

The Background Document The Bandung Spirit Water Summit

1. Preface

The connective element of the planet, and humanity itself, is in peril. Current crisis on food, energy, health, biological and natural hazards, immigration, regional stability, human rights, and social harmony and integrity cannot be countered without attention to water. As global leaders, we are committed to working for the protection and preservation of people and planet through bold actions by, of, and for water.

Our proposed actions are based on the Bandung Spirit. Drawn from the Bandung Principles of the Asian-African Conference that was held in Bandung, Indonesia in 1955, the Spirit of Bandung is symbolized in a phrase “live and let live”. It is a spirit of tolerance, mutual respect, sustainable growth, valuing diversity, and belief in the power of youth and next generations, which are essential in the face of current global challenges.

The future of generations to come rests upon the wisdom of the leaders and all stakeholders gathered here in Indonesia at the Bandung Spirit Water Summit, to take action. We call upon all leaders to join in our action:

2. The Bandung Spirit

2.1 The 1955 Bandung Conference and its significance today

The 1955 Bandung Conference, convened against the backdrop of the Cold War in Bandung, Indonesia, stands out as a watershed moment in geopolitics. Gathering 29 states from Asia and Africa, it defied the prevailing binary divisions of the era, offering a platform for nations to assert their independence and collective identity amidst global tensions. The conference stressed the need to promote economic cooperation on the basis of mutual interests among nations and respect for national sovereignty. The conference further affirmed that cultural cooperation based on tolerance and universality is one of the most powerful means of promoting reciprocal understanding among nations, which will contribute to world peace. The need to enhance education, science, and technology through collective cooperation was also emphasized. The final communiqué of the Bandung Conference stated: *"Free from mistrust and fear, and with confidence and goodwill towards each other, nations should practice tolerance and live together in peace with one another as good neighbors and develop friendly co-operation."*

The Bandung Conference resulted in the formulation of the 10 Bandung Principles (See box 1), including principles of equality, sovereignty, human rights, and justice, which continue to resonate in our modern era. The ten principles were then proclaimed as the basis for promoting the maintenance of international peace and security and close cooperation in economic, social, and cultural fields to bring about the common prosperity and welfare of all humanity.

Box 1: The Ten Principles of Bandung

1. Respect for fundamental human rights and for the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations.
2. Respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of all nations.
3. Recognition of the equality of all races and of the equality of all nations large and small.
4. Abstention from intervention or interference in the internal affairs of another country.
5. Respect for the right of each nation to defend itself singly or collectively, in conformity with the Charter of the United Nations.
6. Abstention from the use of arrangements of collective defense to serve the particular interests of any of the big powers, abstention by any country from exerting pressures on other countries.
7. Refraining from acts or threats of aggression or the use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of any country.
8. Settlement of all international disputes by peaceful means, such as negotiation, conciliation, arbitration or judicial settlement as well as other peaceful means of the parties' own choice, in conformity with the Charter of the United Nations.
9. Promotion of mutual interests and cooperation.
10. Respect for justice and international obligation.

2.2 From the Bandung Principles to the Bandung Spirit

The significance of establishing a level playing field where states can engage in democratic and peaceful relations cannot be overstated. This environment fosters stability, cooperation, and mutual respect among nations, serving as a cornerstone for international harmony and progress. In this regard, the Bandung Principles hold promise in shaping global dynamics and promoting a more inclusive and equitable world order. Examining the Bandung Principles reveals a universal framework extending far beyond its historical

context. These principles offer potential solutions to contemporary global challenges, evident in their influence on various movements and alliances. They underpin discourse and collective action founded on shared values and aspirations.

The Bandung Spirit is the underlying aspiration and determination to build peace, sustainable development for all, and creation of a society of tolerance and diversity in the Ten Principles, the very spirit the world needs right now. The participating leaders agreed to discuss and take action for better future through better water based on the Bandung Spirit. The Bandung Spirit is the common ground for all stakeholders and citizens to discuss, collaborate, and help each other.

