

**MINISTERIAL DECLARATION ON “WATER FOR SHARED PROSPERITY”  
THE 10<sup>th</sup> WORLD WATER FORUM**

**BALI, INDONESIA, 20-21 MAY 2024**

We, the Ministers and Heads of Delegations assembled in Bali, Indonesia, on 20-21 May 2024, on the occasion of the Ministerial Meeting of the 10<sup>th</sup> World Water Forum “Water for Shared Prosperity”,

*Acknowledging* the outcomes of relevant United Nations processes representing major milestones for addressing global sustainable development and water-related challenges, such as the Rio Declaration; the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, "The Future We Want"; the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its Goals (SDGs); the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change<sup>1</sup> and the Paris Agreement<sup>2</sup>; the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015 – 2030; and the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity and its Kunming–Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework.

*Recalling* the United Nations General Assembly Resolutions 64/292, 71/222, 77/334, 78/130, and 78/206 adopted in New York, and the United Nations Environment Assembly Resolutions EA.5/4 and EA.6/13; as well as recognizing the 2023 United Nations Conference on the Midterm Comprehensive Review of the Implementation of the Objectives of the International Decade for Action “Water for Sustainable Development” 2018-2028, the UN World Water Development Report 2024, the upcoming 2026 United Nations Water Conference to Accelerate the Implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 6 and the upcoming 2028 United Nations Conference on the Final Comprehensive Review of the Implementation of the Objectives of the International Decade for Action, “Water for Sustainable Development”, 2018–2028.

*Reaffirms* that the human rights to safe drinking water and sanitation, as components of the right to an adequate standard of living, are essential for the full enjoyment of the right to life and all human rights.

*Mindful* that water is essential for vital human needs and is needed in all aspects of life and of the importance of ensuring availability of safe drinking water and sanitation for all.

*Recognizing* the importance of tackling water-related challenges, including through an integrated approach that addresses climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution, and the need to conserve, protect and sustainably manage the ecosystems.

*Aware* that the impacts of climate change and increased demands on water safety and accessibility, including due to population growth, requires better management and cooperation, sustainable finance as well as generation of and access to water-related knowledge and understanding.

*Concerned* that the world is off-track to ensure by 2030 the achievement of SDG 6, which poses significant risks to human well-being and the three dimensions of sustainable development, namely environmental, economic and social.

*Emphasizing* the importance of inclusive coordination and collaboration among governments and water-related stakeholders at all levels, in accordance with applicable international law, including international instruments countries are Parties to.

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<sup>1</sup> United Nations, Treaty Series, vol. 1771, No. 30822.

<sup>2</sup> Adopted under the UNFCCC in FCCC/CP/2015/10/Add.1, decision 1/CP.21.

*Deeply concerned* about the lack of access to adequate water and sanitation services in emergencies, including in times of natural and man-made disaster and in situations of armed conflicts and emphasize the importance of access to basic drinking water and sanitation services in affected countries.

*Welcoming* efforts and initiatives to promote adaptive and socially inclusive and meaningful participation of all relevant stakeholders, including women, children, older persons, persons with disabilities, indigenous peoples and local communities, and youth, and those affected by water challenges.

*Noting* that innovative and sustainable financing is one of the main challenges in ensuring the availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all.

*Reaffirming* that the works of World Water Forum, since its first convening in Marrakesh in 1997, have contributed to the international dialogue and actions on water and emphasizing the role of the World Water Forum to contribute to relevant global water-related agendas, including in the United Nations frameworks.

*Realizing* the importance of political leadership in fostering international cooperation to advance water and sanitation agenda.

We present an urgent call and declare our political will to translate our commitments into policies, plans and actions by:

1. Conserving, protecting and sustainably using water resources, including sustainable groundwater, as crucial elements in human activities and ecosystems, including through the development of efficient and integrated water resources management.
2. Incorporating water issues into action plans, particularly related to increasing the financing of adaptation to climate change, prevention of the pollution of air, land, water, loss of biodiversity and the decline of services provided by the ecosystems.
3. Implementing measures and actions to reduce pressure on water availability, including by strengthening access to clean water and sanitation for all, among others through the sustainable management of water demand and supply, building resilient water management system, conservation and diversifying water sources through the utilization of non-conventional water resources, such as treated wastewater reuse, desalination and rainwater harvesting, while respecting various ecosystems in different national context.
4. Encouraging the establishment or strengthening of national integrated water resources management (IWRM) policies, plans, and actions in a systemic manner that, among others, include facilitating access to safe and affordable drinking water and sanitation for all.
5. Proposing the World Lake Day in the United Nations process to highlight the role of natural and artificial lakes as significant water resources that contribute to the availability and accessibility of water.
6. Strengthening the capability of all relevant stakeholders to access safe water, sanitation and hygiene services for health, education and development.
7. Strengthening efforts to address challenges related to the interlinkage between water, energy, food security, nutrition, poverty and hunger eradication, and migration, while recognizing that water is indispensable for human development, health and well-being and taking into account the carrying capacity of the limited freshwater for economic and social development.

8. Developing and strengthening disaster prevention and risk reduction, including through pre-disaster investment in early-warning system and forecasting, risk and vulnerability assessment, disaster response, as well as post-disaster mitigation and rehabilitation to address the adverse impacts of water-related disasters, such as drought and flood, and support sustainable resilience.
9. Encouraging transboundary cooperation in accordance with applicable international law, including international instruments countries are Parties to.
10. Empowering various stakeholders, including women, children, older persons, persons with disabilities, indigenous peoples and local communities, and youth, as agents for change and innovation in the search for smart solutions for water and sanitation challenges, including traditional, local and indigenous knowledge.
11. Advocating innovative and sustainable financing from all sources, including through public and private partnership, for water and sanitation infrastructure projects as well as mitigation of the negative impacts of climate change and water-related disasters, in rural and remote areas and vulnerable areas and territories, as well as in archipelagic and small islands states.
12. Fostering education, research and innovation, upscaling cooperation on capacity-building and technology transfer on mutually agreed terms in the water sector, including through North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation.
13. Exploring the establishment of a center of excellence on water in the Asia-Pacific region as a regional hub of water-related knowledge, initiatives and activities, especially research activities, to enhance knowledge generation, promote exchange of information and data, and strengthen research and innovation through capacity building, while taking into account existing mechanisms.
14. Leveraging networks and partnerships formed during the 10<sup>th</sup> World Water Forum, to promote the long-term implementation of this Declaration.
15. Welcoming the initiative of the Government of the Republic of Indonesia and the World Water Council to mobilize and compile voluntary commitments<sup>3</sup> to undertake actions across countries, sectors and stakeholders, aimed at accelerated implementation and improved impact towards achieving Goal 6 of the SDGs and its targets and to contribute to the UN Water Action Agenda.
16. Looking forward to the convening of the 11<sup>th</sup> World Water Forum “Action for a Better Tomorrow” in Riyadh, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

Expressing our appreciation to the people and Government of the Republic of Indonesia, the Provincial Government of Bali and the World Water Council for the hosting of the 10<sup>th</sup> World Water Forum and its participants.

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<sup>3</sup> The compilation of commitments can be accessed at [www.worldwaterforum.org/compendium](http://www.worldwaterforum.org/compendium).