

**Stakeholders Consultation for the UN 2023 Water Conference**  
**24<sup>th</sup> October 2022**  
**Roundtable 2- Capacity Development**

**Statement on behalf of Asia-Pacific Water Forum (APWF)**

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I will deliver my statement on behalf of the Asia-Pacific Water Forum (APWF), which the multi-scale, multi-stakeholder network consists of more than 30 organizations in Asia and the Pacific. The mission of the APWF is to seek political commitment at the highest level in the region to the cause of water security and to promote the active exchange of information, knowledge, and skills across institutions and people in the region in the pursuance of water security as an indispensable part of the sustainable development process.

The most crucial challenge is keeping water issues at core of all government policy making and on top of imperatives to align competing political agendas.

To overcome the challenges, we need to enhance political leaders' awareness and their political will to ensure that water issues not be treated as a stand-alone problem. Rather, they shall have the capacity to design and implement policies effectively that drive systemic change and address the nexus of water, food, energy, climate change and ecosystems.

Capacity building is a crucial game changer. And APWF is well positioned and has demonstrated its track-record to convene political leadership and build up capacity to maintain and enhance their committed leadership through our following six activities:

- 1) The Asia-Pacific Water Summits - for political leaders to promote political engagement and endorsements through political dialogue and declarations to share expected benefits, to put water on top of the political agenda remind the value of water.
- 2) Intergovernmental coordination - as a platform between the national governments and key stakeholders to improve intergovernmental coordination of the nexus with the provision of tailored capacity development opportunities.
- 3) Cross-region, cross-discipline and cross-sector partnership - as a platform for multi-stakeholders to work together beyond disciplines and sectors among different levels while taking an end-to-end approach to strengthening the science-policy-society interface.
- 4) Intellectual knowledge and data base - as a platform to foster "Facilitators," catalytic beings who can lead the way toward resolving problems by providing professional advice on-site using a broad range of scientific and indigenous knowledge to address water for climate resilience and the environment.
- 5) Cross-generation talents development - as a platform for youth to connect and promote their actions to encourage meaningful youth engagement with political leaders and international and regional experts and practitioners, providing capacity development opportunities if necessary.
- 6) And connecting with global community - as a platform to showcase best practices in Asia and

the Pacific for the international community.

Thank you for your attention.

Reference: Overview of the Asia-Pacific Water Forum (APWF)

The Asia-Pacific Water Forum is a good model and also a platform to initiate and drive collaboration to tackle water security challenges in our region. On one side, we make efforts to enhance the political wills of government leaders. On the other, we convene the leading expertise to support policy-making and deployment of solutions.

The mission of the APWF is to seek political commitment at the highest level in the region to the cause of water security and to promote the active exchange of information, knowledge, and skills across institutions and people in Asia and the Pacific in the pursuance of water security as an indispensable part of the development process. For this purpose, The APWF emphasizes bringing water to the forefront of the development and political agenda by championing best practices, boosting investments, building capacity, and enhancing regional cooperation. The APWF has then provided governments of different countries and organizations in Asia and the Pacific with a common platform and voice to accelerate the effective integration of water resources management into the socio-economic development process.

As such, APWF has organized four Asia-Pacific Water Summits (APWS), respectively in December 2007, May 2013, December 2017, and April 2022, by bringing together heads of state and government and representatives of international organizations in the Asia-Pacific region and showcasing leadership in decision-making, excellence in practice and innovation aligned with political declarations in the form of specific commitments related to water security.

APWF, as the member-based platform, coordinates network activities. The process is open and transparent to any interested member who wishes to participate in the APWF network toward water security for sustainable development in our region. We encourage and support collaboration among members in a friendly and cooperative manner.

The APWF has developed and implemented collaborative activities thanks to its members' solidarity and willingness to cooperate and collaborate voluntarily. It is crucial to enable the Asia-Pacific region to accelerate the integration of water resource management into its socio-economic development. The rich expert knowledge, experience, and lessons of the members are capitalized upon to address a range of water issues derived from the diversity of Asia and the Pacific and to make it water secure.