

# Hashimoto Hashimoto Action Plan III Action Plan III



**The United Nations Secretary-General's  
Advisory Board on Water and Sanitation**

**Strategy and Objectives through 2015**

**[www.unsgab.org](http://www.unsgab.org)**

# Our Collective Challenge

**Water is indispensable** for survival, economic development and environmental sustainability. It is also an integral part of human dignity. Millions of women and children are still forced to work long hours just to secure access to water. Despite reaching the Millennium Development Goal (MDG) target to halve the proportion of people lacking access to an improved source of water, around 2 billion people are still using unsafe water and even more are not enjoying their human right to safe drinking water.

The sanitation MDG target, to halve the proportion lacking access to improved sanitation, is among the most off-track of all MDGs. A staggering 2.5 billion live without this most basic service. The lack of sanitation is deadly — too many people continue to die from contaminated water and water-related diseases. Efficient water use, improved wastewater management and water reuse are increasingly critical to provide food, safe drinking water and adequate sanitation without sacrificing economic development and environmental sustainability.

Water management lies at the heart of sustainable development as it is essential for agriculture, industry and commerce. Water, energy and food security are inextricably linked. These linkages must be recognized to effectively respond to population growth, urbanization, economic growth and climate change challenges.

Securing sustainable financing for water management, drinking water and sanitation remains difficult for governments. Efforts to reflect water in national budgets while leveraging overseas development assistance are needed along with innovative ways for water utilities to access long-term, local-currency markets.

Essential for sustaining life, water can also be a serious hazard threatening social and economic well-being. Given the increasing losses from floods and droughts it is imperative that the occurrence and impact of water-related disasters be systematically reduced.

For all these reasons, and as highlighted at the Rio+20 Summit in 2012, water is at the core of sustainable development. It is UNSGAB's conviction that the world

should recognize water challenges as a serious obstacle for sustainable development and consider them a top priority. UNSGAB sincerely hopes that the world can make unprecedented progress on water in the coming few years with strong commitments, sound strategies, effective actions and innovative partnerships.

## **Who We Are**

The UN Secretary-General's Advisory Board on Water and Sanitation (UNSGAB) is a diverse group of eminent people committed to helping solve the world's water and sanitation challenges. Comprised of 23 members, it was established in March 2004 by the former United Nations Secretary-General, Mr. Kofi Annan. UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon endorsed the Board under his tenure and asked members to continue their work. The Chairperson of UNSGAB is His Royal Highness Prince El Hassan bin Talal of Jordan and the Honorary President is His Imperial Highness, the Crown Prince of Japan.

## **What We Do**

UNSGAB makes an impact by identifying and working with others to prompt and foster new action. The Board advises the Secretary-General, raises public awareness and galvanizes the action of governments and international organizations to advance the global water and sanitation agenda. Achievements include: creating the Global Water Operator's Partnership Alliance (GWOPA) concept which is now run by UN-Habitat; initiating an advocacy campaign to meet the MDG sanitation target which is now led by UN-Water as the Sanitation Drive to 2015; encouraging International Financial Institutions to increase focus and funding for sanitation and water; fostering the High-Level Panel on Water and Disaster (HELP) around a global plan for implementation; putting wastewater collection, treatment and reuse on the development agenda; and assessing existing international monitoring for access to water and sanitation to make visible the need for enhanced support.

# UNSGAB's 2013-2015 Mandate — Hashimoto Action Plan III

With only a short time before the end of 2015 — the MDGs' target year — water and sanitation challenges are still daunting. The Secretary-General's Advisory Board on Water and Sanitation (UNSGAB) is committed to continue its advocacy efforts through 2015. To that end, the Board has formulated a set of activities as part of Hashimoto Action Plan III (HAP III). Both HAP I and II, named to commemorate UNSGAB's first Chair Ryutaro Hashimoto, helped set a framework for global action on water and sanitation challenges. In this spirit, HAP III will make a final push for the sanitation and water Millennium Development Goal targets as well as advocating for strong water and sanitation objectives in the post 2015 development framework. To underpin these efforts activities on financing, wastewater management, pollution prevention, integrated water resources management, the water-food-energy nexus and water and disasters are included.

