

The Spirit of Bandung: A Call to Actions

The Leaders, organizers, and stakeholders who participated in the Bandung Spirit Water Summit call leaders of the world at all levels to take the following actions based on the Bandung Spirit:

Rationale

Water, the connective element of the planet, and humanity itself, is in peril. Current crisis on peace, food, energy, health, natural hazards, environment, immigration, human rights, and social harmony and integrity cannot be countered without attention to water. As global leaders, we are committed to working for the protection and preservation of people and planet through bold actions by, of, and for water.

Our proposed actions are based on the Bandung Spirit. Drawn from the Bandung Principles of the Asian-African Conference that was held in Bandung, Indonesia in 1955, the Spirit of Bandung is symbolized in a phrase “live and let live”. It is a spirit of tolerance, mutual respect, sustainable growth, valuing diversity, and belief in the power of youth and next generations, which are essential in the face of current global challenges.

Call to Actions

In the lead-up to and during Summit, we the leaders conducted direct dialogue with stakeholders and citizens based on the Bandung spirit as our common ground for discussion. Through the dialogue, all were mindful that the human rights to water and sanitation must be fulfilled at all times, that international humanitarian law must be respected in international and non-international armed conflicts, and that states must integrate gender into their laws, policies and practices. This must be reflected in all water actions.

In the Summit, we dealt with the most imminent water challenges of (1) water and peace, (2) climate change and disaster risk reduction, and (3) sanitation and water for all, while addressing overarching subjects of (4) global water governance, and (5) the actions of, by, and for the youth. Resultantly, we come up with the following priority areas of actions as well as tangible actions. We call upon all leaders to join in the following actions:

(1) Water and Peace

Water is not a tool for conflict, but an agent for peace. States must respect and act in

accordance with international humanitarian law, which prohibits attacks on water and sanitation infrastructure during times of conflict. Transboundary cooperation on water is a fundamental pathway for peace and should be pursued at all times. Environmental protection of water resources is critical for the health of all people and the planet. Water systems and resources must be protected at all times from pollution, degradation and over abstraction.

With these in background, we call to the following tangible actions:

- **Ban Weaponizing Water formally in the international community**
- **Organize Summits by Heads of State and Government on transboundary water cooperation at all regions**
- **Establish, where necessary, and strengthen legal and regulatory instruments on water cooperation mechanisms at global, regional, and national levels.**

(2) Climate change and disaster risk reduction (DRR)

Place science and technology at the heart of leaders' critical decisions and actions on water, climate change and DRR. To support this, promote the open science policy, foster "facilitators", or scientists/experts bridging political decision making and scientific evidence, and promote an end-to-end approach from scientific data to policy formulation. Establish global research hubs for water and climate resilience and DRR policies and global water information system to enhance global support to leaders. Establish international days and decades to enhance political focus on subjects which are central to future climate resilience and disaster management but currently lacking global attention and actions.

With these in background, we call to the following tangible actions:

- **Mainstream water in the negotiation of UNFCCC, and adopt “globally halving human and economic loss by disasters” as a post-Sendai target**
- **Embed a mechanism in every country to support Leaders' science-evidenced decision making for climate change, water, and DRR**
- **Establish a global Center of Excellence on Water and Climate Resilience, a Center for Water and DRR Policy, Global Water Information System, and World Lake Day**

(3) Sanitation and Water for All

Prioritize water, sanitation, and hygiene at national and local levels. This requires a whole of government approach that is triggered at the highest political level with dedicated resources and a firm belief that the human rights to water and sanitation are the grounding apparatus towards the achievement of universal access and reaching the

hardest to reach groups and individuals with an eye on gender equality.

With these in background, we call to the following tangible actions:

- **Accelerate progress towards universal access to water and sanitation through Leaders' explicit top prioritization of financing, governance, and transparency in the sector with focus on the marginalized and excluded.**
- **Led by governments, all stakeholders to identify joint actions to mobilize the necessary annual 114 US billion dollars for full-achievement of water-related SDGs. Countries, IFIs, and donors to discuss ways to mobilize annual 114 billion dollars in their summits and financial meetings.**

(4) Finance and Governance

Mobilize significant financing through domestic, regional, and innovative solutions for all water and water-related cross-cutting sectors. Convene all sources from public, private, and mixed pools. Build efficient and transparent financial mechanisms to attract investment by long-term and short-term financiers. Ensure that resources are sufficiently allocated to efficient, equitable, and transparent water management. Increased budget allocations, and engagement with national and regional development banks to secure long-term finance options that are aligned with government obligations, while working on debt reduction strategies, are essential.

