEMENT TO FINAL PLENARY SESSION OF COP18**

Thank you for giving me this opportunity to address you, on behalf of the Global Water Partnership.

The scientific evidence is clear about the impact of climate change: it means more floods, more droughts, more storms. This leads to economic impacts and even national security issues. Hurricane Sandy caused \$30 billion worth of damage in the US alone. In 2011, floods in Thailand cost \$45 billion and disrupted global supply chains from rice to hard drives.

Water is the common challenge, and water is the starting point for finding solutions. Water is for adaptation what carbon is for mitigation – the common thread.

Governments agreed at Rio+20 that integrated water resources management is key for sustainability. We have the knowledge. We have the tools. So what else needs to be done?

In July this year, SBSTA held a technical workshop on water and climate change. Two things were agreed : to create a thematic work area on water, under the Nairobi Work Programme, and secondly, to establish a

Water HelpDesk to advise countries, for example, on water storage and flood protection.

However, this is not enough. The Nairobi Work Programme must now be funded. Therefore, GWP proposes that the Green Climate Fund should create a “water window”. This will fund the actions taken by countries to manage their water resources better.

In conclusion, water impacts are becoming an economic issue, and even a national security issue. I ask you to take practical steps, to finance the water window, in order to safeguard our future.

Ania Grobicki

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