

**International Desalination Association Statement for UN Water Conference, Round Table on
Governance, Room 11, 11:35-13:20
October 24, 2022**

According to the UN report, “Unconventional water resources” [1] water scarcity is recognized as a key challenge to sustainable development and as a potential cause of social unrest and of conflict within and between countries. As stated in the aforementioned report, conventional water provisioning approaches that rely on snowfall, rainfall and river runoff and easily accessible groundwater are not enough to meet growing freshwater demand in arid and semi-arid areas.

Water-scarce countries need a radical re-thinking of water resource planning and management that includes the creative exploitation of a growing set of viable but unconventional water resources for food production, livelihoods, ecosystems, climate change adaptation and sustainable development and conservation.

A steadily downward trend of desalination costs coupled with increasing costs of conventional water treatment and water reuse driven by more stringent regulatory requirements are expected to accelerate the current trend of reliance on the oceans as an attractive and competitive water source. These trends are likely to continue and to further establish seawater desalination as a reliable drought-proof alternative for coastal communities worldwide in the next 15 years.

Utilizing unconventional water resources is an emerging opportunity to narrow the water demand-supply gap. In particular, sea water desalination provides a climate-independent and steady supply of high-quality water. In the “UN World Water Development report 2021: Valuing water” [2] desalination is presented as “one of the technological options that can provide an additional source of freshwater for irrigation, especially in water-stressed coastal areas, underlying how thanks to decreasing costs, the supply of desalinated water for agriculture is most likely to be cost-effective in a tightly controlled environment, using agricultural practices with the most efficient water use, crops with high productivity, and renewable energies”.

International Desalination Association (IDA, a non-profit organization associated to the UN system) can support United Nations in developing this technologies through research and development, capacity building and better integration of desalination into existing IWRM systems.”

On behalf of:

The International Desalination Association, and its affiliated associations:

1. European Desalination Association
2. American Membrane Technology Association
3. Latin American Desalination Association
4. Caribbean Desalination Association
5. Australia Water Association
6. Spanish Desalination Association
7. Levant Desalination Association
8. Asia Pacific Desalination Association
9. Japanese Desalination Association
10. Water Science and Technology Association of the GCC
11. Pakistan Desalination Association

12. Indian Desalination Association
13. The Membrane Industry Association of China (MIAC)
14. Korea Desalination Plant Association
15. Singapore Water Association

Thank you.

Best regards,

Shannon K. McCarthy



Shannon K. McCarthy | Secretary General
INTERNATIONAL DESALINATION ASSOCIATION
A non-profit organization for Global Water Sustainability
www.idadesal.org
US Mobile: +1 978.626. 2890
Intl' Mobile: +39.347.931.7497



Follow us: **NEW!** [IDA World Congress ON LINKEDIN](#) | On [Twitter](#)