2.3 The Bandung Spirit as a foundation to transform water actions

United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres underscores that water is fundamental for peace and underpins sustainable development, poverty alleviation, food security, job creation, and prosperity, stressing placing it at the forefront of the global political agenda (SG/SM/21742, 2023). The benefits of water transcend simple utilitarian benefits, as it weaves cultural identities with history and ambitions, and fosters emotional connections. Recognizing this, it becomes evident that water can serve as a stabilizing force in society and a driver of peace and progress (A/78/253, 2023). The intricate interplay between water resources and societal, economic, and political stability underscores the urgency of addressing water challenges through the principles of cooperation, equity and human rights enshrined in the Bandung Spirit. Four areas of alignment in which the Bandung Spirit illuminate a path toward a more peaceful world through water are highlighted.

i. The Bandung Spirit advances cooperation on shared water resources

The Bandung Spirit underscore the importance of promoting sovereign equality, justice, mutual interest and cooperation. These values are highly relevant for shared waters. States have been actively engaging in collaboration to address common water-related challenges. International organisations, including the UN, also recognise the importance of transboundary water cooperation for peace and stability. A collaborative approach is instrumental in empowering nations and communities to effectively manage shared water bodies while addressing pressing socio-economic and environmental concerns (see SDG 6.5).

In utilizing and managing shared water resources, collective efforts must be guided by sovereign equality, territorial integrity, mutual benefit, and good faith (McCaffrey S, and Neville K, 2010). By fostering collaboration and mutual understanding, nations can

effectively address shared challenges while upholding their sovereignty and promoting peace and stability. The Bandung Principles and the “Bandungian spirit” underscore the importance of equality among nations, advocating for fair and respectful international water cooperation to advance mutual interests and enable collaborative solutions to shared challenges, ultimately enhancing sovereignty.

ii. The Bandung Spirit champions equity and solidarity

Transboundary water governance arrangements tend to reflect the prevailing power relations between states (Zeitoun et al., 2017). Power asymmetries between riparian states can result in unbalanced resource control, secured through various strategies, that benefit from a weak international institutional context. There is a real need to ensure water equity, justice and cooperation in transboundary settings; here the Bandung principles can also provide guidance.

The Bandung Spirit embody a commitment to global involvement rooted in the principles of equality and interdependence. In the context of transboundary water sharing, the Bandung Spirit may provide a framework with which to confront the (mis)use of international norms and institutions that perpetuate structural injustices. To truly embody this vision, there must be a fundamental transformation from an international order of poverty and disparity (Bedjaoui, M, 1979) to a Bandungian international order (Eslava L, Fakhri M, Nesiah V, 2017) that places inclusivity, solidarity, equality, and mutual respect among nations at the forefront of international relations.

The enduring relevance and impact of the Bandung Conference shape global dynamics and promote a more inclusive and equitable world order. This legacy is evident in movements and alliances spurred by Bandung mentioned above, as well as through discourse and collective action grounded in shared values and aspirations (e.g., the Right to Development, Common But Differentiated Responsibilities and Respective Capabilities, and ecocide). By upholding the objectives and principles outlined in both the UN Charter and the Bandung Principles, which advocate for cooperation, friendly relations, respecting human rights, and upholding international law, the international community can steer its endeavours toward realizing a safer, fairer, and more sustainable global order. In today’s interconnected world, confronting challenges that surpass political borders, such as climate change and water-related issues, is imperative to the attainment of these aspirations.

iii. The Bandung Spirit uphold the right to water

The first Bandung Principle underscores the imperative of “respect for fundamental human rights and for the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations”. Within this framework, the Bandung Principles recognize upholding human rights. The human right to water, indispensable for the full enjoyment of all fundamental human rights, guarantees access to sufficient, safe, acceptable, physically accessible, and affordable water for personal and domestic use. This principle emphasizes equitable access to clean and safe drinking water for all individuals, irrespective of socio-economic status or background, necessitating international collaboration and support through technical and financial assistance to fulfil these obligations. In addition, the human right to water mandates meaningful public participation in decision-making processes, which is crucial for inclusivity of marginalized and indigenous communities and ensuring the voices of all stakeholders are heard.

iv. The Bandung Spirit helps resolve disputes on shared waters

The Bandung Spirit and UN Charter require peaceful conflict resolution, “respect for justice and international obligations”, and uphold national sovereignty. These values are paramount in the realm of transboundary water resources cooperation, where disputes should be resolved through diplomatic channels based on mutual respect and equality. By embracing peaceful means, nations can settle differences concerning shared water resources without coercion or the threat of force, thus fostering an environment conducive to collaborative endeavors.