Just like HAP I and HAP II, an important mandate of HAP III continues to be delivering access to safe drinking water and adequate sanitation — it is time now to aim for universal access to safe drinking water and adequate sanitation — along with the data collection and monitoring tools which demonstrate the need and usefulness of our goals and the progress we are making towards them.

UNSGAB recognizes that water challenges cover a wide spectrum. Making progress on access to safe drinking water and sanitation is impossible without due attention to the larger water cycle underpinned by an ambitious global water vision.

For example, safe drinking water cannot be guaranteed if wastewater management and pollution prevention is not well promoted and implemented; water efficiency and water resource management are becoming critical considerations to provide safe drinking water. Without sustainable financing structures that draw more heavily on national, local and pooled funding sources, progress will be piecemeal. Therefore UNSGAB commits to address these challenges as well under HAP III.

In addition, the reduction of disaster risk remains a priority in HAP III. Water-related disasters can wash away in seconds several decades worth of progress; their impact can be significantly decreased with robust disaster preparedness.

## 1. Securing a Dedicated Water Goal in the Post-2015 Development Agenda

For the post-2015 development framework, the Board calls for a global post-2015 goal on water that includes targets on at least three essential objectives:

- 1) Achieve universal access to sustainable sanitation and to drinking water that is really safe
- 2) Increase wastewater management and pollution prevention
- 3) Improve integrated water resources management and water-use efficiency

Targets and indicators need to be designed and monitored in each of these three areas.

UNSGAB is also advocating for water-efficiency targets in other post-2015 goals and for water-related disasters to be included in the post-2015 agenda.

After conducting extensive dialogues with stakeholders on various continents, UNSGAB has gained insights about the major challenges to realizing the MDG targets on water and sanitation. It has generated greater attention to pollution prevention and wastewater management and water resources management.

### The Board commits to:

- » Work closely with UN Member States, particularly the Friends of Water Steering Committee and the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to ensure water and sanitation objectives appear in the goal setting processes and to secure strong champions for water and sanitation in the intergovernmental dialogue
- » Make connections with allies working on health, job creation, energy, food security and financing to articulate linkages
- » Inform relevant players about the Board's three water goal objectives, including by participating in international fora and events such as the Stockholm World Water Week, Budapest Water Summit and the 7th World Water Forum in Korea
- » Provide support to UN processes such as the UN-System Task Team on the post-2015 agenda
- » Take all possible occasions to address with these partners the issue of comprehensive monitoring as a crucial element of the Post-2015 agenda

## **The success of all these efforts depends on national action and partner activities:**

- » National Governments ascribe high and increasing priority to providing safe drinking water and sustainable sanitation
- » Donor Governments continue their support in this area, and ascribe higher support to monitoring progress in this area
- » The UNICEF / World Health Organization (WHO) Joint Monitoring Programme partners with UNSGAB on an objective for drinking water “that is really safe” by defining ambitious and realistic targets
- » The “Friends of Water Group” Steering Committee helps coordinate Member States around the water issue
- » UN processes, such as the High-Level Panel on Post-2015 agree to consider the need for strong water and sanitation objectives while encouraging stakeholder participation
- » Regional bodies, such as the African Ministers’ Council on Water (AMCOW) and the Asia-Pacific Water Forum, call for higher priority to water management, water and sanitation and the endorsement of a dedicated Global Water Goal
- » Higher attention is paid by stakeholders and decision makers to capacity building, including training of engineers and water managers and staff, to help countries formulate integrated planning for water resources development and protection, and to improve the sustainability of co-operation projects

## **2. Keeping sanitation high on national and international agendas**

The Sanitation Drive to 2015 was introduced by UNSGAB to maintain focus on achieving the Millennium Development Goal sanitation target. Endorsed by Member States through a General Assembly resolution, the aim of the campaign is to advocate effectively for stakeholders to adopt a focused trajectory to achieve MDG 7c on sanitation by the agreed deadline in 2015. The resolution also called on Member States to end open defecation, the first time this practice is mentioned in an intergovernmental document.

The Sanitation Drive is unique because of its focus on ending open defecation as the most extreme manifestation of poor sanitation disproportionately affecting the poorest and most marginalized. Open defecation is strongly related to the spread of major killer diseases and also reflects the inequality associated with sanitation services.

