

## Three-minute intervention speech by Karin Lexen, SIWI UN Water Side event 18 February

Stockholm International Water Institute (SIWI) is a policy institute, Perhaps mostly well known for organising the world water week in Stockholm. This year's theme is energy and water.

As a long-term partner of UN Water, SIWI has actively engaged in the development of proposals for a dedicated Sustainable Development Goal for Water. SIWI agrees with the messages conveyed in the UN Water recommendation report, 'A Post-2015 Global Goal for Water' and want to congratulate UN Water for a great and excellent work.

In this context, we would like to highlight some specific elements identified in the report, but also not saying that issues not mentioned are not important.

### **Firstly and most crucially; we need a dedicated global Goal on Water.**

The adoption of a specific water goal is fundamental to avoid fragmented and incoherent solutions. We are not afraid member states will not think water is important but that water will be scattered in different places. This would be an opportunity lost for achieving coherence and steering mechanisms

### **Secondly, a dedicated water goal needs to steer towards a doubling of water productivity.**

According to the OECD Environmental Outlook 2050 report, global demands for freshwater from energy and industry sectors is projected to triple by 2050. The World Economic Forum 2014 Risk Report "Global Risks 2014" places water as number three of the ten Global Risks of Highest Concern - for the third year in a row. In order to achieve increased and sustainable water uses, a coherent and decisive approach is required in order to achieve this.

### **Thirdly, water is paramount for disaster risk reduction successes and also in ensuring resilient societies.**

Hydro-meteorological events have triggered 90 percent of the globe's deadliest disasters over the past century! (UNWWAP/International Centre for Water Hazard and Risk Management). Recent IPCC findings point directly to changes in the water cycle and in climatic variability. Since the original 1992 Rio Earth Summit, 4.2 billion people have been affected by floods, droughts and storms which have caused USD 1.3 trillion in damage. These numbers are representative of 95% of all people affected by disasters and 63% of all reported financial damage. (UNISDR 2012) Therefore, we strongly support the recommendation that one of the suggested targets relates explicitly to water related disasters. It will be of outmost importance to include water in any Goal on Disaster Risk reduction AND in the next climate deal under the UNFCCC.

### **Fourthly, energy needs to be addressed in a dedicated Water Goal and water needs to be addressed in a dedicated Energy Goal.**

The same is true for food security, health, DDR etc.

### **Finally, the Post-2015 development agenda must steer towards a realisation of the Human Right to Safe Drinking Water and Sanitation while addressing inequalities.**

A global goal on water must address the inequalities that threaten human health and wellbeing, whilst protecting freshwater ecosystems, on which everyone depends.

Thank you