Central to the Bandung Principles is also the principle of equality among all nations, regardless of size or power, which is vital for effective water governance and, if respected, serves as a bulwark against hydro-hegemony. In essence, the Bandung Principles furnish a framework for fostering peaceful cooperation and addressing discrepancies pertaining to transboundary water resources. Upholding this principle mitigates the risk of conflicts stemming from competition over transboundary water resources, instead prioritising peaceful resolutions that yield mutual benefits.

3. Actions in the five priority areas

The Bandung Spirit, shared by the participants, still shines brightly today, and its importance is growing in these times of climate change, pandemics, wars and conflicts, and other serious risks. The Bandung spirit is essential to achieving the 2030 Agenda. The Leaders in the Summit focused their discussion and actions on five priority areas for which urgent attention and actions by the international community are needed, and endorsed key actions. They wish that wings of the Bandung Spirit will be extended to all water sectors and beyond soon.

3.1 Actions for Water for Peace

The significance of establishing a level playing field where states can engage in democratic and peaceful relations cannot be overstated. This environment fosters stability, cooperation, and mutual respect among nations, serving as a cornerstone for international harmony and progress.

Water systems are destroyed as a direct or indirect target of armed conflict, leading to immediate and reverberating impacts, including loss of life, the spread of disease, the crippling of economies, and the degradation of the ecosystems we depend on.

In this regard, the Bandung Spirit holds promise in shaping global dynamics and promoting a more inclusive and equitable world order.

Building and sustaining peace through water

Circulating water is for the benefit of all. Water systems and resources should be protected at all times. States must respect international humanitarian law and prohibit attacks on water and sanitation infrastructure in times of conflict. It is essential to achieve the disarmament of water as a political weapon and the demobilization of water conflicts between basin countries or regions. The international community should decide to ban the weaponization of water.

Transboundary cooperation on water is a fundamental path to peace. Environmental protection of water resources is vital for the health of all people and the planet. The functions of the water cycle must be used as a tool for peace to improve the sustainability of daily life and reduce water risks in normal times, and to speed up reintegration, i.e. rescue, recovery and reconstruction in the event of disaster, through mutual cooperation between the basin, local communities and the international community.

Protect water systems and resources at all times.

States must respect international humanitarian law and prohibit attacks on water and sanitation infrastructure during times of conflict. Transboundary cooperation on water is a fundamental pathway for peace. Environmental protection of water resources is critical for the health of all people and the planet.

Promote IWRM as an agent for peace

Basin-wide water management based on IWRM should be the norm rather than the exception. Increase policy coherence and develop legal and other frameworks at all levels, taking into account a source-to-sea and IWRM approach to restore and keep a sound water cycle. Not only freshwater, but also solid water including glaciers, aquifers, oceans, and

islands should be within the scope of the framework. Further recommendations include: strengthen regional legal frameworks and institutions; hold inclusive regional dialogues; and upgrade existing arrangements to enhance transboundary cooperation. Governance and finance systems need to be tailored towards the diverse climate, geographic, and socio-economic conditions of the Region (Asia+) and should be developed based on research and dialogue. The issues of Small Island Development States (SIDS) should be given special focus to address these challenges.

Endorse and galvanize actions on Water for Peace proposed by the UN 2023 Water Conference

Inclusive, comprehensive transboundary agreements to support countries, on the basis of the 1992 Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes (Water Convention) and the 1997 Convention on the Law of the Non-navigational Uses of International Watercourses (Watercourses Convention). Transboundary agreements can support a culture of cooperation and trust, allowing for the leveraging and sharing of benefits that are not accessible at national scales. Disaster risk reduction also greatly benefits from transboundary cooperation. The development and adoption of national mechanisms for cross-sectoral coordination and mutually agreed, mutually beneficial, no harm-based policies for cooperative water-related adaptation also supports regional and global water security. Benefit: Expanding the scope and membership of existing water conventions can result in more inclusive and integrated cooperation on water and resilience issues.

Water can broadly contribute to global socio-economic advancement by helping building peace and regional stability. For this purpose, enhance the leaders' awareness that cooperation on water, particularly on water emergencies, such as disasters, can be an agent for peace and promote effective actions; promote the use of "Principles to Foster Peace before, during, and after Water-related Disasters" which was launched at the APWS; use traditional technologies such as cylindrical water distributors and a locally nurtured culture of peacefully sharing water in society.

