

31 October 2016

Dear Executive Secretary,

As you are aware, the Secretary-General of the United Nations, Mr. BAN Ki-moon, and the President of the World Bank Group, Dr. Jim Kim, have jointly convened a High Level Panel on Water (HLPW), consisting of 11 Heads of State and Government and one Special Adviser, to provide global leadership for a comprehensive, inclusive and collaborative way of developing and managing water resources, and improving water and sanitation related services to ensure the availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all (SDG 6).

Meeting on 21 September at UN Headquarters in New York, during the High-level Meetings and the General Debate of the 71st session of the General Assembly, the High Level Panel on Water adopted its Action Plan, which, inter alia, calls for a new holistic and integrated approach to water in achieving SDG 6 and its related targets under the 2030 Agenda. The Action Plan further identifies climate change as a priority and calls for action on a number of fronts to address climate-related water challenges, including water stress, water scarcity, disaster risk reduction and resilient infrastructure.

In this context, the High Level Panel has issued a Joint Statement calling for a holistic and integrated approach to water management that will lead to better and more efficient use of energy and contribute to the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions. In recognition of the significance of water in nationally determined contributions, the High Level Panel calls on all Parties to translate water commitments into concrete action. The High Level Panel further encourages the allocation of climate finance, including the Green Climate Fund, to be used towards water resilient infrastructure and services, given the proven links between climate change and risks to water security.

On behalf of the Co-Chairs of the Panel, H.E. Mrs. Ameenah Gurib-Fakim, President of Mauritius and H.E. Mr. Enrique Peña Nieto, President of Mexico, we would like to seek your good offices in ensuring that the COP22 outcome document recognizes the importance of water management to addressing climate change.

We would like to humbly suggest the following language for inclusion in the final COP22 outcome document:

“We call for a holistic and integrated approach to water management that will lead to better and more efficient use of energy and contribute to the reduction of greenhouse gas



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emissions. We also encourage a significant allocation of climate finance, including the Green Climate Fund, to be used towards water resilient infrastructure and services, given the proven links between climate change and risks to water security and call on multilateral development banks and other financiers to launch initiatives and mechanisms that can assist countries in the preparation and financing of the next generation bankable climate-smart water projects.”

We also seek your good offices for distributing the Joint Statement and the Action Plan of the Panel, attached herewith, to the Parties at the upcoming COP22 in Marrakesh. We thank you in advance for your support and cooperation on this relevant issue interlinked with climate change.

Yours sincerely,

Mr. Jagdish Dharamchand Koonjul
Permanent Representative of Mauritius to
the United Nations (Sherpa to Co-Chair)

Mr. Juan José Gómez Camacho
Permanent Representative of Mexico to the
United Nations (Sherpa to Co-Chair)

Ms. Patricia Espinosa
Executive Secretary
United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)