## **UNSGAB commits to:**

- » Remain active champions of the Sanitation Drive to 2015, in part by spearheading the Sanitation Drivers campaign
- » Support the Deputy-Secretary General in his Call to Action for greater focus and attention to sanitation and the Sanitation and Water for All Partnership's country commitments to deliver sanitation services
- » Carry the Sanitation Drives message on health to the health and nutrition community; message on dignity to women's rights and equity communities; message on economic growth to the financial community; and message on environment to the sustainable development community
- » Participate and support regional sanitation conferences with the goal of promoting regional approaches to improve access to sanitation
- » Call on national governments to clarify responsibilities for formulating and implementing sanitation plans
- » Be an active advocate for UN World Toilet Day, 19 November
- » Articulate that human waste is a resource having agricultural and energy applications (with due attention to health requirements) and a central role in green growth initiatives
- » Make clear the need for the rights and protection of sanitation workers, particularly those in close contact with human excreta

## **The success of all these efforts depends on national action and partner activities:**

- » UN-Water Thematic Priority Area on Water and Sanitation increases activity to deliver the Sanitation Drive to 2015
- » Water and Sanitation for Africa partners with the Sanitation Drive as part of the "African First Ladies' Coalition to Promote Sanitation and Hygiene"
- » WHO streamlines sanitation as key element of preventive action
- » Sanitation and Water for All partners with the Sanitation Drive to 2015 to help deliver on the sanitation commitments made at its High-Level Meetings
- » SuSanA — the Sustainable Sanitation Alliance continues innovation and advocacy for sustainable sanitation solutions
- » All development partners integrate sanitation at schools in their cooperation efforts
- » The disaster relief community prioritizes toilets (particularly innovative waterless toilets) in their efforts

### 3. Advocating for more wastewater management and pollution prevention

Industrial and agricultural pollution, city storm waters and human sewage create acute health and pollution issues in an increasingly urban world. Rough estimates suggest that 80-90 percent of wastewater in developing countries is discharged directly into rivers, lakes and seas, causing water-borne diseases, hindering tourism and economic development while severely damaging the environment.

Wastewater management and pollution prevention requires a cost effective approach along with sustainable financing models. Part of the economic equation must include pollution prevention which can enhance the productivity of industry and agriculture.

Treated water can be re-used and is a potential source of 'new' water thereby reducing the demand of cities, farms, and industries for more drawdown on the environment. After treatment, urban wastewater treated to an appropriate standard can be reused for industry and peri-urban agriculture. Energy can be captured from wastewater. All of these efforts create green jobs.

#### **UNSGAB commits to:**

- » Continue wastewater and pollution prevention advocacy in all possible activities
- » Advocate for comprehensive national and local policies which encompass all kinds of wastewater and can promote wastewater management and pollution prevention
- » Encourage the development of national wastewater master plans, including cost estimates and timeframes, and ensure the capital investment plans are matched by external and internal funding sources to achieve master plan objectives
- » Advocate for comprehensive national and local policies, which encompass emission reduction, pollution prevention, and promote wastewater management, including the development of supporting regulatory and financial mechanisms



- » Participate actively in international and national activities promoting effective water reuse and wastewater treatment. In these fora, we will
  - » Welcome and participate in initiatives to promote global collaboration, insisting on the inclusion of technology and expertise providers on water re-use, wastewater treatment and pollution prevention
  - » Connect major actors involved in financing wastewater treatment, in particular regional development banks, experts in financing, the International Water Association, industry associations, relevant labor organizations
  - » Emphasize the need to curb agricultural pollution
- » Participate in and support efforts to create proper monitoring, indicator creation, and reporting arrangements
- » Advocate for increased political prioritization of wastewater management and pollution prevention in cooperation with partners such as the UN Environment Programme (UNEP) and the African Ministers' Council on Water (AMCOW)
- » Encourage activities to gather evidence regarding wastewater treatment benefits for job creation, IWRM, and basic sanitation actors

