

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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