

# 2014 STOCKHOLM STATEMENT ON WATER

STOCKHOLM  
INTERNATIONAL  
WATER INSTITUTE

*Global demand for freshwater is projected to grow by 55% between 2000 and 2050. This poses a huge risk for increased competition over water from different users.*

*A Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) on water is a unique opportunity to holistically address our world's water related challenges, avoiding potentially fragmented and unsustainable solutions which can increase competition between different water users.*

<b>HEALTH</b>	SUSTAINABLE GROWTH	AGRICULTURE	ENERGY	CLIMATE
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**WATER,** sanitation and hygiene are fundamental requirements for welfare and dignity and important investments for sustainable growth. In 2010, through Resolution 64/292, the UN General Assembly recognised access to safe and clean drinking water and sanitation as a human right. The UN Human Rights Council thereafter affirmed these rights as part of international law, confirmed as legally binding upon Member States

## WHAT IS HAPPENING NOW?

Water distribution and sanitation systems are often neglected and unable to cope with growing demographics. Poor sanitation conditions, such as those resulting from open defecation, have been shown to significantly contribute to the spread of deadly diseases such as diarrhoea. Women and girls face an increased risk of assault when practising open defecation. They also carry a disproportionate share of the burdens of household water provision which has additional, serious repercussions on their access to education and development opportunities.

## WHAT NEEDS TO HAPPEN NEXT?

Access to safe, affordable water and appropriate sanitation is a human right and universal access should be achieved by 2030, if not earlier.

### ► Watch SIWI's five thematic films

and corresponding Stockholm Statements on Water to learn more about the centrality of water in building resilient future societies.

[www.siwi.org/stockholmstatement2014](http://www.siwi.org/stockholmstatement2014)



## A Sustainable Development Goal

(SDG) on Water is essential for our shared future

### What would an SDG mean for Health?

**A dedicated SDG on water is necessary to create incentives for fair and efficient allocation of water in the future between different water users and to help deliver universal access to safe and affordable drinking water and adequate sanitation.**

### FACTS

- **ALMOST 2 BILLION PEOPLE** lack access to safe drinking water.
- **2.5 BILLION PEOPLE** lack access to improved sanitation facilities.
- **EVERY \$1 INVESTED IN WATER & SANITATION** equals an average return of \$4 in increased productivity.
- **IN 2011, OVER 1 BILLION PEOPLE** were practicing open defecation. That's approximately 15% of the global population.
- **EVERY 20 SECONDS,** a child dies as a result of poor sanitation.
- **WOMEN IN AFRICA AND ASIA** walk on average 6 kilometres to collect water.
- **FOR APPROXIMATELY US\$ 10 BILLION A YEAR** – less than 1% of global military expenditure – the MDG sanitation target could be met by 2015. Everyone could be provided with a toilet by 2025.