**The success of all these efforts depends on national action and partner activities:**

- » UN-Water increases its priority for wastewater management and pollution prevention and increases corresponding activities including building global monitoring system
- » Friends of Water promote wastewater agenda so that the wastewater challenge will be addressed together with water challenges in an integrated manner
- » UN-HABITAT expands the scope of GWOPA to encourage partnership among wastewater management operators, with occasional reports to UNSGAB on progress and achievements of the initiative

## 4. Securing sustainable finance to the water and sanitation sector

Financing water supply and sanitation is one of the most important challenges facing governments. Despite providing a large range of economic and social benefits, current levels of spending are far below the investments required to achieve the MDG water and sanitation targets. Achieving the current MDG targets on water and sanitation, maintaining that progress in the future and realizing the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation, as well as managing wastewater requires mobilizing “sustainable” financing for the sector.

Even if funding derived from the 3 Ts (taxes, tariffs and transfers) were delivered at scale, it would be insufficient to cover the huge capital investment costs required in developing countries. The Board argues that there is a need to supplement such funding by leveraging it, using methods to access the long-term local-currency capital markets for water utilities — a proven strategy in developed countries — to bridge the financing gap. The Board encourages the use of a range of innovative financing mechanisms that can help attract private investors, such as mechanisms that blend concessional finance with commercial finance or pooled financing facilities that support borrowing by relatively small operators at reasonable costs.

### **UNSGAB commits to:**

- » Increasing financial and budgetary resources across the water sector:
  - » Advocate whenever possible for increased political prioritization of the water and sanitation sectors, including wastewater and water resources management, to secure additional financial resources of all kinds, including from public budgets and user fees. Special emphasis will be given to cooperation with governments and partners such as AMCOW, Sanitation and Water for All Partnership (SWA) and Water and Sanitation for Africa (WSA)
  - » Collaborate with governments, the World Bank, Regional Development Banks and other partners to identify solutions to overcome country-level obstacles to local financing. Then, disseminate findings to decision-makers and practitioners worldwide
- » Increasing the impact and leverage of Official Development Assistance (ODA) funding across the water sector:
  - » Continue to advocate for bilateral ODA and other concessional finance to be used as a catalyst to leverage non-ODA funds and

provide technical assistance for project preparation. This includes proposing a joint UNSGAB — Office for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) Development Assistance Committee (DAC) event to share best practices and lessons learned

- » Increasing the availability of data and information — and where possible, monitoring of all forms of financing across the water sector
  - » Continue strong and close collaboration with OECD as a major source of water financing information
  - » Support the World Bank in developing a repository of knowledge on how to leverage private financing and to access local markets for the sector. Extend the same support to interested regional and sub-regional banks
  - » Encourage better knowledge of country-wide expenditures for water through the Global Annual Assessment of Sanitation and Drinking Water (GLAAS) and other relevant initiatives
  - » Encourage donors to report also on technical assistance in the context of GLAAS

**The success of all these efforts depends on national action and partner activities:**

- » Countries increase their political commitment and financial resources to the water sector
- » Governments identify and remove the barriers that impede local water and sanitation utilities from accessing local capital markets
- » Governments and municipalities increase efforts in collecting taxes and user fees related to the water sector and develop and enforce objective water tariff systems so as to ensure the viability and sustainability of water facilities

## 5. Champion IWRM and the Water-Food-Energy Nexus

UNSGAB sees integrated water resources management (IWRM) and Nexus thinking as important for sustainable growth. They are complementary: the Nexus emphasizes engaging with other sectors to promote improved social welfare and equity while IWRM focuses more on a comprehensive approach within the water sector and provides the tools for implementation. Both approaches help to allow sustainable growth and protect essential environmental services. Better coordination between federal and local governments as well as among various departments and sectors is needed to curb damaging externalities, reduce waste and sustainably harness all our resources. Many efforts to address water challenges also have significant potential to generate climate change benefits on both mitigation and adaptation.

