

The United Nations World Water Development Report 2015

WATER FOR A SUSTAINABLE WORLD



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The United Nations World Water Development Report 2015

WATER FOR A SUSTAINABLE WORLD

Published in 2015 by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, 7, place de Fontenoy, 75352 Paris 07 SP, France

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This report is published by UNESCO on behalf of UN-Water. The list of UN-Water Members and Partners can be found on the following website: <http://www.unwater.org>

Chapter 11, Europe and North America, by Annukka Lipponen and Nicholas Bonvoisin,
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ISBN 978-92-3-100071-3
ePub ISBN 978-92-3-100099-7

Suggested citation:
WWAP (United Nations World Water Assessment Programme). 2015. *The United Nations World Water Development Report 2015: Water for a Sustainable World*. Paris, UNESCO.



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WWAP provided the opportunity for individuals to be listed as authors and contributors or to be acknowledged in Parts 2, 3 and 4. WWAP is not responsible for any omissions in this regard.

Cover and interior design and typesetting by Phoenix Design Aid A/S, an ISO 14001 (environmental management) and a DS 49001 (corporate social responsibility) certified and approved carbon-neutral company.

Printed by Dimensione Grafica (ISO 9001:2008 and FSC-COC), Spello, Umbria, Italy

This publication is printed in vegetable inks on FSC Mixed Sources paper, supporting responsible use of forest reserves, 100% recycled, acid-free and chlorine-free.

Printed in Italy

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FOREWORD

by Ban Ki-moon
Secretary-General of the United Nations

Water flows through the three pillars of sustainable development – economic, social and environmental. Water resources, and the essential services they provide, are among the keys to achieving poverty reduction, inclusive growth, public health, food security, lives of dignity for all and long-lasting harmony with Earth's essential ecosystems.

Water issues have risen in prominence in recent years, reflecting growing understanding of water's centrality as well as the world's success in achieving the Millennium Development Goal target of halving the proportion of people without sustainable access to safe drinking water. Between 1990 and 2010, 2.3 billion people gained access to improved drinking water sources, such as piped supplies and protected wells.

The publication of the *World Water Development Report 2015*, "Water for a Sustainable World", comes as Member States strive to build on the gains made under the MDG framework, articulate an inspiring post-2015 development agenda and reach an ambitious agreement on climate change. The report illustrates the complex linkages between water and critical areas such as human health, food and energy security, urbanization, industrial growth and climate change. It also describes the status of the world's water resources, including an overview of the impacts of unsustainable growth on freshwater resources, and suggests possible responses to these challenges.

The *World Water Development Report 2015*, coordinated by UNESCO's World Water Assessment Programme, brings together 31 UN-Water Members and 37 Partners, and offers data and information aimed at policy- and decision-makers, inside and outside the water sector. The decisions that determine how water resources are used (or abused) are not made by water managers alone. Progress towards sustainable development thus requires engaging a broad range of actors. I appeal to Government leaders as well as civil society and the private sector to join forces to protect and share our most precious resource, and to build a more sustainable future for all.



Ban Ki-moon

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