

World Water Week Closing Remarks

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At the opening on Monday, we outlined our vision for Week, anticipating that a common theme during this week's discussions would be the role of water in this year's high-level decisions on sustainable development, referring to both the sustainable development goals in just a few week and a potential climate agreement in December.

And indeed, many important discussions have been had. Both about how to help ensure water is adequately represented in the final agreements, but also, and possibly more importantly, how to ensure it will be integrated into their implementation.

We have tried to capture these discussions, given the rich debate and many strong proposals. These are our conclusions from the Week, regarding both the sustainable development and climate change processes:

- Integrated and resilient water resources management will be essential to the successful implementation of the post-2015 development agenda and the anticipated Paris agreement.
- Water is a cross-cutting resource, not a sector. When we go to New York or Paris we need to do what we can to help solve the SDG and climate agendas. We cannot afford to focus on sectoral self-interests or work in silos.
- Water scarcity and variability pose significant risks to all economic activity: food and energy production, manufacturing, and infrastructure development. Everyone – private and public sector, has an interest in water

resilience. We urge you all to be advocates for water resilience at both the UNGA and the COP 21, and to invite your partners around the world to join us.

- A dedicated, holistic and broad SDG on water is extremely important for achieving sustainable development. Now we need to ensure wise water management is integrated in all the relevant SDGs
- Resilience to climate change demands adaptive water management and resilient water infrastructure.
- Water resilience is also critical for successful climate change mitigation, as many efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions depend on reliable access to water resources.
- Given its key role for climate adaptation and mitigation, water needs to be addressed in future global climate agreements, as well as in policy and financing architecture. Implementing the climate agenda and the water goal will mean investments, technology transfer, governance and institutional reforms, and capacity building.
- Looking to COP 21 and the anticipated Paris agreement; we appreciate that there will be several avenues to raise the profile of water.
- SIWI supports, and will engage in the “Action Agenda”, helping to drive climate action forward, and accelerate the growing engagement of all parts of society in climate action.
- For example, the new climate agreement leverages bottom-up action through Intended Nationally-Determined Contributions that countries will put forth on an individual basis according to country priorities, capabilities and circumstances. The contributions will likely be the primary vehicle for country action on mitigation, and are a main mechanism and entry point for

inclusion of more local, sectoral, and context-dependent interventions. **The role of water is vital for an effective INDC and must be considered by countries in the context of the types of mitigation actions supported** (hydropower, emissions reductions in production or land-use sectors).

- Another vehicle is the National Adaptation Plan, coordinated at the international level at the UNFCCC to enable countries to develop medium to long-term adaptation plans that integrate various sectors. **The NAP is a critical entry point for informing the medium and long-term prioritization process at the national level and it is critical that water resources management be well integrated**
- In the longer term, SIWI advocates for a mechanism through which to coordinate water-related actions on climate. In the same way a dedicated SDG on water was needed, a prominent place for water under the UNFCCC will be important to the future global climate architecture. In particular since water is essential for both adaptation and mitigation
- The upcoming summits in New York and Paris are stepping stones towards future efforts. We need to engage in a long term commitment and need clear reference points for follow up and evaluation.
- The World Water Week serves as an informal, yet decisive annual meeting point. SIWI will therefore provide the coming World Water Weeks as a vehicle for taking stock of the progress in integrating and addressing water in the implementation of all water related SDGs and in the shaping of the future global climate architecture