

WATER and CLIMATE

Blue Book

A tool to raise political awareness for water
within the climate change discussions

The **Water and Climate - Blue book** aims to raise international awareness on the **role of water as the most impacted resource by climate change consequences**. It features **key messages to help decision-makers make water emerge as a priority in their national policies**.

The “Blue Book” integrates the outcomes of the discussions from the first and second **International Conferences on Water and Climate (ICWCs)**, a well as messages from the **Global Action Day for Water which was held at COP22**.



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Blue Book key recommendations for policy makers

- **The international water community must renew its efforts to align and communicate with the climate community** within the framework of the various processes and programs related to climate change issues. Likewise, the climate community may draw potential solutions from the water community.
- **More attention must be given to the role of water in climate negotiations.** Water should be treated as a priority in **National Adaptation Plans (NAPs)** to ensure resilience to climate change throughout other sectors. A subsidiary body of the UNFCCC should be tasked with drafting a report on water and climate with a view to convincing decision-makers that water is a key element in climate change. Water should also figure prominently in the programs implemented to comply with the Paris Agreement.
- **Water plays a fundamental and cross-cutting role between almost all sectors** (energy, food, health, etc.) directly or indirectly affected by climate change. Within the framework of the “Water for Africa” Initiative, it is recommended that a “Water and Energy Hub” be set up to support African nations in the planning of bankable climate change mitigation and adaptation projects that integrate an intersecting focus on water and energy.
- **Ensuring food security and ending hunger will largely depend on the options available to increase food production,** which in turn depend on water. Almost one-third of all food produced worldwide is either wasted or lost. Such waste is the third major source of greenhouse gas emissions in the world. Adaptation plans must, therefore, integrate measures to tackle food waste and food loss. Moreover, less food waste will result in less water waste, while improving food and water security.
- **Within the “Water for Africa” Initiative, setting up mechanisms for exchange** between African nations and donors, with assistance from the international water community, would help improve access to funds for water-related development and for mitigating and adapting to climate change in Africa. Within this framework, it is recommended that loans at preferential interest rates be made available for developing nations.
- **The Global Network of Major Cities Initiative and the launch of the Global Fund for Cities** will strengthen cooperation and experience-sharing, but careful attention should also be given to rural areas that generate pressures and poverty in cities due to migration.
- **More must be done to encourage the implementation of the principles of good governance** and integrated water resource management at basin level, aligning resources to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals under climate change pressures.