



20th March, 2013

The High Level Panel of Eminent Persons,
C/O Lysa John, Office of the High Level Panel Secretariat,
Office of the High Level Panel Secretariat,
304 East 45th Street
FF-651, New York, USA

Open letter to the High Level Panel of Eminent Persons on the post-2015 development agenda

Dear Honourable Panellists,

On behalf of civil society from Africa, Asia, Latin America and beyond, we urge you to **create a water secure world for all by ensuring that water is a distinct goal** in the post-2015 development framework.

Our networks represent civil society organisations from over 90 countries around the world in Asia, Africa and Latin America. Our **members are the local implementers of policies and programmes** working in challenging situations such as urban slums and degraded environments, with weak governance and inadequate legal or regulatory frameworks. The experience of our members shows that water is an essential underpinning to all development and a crucial crosscutting issue which must not be at the periphery in the proposed development agenda.

Progress on water has been uneven within the MDGs. **783 million people still do not have access to safe drinking water** and the MDG target on sanitation is far from being reached. If current rates of progress continue, the **sanitation target will not be met in sub-Saharan Africa for another 200 years**. It is vital that current efforts are improved to ensure access to the safe water and sanitation for all, essential for people's health, dignity and livelihoods.

Moreover, water is a crosscutting issue which plays a central role in other development sectors including energy (through hydroelectric power), agriculture (irrigation) and health. A distinct goal on water would be **a crucial step towards acknowledging the critical place of water**. The goal would facilitate equitable and sustainable use and management of water resources for poverty alleviation, socio-economic development, regional cooperation and environment.

African Civil Society Network on Water and Sanitation (ANew) secretariat

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Making water a distinct goal has been at the forefront of all the thematic consultation meetings on water. At the meeting which took place in Tunis, it was felt that Africa, which three of your distinguished members are representing, has a **strong role to play and should lead the way.**

You can make this happen, you can ensure a water secure world for all.

On behalf of the African Civil Society Network on Water and Sanitation (ANEW) and my colleagues in Asia and Latin America,

Yours sincerely,

BakerYiga

Executive Secretary, African Civil Society Network on Water and Sanitation (ANEW)