

**STATEMENT TO THE 24TH CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE  
UNITED NATIONS FRAMEWORK CONVENTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE**

Katowice, Poland, December 12, 2018

## **The Untold Story of Water**

Those of us who work with water and the communities who take decisions about water, we see the climate is changing. We see it in the water that we seek to drink, we see it in the water that we irrigate our fields with, we see it in the water that we drill in the ground for, and the water that we contain when we manage floods and droughts.

Addressing the impacts of climate change means working on water. Here at the COP, we the Global Water Partnership released two new analyses. The first we worked on with the World Water Council, and it says: if we want to adapt to climate change, we need to invest in water infrastructure, smartly. The second looks at the priorities expressed in the NDCs of 80 countries – and compares these priorities with the progress made on the Sustainable Development Goal on Water (SDG 6). The good news is that 9 out of 10 countries prioritize water. But there is a mismatch between the appetite for water infrastructure and the action needed to put integrated governance in place to manage our waters well. Also, much more work needs to be done in designing actual projects. Without good governance and management structures, infrastructure assets will be left stranded, vulnerable communities will be marginalised, and our environment will be left without the water it needs to sustain our lives. This must not happen. Our message is clear: investments in both infrastructure and institutions are inseparable – and urgent – for building climate resilience. To make this connection, the climate community and the development community - NDCs and SDGs - must come together. And water is the connector.

The water community has a lot to offer to the climate community. Many water organizations already work with you, we see this here in Katowice. With more than 3000 partner organizations, over 80 country water partnerships and 13 regional organisational teams, the Global Water Partnership is doing real work on the ground to adapt to a changing climate. Over the past 20 years, we and many others have supported countries as they built the laws and institutions needed for managing water. Together we have convened people to have a say. We have multi-stakeholder partnerships ready to use for the climate community.

Here in Katowice, the delegates are working hard, hard to build consensus around climate action. To do this, we must all sit at one table. We need each country and each sector to respect the water needs of each other. All climate actions must be **water-proofed**. Water is limited. Every drop needs to count. We must value the water we have - in all of its many dimensions. We and the water organizations and communities around the world, we are here to work with you. We urge the delegates to work with us and in partnership. We urge the delegates to listen to the untold story of water as they negotiate our future.

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

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