

# **UN-Water Annual Report 2011**





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### Foreword by the Chair

The events of my final year as Chair of UN-Water showed just how far this inter-agency mechanism has progressed since it was established in 2003. Perhaps the most prominent example of this progress was the selection of my successor, Michel Jarraud, who has been Secretary-General of the World Meteorological Organization since 2004. His new role in UN-Water reflects the extent to which water-related issues have become integrated into the operation of the United Nations system, and the fundamental part these issues will play in the global development agenda.



This year saw UN-Water become much more engaged within the United Nations, which led me to work closely with the Secretary-General's office. In addition to bringing this office to the 2015 Drive on Sanitation, which was officially launched by the Secretary-General in June, UN-Water and related matters have been regularly mentioned in United Nations Assembly resolutions.

I have also witnessed a similar shift, with respect to UN-Water's international strategic engagement, which took the shape of a powerful consensus statement on the green economy. This activity culminated in a formal presentation at the November conference in Bonn, Germany, by which time the statement had been formally submitted to the process leading up to the 2012 Rio+20 Summit. In this context, UN-Water has collaborated with the United Nations Secretary-General's Advisory Board on Water and Sanitation (UNSGAB) to support the formulation of an informal group of United Nations Member States called *Friends of Water*. This group was instrumental in shaping the water-related outcomes of Rio.

Such progress comes as no surprise, given the growing global attention to water issues. World Water Day proceedings in Cape Town during March attracted many people, while some 350 000 more took part in hundreds of allied events around the world. UN-Water was a key resource for the World Water Day Web site, which saw in excess of 500 000 visitors throughout the month.

At the same time, UN-Water had to cope with the limitations of its small, virtual management team, which lost several members to changing positions. This is precisely the type of challenge identified by UN-Water's external evaluation in 2009. Yet, in spite of this difficulty, managers demonstrated their capabilities by making 2011 a very successful year for fundraising. Receiving increasing levels of support from a wider range of donors is a significant indicator of UN-Water's success, and shows that it is well regarded for ability to manage funding and to serve as a coordination platform across the United Nations system.

I very much want to thank those donors, along with UN-Water's Members and Partners, my colleagues on the Joint Steering Group, and of course that hard-working management team that has been of

such invaluable service to me during my tenure as Chair. I will miss the immediate interaction with everyone through my post as Chair, but I am quite satisfied to know that the incoming Chair will be surrounded by the support and expertise essential to carrying on the successes achieved in 2011. I remain committed to supporting UN-Water through all means available to me in my capacity as the representative for the United Nations University.

Zafar Adeel Chair, UN-Water

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### At a Glance: UN-Water Achievements in 2011

#### Learning how water is managed

A UN-Water Task Force undertook an extraordinary survey of more than 130 countries, asking their representatives about their approaches to the management of water resources.

#### Improving access to documents

The UN-Water Decade Programme on Advocacy and Communication launched the United Nations Documentation Centre on Water and Sanitation (UNDCWS).

#### Welcoming the green economy

UN-Water hosted a conference in Zaragoza, Spain to outline the crucial role of water in economic models emphasizing environmental sustainability, along with the tools that turn such models into practical realities.

#### Looking to the future

The World Water Assessment Programme, part of UN-Water, is developing a set of distinct scenarios for water resources management, enabling decision-makers to see the effects of introducing regulations or adopting technologies.

#### Offering guidance for Rio+20

UN-Water submitted a statement and a toolkit to the preparatory process of the Rio+20 United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, outlining the challenges ahead, and highlighting what UN-Water can offer to support sustainable development and the green economy.

#### **Recognizing outstanding contributions**

The UN-Water Decade Programme on Advocacy and Communication presented the first of its Water for Life awards for best practices in water management, as well as for exceptional communication, awareness and educational activities regarding water use.

#### Mapping our resources

The UN-Water Decade Programme on Capacity Development improved and expanded the Activity Information System, a comprehensive database that enables all Members and Partners to track each other's activities.

#### Seeking co-operation across borders

UN-Water was among the key organizers of an event in Dushanbe, Tajikistan, to frame the issue of transboundary water disputes for further discussion at the Rio+20 Earth Summit in 2012.

#### Responding to the urban challenge

Water and cities was the theme of the 2011 World Water Day campaign, which included a major event organized by UN-Water on 22 March in Cape Town, South Africa.

#### Setting strategies to improve water quality

In collaboration with its Members and Partners, UN-Water developed a policy brief on issues surrounding water quality, which outlines a framework of interventions to inform policy.

### **UN-Water Activities in 2011**



**OUTREACH AND COMMUNICATIONS** 

#### Water and the green economy

The theme of water and the green economy dominated many events in 2011, starting with a session at the United Nations in New York in March, where UN-Water and the UNSGAB organized a side event as part of a preparatory conference for the 2012 Rio+20 conference. The event comprised a panel discussion on the theme *How the green economy depends on water*, with speakers examining subjects that included resolutions on the right to water and sanitation, the role of water pricing with respect to demand and services, and the need for private sector participation to supplement government investments in water and sanitation infrastructure. This discussion presaged other 2011 meetings concerning the green economy, including *Water in the Green Economy in Practice: Toward Rio+20*, which took place in Zaragoza, Spain, in October.

#### The United Nations Documentation Centre on Water and Sanitation (UNDCWS)

Throughout 2011, the UN-Water-Decade Programme on Advocacy and Communications (UNW-DPAC) expanded its capabilities to offer more ambitious resources and services. UNW-DPAC continues to maintain the UNDCWS as an authoritative and readily accessible source for a wide-range of materials on water and sanitation that have been produced by the United Nations system. The offerings draw on a network of twinned libraries and documentation centres and an on-line portal to a repository of over 1 200 United Nations publications available for download (http://www.un.org/waterforlifedecade/ unpublications.shtml) and an information working group that continues to refine this operation.

#### First Edition of the Water for Life UN-Water Best Practices Award

The inaugural edition of this award was presented on 22 March 2011 as part of World Water Day celebrations in Zaragoza, Spain, and in Cape Town, Republic of South Africa. The award, initiated by UNW-DPAC, recognizes two categories: best water management practices and best participatory, communication, awareness-raising and education practices. The award in the first category went to a programme that has been rehabilitating the Las Piñas-Zapote river system in the Philippines, which

was praised for its outstanding contribution to improving the living environment, and its tangible positive impact on people's quality of life, within a metropolitan river basin.