Build a system of robust accountability that promotes a culture of transparency, consistency, and scientific learning. This requires a collaborative multistakeholder mechanism that is inclusive of relevant actors at different levels. Promote private-public and public-public partnerships to improve governance and capacities of all. Focus on improvement of data and information at all levels. This includes a significant effort to collect disaggregated data where relevant, including by income, sex, age, race, ethnicity, migratory status, disability, and geographic location.

With these in background, we call to the following tangible actions:

- **Globally triple financial flow into all water sectors**
- **Promote the Nine Game Changers proposed in the UN 2023 Conference and support the UN 2030 Strategy globally and in countries**
- **Urge UN Secretary-General to appoint Special Envoy for Water. Support the envoy once the appointment is made.**

(5) The actions of, by, and for the youth

Echoing the voice of the youth, we stress the imperative of prioritizing water sustainability for worldwide peace and vitality. Drawing from the harsh realities endured

by conflict and disaster affected communities, and by vicious cycle of poverty and lack of improved sanitation and water, we urge to take resolute actions.

With these in background, we call to the following tangible actions:

- **Use the power of the youth in elevating the human right to water to the highest priority and taking immediate action to combat weaponization of water in the international community**
- **Empower youth as long-term stakeholders.**
- **Utilize existing youth networks to innovate lasting solutions for water challenges with transparency and accountability at the forefront.**
- **Integrate youth in water governance processes, particularly at transboundary watersheds to ensure global connectivity transcending borders and ideologies.**

Called by:

The Leaders

- H.E. Dr. Han Seung-soo, Chair of HELP / Former Prime Minister of the Republic of Korea / Vice President of Club de Madrid
- H.E. Prof. Danilo Turk, former President of Slovenia / President of Club de Madrid
- H.E. Ms. Laura Chinchilla, former President of Costa Rica
- H.E. Mr. János Áder, former President of Hungary
- H.E. Ms. Michelle Bachelet, former President of Chile
- H.E. Ms. Chandrika Kumaratunga, former President of Sri Lanka
- H.E. Mr. Moussa Mara, former Prime Minister of Mali
- H.E. Mr. Yves Leterme, former Prime Minister of Belgium
- H.E. Mr. Jigmi Yoser Thinley, former Prime Minister of Bhutan
- H.E. Mr. Jan Kavan, former Deputy Prime Minister of Czech / President of the 57th Session of the General Assembly of the United Nations
- H.E. Mr. Csaba Kőrösi, President of the 77th Session of the General Assembly of the United Nations

The organizers

- The Government of Indonesia
- The Asian Development Bank (ADB)
- The High-level Experts and Leaders Panel on Water and Disasters (HELP)
- The World Water Council (WWC)
- The Club de Madrid (CdM)
- The Sanitation and Water for All (SWA)
- The Geneva Water Hub (GWH)
- The United Nations Center for Regional Development (UNCRD)

The Stakeholders

- The Youth Parliament
- The organizations and individuals who participated, in-person, in the Bandung Spirit Water Summit

1. Water and Peace

- **Ban Weaponizing Water formally in the international community**
- **Organize Summits by Heads of State and Government on transboundary water cooperation at all regions**
- **Establish, where necessary, and strengthen legal and regulatory instruments on water cooperation mechanisms at global, regional, and national levels.**

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- **Decide water as a core piece of adaptation negotiation in UNFCCC, and adopt “globally halving human and economic loss by disasters” as a post-Sendai target**
- **Embed a mechanism in every country to support Leaders’ science-evidenced decision making for water and DRR**
- **Establish a global Center of Excellence on Water and Climate Resilience, a Center for Water and DRR Policy, Global Water Information System, and World Lake Day**

3. Sanitation and Water for All

- **Accelerate progress towards universal access to water and sanitation through Leaders’ explicit top prioritization of financing, governance, and transparency in the sector with focus on the marginalized and excluded.**
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4. Finance and Governance

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- **Urge UN Secretary-General to appoint Special Envoy for Water. Support the envoy once appointment is made.**

5. Youth

- **Use the power of the youth in elevating the human right to water to the highest priority and taking immediate action to combat weaponization of water in the international community**
- **Empowering youth as long-term stakeholders.**
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