3.2 Actions for Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR)

Water, which circulates in the oceans, the atmosphere and on land, plays an important role in redistributing solar energy to every corner of the planet and in creating and maintaining diverse climates and ecosystems. Living on this aqua-planet Earth, humans have made relentless efforts to use water and reduce water risks according to the local characteristics of the water cycle. As a result of these efforts, they have maintained natural and living environments and stable supplies of food and energy, as well as quality of life such as

health, education and work. They have also reduced the risks of floods, droughts and other hazards, and invented ingenious ideas and means to recover from severe disasters. Many of these inventions are now treasured as long-standing traditions. Lifestyles, cultures and religions shaped by different climates are also deeply involved in this process.

The water cycle is under pressure by climate change. Water-related disasters, such as floods and droughts, have been occurring more frequently with unprecedented severity and extent in many parts of the world due to, among other things, insufficient actions to build the resilience of vulnerable populations against climate change, and the slow rate of mitigation and adaptation actions. Floods have increased 2.3 times and droughts 1.3 times, comparing the number of reported disasters to the respective 20-year periods, 1980-1999 and 2000-2019. Nearly 95% of the infrastructure loss and damage reported between 2010 and 2019 were due to water-related disasters. At least 1.4 billion people have been affected by droughts and 1.6 billion by floods between 2000 and 2019. As a result, complex, cascading, and systemic risks that usually lurk within social, economic, and environmental systems have suddenly emerged, threatening humanity beyond boundaries in space and time. Extreme precipitation is projected to intensify by about 7% for each 1degree of global warming, and every additional 0.5degree warming causes discernible increases in agricultural and ecological droughts in some regions.

Take action on climate change, including adaptation, mitigation and financing

Water security is crucial to achieving significant human adaption to impacts of climate changes and offers significant new “soft Power” to decision makers. This requires the prioritization of climate-resilient water policies, environmental regulations to address water pollution, as well as attention to extending access in a sustainable manner to those populations who still lack access to water and sanitation. A survey¹ by French Water Partnership (FWP) reports that 92% of Intended Nationally Determined Contribution (INDCs), part of the paris COP21, submitted to the UN by 129 countries includes water. According to the survey, water is the first priority noted for adaptation.

Position science and technology as “a game changer”

Position science and technology as “a game changer” towards a fully resilient post-corona society through three actions: Promote water cycle consilience by accelerating the Open Science policy, particularly focusing on observation, modeling and data integration; Foster "Facilitators," that is, catalytic beings who can lead the way toward resolving

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http://www.iwa-network.org/downloads/1448965142-2015%2011%2029_Review%20of%20Water%20integration%20in%20INDC_VF.pdf

problems by providing professional advice on-site using a broad range of scientific and indigenous knowledge; and Work together beyond disciplines and sectors among different levels while taking an end-to-end approach.

Strengthen water-related disaster resilience and the water-food-energy nexus in the context of climate change

A broad range of stakeholders should collaborate to accelerate quantitative assessments across disciplines by integrating knowledge on climate, the water cycle, agriculture and energy. The results should be used to inform cross-sectoral decision-making and action on the ground at local, national, regional and global levels. Society should promote the integration of "facilitators" to act as catalysts, able to provide expert advice based on a broad range of scientific and indigenous knowledge about climate change in the local context.

Placing water in the center of post-COVID19 recovery

COVID-19 reminded us how our society and systems were unprepared for sudden disturbance and changes. Water can and should play a critical role to build a post-COVID-19 society that is more resilient and adaptive to sudden and slow onset disturbances such as pandemics, disasters, and climate change. This requires the prioritization of climate-resilient water policies, environmental regulations to address water pollution, as well as attention to extending access in a sustainable manner to those populations who still lack access to water and sanitation. Decision-making by leaders should be quick and evidence based. The role of science and technology is crucial. Priority actions on science and technology include the followings:

Drastically improve the collection, archiving, and sharing of water data and information

We cannot improve what we cannot measure. The collection, archiving, and sharing of water data and information, including those of water risks, should be promoted through establishing appropriate frameworks and organizations, as well as prioritized investment. Transboundary information sharing is particularly important. Building global observatories should be supported by the Region.

Be attentive and adaptive to slow-onset changes

Slow-onset changes should be given special attention. Yearly and seasonal hydrological patterns and those of water demand are changing quickly due to climate change and other socioeconomic changes. Those changes should be addressed by adaptive policies, as well as resilient and green infrastructure. Demand management of water should be given

higher attention.

Endorse and galvanize actions on Water, Disasters, and Climate Change proposed by the UN 2023 Water Conference

The critical role the leaders can play is to recognize, endorse, and promote actions that were proposed as priority actions in the international community. It is particularly important here that the leaders promote actions in line with the Bandung Spirit.