The award, in the second category, went to A participatory and learning based approach to raising awareness on water and sanitation, an educational programme for the residents of eThekwini municipality, a rapidly urbanizing part of Durban, Republic of South Africa. This initiative was cited for its innovative approach to the key challenges of communicating the complexities of water use in a poor urban setting.

#### Launch of UN-Water Activity Information System + (UNW-AIS+)

On 14 June 2011, UNW-DPC officially inaugurated a significantly enhanced version of a system to map the many different mandates and activity areas of UN-Water Members. Named UNW-AIS+, it represents the latest expansion of a database that began in 2009 to map the resources within UN-Water that could be incorporated into a Capacity Development Information System. The new AIS+ incorporates on-line training modules, lists of UN-Water publications and tools for social networking. The AIS+ database continues to be integrated into other UN-Water information systems, such as the searchable documentation archive IW:Science (http://www.inweh.unu.edu/River/IWScience.htm).

#### **Tenth Bonn Dialogue**

The topic of the Tenth Bonn Dialogue, held in Bonn, Germany, focused on the water, energy and food security nexus. These dialogues take place twice a year to raise awareness of given themes, and to provide a forum for scientific, political and public discourse. The 2011 event was organized by UNW-DPC, together with the United Nations University in Bonn and the German Committee for Disaster Reduction, in partnership with the City of Bonn, Deutsche Welle, the European Union and the Government of North Rhine-Westphalia. The Dialogue was closely linked to the Bonn+10 Conference *Water, energy and food security nexus. Solutions for the green economy* (16-18 November 2011), and served as the Conference's only public symposium.



#### World Water Day

#### Cape Town, South Africa, 22 March 2011

The 2011 World Water Day event and campaign, coordinated by UN-HABITAT, with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), on behalf of UN-Water, attracted international attention at hundreds of sites worldwide. This theme was *Water for cities: responding to the urban challenge,* which focused on management of water resources in the world's cities; now home to more than half of the world's human population.

The World Water Day event was organized in Cape Town, Republic of South Africa. As part of the proceedings, UN-HABITAT, UNW-DPC and the African Development Bank brought together experts representing various stakeholders involved in non-revenue water reduction, especially operators and operational staff from Africa. Representatives from over ten African countries participated in the workshop's presentations and panel discussion. At the event, UNW-DPC launched its trilingual publication and DVD on urban water efficiency, and hosted a workshop on UN-Water's water quality mapping exercise. UNW-DPAC presented the 'Water for Life' UN-Water Best Practices Award, along with a UN-Water pavilion, poster competition and journalist workshop.

#### **Deutsche Welle Global Media Forum**

#### Bonn, Germany, 19-21 June 2011

German state broadcaster Deutsche Welle organized this annual event to enable participants from around the world to understand how complex social and economic issues can become part of their local, regional, or national media agenda. Some 1 500 journalists and communication experts attended this forum, with the theme *Human rights in a globalized world. Challenges for the media.* As part of dealing with the concept of development and human rights, representatives of UN-Water, together with its Members and Partners, actively linked these rights to water and sanitation. UNW-DPAC, with UNW-DPC, UN-HABITAT, and the Water Supply and Sanitation Collaborative Council (WSSCC), organized a lively discussion around the rights-based approach to access to water and sanitation.

This discussion was complemented by another workshop, mounted by UNW-DPAC, with UNW-Decade Programme on Capacity Development (DPC), Water Supply and Sanitation Collaborative Council (WSSCC) and the World Water Assessment Programme (WWAP), which brought together

communication experts and international journalists. UNW-DPAC produced a package of information materials about water, sanitation and human rights, including a comprehensive reader to familiarize people with the relevant facts and figures. In addition to outlining how media could be approached more efficiently, participants shared their experiences and reflections on reporting human rights. These exchanges generated articles written by participating journalists, which were published in their respective home countries.

#### **Stockholm World Water Week**

#### Stockholm, Sweden, 21-23 August 2011

Stockholm World Water Week has been hosted and organized by the Stockholm International Water Institute since 1991. The 2011 theme, *Water in an urbanizing world*, considered the challenges of managing water in rapidly growing urban environments.

Various UN-Water Members, Partners and Programmes — including UNW-DPC, the World Bank, the International Commission on Irrigation and Drainage (ICID), the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), and the Global Water Partnership — contributed to a workshop on water efficiency.

UN-Water also hosted the annual UN-Water Stakeholder Dialogue with a session dealing with the future of the Millennium Development Goals with respect to sanitation and water. Representatives from the UN-Water family and other stakeholders offered their perspectives, emphasizing the importance of defining indicators and conducting monitoring for water management.

A seminar prepared by UN-Water looked ahead to World Water Day 2012 and that event's chosen theme of water and food security. This lively session featured contributions from a wide-ranging panel of experts including representatives from the farming sector, food industry and nutritional research. The audience participated actively in the discussion, which considered the viability of various approaches to agriculture, as well as how countries could optimize food production and consumption.

The World Health Organization (WHO), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and other partners organized a seminar on monitoring of drinking water and sanitation, which reported on the latest developments in the WHO/UNICEF Joint Monitoring Programme and the UN-Water Global Analysis and Assessment of Sanitation and Drinking water, with a subsequent discussion linked to the challenges of urban monitoring.

#### Water in the Green Economy in Practice: Towards Rio+20

#### Zaragoza, Spain, 3-5 October 2011

UNW-DPAC organized an annual Conference on behalf of UN-Water, and the 2011 conference, which was part of UN-Water's preparatory process for Rio+20. The planning was carried out in collaboration with the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), the International Labour Organization (ILO), the World Bank, UNEP, UNW-DPC, the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), the United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) and the Ebro River Basin Authority, Spain.

The Conference explored the ways Rio+20 can showcase how water is a key factor in developing the green economy, and how various tools can promote transition to this kind of economy. Plenary

sessions in Zaragoza dealt with eight aspects of this theme, such as economic instruments for water management in the transition towards the green economy, along with technology and planning measures to facilitate this transition. These sessions examined specific regions, including the Caribbean, Latin America and Western Asia.

