

What is Water Security?

"The capacity of a population to safeguard sustainable access to adequate quantities of acceptable quality water for sustaining livelihoods, human well-being, and socio-economic development, for ensuring protection against water-borne pollution and water-related disasters, and for preserving ecosystems in a climate of peace and political stability."

Working definition, UN-Water, 2013

GOOD GOVERNANCE

Adequate legal regimes, institutions, infrastructure and capacity are in place.

TRANSBOUNDARY COOPERATION

Sovereign states discuss and coordinate their actions to meet the varied and sometimes competing interests for mutual benefit.

DRINKING WATER AND HUMAN WELL-BEING

Populations have access to safe, sufficient and affordable water to meet basic needs for drinking, sanitation and hygiene, to safeguard health and well-being, and to fulfill basic human rights.

ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES AND DEVELOPMENT

Adequate water supplies are available for food and energy production, industry, transport and tourism.

ECOSYSTEMS

Ecosystems are preserved and can deliver their services, on which both nature and people rely, including the provision of freshwater.

WATER-RELATED HAZARDS AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Populations are resilient to water-related hazards including floods, droughts and pollution.

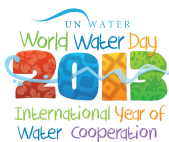
PEACE AND POLITICAL STABILITY

The negative effects of conflicts are avoided, including reduced water quality and/or quantity, compromised water infrastructure, human resources, related governance, and social or political systems.

FINANCING

Innovative sources of financing complement funding by the public sector, including investments from the private sector and micro-financing schemes.

Water is central to achieving a larger sense of security, sustainability, development and human well-being. UN-water supports the inclusion of water security in the post-2015 development agenda as part of the Sustainable Development Goals.



Achieving water security requires collaboration across sectors, communities, disciplines and political borders, to reduce the risk of potential conflicts over water resources, between sectors and between water users or states.

