

# Beijing Declaration on Sustainable Development of Water

October 17, 2018 in Beijing, China

We, heads and representatives of the water-related international organizations, assembled in Beijing on October 17, 2018 at the Round-Table Meeting of Leaders of Water-Related International Organizations.

Noting with concern that the world has entered a period when there are immense challenges threatening sustainable development, recognizing the fact that a large proportion of the world's population is still living in poverty and is denied accessible and affordable clean water, sanitation, food and energy. Water related problems, including but not limited to water scarcity, natural resource depletion, environmental degradation, floods and droughts, and loss of biodiversity, compound and exacerbate the list of challenges faced by humanity, which are being made worse due to the uncertainty and impacts of climate change.

We acknowledge the commitments and efforts that the international community, including both developed and developing countries like China, has made to tackle these challenges through initiatives that include: *Transforming Our World: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*, adopted by United Nations General Assembly on October 21, 2015, the *Global Water Security Declaration* approved on September 9, 2013 in Chengdu, China on the 35th IAHR World Congress by IAHR, ICOLD, ICID, WASER, WCCE, IWRA, IAHS, and UNSGAB, the *World Declaration: Water Storage for Sustainable Development* approved on June 5, 2012 in Kyoto by ICOLD, ICID, IHA and IWRA, and the *Beijing Declaration on Hydropower and Sustainable Development* adopted at the United Nations Symposium on Hydropower and Sustainable Development in Beijing, China on October 29,

2004.

To make full use of the unique role of water-related international organizations, build consensus and synergies to address these challenges and make greater impacts to future water sustainability, we hereby state our will and commitment to:

- Appreciating that water is the nexux and fundamental element for achieving multiple goals in the 2030 UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) Agenda and therefore giving more attention to the cross-sectoral and inter-disciplinary role of water in achieving these goals.

- Emphasizing the significant and indispensable role of international organizations for knowledge sharing, collaborative research to address the grand challenges of clean water and ecosystem health, exchange of experience and capacity building to boost the development of water-related sciences and technology.

- Bridging the gaps between research, policy and management actions by developing more effective and appealing ways of communication, so that the statements and commitments of the world community could be integrated into national initiatives, plans and policies and the research achievement could be transferred into governmental actions, agricultural activities and industrial practices to tackle the water related challenges for sustainable development.

- Raising people's awareness through knowledge dissemination and educational campaigns from the impartial perspective of international organizations so that people from all corners of the globe can share the benefits

of the modern science and technology, better understand their environment and be involved to the united efforts to address these major problems facing society and the quality of life.

- Enhancing the capacity building inside and outside the international organizations by institutional development, personnel training and inter-organizational cooperation and exchanges, shared educational materials and technologies. These activities strengthen ourselves and will also pursue support and engagement of the less developed countries and vulnerable groups.

- Aligning the Belt and Road Initiative with the implementation of the United Nations' 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development as well as the development visions, plans and actions of water related international organizations, make more efficient use of information and resources, and build synergy through closer and stronger communication and collaboration.

We pledge to take determined and concerted actions for achieving the collective goals of the 2030 SDG Agenda and supporting efforts to build a world where all people live with dignity, in harmony and where economic development is achieved in balance with a healthy natural environment sustained for current and future generations.

We express our gratitude to the government of the People's Republic of China for sponsoring this event and to the vision of the China Institute of Water Resources and Hydropower Research for successfully organizing this meeting on the occasion of its 60th anniversary.

*Adopted in Beijing on October 17, 2018 at the Round-Table Meeting of Leaders of Water-Related International Organizations during the Academic Week for the celebration of the 60th anniversary of IWHR*



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