The ensuing discussion outlined how environmental and economic priorities could be embraced by both developed and developing countries without exceeding available resources or technology. Among the key messages drafted in Zaragoza was that these priorities could ensure basic water and sanitation services for everyone, along with incentives for improving the efficiency of these services. Governments were urged to facilitate development and adoption of greener water use, which can create jobs and contribute to a green economic transition.

#### Towards the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20): Water Cooperation Issues

#### Dushanbe, Tajikistan, 19-20 October 2011

This Conference addressed ways cooperation and dialogue can resolve regional disputes over water, including how water resources may be best used for development and environmental protection.

The Dushanbe Conference was organized by the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan and the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA), in cooperation with UN-Water, UNW-DPC, UNW-DPAC, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Office in Dushanbe, and South-South News, a digital media platform dedicated to advancing the implementation of Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). The proceedings outlined the most effective approaches for the joint use of water resources in transboundary river basins, aquifers and lakes. Subsequently, the Government of Tajikistan prepared a formal submission to the Rio+20 Conference Secretariat requesting these recommendations be incorporated into a thematic session on water cooperation.

#### Water, Energy and Food Security Nexus. Solutions for the Green Economy

#### Bonn, Germany, 16-18 November 2011

Representatives of a broad range of groups gathered in Bonn to consider the ongoing problems and potential green solutions that revolve around the interconnections of water, energy and food security. Over three days they considered these issues from social, economic, and ecological perspectives, focusing on policies that could facilitate transition to a greener economy. Convened by the German Government, the resulting statements and recommendations represent that country's specific contribution to the 2012 Rio+20 Conference on sustainable development.

UNW-DPC organized one of the conference's key workshops, dealing with the safe use of wastewater in agriculture. This event marked the launch of an ongoing capacity-development project to promote the use of non-conventional water sources for high volume applications such as irrigation.

UNW-DPAC, with UNW-DPC, organized a panel discussion, *UN-Water: The Road to Rio, water in the green economy for development and poverty eradication.* This session dealt with the expectations of Member States concerning water at the 2012 Rio+20 Conference. Participants discussed the messages and initiatives proposed by UN-Water along with how to express these crucial concepts at Rio.

#### Motivating media and improving access to documentation

As a means of reaching the heart of communications outlets in every corner of the world, it would be hard to picture a better opportunity than the annual *Deutsche Welle Global Media Forum* in Bonn, Germany.

"It's an impressive Forum," says Josefina Maestu, Coordinator of the UN-Water Decade Programme on Advocacy and Communication (UNW-DPAC). "They gather between 1 000 and 2 000 media representatives every year."

She adds that a top priority of the Media Programme is to support and empower media from developing countries, enabling



Josefina Maestu

participants to address the complexities of fundamental issues such as water and sustainable development. The Forum serves as a place for journalists and editors to learn more about how to approach these issues, with UN-Water Members and Partners providing key guidance.

The 2011 Forum added the further complexity of human rights to this year's discussions. UNW-DPAC, along with UN-Water Partners and Members, held a session dealing with the right to sanitation. The topic prompted lively interactions among participants from all over the world.

"We were a bit concerned about whether the human rights reporters would be interested in something more like a social right than a political or civil right. But we were very impressed that there was quite a lot of interest."

UNW-DPAC takes a similar approach to facilitating exchanges of information and ideas within UN-Water. This Programme, which is based in Zaragoza, Spain, also organizes an annual conference that establishes a regular dialogue between UN-Water and its stakeholders.

"What makes this special is providing interaction beyond a typical audience for the United Nations," says Maestu. "Every time we have one of these events, we use it as an opportunity to collate the information and make it available for different audiences."

This role is further enhanced by the fact that Zaragoza is also home to an innovative and publicly accessible Water and Sanitation Library and, since 2009, UNW-DPAC has been building on this resource to create the United Nations Documentation Centre on Water and Sanitation. Drawing on reports from United Nations agencies and programmes, this on-line portal now offers more than 1 200 United Nations publications for download.

"It can be difficult for stakeholders to understand what has been produced by the United Nations system, where they can find it, and how to do this quickly enough for the information to help them make good decisions," says María del Pilar González Meyaui, a UNW-DPAC information management and awareness-raising expert.

The Centre has become part of a growing network of twinned libraries and information centres handling new reports produced by the United Nations system. During 2011 Pilar and her colleagues developed an alert system, which had almost 3 000 subscribers by the end of the year. They receive regular updates on the latest United Nations publications, as well as Twitter messages to highlight particular reports.

"We also have a personalized service for help with any specific topic," says Pilar. "Our centre is intended to be a place where UN-Water Members and Partners can turn as they produce reports and other materials."

www.unwaterlibrary.org



#### **UN-Water Policy Brief, Water Quality**

This document provides an accessible overview of the causes and responses to water quality issues in various settings around the world. Those responses fall into four primary areas: prevention of pollution, treatment of polluted water, safe use of wastewater, and restoration and protection of ecosystems. The brief describes policies designed to initiate and sustain outreach strategies, such as formal education programmes on water issues or public communications activities to raise general awareness of those issues. A comprehensive annex offers details on the handling of specific interventions, including changes in government, financial planning, technology and data collection.

#### Water in the Green Economy in Practice: Towards Rio+20

This book summarizes the proceedings of the UN-Water conference held in Zaragoza from 3-5 October, which yielded a more concise document, *A water toolbox or best practice guide of actions,* intended as an input to the Rio+20 Conference in 2012, (available on-line at http://www.unwater.org/ downloads/water\_toolbox\_for\_rio20.pdf).

#### **Capacity Development for Drinking Water Loss Reduction**

This print publication has been complemented by a DVD, based on the results of regional workshops mounted by UNW-DPC in collaboration with the UN-Water family worldwide. These products outline the value of loss reduction as a means of addressing challenges associated with large urban water infrastructure demands. Launched during World Water Day in Cape Town in March 2012, the proceedings include presentations by some of the book's various authors.

#### The Human Right to Water and Sanitation – Reader

Produced by UNW-DPAC, this reader presents a list and brief descriptions of 18 key publications offering a definitive overview of how water relates to human rights. These references are organized around particular themes, including the right to water as part of the Millennium Development Goals, case studies on sanitation, the obligation of states and the role of the private sector. Each document is intended to make for straightforward, accessible reading and provides a practical way to gain insight into this increasingly important aspect of water management. The reader is available on-line (http:// www.un.org/waterforlifedecade/pdf/05\_2011\_human\_right\_to\_water\_reader\_eng.pdf), as are all of the documents it mentions.