The Leaders of the Summit underscores the game changers of the UN 2023 Water Conference: Integrated water and climate policy at national and global levels by 2030 as well as integrating urban and rural policies and planning; Establishing Operational Global Water Information System to support water, climate and land management for socioeconomic resilience, ecological sustainability and social inclusion by 2030; Early Warnings for All to help safeguard lives and property by 2027; and Decoupling water consumption and economic activity is a prerequisite for water sustainability and climate resilience. Alternative, climate-smart food sources.

The Leaders also underscores innovative actions recognized in the 3rd Interactive Dialogue (ID3) of the UN 2023 Water Conference: The Action Workflow, “Inter-COP” process, Regularizing existing processes such as UN Special Thematic Sessions on Water and Disasters, a UN Water platform to discuss policy and prepare joint programming to be discussed in preparation of the SDG summit, the Open Science Policy, facilitation between science and decision making, end-to-end approach, and water cycle integration, Mainstreaming integrated policy frameworks which combine integrated water resources management (IWRM) , AWARe, the Kumamoto Initiatives and Coalition, Early Warning for All, PREPARE program, Environmental Economic Accounting; Hydro SOS; signing on Fair Water Footprint Declaration; World Drought Resilience Network, supporting Special Envoy for Water, strengthen water inclusion in the COP processes and commitments, creating thematic platforms such as those on “from source to sea” and “water, culture and heritage”; and establishing symbolic days on specific subjects such as cryosphere and lakes.

3.3 Actions for Sanitation and Water for All

Rapid population growth, unstable governance and lack of funding have combined to create life-threatening problems. Globally, more than 2 billion people today lack access to safe, controlled drinking water; more than 4.2 billion people have no choice but to use toilet and sanitation services that do not meet 'safe, controlled service' standards. As a

result, waterborne diseases are on the rise, human dignity has been lost, gender-based violence is on the rise, and regional inequalities are creating divisions and conflicts over limited water. The 'silent pandemic' of antimicrobial resistance (AMR) has also been identified as a serious water and health threat. The world needs to accelerate progress by six times in order to achieve the goal of universal access to safe drinking water; and five times for achieving access to safely managed sanitation.

Prioritize water, sanitation, and hygiene in their respective countries

This requires a whole of government approach that is triggered at the highest political level with dedicated resources and a firm belief that the human rights to water and sanitation are the grounding apparatus towards the achievement of universal access and reaching the hardest to reach groups and individuals. Decision makers are required to prepare and reflect on adaptation and to simultaneously reflect on on going water governance practices to adapt and operate effectively in times of rapid change.

End water, sanitation and hygiene crises together.

Each country should position water and sanitation as a priority on its development agenda, establish an implementation organization and an independent evaluation organization for this priority issue, and promote measures focused on improving sanitation and hygiene practices with no one left behind, including the poor and vulnerable. The international community, while respecting their independence and uniqueness, including customs, cultures, and religions, should assist nations by providing advice for better governance, mobilizing and expanding diverse financing sources, and supporting capacity building to produce leaders capable of providing advice to practitioners based on a broad range of knowledge.

Build a system of robust accountability that promotes a culture of transparency, consistency, and scientific learning

This requires a collaborative multistakeholder mechanism that is inclusive of relevant actors at different levels. It also requires a significant effort to collect disaggregated data where relevant, including by income, sex, age, race, ethnicity, migratory status, disability, and geographic location.

Endorse and galvanize actions on Sanitation and Water for All proposed by the UN 2023 Water Conference

Re-defined financial principles to make our economies water-, climate-, land-, and ecosystems smart and people centric. Valuing water accurately is a precondition for achieving sustainable and inclusive development. Pricing water closer to its true value is therefore critical to radically improving the efficiency of water use and to achieving equity.

