



*Il Ministro dell'Ambiente
e della Tutela del Territorio e del Mare*

Dear Minister,

MINISTERO DELL'AMBIENTE E DELLA
TUTELA
DEL TERRITORIO E DEL MARE
Uffici di diretta collaborazione del Ministro

REGISTRO UFFICIALE - USCITA
Prot. 0017189/GAB del 12/07/2017

I am pleased and honored to inform you that the Italian Ministry of the Environment, Land and Sea is organising the International Summit “**Water and Climate: Meeting of the Great Rivers of the World**”, to be held in Rome from the 23rd to the 25th of October 2017.

High representatives of the most important river basins organisations of the world, coming from all continents, will meet for the first time in Italy, in order to inspire a meaningful dialogue on the future of water, increasingly threatened by climate change and by its dramatic consequences in terms of floods, drought and degradation of ecosystems.

Demographic, economic and ecological impact of climate change is getting very serious and requires a global mobilization. Effective adaptation programs need to be put in place shortly, since they are indispensable to cope with climate-related risks and, in particular, with their negative impact on water resources, that are already endangered in most areas of the world. There is an urgent need to an immediate reaction, before it gets too late, by making an appeal for participation and sense of solidarity.

The UN Climate Change Conferences held in Paris in 2015 (Cop21) and in Marrakech in 2016 (Cop22) introduced a new element in the international debate on climate change, by recognising the need to urgently promote a better water management worldwide, in accordance with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the United Nations. Further efforts are therefore needed to ensure that water becomes a priority issue in future climate negotiations.

There is also the need to foster dialogue and experience sharing among the basin organizations of the great rivers of the world, focusing on climate change's effects on water, in order to reinforce the cooperation platform, to advance the progresses already achieved, to improve governance, to ensure more efficient use of financial resources , to enhance exchange of information and know how.

Ministers of the UN Member States
in charge of water management

For these reasons Italy has decided to take the lead and gather, for the first time in Rome, representatives of the great rivers of the world, so to stimulate a dialogue involving all relevant actors, in the name of solidarity and willingness to share experience and knowledge on the protection and rational management of this vital resource.

The meeting will further aim at contributing to the international debate on the key role of water, also in view of UNFCCC COP 23 (Bonn, November 2017) and the World Water Forum (Brasilia, March 2018).


The Summit is organized with the collaboration of UNECE (United Nations Economic Commission for Europe), the International Network of Basin Organizations (INBO/RIOB), the Global Alliances for Water and Climate (GAWC) and Aquamadre.

The Italian Prime Minister, H.E. Paolo Gentiloni, as well as other high representatives of the Italian and European institutions and of the relevant International Organisations will open the Summit in the morning of **Monday 23rd of October**, in the historic and prestigious Campidoglio of Rome.

I would appreciate it if you could encourage the participation of high representatives of significant basin organizations of your Country, selected on the basis of their relevant experience in basin management and their potential contribution to the development of knowledge aimed at improving basin governance and at strengthening the instruments to cope with climate change.

The agenda of the Summit is about to be finalised and will be published soon on the event web-page <http://www.minambiente.it/water-and-climate-summit>, where the concept note and general information can also be found. For organisational and logistic aspects the Secretariat of the event can be contacted at the following telephone and E-mail address: +39 06 5722 5594; info.waterclimatesummit@minambiente.it).

Please accept, dear Minister, the assurance of my highest consideration.

Gian Luca Galletti


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