#### **UN-Water Statement for Rio+20**

This statement was submitted to the Rio+20 Conference Secretariat on 1 November 2011 and represents the common UN-Water position on the Rio+20 themes. The statement was presented also at the Water, Energy and Food Security Nexus conference. (Available on-line at http://www.unwater. org/downloads/UNW\_RIOSTATEMENT.pdf).



#### **UN-Water Decade Programme on Capacity Development (UNW-DPC)**

In November 2011 this UN-Water Programme promoted the prospect of using wastewater as an efficient means of agricultural irrigation. The concept was featured at the Water, Energy and Food Security Nexus conference, where it was showcased among solutions for a green economy. The event marked the beginning of a capacity development project, *Safe wastewater use in agriculture*, which is expected to continue until at least March 2013. This initiative is in support of the operationalization of the third edition of the WHO *Guidelines for the safe use of wastewater, excreta and greywater in agriculture and aquaculture*. As part of this undertaking, UNW-DPC is drawing on the expertise of the UN-Water family, including the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), UNEP, WHO, IWMI, the ICID, and the United Nations University Institute on Water, Environment and Health (UNU-INWEH). Together they will review various aspects of employing this potential new source of water and fertilizer with minimal environmental and health risks.

UNW-DPC has also highlighted the losses that significantly compromise the water capacity of many of the world's rapidly growing urban regions (see Publications, above).

UN-Water has mandated UNW-DPC to coordinate the UNW-AIS+ with other information systems in UN-Water, a process that continued throughout 2011. The project database was integrated into the IW:Science database on international water projects and documents, along with mapping results for activities of the UN-Water Thematic Priority Area (TPA) on Water and Climate Change, the TPA on Transboundary Waters, and the TPA on Water Quality. In addition, tools for forums and social networking were added to the UNW-AIS+, as well as on-line training modules containing video recordings, documents and photo galleries.

#### Learning from losses



As Vice-Minister for water in Iran, Reza Ardakanian gained a vital perspective on the challenge of urban water management. For example, the city of Teheran uses about a billion cubic metres of water every year, drawn from reservoirs created by four dams. As the population has grown, so too has its demand for water. Yet there is no readily accessible new supply, and the prospect of bringing in water from more distant locations is far too expensive to consider.

For his part, Ardakanian sees a more straightforward approach: improve the efficiency of existing systems. By recovering water

that is being lost, the overall capacity of such a system can be increased.

"If you spend money on reducing the loss," he says, "it pays back more than spending money to build a new dam."

Ardakanian has since become the Founding Director of the UN-Water Decade Programme on Capacity Development (UNW-DPC), and he continues to emphasize the value of loss reduction. Depending on a city's circumstances, he explains, water systems may be providing people with as little as half of all the water the system uses.

In 2011, UNW-DPC produced a book and DVD on this subject, as well as hosting mayors and utility operators from around the world at a series of regional workshops. The goal is not to assign blame, but rather to seek practical solutions to benefit everyone.

"This was a way of showing that losses occur everywhere in the world," he explains. "It isn't just you, and it isn't all your fault, so don't be shy talking about it."

#### The UN-Water Decade Programme on Advocacy and Communication (UNW-DPAC)

UNW-DPAC, mandated to support the International Decade for Action Water for Life 2005–2015, mounted a UN-Water Conference dedicated to the role of water in the implementation of a green economy (see above in the Major Events section).

UNW-DPAC continues to update the contents and capability of the United Nations Documentation Centre on Water and Sanitation, In addition to expanding the number and variety of these materials throughout 2011, coordination of this service with UNW-AIS+ was actively explored.

Similarly, the *Water for Life* Decade web site, which is managed by UNW-DPAC, was expanded to include sections containing United Nations publications, photobanks and videos. The site presents detailed information about the Programme activity, with a comprehensive archive of *Water in the green economy in practice*, the October Conference in Zaragoza.

UNW-DPAC offers media activities that include media training and organization of sessions at major media events, coordination of communications and media networks, preparation of interviews and articles for newspapers, radio and TV, and production of the annual documentary for the Water for Life Series. In 2011 the documentary *Lake Victoria: Water for Life, the urban challenge* was prepared for World Water Day 2011.

#### World Water Assessment Programme (WWAP)

During 2011 WWAP focused on the finalization of the fourth edition of the World Water Development Report (WWDR4), Managing water under uncertainty and risk. After clearance by the UN-Water Members, the WWDR4 was launched in March 2012 at the Sixth World Water Forum in Marseille by Irina Bokova, United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) Director General, and Michel Jarraud, UN-Water Chair.

The WWDR4 is a comprehensive review of the world's freshwater resources and seeks to demonstrate, among other messages, that water underpins all aspects of development, and that a coordinated approach to managing and allocating water is critical. The Report stresses that in order to meet multiple goals water needs to be an intrinsic element in decision-making across the whole development spectrum.

In the WWDR series, the WWDR4 represents a milestone. While providing a comprehensive assessment of the world's water resources it also introduces a strong thematic element and reports from the regions. Building on the WWDR3 in the recognition of the externalities, the WWDR4 elaborates on the interactions between water and the drivers of change.

#### **Enabling policy to see farther**

Policy questions surrounding water touch on a wide-range of other issues typically regarded as externalities. Many of these same externalities, however, can have profound implications for the way water is used.

"This can include population growth as well as the increasing mobility of populations, along with changing diet and other economic factors that touch on water," says Olcay Ünver, Coordinator of the United Nations World Water Assessment Programme (WWAP).

The challenge, he adds, is that these externalities add to the complexity of any future-oriented assessment. To facilitate this process, WWAP is developing a set of detailed scenarios to illustrate the practical implications



of measures such as adopting new technology, changing consumption patterns, or imposing environment regulations.

"These are the roads one could take to end up in a totally different place," says Ünver, offering the example of mobility and land cover. "If population moves into an area and urbanizes, then the land cover changes totally. The scenarios project takes into account all these complex interactions, and not just the one-dimensional link between a single driver and water resources."

Ünver cautions that the result is not meant to exactly predict the future, but is a means to gauge the relative significance of various factors and decisions based upon these factors.

