

**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**

We know our climate is changing. We know it because our water is changing. In saying “we” I mean those of us who work with water, and the communities who make decisions about water - the water that we drink, that we irrigate our fields with, that we drill for in the ground, that we contain when we manage floods and drought.

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, which says: if we want to adapt to climate change, we need to invest in water infrastructure. The second looks at the priorities expressed in the NDCs of 80 countries – and compares these priorities with the progress 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 this appetite for water infrastructure and the action needed to put integrated governance in place to manage our water well. Also, much more work needs to be done in designing actual projects. Without good governance, 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 - need to come together. And water must be the connector.

The water community has a lot to offer to the climate community. Many water organizations already work with you, as we have seen in the delegations here in Katowice. With more than 3000 partner organizations, over 80 country partnerships and 13 regional 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 up water laws and institutions. Together we have convened people to have a say. The outcome: inclusive, effective and efficient management systems and investment plans for water. We have multi-stakeholder platforms ready for you to use.

You – our delegates – are working 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 the other. All climate action 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, are here to work with you. We urge you to work with us and in partnership. Listen to the untold story of water as you negotiate our future.

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

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