

## Interactive Dialogue 2: Water for Sustainable Development (Wednesday, March 22, 1500-1800H)

### Dr. Claudia Sadoff: 2–3 minute statement from floor for Water Dialogue

**70% of freshwater** is used for **agriculture**. So among the many urgent reasons we have heard here today, if our food systems are going to be strong enough to feed **10 billion** people, then improving our water systems must be a global priority.

We know that **we are entering a new era of water risks**, and that we simply are **not ready**. At CGIAR, our **primary constituency** is the smallholder farmer, who is **particularly exposed: 95% of farmland in sub-Saharan Africa** is rainfed, directly reliant on increasingly unpredictable rainfall.

**Business as usual will not address this water emergency.**

What will? **Higher ambition**, for a start. We need **global, mission-driven partnerships with research and innovation front and centre**. Scientists **joining forces** with practitioners and policymakers and other key actors in our water and food systems.

The **Water Action Agenda of UNWC can give us a roadmap**, and I'm pleased to say we at CGIAR have something constructive to offer as a guide. Over the last year, the **Transformative Futures for Water Security** initiative was co-convened by the International Water Management Institute (IWMI), a CGIAR research center.

This was a **South-South dialogue** between those **in the firing line of climate change and water insecurity**. Participants identified eight missions, including:

- building farmers' resilience.
- Making water infrastructure future-ready
- Overcoming data and information barriers
- Delivering good water governance, and
- transboundary cooperation.

In addition to the insights of that dialogue, at CGIAR we offer **research and innovation**. Our science has delivered impact across the world for over 50 years and is needed more than ever against the challenges we face today.

Our work spans the development of drought and flood resistant **crop varieties, watershed and wetlands** management, and **soil moisture** and **irrigation technologies** that make smallholder farmers more **water resilient**; as well as irrigation **advisory services**, crop **insurance** and satellite **data** that map and monitor water resources.

But **we know we must always do more**. We are at a tipping point in global climate change with a once-in-a-generation chance to prepare for unprecedented water system disruption. **These challenges can only be tackled in concert and in partnership** with those working to address our **other generational challenges** around climate, food, and health.

**Globally coordinated, science-based action** must be the basis on which we build and strengthen resilience in our water, food and land systems. So let us work together, aim higher and move faster than ever before.