"We want to inform the decision-makers — the leaders in governments, in the business sector, in civil society," he explains. "So when they make their decisions they can understand the implications for water resources."

"It provides an umbrella under which various partners can build their scenarios," concludes Ünver. "As such we are talking with a large number of organizations, entities, research groups to develop scenarios. It's an interesting, engaging project, and it's good to see that we were able to catalyse so much interest."



#### **TPA on Drinking Water and Basic Sanitation**

During 2011 this TPA focused on *Sustainable Sanitation: Five-Year Drive to 2015*, which was officially adopted by the United Nations General Assembly at the end of 2010. In March 2012 an initial preparatory meeting was held in Geneva, where key issues were identified and external partners consulted. On 21 June, at the United Nations Headquarters in New York, Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, along with representatives of the Secretary-General's Advisory Board on Water and Sanitation and other dignitaries, officially launched this effort to speed the progress of the Millennium Development Goal target for improving sanitation by 2015. Since the launch, the drive has been promoted and a communications plan formulated, an official website and social media campaign has been launched and a planners' guide produced. A number of agencies have supported advocacy for *Sanitation for all – the drive to 2015* at various conferences and events.

#### **TPA on Transboundary Waters**

This TPA has been preparing to collect successful examples or best practices in the field of transboundary cooperation and conflict resolution. Following consultation with the TPA members, this collection began in 2012, becoming an input to the International Year of Water Cooperation in 2013.

Meanwhile, since 2009, the TPA has been engaged in mapping the activities of various UN-Water Members and Partners with regard to transboundary water management. The results of this exercise, which aim to improve coordination of these activities, have been inserted into the UN-Water Activity Information System+.

#### **TPA on Water and Climate Change**

Having drafted policy materials and finalized its activities so they could be mapped into the UNW-AIS+, this TPA has been developing a formal Advocacy and Communication Strategy on Water and Climate Change for UN-Water. This strategy calls for the development of consolidated and tailored messages to serve specific audiences, ranging from national governments and NGOs to community representatives and water system operators. This work has extended to the preparation of a Guidance Note for UN-Water Members, outlining aspects of water-related adaptation to climate change.

#### **Climate and communication**



For Claudio Caponi, Chief of Capacity Building in Water Resources with the World Meteorological Office, climate change is an outstanding example of a challenge that must be met in many different ways at the same time. No single programme, no single organization, and not even a single country can hope to effectively address all the many dimensions of this problem.

With respect to water-related issues surrounding climate change, countries regularly approach various facets of the United Nations for information about how to deal with climate change. Depending on who is being approached, however, they might only offer a

particular perspective to the problem, rather than the more comprehensive outlook required.

As Coordinator of UN-Water's Thematic Priority Area on Water and Climate Change, Caponi oversees efforts to improve the United Nations's coordination of just this kind of activity. In 2011, this TPA prepared guidance materials to help individuals and groups from the United Nations system or from the main non-governmental organizations (NGOs) respond to queries that might come from government departments as they develop policy.

"No agency is capable of responding alone to a request like this," he says. "We have to ensure that the response takes into consideration all the possibilities the United Nations family has to offer."

#### **TPA on Water Quality**

This TPA undertook two key studies in 2011: one mapped the water quality activities of UN-Water Members and Partners, while the other scoped water quality guidelines for aquatic ecosystems. The database yielded by the mapping study has been uploaded onto UNW-AIS+, where it can readily be accessed and contribute to a common agenda across the United Nations.

As for the findings and recommendations of the scoping study, they will set the stage for a proposal to create guidelines for water quality as it relates to aquatic ecosystems. Such an undertaking was envisaged with the creation of the TPA in 2010 as a means of enhancing collaboration and coordination of water quality issues among agencies, governments and other stakeholders. The TPA remit includes monitoring and data collection, promotion of legislation and regulations, support for research and education, and raising awareness of water quality issues.

#### Task Force on Country Level Coordination

To improve the efficacy of this task force, in 2011 the use of the UNDP knowledge-sharing system Teamworks and UNW-AIS+ were promoted. The resulting platform should improve the ability to act in accordance with the widely discussed approach of "delivering as one", which focuses on the ability of participants to work together at the ground level.

#### Task Force on Gender and Water

In 2011 this Task Force reported that it had fulfilled its mandate. UN-Water notes the achievements of this Task Force and thanks the Task Force's coordinators and participants.

#### Task Force on Regional Level Coordination

This Task Force started its activities in 2010 and it is composed of all United Nations Regional Economic Commissions. Its first assignment was to assess water-related coordination mechanisms within each region of the world. This assessment was carried out in 2011, with results in 2012.

#### Task Force on the Rio+20 Water Resources Management Report

Discussions concerning access to water have traditionally dealt with quantity, the question of whether individuals and communities were able to obtain enough of this resource to meet their needs. However, the 2010 World Water Day proceedings in Nairobi placed a new priority on water quality, with an emphasis that has been

"It raised the profile of challenges that we have around water quality and the need to address water quality-related issues," recalls Thomas Chiramba, Head of the United Nations Environment

This Task Force undertook a ground-breaking project during 2011, the UN-Water Status Report on the Application of Integrated Approaches to Water Resources Management. In response to a request from the United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development (UNCSD), this survey of more than 130 countries yielded an unprecedented amount of information about ongoing water-related activities in different parts of the world, as well as the range of regional or national preferences surrounding these activities. Following an inception phase to identify the methodology and scope of the process, a questionnaire was drafted and circulated in March 2012, with the assistance of the CSD Secretariat of United Nations-Division for Sustainable Development (UN-DESA). In addition UNDP's Country Offices and Global Water Partnership's Country Water Partnerships created a more detailed, interview-based survey in 30 representative countries.

#### Adding quality to quantity

formally taken up by UN-Water.

Programme's Freshwater & Ecosystems Unit.

Within a few months of this event, he notes, a Thematic Priority Area on Water Quality was established, one that subsequently yielded positive results in 2011.

"You can't manage what you can't measure," suggests Chiramba, who points to the role of UNEP in assessing how the accessibility and quality of water can be maintained in a sustainable environmental context. "Over the last two years, through thematic exercises that we undertook, we have been able to identify the comparative advantages that the United Nations has, but also the gaps that are now being addressed."

