

Potsdam 8 January, 2016

Dear Partners, Colleagues and Friends of the extended Water Family,

With this communication I want to inform you that my term as Chair of Global Water Partnership has come to an end as of December 31, 2015.

My Vice Chair in the Steering Committee, Drs. Alice Bouman-Dentener, will serve as Interim Chair of GWP/GWPO until my successor will have been formally appointed during the course of the next months.

I had the honour and privilege during my three—year tenure as Chair of GWP/GWPO to closely work together with you on a lot of interesting and challenging issues related to our main objective of achieving a water secure world. It would not have been possible without all your support to design and agree on GWP's forward looking Strategy Towards 2020 - A Water Secure World. Our Strategy has in a way already paved the way for GWP's contribution to the implementation of the 2030 SDG Agenda, including a dedicated water goal.

There have been many other areas of common interest where we have had productive and strategic dialogues supporting GWP on its way to be as closely linked as possible with the many partners and stakeholders at various levels, all of us contributing to speak up more actively with one voice in this rather dynamic, but also diverse and fragmented water world.

It is hopefully not only MY vision as outgoing Chair of GWP that great opportunities being given to the GWP family by the 2030 SDG Agenda and the only recently adopted Paris Agreement on Climate Change, not to forget the rich menu of options for future actions of the water world and its partners laid down in "The UNSGAB Journey" report will pave the way for a more comprehensive human development path, putting water much more in the center of decisions to be taken sooner than later for a prosperous well-being of the next generations.

In this spirit I bid fare-well to you inviting you to work as closely together with GWP/GWPO in the years ahead with the same trust and openness as we have been working together.

Thanking you all once again for your support!

Let us stay in touch!

With my best personal wishes for the well-being of the water family and the broader network being closely linked with the water family in this floating world, to use a Japanese expression I love so much.



Dr. Ursula Schaefer-Preuss

Chair of GWP (2013 – 2015)