

Global Dialogue on Water Security and Sustainable Growth

“ *Water security is at the heart of our development challenge; it is a driver of economic development and poverty reduction. I am pleased that our Global Dialogue includes conversations at all levels - expert and grassroots - to inspire much-needed co-operation for achieving water security.* ”

Her Excellency Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, President of Liberia and Global Dialogue High Level Panel Co-Chair

“ *Increasing water security will create major benefits for human welfare, the economy and the environment. But it will require concerted action on the part of governments to tackle the challenges involved in shifting to a risk-based and holistic approach for water management.* ”

Mr Angel Gurría, OECD Secretary-General and Global Dialogue High Level Panel Co-Chair

The Global Dialogue will result in a milestone report on *'Water Security and Sustainable Growth'* to be presented at the World Water Forum in South Korea in 2015.

A water secure world harnesses water's productive power and minimises its destructive force. It is a world where every person and community has enough safe, affordable water for healthy and productive lives. It is a world where communities are protected from floods, droughts, landslides, erosion and water-borne diseases. It is a world where fresh water resources and their ecosystems are valued and protected.

Securing water for all is emerging as a top human development priority in the Post-2015 Development Agenda. But to truly deliver secure and sustainable water for all, policy makers need sound evidence connecting water security to economic growth and development.

The Global Water Partnership (GWP) and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) have launched a Global Dialogue on Water Security and Sustainable Growth to highlight the evidence of the different development paths that countries can follow, based upon their water resources endowment.

The project coincides with the work of the UN in developing the Post-2015 Development Agenda. It builds on GWP's recent water thematic consultation and its contribution to the preparation of a UN-Water paper on recommendations for a global water goal. It also builds on OECD's recent work on *Water Security for Better Lives*.

Goal and Objectives

The goal of The Global Dialogue is to promote and accelerate a transition to water security, connecting policy makers and practitioners through evidence-based global and country-level consultations on water security and sustainable growth.

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The Process

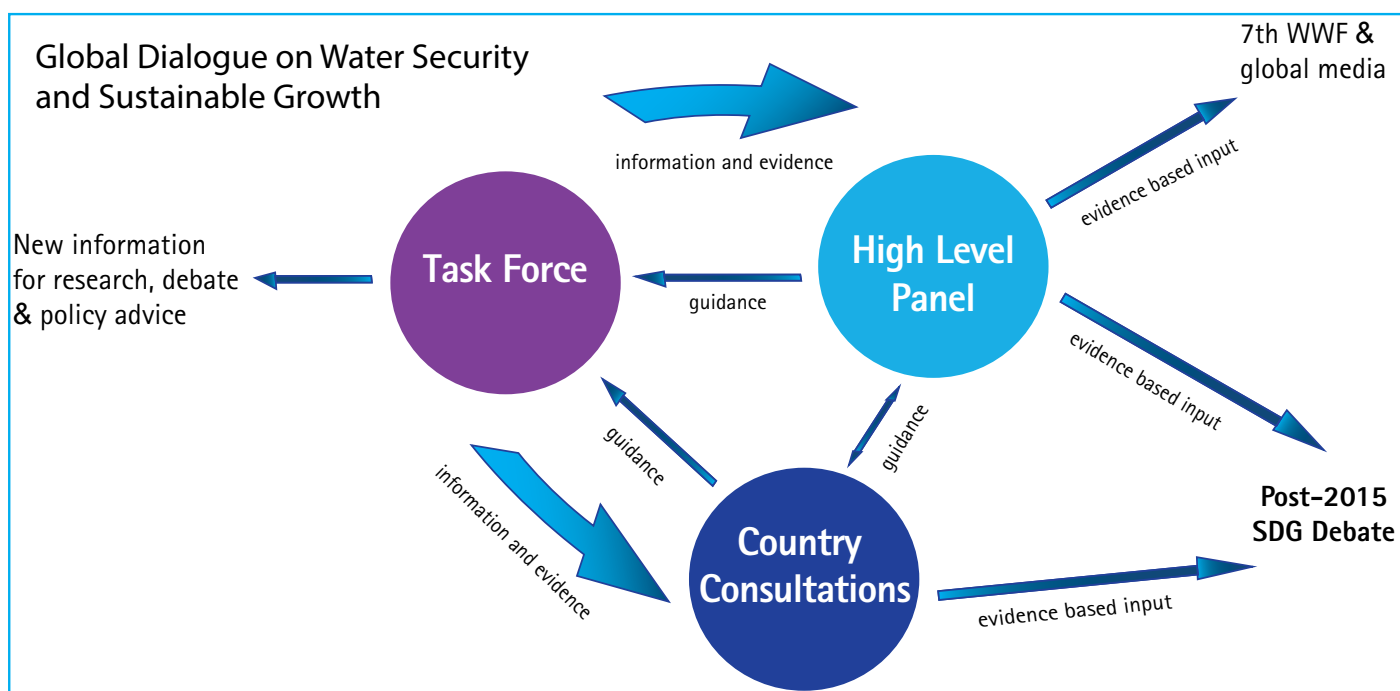
Country Consultations are being undertaken to link with an expert Task Force of economists and also with a High Level Panel, enabling participants to engage in evidence-based discussions about the economic implications of alternative pathways toward water security.

“ In analysing water security we should never forget the human face of development. We are analysing water security to ultimately contribute to improving the living conditions of the poor. This means that throughout our work we have to reflect the needs of the practitioners on the ground as well as of the most vulnerable. ”

Dr Ursula Schaefer-Preuss, GWP Chair

Country Consultations

To investigate perceptions and priorities regarding water security, country consultations are taking place in more than 30 countries, facilitated by the Global Water



High Level Panel

A High Level Policy Panel is being convened to address the concerns and priorities of top-level policy makers with regards to water security and sustainable growth. Her Excellency Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, President of Liberia and UN Goodwill Ambassador for Water and Sanitation, and Mr Angel Gurría, OECD, will co-chair the High Level Panel.



Her Excellency Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, President of Liberia is the first elected female 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 Johnson Sirleaf 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.



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.

Partnership. Most of the countries invited to be part of the consultation have a seat on the UN's open working group on the Sustainable Development Goals.

Country consultations are running from February 2014 to April 2014, and will feed guidance and information into the Task Force and High Level Panel.

Task Force

An Expert Task Force on Water Security and Sustainable Growth has been established, comprising a multi-disciplinary team of leading economists, water managers and scientists.

This task force will build the case for global action to address water-related risks by quantifying the impacts of water insecurity and documenting the benefits of risk reduction, and by demonstrating how alternative pathways to water security can be implemented. This new knowledge will enable countries to better understand and manage water risks, and ensure that efforts to promote economic growth and development are not jeopardised by these risks. The Expert Task Force is co-chaired by Dr. Claudia Sadoff and Professors David Grey and Jim Hall (Oxford University).

“ The Task Force will take a risk based perspective. We will document economic costs and risks associated with water, and then we will look at the benefits, investments, and trade-offs of adopting alternative pathways to water security. ”

Dr Claudia Sadoff, Expert Task Force Chair



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OECD

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.

GWP

The mission of the Global Water Partnership (GWP) is to advance governance and management of water resources for sustainable development. The Global Water Partnership is an intergovernmental organisation and a global network of 13 Regional Water Partnerships, 85 Country Water Partnerships and more