He adds that the focus on quality has characterized another prominent UN-Water initiative, the Task Force on Wastewater Management. The result has enhanced the consideration of ecosystems as a crucial aspect of water resources.

"This is a big development, bearing in mind that the most prominent issue up until now was around access to water and sanitation," concludes Chiramba. "These are issues which, through the work of UN-Water, have found their way into discussions at the Rio+20 conference."



Preliminary analysis of the feedback indicates that the integrated approach to water resources management — as outlined in Agenda 21 — has been adopted in many parts of the world. However, the findings reveal that the implementation of this approach will take time, which also means ongoing support.

#### Task Force on Wastewater Management

During 2011 this Task Force focused on the development and finalization of the Multi-stakeholder Collaborative Agenda on Sustainable Wastewater Management. This Agenda aims to position sustainable wastewater management on the political and development agenda at a global level, thereby facilitating a paradigm shift where wastewater is viewed as a resource, and not as 'waste'. Furthermore, it aims to directly prompt policy reforms and targeted investment in sustainable wastewater management at regional and national levels.

#### Successful survey



"It's really a gold mine of information," says Joakim Harlin, a Senior Water Resources Advisor with the United Nations Development Programme. He is referring to the UN-Water Status Report on the Application of Integrated Approaches to Water Resources Management, a survey of unprecedented scope. Conducted during 2011 by a collaboration of UN-Water Members and Partners, some 135 countries provided extensive details about their approach to water-related activities and challenges over the past 20 years.

The project is the latest stage of an initiative that began in 2005, when the Commission on Sustainable Development asked UN-Water

to begin collecting this information. The activity yielded a report in 2008, with promising results that inspired work on a second report. Harlin has been a core member of the teams behind both reports.

"Building on the core team and the methodology, we expanded," he recalls.

The new report was ready for the CSD's 2012 meeting — the Rio+20 conference, which had water as one of its themes. Harlin suggested the survey's value as a resource will be ongoing.

"It has provided us with the richest country-level data we have so far on water resources management, development and use," he concludes.

Thomas Chiramba, Head of the UNDP's Freshwater & Ecosystems Unit, regards the report as an emblem of UN-Water's important role.

"It shows UN-Water's leadership in the water sector, mobilizing the global community," he says, adding that the report complements and reinforces the findings of a UNEP report that portrayed water resources management as crucial to achieving a green economy.

"Governance will be very important in the future," concludes Chiramba. "It's an area that really matches the mandate of the UN, which is to help governments to traverse these issues."



WHO/UNICEF Joint Monitoring Programme for Water Supply and Sanitation (JMP)<sup>1</sup> In May 2011, WHO and UNICEF organized a stakeholders' Consultation in Berlin, hosted by the German Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), to kick-start the process of formulating proposed post-2015 Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) goals, targets and corresponding indicators. This Consultation brought together over 70 WASH professionals, representing civil society, academia, professional associations, multilateral and bilateral agencies, as well as statistical and data collection experts and representatives from the human rights community. The objectives were to review the current global drinking water and sanitation monitoring landscape, identify the strengths and weaknesses of the current MDG targets, discuss the relevance of the principles underlying the human right to water and sanitation for consideration in future goals and targets, and to reach an agreement on a roadmap for the formulation of a limited number of viable global WASH Goals, corresponding targets and indicators.

In the wake of this Consultation, four working groups were established, for drinking water, sanitation, hygiene and equity and non-discrimination; the remit of the fourth working group cuts across the first three. Leading global institutions coordinate the working groups, members are recognized experts from both the North and the South. They are guided by the terms of reference, with the JMP coordinating the overall process. During the first half of 2012, the working groups scheduled regular telephone conferences and face-to-face meetings. In addition, a range of other viewpoints and proposals will be gathered from global and regional WASH meetings as well as a web platform (WHO/UNICEF JMP site www.wssinfo.org), and close links with regional bodies and processes will be maintained.

A Task Force established by the WHO/UNICEF JMP met in Nanyuki, Kenya in June to discuss how urban settings should be monitored to assess progress toward the MDG target for drinking water and sanitation. The meeting identified the JMP's role in presenting the results of this progress, dealing with topics such as aspects of water supply and sanitation in urban settings that need to be measured and how those measurements can be done. The discussion also tied specific observations, such as standards or operational procedures for sanitation, with measures of progress, including sophisticated survey methods. It was also proposed that monitoring could become the theme for a future report, which would outline the challenge of this activity for broader audiences.

<sup>1</sup> Affiliated with UN-Water

The collection, analysis, verification and clearance of household survey and census datasets on access to improved sources of drinking water and improved sanitation facilities by the WHO/UNICEF JMP team intensified in the second half of 2011 in preparation for the publication of the JMP 2012 Progress Report. At the end of this operation the JMP database totalled over 1 400 datasets. The analyses focused on equity, in particular wealth quintile analysis, and also developed an alternative indicator to track progress in absolute rather than proportional numbers. The disaggregation of the drinking water datasets was expanded to consider use of surface water as a separate category. The JMP report was published in 2012.

In December the JMP/GLAAS Strategic Advisory Group (SAG) met in Paris, France. This was the third meeting of the SAG since 2009, each touched on aspects of water management and monitoring. This latest round of discussions included a call for a global system dedicated to tracking water, sanitation, and health. Participants also reviewed options for communicating the significant milestone that the MDG drinking water target had been reached in 2010.

#### Post-2015 monitoring

Robert Bos, Coordinator of Water, Sanitation and Health at the World Health Organization sees the 2015 endpoint of the MDG period as a huge opportunity to expand and strengthen global monitoring. "The drinking water and, subsequently, sanitation target and indicators represented a great step forward in 2000 and have been the driving force behind the success story of almost two billion people gaining access to improved sources of drinking water. Yet, the disparity between target and proxy-indicator created a situation where the WHO/UNICEF JMP could not directly measure the sustainability of access nor the quality of drinking water".



Over the MDG period the monitoring landscape has evolved: the UN-Water Global Analysis and Assessment of Sanitation and Drinking water started in 2007, the World Bank Water and Sanitation Programme covered Africa, and subsequently Central America and South Asia with its Country Status Overviews, and national governments harmonized their monitoring efforts with international definitions and procedures. In the area of drinking water quality the more contextualized approach of water safety planning is gradually becoming the norm, and in 2010 the human right to safe drinking water and basic sanitation was adopted.

