Emerging Advice on a Potential SDG on Water

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Objectives and process

- To contribute to the SDG consultation process as well as to the discussions on the post-2015 development agenda
  - Guided by the priorities agreed at the Rio+20 Conference
  - Building on thematic, national and regional consultations
  - Drawing on the reports of the High Level Panel, Sustainable Development Solutions Network, UN Global Compact, the Open Working Group on SDGs
- Work in progress...
Why a water SDG?

- The Future We Want:
  - “water is at the core of sustainable development”
- Water is at the heart of adaptation to climate change
- Billions lack access to the most basic water supply and sanitation services
- Increasing demand, pollution, risks, competition for water resources...
- Current situation presents a global threat to human health and wellbeing as well as to the integrity of ecosystems

A dedicated water SDG provides a unique opportunity to address this situation, **managing the water cycle** in a holistic and sustainable way.

Splitting water across multiple goals contributes to the silo approach.
Possible post-2015 development goals need to address three priority areas...

.. which broadly correspond to the dimensions of sustainable development and contribute towards poverty reduction

- Healthy people
  - Universal access to water, sanitation and hygiene

- Shared prosperity
  - Sustainable use and development of water resources

- Healthy ecosystems
  - Improving water quality and wastewater management
Water managed to sustain people and the environment

Universal access to water supply and sanitation

Sustainable use and development of water resources

Improved water quality and wastewater management

Targets by 2030
- No one practices open defecation
- Everyone has access to safe and hygienic water, sanitation and hygiene
- All schools and health centers have water, sanitation and hygiene
- Water, sanitation and hygiene are sustainable and inequalities in access have been progressively eliminated

Targets by 2030
- Reduce both the urban population with untreated wastewater and untreated industrial wastewater flows by [x%]
- Increase urban and industrial wastewater reused safely by [y%]
- Reduce nutrient pollution from agriculture by [z%]

Crosscutting targets by 2030
- Improve resilience to floods, droughts and other water related disasters of all people by [x] and economies by [y]
- Improved governance and integrated management systems for freshwater and sanitation in place in all countries in accordance with national targets
Costs and benefits

- Universal access to sanitation, benefits outweigh costs **5.5 to 1**
- Universal access to drinking-water, the ratio is **2 to 1**
- Irrigation infrastructure in Africa, rates of return are **up to 26%**
- Watershed protection initiatives in the US yield **USD 7.5 to USD 200** for every dollar invested, compared to conventional water treatment costs
- 1% increase in drought area, **2.8%** reduction in economic growth
- 1% increase in the area impacted by floods, **1.8%** reduction in economic growth
- Bogota River, Colombia, lack of wastewater treatment costs **USD 110 million/year**
- ... to be continued...
Next steps

1. Revision of draft paper (until Nov. 2013)
   - This meeting
   - Side event at Budapest Water Summit (9 Oct. 2013)
   - GWOPA Congress (27-29 Nov. 2013)

2. Side event during the 6th session of the OWG

3. UN-Water workshop to finalise paper (Geneva, 16-17 Dec. 2013)

4. Release of final version at a side event for the Member States (New York, 29 Jan. 2014)
Thank you