

High Level Panel on Water pushes for fundamental shift in thinking about water

The High Level Panel on Water, consisting of 11 Heads of State and Government and one Special Adviser, met for the fourth time in New York today. The co-conveners of the Panel, UN Secretary-General António Guterres and President Jim Yong Kim of the World Bank Group, attended the meeting and engaged in a dialogue on the vital importance of water issues with Panel Members or their Ministerial Representatives.

Following is the statement issued by the High Level Panel on Water after the meeting:

“The High Level Panel on Water met for the fourth time in New York today. We were pleased to discuss the vital importance of water issues for the first time with UN Secretary-General António Guterres, alongside President Jim Yong Kim of the World Bank Group, both as co-conveners of the Panel.

The Panel focused its deliberations on the outcomes we seek when we report in March 2018. We are determined to build political momentum and deliver concrete action towards a fundamental shift in the way the world thinks about and values water. We must also ensure sustainable outcomes for all, consistent with Sustainable Development Goal 6 and other related targets. We agreed the need to communicate a new narrative for water, and identified some of the key messages within this narrative.

We also discussed some of the practical initiatives we are currently advancing as Panel members, individually and in groups, with our regional and global partners. We noted the importance of the adoption of the UNGA Resolution on the International Decade for Action “Water for Sustainable Development”, 2018-2028, initiated by HLPW as one of the vehicles to facilitate the achievement of SDG6. We also welcomed the launch today of the Water Innovation Engine, with funding and leadership by Australia. The Innovation Engine will deliver new partnerships, innovation and capital to help achieve the global water goals. These initiatives will demonstrate, in a practical way, the sorts of changes the Panel knows will be needed – indeed at a much larger scale – if we are to meet our shared goals and ensure sustainable water management by 2030 for our population and our future generations. The initiatives encompass the range of actions called for in our HLPW Action Plan of September 2016. With these initiatives, we hope to motivate effective action by all, as we need commitment from all stakeholders to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030.

Panel members also endorsed the attached Panel [Statement on Addressing the Drinking Water, Sanitation and Hygiene \(WASH\) Challenge](#). This agenda is fundamental, not only to SDG6, but to the achievement of most other SDGs. It deserves our highest attention.”

21 September
High Level Panel on Water

The High Level Panel on Water is co-convened by **UN Secretary-General António Guterres** and **President of the World Bank Group Jim Yong Kim**.

Its current membership is as follows:

- **H.E. Mrs. Ameenah Gurib-Fakim, President of Mauritius (Co-Chair)**

- **H.E. Mr. Enrique Peña Nieto, President of Mexico (Co-Chair)**
- **H.E. Mr. Malcolm Turnbull, Prime Minister of Australia**
- **H.E. Ms. Sheikh Hasina, Prime Minister of Bangladesh**
- **H.E. Mr. JánosÁder, President of Hungary**
- **H.E. Mr. Hani Al-Mulki, Prime Minister of Jordan**
- **H.E. Mr. Mark Rutte, Prime Minister of The Netherlands**
- **H.E. Mr. Pedro Pablo Kuczynski Godard, President of Peru**
- **H.E. Mr. Jacob Zuma, President of South Africa**
- **H.E. Mr. MackySall, President of Senegal**
- **H.E. Mr. Emomali Rahmon, President of Tajikistan**
- **H.E. Special Adviser, Dr. Han Seung-soo, Former Prime Minister of the Republic of Korea**

More information on the Action Plan of the Panel is available at:

<https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/HLPWater>