



€226 billion per year on average needed to end world hunger by 2030

The second International Conference on Water and Climate organized by the World Water Council (WWC) highlights the negative impact of climate change on eradicating hunger and improving health globally

- Hunger has risen for the first time in decades
- 63% of cities foresee a risk to their water supply from climate change
- Our very survival depends on the urgency with which the global community confronts the adverse effect of climate change – Fostering dialogue on the road to COP23

World Water Council, Marseille, 4th October, 2017 - Water is increasingly set to play a defining role in the future of development and geopolitics. The World Water Council, in cooperation with the COP22 Presidency, as well as other international partners, successfully held the Second International Conference on Water and Climate in Marseille on 3rd and 4th October, 2017. This follows the achievements of the First International Conference on Water and Climate held in Rabat, July 2016. The event, endorsed by the COP23 Presidency, brought together over 150 international experts and political leaders at the forefront of the debate on climate and water, as well as several environmental ministers including Charafat Afilal, Secretary of State for Water and Environment of Morocco; Istiaque Ahmad, Secretary of the Ministry of Environment and Forests of Bangladesh and Sindra Sharma-Khushal, from the UNFCCC COP23 Presidency Team for Fiji and presided by World Water Council Honorary President Loïc Fauchon and Vice-President Dogan Altinbilek. Their mission: to map the way forward and generate global awareness on critical water issues ahead of the COP23 which will take place in Bonn in November this year and the World Water Forum in Brasilia during March 2018. Because **#ClimatelsWater**.

The conference highlighted the importance of water as a central element to human development overall and at the heart of climate change impact. *“Water is an enabler and a connector, an essential common thread that connects the many aspects tackled by the Sustainable Development Goals. I firmly believe that far from being a problem, water is a solution, a determining factor in making the world a better place,”* explained Prof. Dogan Altinbilek, World Water Council Vice-President. Discussions generated an ongoing debate on the arising global challenges of water security. This keeps it at the helm of global climate conversations at COP23 in November 2017, and beyond.

The second International Conference on Water and Climate saw a particular emphasis on SDG 11, *Sustainable cities and communities* and SDG 2, *End*



hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition, and promote sustainable agriculture. Considering near 255 billion Euros a year are needed for water infrastructure development globally and the eradication of hunger by 2030 will require an Investment of 17.4 billion euros, financing is a crucial issue on world leaders' political agenda. Building sustainable cities resilient to climate change and hunger reduction are crucial on the path set out since COP21 and reaffirmed during COP22, where **100 billion dollars were pledged annually by 2020** to deal with the impacts of climate change and to reduce emissions. However, as a result of conflicts and other circumstances, hunger has climbed for the first time in decades in 2016. By 2030 the world is projected to face a 40% global water deficit under the business-as-usual climate scenario. Competing demands increase the risk of localized conflicts and will lead to increasingly difficult allocation decisions and limit the expansion of sectors critical to sustainable development. It is increasingly clear that **#ClimateIsWater**.

The last session of the conference followed up on the Water for Africa Initiative which was launched at the previous conference and during CoP22. The conference presented an historic opportunity to refocus the global community's attention on the need to help developing nations adapt to climate change. In no area could this be more pressing than in regions such as Africa, Asia and Latin America, where protecting food security and ending hunger, for which water is essential, is an urgent necessity. *"Without water we would be a barren lifeless planet. A fundamental truth about water and its connection to all of life is that its unwise management is increasingly becoming an obstacle to facing climate change. And addressing climate change is a pre-requisite for peace,"* declared Sindra Sharma-Khushal, UNFCCC COP23 Presidency Team.

Making the most of the World Water Council's extensive member base, strengthening urban resilience through water management for sustainable cities is a priority area. This is supported by global mayors who will highlight these issues during the next Conference of Local and Regional Authorities to be held in conjunction with the World Water Forum during 2018 in Brasilia. *"Water is life. As a result of climate change, fresh water is becoming a scarce resource. As a result of all the crises we face today as humans, our very survival depends on the urgency with which the global community confronts the adverse effects of this reality,"* said Istiaque Ahmad, Secretary of the Ministry of Environment and Forests for Bangladesh.

The International Conference on Water and Climate is one of many events leading up to the World Water Forum, the world's largest water related event, organised by the World Water Council. The Forum is expected to be attended by over 30 000 participants, including global leaders, opinion makers, experts and professionals with the objective of catalysing change for a water-secure world. This triennial conference, under the theme "Sharing Water", will take place 18th-23rd March, 2018 in the Brazilian capital, Brasilia.

Click to see the VNR: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=z_C3zBMS4EA



Downloadable VNR in WeTransfer: <https://we.tl/KwThAUK27h>

Please note that when using the VNR it is mandatory to source World Water Council (WWC)

World Water Council spokespeople are available for interviews upon request

About the World Water Council:

The World Water Council (WWC) is an international multi-stakeholder platform organization, the founder and co-organizer of the World Water Forum. The World Water Council's mission is to mobilize action on critical water issues at all levels, including the highest decision-making level, by engaging people in debate and challenging conventional thinking. The Council focuses on the political dimensions of water security, adaptation, and sustainability, and works to position water at the top of the global political agenda. Headquartered in Marseille, France, and created in 1996, the World Water Council brings together over 300 member organizations from more than 50 different countries. More on www.worldwatercouncil.org @wwatercouncil #wwatercouncil

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