

**Latin America Water Week  
Mexico City, 23 June 2014  
Hyatt Regency Hotel - Room Constelaciones B**

## **Opening Speech**

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**Speech of Mr. Benedito Braga  
President of the World Water Council**

Excellency Dr. David Korenfeld Federman, Director General of the National Water Commission,

Honorable members of the panel,

Distinguished delegates,

Dear Members of the World Water Council,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is a great honour and a privilege to stand here today, speaking on behalf of the World Water Council. I deeply thank the Government of Mexico and the Comisión Nacional del Agua for hosting us today.

Mexico has always embraced the cause of water and has been a champion in sharing knowledge towards positive change in water management.

The 4<sup>th</sup> World Water Forum was a clear example of the leadership of the country in addressing those issues with all stakeholders from the water community facing global challenges.

In pursuing these efforts, I would like to extend my recognition to David Korenfeld Federman for his deep commitment in recognizing social participation as a decisive factor in achieving integrated water resource

management. I take this opportunity to congratulate you for having been elected as President of the Intergovernmental Council of the IHP of UNESCO in Paris. This is in recognition of the role that Mexico plays on the international water scene.

CONAGUA has been true leader in making access to water for all the backbone of its national development agenda.

Responding to social demands with public action would not be possible without the mission undertaken by la Asociación Nacional de Empresas de Agua y Saneamiento. The engagement of Roberto Olivares has contributed to bringing together in coordinated effort all stakeholders from the Mexican water sector.

The organization of this second edition of the Latin American Water Week is a promising event both by its capacity in gathering all stakeholders of the water sector and by offering a platform to Latin American countries to build consensus on pressing issues facing the region.

By your involvement, this meeting is paramount in fueling the global perspective for water we must shape.

This effort perfectly resumes the mission and the role of the World Water Council in coordinating the efforts of the water community to speak in a single voice.

On behalf of the World Water Council, I am grateful to our Mexican members for hosting us on the occasion of our 52<sup>nd</sup> Board of Governors meeting in this beautiful City of Mexico. It is an immense pleasure to be here again to join efforts and find solutions adapted to our time.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

The prestigious representatives we have here, today, testify the highest level of political commitment we must mobilize to push ahead a global agenda.

An agenda for global water security.

As the times are changing, our approach must be adapted to new challenges imposed by new realities.

As you will all agree, water is a highly political issue. Managing water requires making choices between constraints and opportunities shared among human welfare, economic growth and ecological protection. In this perspective, trade-offs must be agreed upon to serve all competing needs.

The real question is: what can the water sector do to render itself and populations less vulnerable to the wide-ranging impacts of climate change across sectors and across continents?

The answer to climate vulnerability is through the development of water infrastructure and adaptive water management. It is necessary to have the legal and institutional frameworks to establish adequate governance of the management system, especially when it relates to sectors such as health, food, energy.

Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen,

The World Water Council, among several other international organizations, advocates for global recognition of water security and its multiple dimensions as a stand-alone goal for the post-2015 Development Agenda.

Many successes have been accomplished since the launch of the MDGs as billions have gained access to water and sanitation. But now, given the issues posed by a changing world, water development and management underpin all future Sustainable Development Goals.

By taking into account the challenges posed on water, we will guarantee security in many other domains such as food production and energy

production. It is our responsibility, a huge responsibility, towards the generations to come.

I wish us all a successful Latin American Water Week and cheer for the victory of Mexico in today's World Cup soccer game.

Thank you very much