

International Water Resources Association (IWRA)
XVIII World Water Congress

DAEGU DECLARATION

Toward Global Water Security and Resilience:
A Call for Improved Cooperation for Coherent Responses

The XVII World Water Congress convened by the International Water Resources Association, with the Ministry of Environment of Korea, Daegu Metropolitan City, K-Water and the Korea Water Resources Association, addressed the Foundations for Global Water Security and Resilience, in line with the 2030 Agenda, the 9th World Water Forum, and the 2023 UN Conference on Water. The Congress calls for urgent need for dialogue and coordination across different disciplines and sectors to address complex water challenges. A post pandemic world recognizes water as a fundamental element of building resilience and long-term sustainable development. The right to water and sanitation is fundamental to the realization of all human rights. The importance of water for life and development must be reanalyzed in this regard, not only in connection with sanitation and hygiene, but with sustainable management of water resources and aquatic ecosystems.

Congress Overarching Messages

Water security is complex and interdependent with other systems including health, ecosystems, energy, agriculture, among others. Therefore, solutions to address them will not necessarily come from within the water sector itself. Our ability to rapidly respond to shocks including pandemics, climate change, or conflicts, will depend on how well we align policy and investment priorities to reflect the complexity and cross-sectoral nature of achieving resilient and sustainable water systems. The Congress urges for investing in an enabling environment to improve the harmonization among and between cross-disciplinary scientists, cross-sectoral stakeholders, and public policies. The following are topics particularly critical for achieving global water security and resilience:

- 1- Disseminate Nature Based Solutions, together with the mainstreaming of public policies dedicated to water resources management and biodiversity preservation.
- 2- Reinforce IWRM and river basin approaches, with good and shared governance, including for transboundary resources, as effective tools for peace and sustainable development.
- 3- Support solutions for productive and sustainable agriculture, respectful of soil health and its interdependence with water needs.
- 4- Improve coordination between scientists and educators in an effort to empower future generations with the right knowledge and tools.
- 5- Institutionalize the engagement of youth and early career professionals, through developing programs that reflect a long-term vision and commitment to include them as partners in the process.

A CALL FOR ACTION

POLITICAL LEADERS

ELEVATE WATER IN THE INTERNATIONAL POLICY AGENDA | The congress recognizes water security as a key foundation to global security, which needs to be prioritized and reflected into the global policy agenda. Water should be jointly addressed at the same level of priority as biodiversity and climate change in the international and national levels.

SCIENTIFIC COMMUNITY

BREAK DOWN THE SILOS | The Congress insists on the deep interlinkage between water security and ecological security. The scientific community has a specific responsibility to explain these interconnections, and to call for more coherent public policies, in order to tackle climate change and biodiversity crises. We call for exploring innovative technical and policy interventions at the interface of different disciplines.

YOUTH

TAKE OWNERSHIP | The Congress recognizes the intergenerational responsibility in facing these huge challenges, and welcomes the skills, energy, commitment of young professionals, and encourages them to develop cooperation projects, cross-sectoral approaches, and to contribute beyond the conventional ways.

9th WORLD WATER FORUM IN DAKAR

EMBRACE SYSTEMS THINKING | The Congress encourages the Forum to embrace the importance of systems thinking and breaking down disciplinary and institutional silos as it promotes future pathways and innovative responses that ensure the sustainability and resilience of the water sector.

UN 2023 WATER CONFERENCE

ACCELERATE PROGRESS TOWARD THE SDGs | Implementing the SDGs is critical to water security. Water security is linked to national and regional security. It requires strong cooperation between States, especially in the context of transboundary water management, through joint institutions and operational legal instruments.

IWRA BOARD

REFLECT AND REVISE | Revise IWRA's vision and strategy to better support the momentum toward improved cooperation for coherent policies and strategies.

SIGNATORIES



HaeYong Jeong
Vice Mayor,
Daegu Metropolitan City

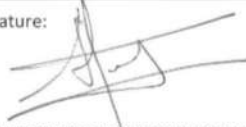



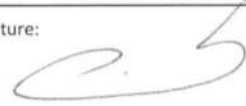


Gabriel Eckstein
President
International Water Resources
Association (IWRA)



Jun-Haeng Heo
Chair of the National
Organizing Committee (NOC)

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Signature:  Name: 이경은	Signature:  Name: Lee	Signature: Name:
Signature:  Name: 황은하	Signature:  Name: 황은하	Signature:  Name: PEDRO PIGNATELLI
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