Pricing and appropriately targeting subsidies for poor and vulnerable communities will help reduce social pressures. The broader evolution of multilateral financial institutions, especially the World Bank and multilateral development banks (MDBs), can lead to improved mobilization of capital for water action and better long-term resilience support to Member States. Public and private finances must be coordinated to lower the cost of capital for investments in the developing world. All sectoral investment strategies must be water-smarter, while circular solutions – especially those related to energy must be backed by strategic environmental assessments and lower water footprints. Water resource efficiency and reuse should become the norm for all economic sectors. Benefit: A new water economy as a foundational element for redefining business culture, development cooperation and a more peaceful world

Global Water Education Network to build the capacity of institutions and people, especially to support developing countries. A Global Water Education Network provides experts and institutions with the capacity to manage water sustainably and integrate water, food and energy considerations into local, national and regional management and cooperative schemes. Benefit: Governments and citizens would benefit from enhanced awareness, better preparedness, and timely information-sharing. Sharing lessons and good practices will catalyse understanding and cooperation.

Institutional architecture to support transformation: a board of UN agencies under the leadership of the UN Secretary-General, managed by a UN Special Envoy for Water, supported by a reformed UN-Water coordinating body and an independent scientific and advisory panel, in addition to the arrangement for discussing water policy at the United Nations in New York to be developed by the General Assembly. Member States can transition to a water-secure world by discussing and agreeing on integrated policy and programming, supported by a committee on water that reports to the General Assembly. A UN Special Envoy for Water can ensure that water remains high on the political agenda, within and outside the UN. The Special Envoy can work with a revised and empowered UN-Water platform to strengthen upstream coordination within the UN system and swiftly deliver UN programmes at the country level. Benefit: Revised UN capacity to support the international community in better coordinated and more effective delivery of services to country and local levels. Mandated mechanism for UN Members to deliberate on water policy and strategy in New York.

3.4 Global Finance and Governance

Given the off-track status of SDGs, it is a must to drastically increase total investment in the water sector. Direct and indirect benefit of water investment should be numerically

articulated to convince finance institutions and taxpayers and attract investors by developing and standardizing the analytic method for this purpose. Specific recommendations include: encourage cost sharing and pooled resources, support water security actions from multiple funding sources, and ensure that investment and management of water-related infrastructure and technologies are designed to be multi-purpose.

It seems that water infrastructure investment brings damages as a percentage of GDP to around low 5% levels in the rich world as opposed to around the 25-30% often estimated in the poorer world. Means to flatten the hydrograph must be taken to avoid accelerating the discrepancies between the poor and rich. Much of the prescriptions of the rich to the poor, behavioral and individual regulation are not what those same rich used to gain wealth.

The water infrastructure investment in disaster risk reduction is really an investment in development. In fact it is a necessary investment to establish platform for development and growth; a necessary enabling condition for societies to break the cycle of poverty so intimately linked to the fatalism of always reacting to unknown and unexpected disasters. Water investment becomes a crucial element in achieving the stability perquisites for sustainability.

Nations are diverse. They differ in economic development, culture, religion and society. Accordingly, they face unique water problems with different backgrounds and current statuses. Under these circumstances, each nation must have the determination to solve water problems through its own will and efforts, and must begin to develop human and institutional resources and promote science and technology to turn this determination into action. However, there are challenges that require concerted efforts to overcome: climate change, natural disasters and infectious diseases cannot be solved by a single country.

Mobilize significant financing through domestic, regional, and innovative solutions

These resources must be dedicated to ensuring strong water resource management, as well as safely managed and climate resilient water and sanitation services. Increased budget allocations, and engagement with national and regional development banks to secure long-term finance options that are aligned with government obligations, while working on debt reduction strategies, are essential.

Integrate scientific knowledge with an understanding of local status

Wise use of the water cycle requires the integration of scientific knowledge with an understanding of local customs, cultures, religions and other factors. We therefore need

to integrate indigenous knowledge rooted in local communities and universal, cutting-edge scientific knowledge across disciplines, and promote the accumulation of knowledge that will enable all stakeholders in each region to take well-informed action seamlessly, from everyday life to extreme events.

Build a system of robust accountability that promotes a culture of transparency, consistency, and scientific learning

This requires a collaborative multistakeholder mechanism that is inclusive of relevant actors at different levels. It also requires a significant effort to collect disaggregated data where relevant, including by income, sex, age, race, ethnicity, migratory status, disability, and geographic location.

Promote investment in people who support integrated behavior based on diversity

The diverse characteristics of circulating water and the state of society should be independently understood and assessed by local community members. On this basis, interdisciplinary cooperation should be promoted to collect and evaluate the necessary data to find integrated solutions for better daily water use and risk reduction during extreme events, which should be planned and managed on a scientific basis. The international community should support countries in capacity building and strengthening governance and implementation.

Endorse and galvanize actions proposed by the UN 2023 Water Conference

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