Bos continues, "These developments have created a degree of fragmentation, new needs for monitoring (in particular of the progressive realization of human rights criteria), demands from Member States for increased relevance of data at the local level and an expectation that investing in further improved monitoring will optimize the benefits from investing in drinking water and sanitation systems."

The process of developing proposals for new targets and indicators was set in motion by the stakeholder Consultation organized by WHO and UNICEF and hosted by the German Government in May 2011 – a process that will end with a second Consultation in The Hague in December 2012.

"We will have to create a new global monitoring architecture," says Bos, "which builds on the previous experiences and databases, but which can operate in more dimensions – time, scale and focus – with the flexibility to respond to new needs and demands, adopt new technologies and go beyond exclusive reliance on household surveys and censuses for data collection. In such a new architecture, the visibility of monitoring as a global common good will be further enhanced."

In 2011, GLAAS carried out its biennial global survey to collect information on the efforts and approaches of countries and external support agencies to extend and sustain water, sanitation and hygiene services. This was undertaken to inform the second report to be published in 2012. A network of facilitators was established and anchored to all six WHO Regional Offices to assist with in-country data collection. In total, 74 countries and 24 external support agencies participated in the exercise and submitted data. Following the guidance provided by the JMP/GLAAS Strategic Advisory Group at a meeting held in Paris in December 2011, the GLAAS team worked intensively to review and analyse the data and draft the report.

A scoping study on monitoring of national financing for sanitation and water was completed for presentation in the second report. At the Stockholm World Water Week GLAAS, together with Agence Française de Développement and WaterAid, organized a side event on tools and trends to increase mutual accountability in the sector. GLAAS promoted improved monitoring of country and donor WASH efforts at various events, including SACOSAN, AFRICASAN, and a meeting of the International Aid Transparency Initiative.

GLAAS also provided continuous periodic input to the Sanitation and Water for All (SWA) partnership, assisting countries to compile and present national WASH data in the lead-up to the SWA High Level Meeting between Ministers of Development Cooperation in developed countries and Ministers of Finance in developing countries.

#### Sanitation and Water for All<sup>2</sup>

Established in 2010 with 63 partners, the SWA Partnership grew to 79 by the end of 2011. These partners now represent communities in developing countries, donors, development banks, civil society, multi-lateral organizations, and a research and learning group. Hosted by UNICEF, the SWA Secretariat in 2011 recruited the Chair, John Agyekum Kufuor, former President of Ghana. The SWA also held face-to-face and telephone meetings, as well as events at the South Asian Conference on Sanitation in Colombo, Sri Lanka, World Water Week in Stockholm, Sweden, and AfricaSan in Kigali, Rwanda.

#### Water Resources Scenarios

This project, implemented by the WWAP, explores future scenarios for water resources. Based on our current scientific understanding of global water dynamics, these scenarios build on the socio-economic decisions that surround water. By submitting each of these alternative futures to qualitative and quantitative analysis, the respective risks and opportunities they pose can be identified for individuals, regions and nations. The detailed development of these scenarios took place during 2011, with the result being two reports to be released in 2012.

#### **UN-Water Country Briefs**

This pilot project was launched at the end of 2010 to frame, at the country level, the role of investments in water-related interventions within the larger process of economic and social development. The resulting country-specific briefs are intended to send a powerful message about the crucial role of water in areas such as food security, health, productivity, ecosystem services, reflecting the significant impact that can emerge from political action dedicated to water related issues. During 2011 the project team was hired, UN-Water Members and Partners were consulted, and 13 countries were identified for the collection of the necessary background information to compile briefs.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Formally not a UN-Water initiative

#### UN-Water Federated Water Monitoring System and Key Water Indicator Portal

This pilot project was launched at the end of 2010 with the objective of improving the availability and accessibility to water-related information in order to facilitate policy- and decision-making while reducing the burden on member countries. Through the Key Water Indicator Portal (KWIP) data can be represented in graphs, charts, and tables. Selected indicators from the UN-Water Task Force on Indicators, Monitoring and Reporting are displayed and more indicators or variables can be added in the future. The main purpose of the KWIP is to provide information in a simple format in order to maximize its widespread use. This portal is backed by the Federated Water Monitoring System (FWMS), a federated custodian database containing data from all organizations generating data relevant to the UN-Water indicators. Inter-agency harmonization is managed via a complex mapping of variables, and data is imported to the various widgets displayed on the KWIP. In November 2011 the beta version of the KWIP went online on the UN-Water website.

#### **Advisory Group on UN-Water Publications**

This group was created in 2010 to strategically consider UN-Water's publications, specifically regarding the preparatory process for the UN-Water flagship World Water Development Report (WWDR), which is released every three years. During 2011, the Advisory Group developed an approach for an internal survey of UN-Water and for an external survey of relevant audiences and stakeholders. The survey started at the end of 2011 and its results will be analysed and released in 2012.

### **Governance and Financial Issues**

#### **Documents**

The main document that guided UN-Water's activities in 2011 was the UN-Water Work Programme 2010–2011, which outlined the organization's reported results and concrete deliverables. All governance documents can be accessed at http://www.unwater.org/documents.html

#### **Annual meetings**

The Fourteenth UN-Water meeting took place in Bangkok, Thailand, in January 2011. Half of this meeting was dedicated to strategic discussions about the upcoming Rio+20 United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (UNCSD). At this meeting, Conservation International was granted the status of UN-Water Partner.

The Fifteenth UN-Water meeting took place in Stockholm, Sweden, in August 2011. At this meeting, the incoming Chair and Vice Chair of UN-Water were elected, to take office at the Sixteenth UN-Water meeting.

#### UN-Water Joint Steering Group (JSG)

The JSG, created in 2010 to steer the operational management of UN-Water in-between UN-Water meetings, met three times during 2011. In this capacity, each meeting dealt with matters including budget allocations, planning for forthcoming events, Partner applications, oversight of TPAs, Task Forces and Programmes.

#### The UN-Water Inter Agency Trust Fund

In 2010 the permanent UN-Water Inter-Agency Trust Fund (IATF) was set up in the Switzerland Operations Centre of the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS). In 2011 substantial efforts were made to optimize the IATF operations after its start-up phase.

