

**WMO OMM**

World Meteorological Organization  
Organisation météorologique mondiale  
Organización Meteorológica Mundial  
Всемирная метеорологическая организация  
المنظمة العالمية للأرصاد الجوية  
世界气象组织

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Our ref.: 13778/2022/DSG/W/Water & Climate Coalition  
Annex: 1 (available in English only)  
Subject: Call for Integrated Water and Climate Action

8 July 2022

Your Excellency,

We have the honour to write to you about the benefits of more integrated action on climate and water issues, and to invite your support to our first 'call for action' on this topic.

It is now indisputable that how water resources are managed fundamentally affects our capacity to both mitigate and adapt to climate change.

We appreciate your government's participation in the joint statement arising from the UN High-level Meeting on Water in 2021 which acknowledged that information on water is essential for effective decision-making, and that informed cooperative actions can ensure water and climate objectives are integrated and achieved. As follow up to this, we have issued the statement calling for action on water data and information and the protection of glaciers (see [Annex](#)). The Action Plan for this will also include a proposal for an early warning system mechanism to enhance flood and drought management capacity and address other water-related hazards at the regional scale.

We have the further honour to respectfully invite you to publicly support this call, adding weight to our advocacy of an integrated approach, with a view to its messages being considered at the next United Nations Climate Change Conference of the Parties (COP 27) and the United Nations 2023 Water Conference. On receipt of your confirmation, your support will be acknowledged in preparations for, and at, the United Nations 2023 Water Conference.

For further information, please contact any of us directly or through our secretariat at [WaterClimateCoalition@wmo.int](mailto:WaterClimateCoalition@wmo.int).

This letter is being copied to the honourable Ministers responsible for climate and water issues in your government.

Please accept, Your Excellency, the assurances of our highest consideration.

Prof. Petteri Taalas  
Secretary-General  
World Meteorological Organization (WMO)

Mr Gilbert F. Hounbo  
Chair, UN-Water  
President,  
International Fund for Agricultural  
Development (IFAD)

To: Heads of state or government  
cc: Ministers responsible for Water  
Ministers responsible for Climate Change

On behalf of:

H.E. Mr. Emomali Rahmon  
President  
Republic of Tajikistan

H.E. Mr. János Áder,  
Former President  
Hungary

H.E. Mrs. Hilda Heine  
Former President  
Republic of the Marshall Islands

H.E. Mr. Komi Sélom Klassou  
Former Prime Minister  
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H.E. Mr. Han Seung-soo  
Former Prime Minister  
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H.E. Mr. Mohamed Abdel Aty  
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H.E. Mr. Carl-Hermann Gustav Schlettwein  
President, AMCOW; Minister  
Republic of Namibia

H.E. Mr. Mark Harbers  
Minister of Infrastructure and Water  
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H.E. Mr. Abdelkébir Zahoud  
Former State Secretary for Water and  
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H.E. Mrs. Hannele Pokka  
Professor; Former Minister  
Republic of Finland

H.E. Mrs. Mari Elka Pangestu  
Managing Director, Development Policy  
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Mr. Howard Bamsey  
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Mr. Matthias Berninger  
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Mrs. Lindsey Blodgett  
Former President  
World Youth Parliament for Water

## LEADERS FOR INTEGRATED WATER AND CLIMATE ACTION

We take action to protect our people and future generations. We lead the way in rethinking how our societies and economies are built to resist climate change. Improving how we use water is a pathway to develop food security, protect health and livelihoods, promote the just transition to clean energy, build water and climate smart cities, protect the environment, deltas and vulnerable low lying areas against the negative impacts of climate change, build resilient economies, help the world achieve the SDGs, and meet global climate commitments.

Data and information are the foundation of climate smart sustainable development. We need data to understand how climate change is affecting our water systems; to understand where, how much, and in what quality water is and will be available. We need information to know where and how our actions can best support our access to the precious resource and protect us from water hazards and disasters. Data is also key for smart decision-making. Yet there are major gaps; data is scattered, inconsistent, and incomplete. At COP 26 in Glasgow, more than 125 countries agreed to share weather data as a public good. Now is the time to act on water data and information.

**“We cannot manage what we don’t measure.”**

The UN High-level Meeting on Water in 2020 welcomed the Water and Climate Coalition with a joint statement co-signed by 168 countries, acknowledging that information on water is essential for effective decision-making. We need informed cooperative actions that will ensure SDG 6 and the climate agenda are integrated and achieved. We must use the advantages of the International Decade for Action “Water for Sustainable Development”, 2018-2028, to catalyze and accelerate our actions.

We therefore call for world leaders’ support, and for resources and political will to accelerate actions and bring together water related data and information to ensure a prosperous future for our people and planet, resilient to the impacts of climate change. We, the Water and Climate Leaders, advocate for an integrated approach, ensuring that water-related indicators are included in the COP process. We also propose an action plan promoting solutions at the UN 2023 Water Conference.

### We as the Water and Climate Leaders call for:

- **An integrated water and climate approach**—Recognizing the role of water for informed decision-making in climate change mitigation and adaptation action.
- **International support to improve water data and information for a climate ready world**—Working together to operationalise a Global Water Information System that provides status, assessment, and outlook for smart climate and water-related decisions.
- **Partners to join us in the implementation**—Support solutions for sound decision making: a water and climate stocktake, a cryosphere information mechanism, a new financing rationale, local engagement, and river basin cooperation.
- **Recognizing the need to protect glaciers**—Understanding the role of glaciers as one of the most critical sources of freshwater and uniting forces in preserving these resources through an International Year of Glacier Preservation 2025.

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