



Declaration

No water security without ecological security No ecological security without water security

On the initiative of the World Water Council and its partners,
the signatories of this declaration

Considering:

- 1/ The strong interlinkages between water resources and natural systems,
- 2/ The role of ecosystems in maintaining biodiversity richness, cultural significance, water provisioning and regulating services, therefore sustaining the universal right for water, including for the most vulnerable populations,
- 3/ The need, once again demonstrated by the COVID-19 crisis, for enhanced resilience all over the world, taking into account the complex nature of ecosystems and their sensitivity to climate change, unrestrained human activities impacts, and disasters,
- 4/ The international agenda related to biodiversity, climate change, development, disaster resilience, and water,
- 5/ The particular responsibility that should be the one of the water sector at the core of sustainable development, and in setting up of virtuous circles between public policies dedicated to water security and ecological security,

Commit to:

- 1/ Further promote a better articulation between the management of water for human needs and water for nature,
- 2/ Support a better integration of ecosystems in the water sector activities, including climate change adaptation strategies, water resources protection and provision, basin level approaches, disaster risk reduction, equitable economic development and livelihoods, with the aim of long-term resilience for rural and urban communities, and food production,
- 3/ Promote more integrated public policies connecting water management, biodiversity preservation, social equity, disaster resilience, and sustainable economic development, and foster in parallel the implementation of relevant environmental, social and governance principles by companies,

4/ Promote the implementation of Nature Based Solutions as *actions to protect, sustainably manage and restore natural and modified ecosystems in ways that address societal challenges effectively and adaptively, to provide both human well-being and biodiversity benefits* (and in particular according to IUCN Gold Standard guidelines) at basin, community, subnational and national levels, clarify and promote their business case, and strengthen the cost effectiveness assessment and financial and governance mechanisms dedicated to their implementation,

5/ Increase the production and sharing of knowledge and coherent monitoring systems for water resources and biodiversity preservation,

6/ Raise awareness among the public at large, and involve water and environmental managers/planners, users and communities in integrated resources management strategies,

7/ Mobilize through the world their partners, especially water practitioners and biodiversity managers, to adopt, promote and implement the declaration.