

**Declaration  
of the  
High Level International Conference on Water Cooperation**

Dushanbe, Tajikistan  
20-21 August 2013

We, representatives of governments, international and regional organizations and civil society met in Dushanbe, Tajikistan, in 20 and 21 August 2013, at the High Level International Conference on Water Cooperation (HLICWC) to support the implementation of United Nations General Assembly Resolution A/67/204 "Implementation of the International Year of Water Cooperation, 2013," and to promote actions at all levels to advance cooperation on water. In doing so,

*We recognize* that the cooperative development and management of shared water resources at the basin level is essential for broad-based sustainable economic growth, overall human development, poverty and hunger eradication, public health, food security, energy security, environmental protection, disaster prevention, urban and rural development, resilience to climate change and, importantly, peace and stability, and reaffirm our commitment to water as a driver of development and means for promoting trust and cooperation.

*We acknowledge* that governments play a key role in managing water across competing demands and encourage stronger dialogue, as appropriate, at the local, national and regional levels to promote the cooperative development and management of shared waters for the mutual benefit of all stakeholders.

*We encourage* governments and communities that share surface or groundwater resources to consider the outcomes from high-level panel discussions and technical sessions at the High Level International Conference on Water Cooperation and other UN conferences of the international year of cooperation, as reported in the Chair's Summary, including specific steps to cooperatively manage these resources, such as institutional arrangements, involving joint assessment, planning, monitoring and information-sharing mechanisms, legal frameworks, river basin organizations, mediation and dispute settlement; creating incentives for cooperation, including financing and investments, cost and benefit sharing; and capacity building, including strengthening the scientific understanding of the water cycle through cooperation in joint observation and research and the voluntary sharing of knowledge and technology on mutually agreed terms and conditions. We particularly note the importance of indigenous knowledge and of including women and children and ethnic minorities as stakeholders and as leaders of change.

*We highlight* the importance of timely achieving the Millennium Development Goals and other internationally agreed development goals, including those of the International Decade for Action "Water for Life, 2005-2015," and call for the acceleration and focusing of development cooperation and efforts on the areas and countries that are not on-track to achieve the MDGs.

*We note the discussions* and recommendations of the Global Thematic Consultations on Water in the post-2015 development agenda recognize the importance of access to water and sanitation to development. In this regard, we recommend that issues of water and sanitation be given due consideration in the elaboration of the post-2015 development agenda, which are to include disaster risk reduction and the achievement of universal access to water and sanitation including

wastewater management, and in support of the UN conventions on climate, desertification and biodiversity.

*We underline* the importance of establishing regular dialogue process on water and disaster at the United Nations.

*We underscore* the significant water-related challenges facing the most vulnerable countries, in particular, African countries, least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States, and encourage all development partners to support these countries' efforts through such means as capacity development, technology transfer, and financing.

*We welcome* the Dushanbe Plan of Action on Water Cooperation, which includes voluntary commitments to advance water cooperation, and encourage stakeholders at all levels to consider additional steps they might take to ensure the benefits of water are fully realized by all in an equitable, cooperative and sustainable manner.

Finally, *we express* our sincere appreciation to the Government of Tajikistan for hosting the Conference and for the warm welcome and generous hospitality extended to all participants, as well as its appreciation for the assistance and support provided by the United Nations and other international and regional organizations.