

The United Nations World Water Development Report 2014

WATER AND ENERGY

VOLUME 1



WWDR 2014



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization



World Water
Assessment Programme



The United Nations World Water Assessment Programme has coordinated the development and production of the WWDR 2014, and has prepared the chapters in Part 1 and Part 4.

The following agencies and regional commissions led and prepared the chapters in Part 2, Thematic Focus, and Part 3, Regional Aspects:



UNECA, UNECE,
UNECLAC, UNESCAP,
UNESCWA

We wish to thank the other UN-Water Members for their intellectual guidance, useful revisions and timely endorsements:

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Preparation of this report was made possible thanks to the generous financial support of the Italian Government to UNESCO for the United Nations World Water Assessment Programme



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Published in 2014 by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, 7, place de Fontenoy, 75352 Paris 07 SP, France

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Chapter 5, 'Infrastructure', © by International Bank for Reconstruction and Development/The World Bank.

ISBN 978-92-3-104259-1
ePub ISBN 978-92-3-904259-3

Suggested citation:
WWAP (United Nations World Water Assessment Programme). 2014. *The United Nations World Water Development Report 2014: Water and Energy*. Paris, UNESCO.



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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 UNESCO CLD, Paris.
This publication is printed with vegetable inks on FSC Mixed Sources paper, supporting responsible use of forest reserves. This is a carbon neutral print product. UNESCO Printing will contribute funds to a project replanting trees in Europe or Africa for this publication.
Printed in France

The United Nations World Water Development Report 2014 has been published on behalf of the United Nations World Water Assessment Programme by UNESCO with the support of the following organizations:

United Nations Funds and Programmes

United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)
United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)
United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA)
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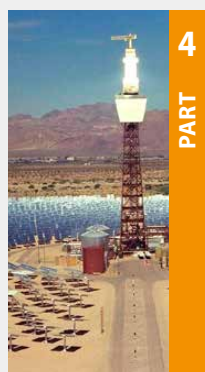
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FOREWORD

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

Water and energy are inextricably linked. Water is essential for the production, distribution and use of energy. Energy is crucial for the extraction and delivery of safe drinking water – and for the very safety of water itself. People everywhere – but especially the most vulnerable and marginalized – face great risks when access to either is limited or compromised.

This *World Water Development Report* provides detailed analysis of these connections and their implications for the world's pursuit of sustainable development and the Millennium Development Goals. It is the fruit of collaboration by UN-Water, the UN inter-agency coordination mechanism dedicated to all freshwater-related issues.

The Report addresses a wide range of key issues, including agriculture, cities, industry, infrastructure and the environment. Its message is clear: the 'water-energy nexus' is about substantially more than hydropower and biofuels. Water and energy can drive economic growth and improvements in human health. They are enablers for poverty reduction, job creation, women's empowerment and human well-being in general. This was also a central lesson that emerged from last year's observance of the International Year for Water Cooperation. It is also a fundamental premise of my 'Sustainable Energy for All' initiative.

In order to provide modern, affordable and environmentally sound energy and drinking water services for all, we need a sustainable approach to the management of both freshwater and energy resources. This calls, in turn, for far greater coordination. The two key mechanisms of the United Nations system – UN-Water and UN-Energy – will play a critical role in this regard. These issues will also be fundamental elements in shaping the post-2015 development agenda.

The *World Water Development Report* is aimed at policy-makers and the water and energy communities, including scientists across the world. My hope is that it will point the way towards a more integrated approach to these challenges and towards water and energy solutions that work for all the world's people.

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