

# World Water Day-Special Event Priority Actions for Water and Disasters In the next Decade



**1:15-2:45 pm**  
**Wednesday, March 22, 2017**  
**CR8, UNHQ, New York**

#### Organized by:

- High Level Experts and Leaders Panel on Water and Disasters (HELP)
- UN Special Envoy on Disaster Risk Reduction and Water
- High Level Panel on Water (HLPW)
- Permanent Missions of Republic of Korea, Japan, Mauritius, Mexico, Switzerland and Tajikistan
- UN-Water

#### Opening Remarks

- H.E. Mr. Juan José Gómez-Camacho, Co-Chair of Sherpas, High Level Panel on Water (HLPW) / Permanent Representative of Mexico to the United Nations

#### Keynote Speech

- H.E. Dr. Han Seung-soo, UN Special Envoy for Disaster Risk Reduction and Water / Chair of HELP
- H.E. Mr. Peter Thomson, President of 71st session of United Nations General Assembly
- H.E. Mr. Aslov Sirodjiddin Muhridinovich, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Tajikistan
- H.E. Mr. Teru Fukui, Member of the House of Representatives of Japan

#### Panel Discussion: “Priority Actions for Water and Disasters in the next Decade”

- Dr. Jerome Delli Priscoli, Chair of Technical Committee, Global Water Partnership
- Dr. Joe D Manous, Jr, Institute for Water Resources, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, USA
- Dr. Masafumi Mori, Vice Minister of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism, Japan
- Dr. Oyun Sanjaasuren, Global Water Partnerships / former Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mongolia
- Prof. Alvaro Umana, Vice-Chair of the Global High Level Panel on Water and Peace / former Minister of Energy and Environment, Costa Rica

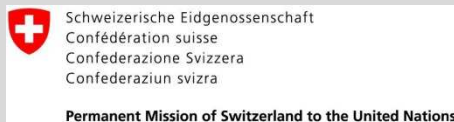
#### Discussion / comments from the floor

#### Closing Remarks

- H.E. Mr. Jagdish Koonjul, Co-Chair of Sherpas, High Level Panel on Water (HLPW) / Permanent Representative of Mauritius to the United Nations



Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for  
Disaster Risk Reduction and Water



# **United Nations World Water Day-Special Event**

## **Priority Actions for Water and Disasters in the next Decade**

### **Concept**

Water is life. But water is also a threat to life. During the past decade, water-related disasters have not only struck more frequently but have also been more severe, hampering sustainable development by causing political, social, and economic upheaval in many countries. Water-related disasters, such as floods, droughts, storm surges and tsunamis, account for 90% of all disasters in terms of number of people affected.

The issue of water and disasters must be addressed if we hope to make sustainable development a reality. We must share our experiences and lessons learned, strengthen regional coordination and collaboration, and set common goals and targets in order to lay a foundation for weathering the water-related disasters to come, and make progress towards creating a better-prepared and resilient society. All these elements should be translated into clear-cut messages and practical advice for decision makers to create effective policies and mechanisms that address water and disaster issues appropriately at all levels.

The UN General Assembly adopted a resolution last month to proclaim the period from 2018 to 2028 the International Decade for Action, “Water for Sustainable Development”. UNGA also expressed in the resolution that it is deeply concerned about water-related disasters will be further exacerbated by urbanization, population growth, desertification, drought and other extreme weather events and climate change, as well as lack of capacity to ensure integrated water resource management.

UN Secretary-General and President of the World Bank established High-level Panel on Water (HLPW) comprising eleven incumbent Heads of States and Governments and one Special Advisor to help international community to achieve water-related goals and targets of Agenda 2030. HLPW announced Action Plan to help countries and stakeholders jump-start their actions towards achievement of the goals and targets. Water-related Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) is one of six priority themes in HLPW Action Plan. In the resolution of the International Decade for Action, “Water for Sustainable Development”, UNGA invites Secretary-General to take appropriate steps to plan and organize the activities taking into account of, inter alias, the outcomes of the High-level Panel on Water.

With these in mind, it is high time to commence discussion on priority actions to address water and disasters for the next decade. The Special Event “Priority Actions for Water and Disasters in the next Decade” invites all interested members and stakeholders to express their views and share experiences and discuss priority actions countries and international communities should take to address the issue of water and disasters during the next ten years.