In 2011 the IATF Memorandum of Understanding was signed by UN-HABITAT, UNDESA, UNDP, United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP), and WHO, joining the other UN-Water Members that had signed in 2010 (i.e. FAO, United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (UNECLAC), UNEP, UNESCO, UNICEF, UNU).

Meanwhile the UN-Water Multi-Donor Trust Fund (MDTF), hosted by FAO, continued to support UN-Water activities in 2011 to ensure a smooth transition to the IATF. During 2011 the MDTF received no funds and operations were discontinued in February 2012.

In November 2011 the UN-Water Donor Dialogue was held in Bonn, Germany, to present latest results and upcoming activities and to receive feedback from the donor partners. The results of the coordination leveraging survey were also presented, showing that in 2009–2010 UN-Water Members invested at least US\$1 million/year (including administrative overheads) for participation in UN-Water activities. Germany, Italy and Spain provided direct support to UN-Water Programmes based in their own countries.

During 2011 a total of US\$4 562 853 were received by the UN-Water Inter-Agency Trust Fund:

	US\$
Balance forward (2010)	2 335 715
Income by donor	
Germany	488 478
Norway	596 747
Sweden	787 025
Switzerland	1 238 573
United Kingdom	1 250 480
United States	201 550
Interest (2011)	6 511
Total expenditure (2011)	5 403 640
Balance (31 December 2011)	1 501 440

### Annex 1. UN-Water Members (Twenty-eight as of 31 December 2011)

#### **UN Secretariat**

United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA) United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UNISDR)

#### **Programmes and funds**

United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-HABITAT)

#### **Regional commissions**

United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP) United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (UNECLAC) United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (UNESCWA) United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA)

#### **Specialized agencies**

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) International Labour Organization (ILO) United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) United Nations World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) The World Bank Group (WB) World Health Organization (WHO) World Meteorological Organization (WMO)

#### **Other entities**

United Nations University (UNU)

#### United Nations related organizations

International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)

#### Conventions

Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (UNCBD) Secretariat of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) Secretariat of United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)

## Annex 2. UN-Water Partners

(Twenty-six as of 31 December 2011)

#### AquaFed

Conservation International \* Gender and Water Alliance (GWA) Global Water Partnership (GWP) International Association for Water Law (AIDA) International Association of Hydrogeologists (IAH) International Association of Hydrological Sciences (IAHS) International Commission on Irrigation and Drainage (ICID) International Hydropower Association (IHA) International Water Association (IWA) International Water Management Institute (IWMI) International Water Resources Association (IWRA) Public Services International (PSI) Ramsar - Convention on Wetlands Stakeholder Forum Stockholm International Water Institute (SIWI) The United Nations Global Compact \*\* The World Conservation Union (IUCN) United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs (UNOOSA) \*\* United Nations Secretary-General's Advisory Board on Water and Sanitation (UNSGAB) \*\* WaterAid Water Supply and Sanitation Collaborative Council (WSSCC) \*\* Women for Water Partnership (WfWP) World Business Council on Sustainable Development (WBCSD) World Water Council (WWC) World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF)

\* Joined during 2011

\*\* Partner with Special Status

### **Annex 3. Human Resources**

#### Members of the UN-Water Joint Steering Group

Zafar Adeel (UNU), Chair UN-Water Nikhil Chandavarkar (UNDESA), Secretary UN-Water (until mid-March 2011) Kenza Kaouakib-Robinson (UNDESA), Secretary UN-Water (from mid-March 2011) Tim Kasten (UNEP), Vice-Chair UN-Water (until June 2011) Thomas Chiramba, Vice Chair UN-Water (from July 2011) Alice Aureli (UNESCO) (from August 2011) Robert Bos (WHO) (from August 2011) David Coates (UNCBD) Pasquale Steduto (FAO) Alberto Tejada-Guibert (UNESCO) (until June 2011)

#### **UN-Water Programmes**

Reza Ardakanian – Director, UN-Water Decade Programme on Capacity Development (UNW-DPC) Josefina Maetsu – Coordinator/Director, UN-Water Decade Programme on Advocacy and Communication (UNW-DPAC) Olcay Ünver – Coordinator, United Nations World Water Assessment Programme (WWAP)

#### **UN-Water Technical Advisory Unit**

Alex Bielak – Senior Advisor to the Chair Nicoletta Forlano – Communications Manager (until November 2011) Irene Gaerdes – Office Associate Stéfanie Neno – Communications Manager (from December 2011) Frederik Pischke – Advisor (until May 2011) Federico Properzi – Chief Technical Adviser (from September 2011)

### Annex 4. Acronyms

BMZ	German Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development		
CSD	Commission on Sustainable Development		
ECLAC	Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean		
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations		
FWMS	Federated Water Monitoring System		
GLAAS	Global Analysis and Assessment of Sanitation and Drinking-Water		
IATE	Inter-Agency Trust Fund		
ICID	International Commission on Irrigation and Drainage		
IWRA	International Water Resources Association		
JMP	WHO/UNICEF Joint Monitoring Programme on Water Supply and Sanitation		
JSG	Joint Steering Group		
KWIP	Key Water Indicator Portal		
MDG	Millennium Development Goal		
MDTF	Multi-Donor Trust Fund		
OECD	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development		
SAG	Strategic Advisory Group		
SWA	Sanitation and Water for All – A Global Framework for Action		
TPA	Thematic Priority Area		
UN	United Nations		
UNCCD	United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification		
UNCSD	United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development		
UNDCWS	United Nations Documentation Centre on Water and Sanitation		
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme		
UNDESA	United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs		
UNECLAC	United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean		
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme		
UNESCAP	United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific		
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization		
UN-HABITAT	United Nations Human Settlements Programme		
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund		
UNSGAB	United Nations Secretary-General's Advisory Board on Water and Sanitation		
UNOPS	United Nations Office for Project Services		
UNU	United Nations University		
UNW-AIS	UN-Water Activity Information System		
UNW-DPAC	UN-Water Decade Programme on Advocacy and Communication		
UNW-DPC	UN-Water Decade Programme on Capacity Development		
WHO	World Health Organization		
WSSCC	Water Supply and Sanitation Collaborative Council		
WWAP	World Water Assessment Programme		
WWDR	World Water Development Report		