### The Board commits to:

- » Make the connection between the IWRM and Nexus concept by showing their conceptual compatibility and complementarity
- » Cooperate with organizers of events such as the Yellow River Forum in the context of the Nexus approach and share latest concepts and achievements in the realm of integrated river basin management
- » Advocate for wastewater collection, treatment and reuse to be viewed as an essential part of the Nexus challenge
- » Work with the UN Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO) on considering water and energy issues in the context of the *Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land*
- » Engage with Sustainable Energy for All and UN-Energy on how to address Nexus trade-offs in regional energy approaches

- » Try to identify co-benefit opportunities through cooperation with the World Bank, Regional Development Banks and the OECD concerning the financing of IWRM and Nexus activities
- » Encourage and cooperate with water stewardship initiatives
- » Promote the entry into force of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Non-Navigational Uses of International Water Courses by encouraging the necessary ratifications

**The success of all these efforts depends on national action and partner activities:**

- » UN-Water, FAO and UN-Energy (as well as other relevant organizations such as the UN European Economic Commission, UNEP, World Bank & Sustainable Energy for All) engage in a Nexus discussion in view of its reflection in the post-2015 process as well as the SDGs
- » The UN-Water Thematic Priority Area on climate change engages in work on the Nexus
- » German Development Cooperation continues, and others take up, promotion of regional and national Nexus activities
- » Regional organizations, particularly in Africa, South Asia and Oceanic countries engage independently with further Nexus dialogues focusing on regionally specific issues and implementation barriers

## 6. Focus action on Water and Disasters

UNSGAB stresses the importance of further action on the issue of disaster risk reduction, in line with the outcomes of the UN Special Thematic Session on Water and Disasters and the High-level Expert Panel on Water and Disaster (HLEP/UNSGAB) both held in March 2013. During the next phase, UNSGAB members and secretariat will undertake the following actions in close collaboration and coordination with the newly formed High-level Experts and Leaders' Panel on Water and Disasters (HELP/UNSGAB).

Board Members will actively respond to occasions to advocate for national, regional and local policies and cooperation measures which can reduce disaster risks. UNSGAB supports the principles and approach to priority action, developed and summarized in six urgent imperatives formulated in "Water and disaster: High-Level Expert Panel on Water and Disaster/UNSGAB, May 2009"

- » Galvanize and mobilize before disaster strikes
- » Actions and systems to inform, protect, warn and evacuate are of paramount importance
- » Risk reduction measures to be incorporated in national development planning
- » Create and support occasions to share lessons of disaster response
- » Arrangements to provide safe drinking water and sanitation are a key element to effective disaster response
- » Data creation and collection on response measures are imperative

### **UNSGAB commits to:**

- » Create an occasion for a dialogue focusing on water and disasters in the South Asian area in the eventuality that a Board meeting can be organized in the region
- » Encourage the cooperation between UNSGAB and UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (ISDR) with support of HELP/UNSGAB to ensure the mainstreaming of the HLEP/UNSGAB goals, objectives, lessons learned and best practices from the 2009 report into the mission of the UN system

- » Encourage the creation of specific dialogues on lessons learned and best practices in response to water related disasters
  - » At UN (GA and ECOSOC)
  - » At the 7th World Water Forum in Korea in 2015
  - » At relevant ISDR, World Meteorological Organization (WMO), FAO, UN-Habitat meetings
  - » At the Milan 2015 exhibition (ExpoMilano)
- » Within the existing resource constraints, assist HELP/UNSGAB to strengthen its functions to implement its Action Plan which will include continued advocacy toward tangible, numerical targets for disaster risk reduction as part of the post-MDG and SDG

**The success and impact of these efforts will also depend on actions by others:**

- » National and local governments, civil society, private sector and other stakeholders meet their objectives under the Hyogo Framework
- » ISDR and WMO step up their disaster preparedness efforts
- » Partners participating in the Special Thematic Session on Water and Disasters act on the commitments made
- » All levels of governments strengthen public education and increase response capacity on disaster prevention and reduction
- » All countries pay attention to capacity building in formulating national disaster reduction planning and strategies including with a focus on training staff and reducing health and safety risks while training staff to qualify for disaster prevention

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**Secretariat of the  
United Nations Secretary-General's  
Advisory Board on Water and Sanitation (UNSGAB)**  
c/o Division for Sustainable Development  
Department of Economic and Social Affairs  
United Nations  
S-2689  
New York NY 10017  
U.S.A.

**E-mail:** [guerquin@un.org](mailto:guerquin@un.org)

**Website:** [www.unsgab.org](http://www.unsgab.org)