



press release

Paris, December 4th 2015

32 companies launch the Business Alliance for Water and Climate Change to ensure sustainable management of water resources in the face of climate change

Water resilience is critical to successful climate mitigation. A large and growing number of companies feel it is time to ensure that this is reflected in a global climate deal. As part of the Lima-Paris Action Agenda, more than 30 companies launched the Business Alliance for Water and Climate Change, supported by public authorities and jointly led by CDP (formerly, the Carbon Disclosure Project), the CEO Water Mandate of the UN Global Compact (UNGC) and the World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD).

Based on the 5th Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, freshwater related risks driven by climate change are set to intensify significantly as greenhouse gas emissions increase:

- For each degree of warming, approximately 7% of the global population is projected to be exposed to at least a 20% reduction in renewable water resources.
- The fraction of the world population exposed to a 20th century 100-year flood is projected to be, at the end of the 21st century, three times higher per year for the high emissions scenario.

The first tangible consequences of climate change are already threatening the availability and quality of water resources, notably in emerging countries. The situation is leading to conflicts over the use of water resources, as well as threatening food security and economic development. The business value at risk is becoming increasingly clear and the preservation of freshwater resources is now recognized by the private sector as fundamental to its success.

Companies signing the declaration call for water to be taken into account at COP21 and in the global climate agenda. In addition, they signal their commitment to address urgent sustainable development challenges related to water and climate change.

Each signatory company has committed to at least one of the three following levels of ambition:

1. IDENTIFY – analyse and report water risks and implement collaborative response strategies
2. MEASURE – measure water impacts along corporate value chains by following standardized methods
3. REDUCE – reduce impacts on water availability and quality along the value chain

More information about each commitment can be found on the Declaration website: <https://wateractionhub.org/cop21-declaration/>

This joint initiative is supported by the French and Peruvian governments in the context of the Lima-Paris Action Agenda and already endorsed by 32 companies and 9 organizations. It was launched during the Resilience Day of COP21 and will be introduced during Action Day on December 5th at Le Bourget.



"The impacts of climate change on water resources affect their availability and quality, not to mention the severe events such as floods or droughts they can cause. There is no fatality: solutions exist to secure the sustainable management of water resources. In preparation for an agreement at COP21, SUEZ is supporting this alliance to alert all stakeholders of the necessity to take into account these issues and to reaffirm the crucial role of companies in the response to these challenges", states Jean-Louis Chaussade, CEO of SUEZ.

Amongst companies endorsing the Business Alliance for Water and Climate Change: Altereo, Astra Zeneca, Azliworld, Banka Biolo, Carrefour, Danone, Diageo, East African Primary Teacher's College, Engie, Exergy, Feed, Fujitsu Limited, Gas Natural Fenosa, Greenflex, Grupo Nutresa, GSK, International Water Saver Environmental Services, Jain Irrigation, Michela Cocchi studio legale, Netafim, Pernod Ricard, Pipa, Saint-Gobain, SUEZ, Tiger Brands, Tongaat Hulett, Unilever, Veolia, Vilens NV, Vlakwa, Weir Capacity, Woolworths .

With the support of the following organizations: AFEP, Alliance for Water Stewardship, Business in the Community, CEO WATER MANDATE, CDP, FP2E, PFE, Water Footprint Network, WBCSD.

About Suez

We are at the dawn of the resource revolution. In a world facing high demographic growth, runaway urbanisation and the shortage of natural resources, securing, optimising and renewing resources is essential to our future. SUEZ (Paris: SEV, Brussels: SEVB) supplies drinking water to 92 million people, delivers wastewater treatment services to 65 million, collects waste produced by almost 50 million, recovers 14 million tons of waste each year and produces 5,138 GWh of local and renewable energy. With 80,990 employees, SUEZ, which is present on all five continents, is a key player in the sustainable management of resources. SUEZ generated total revenues of €14.3 billion in 2014.

About CDP

CDP, formerly Carbon Disclosure Project, is an international, not-for-profit organization providing the only global system for companies and cities to measure, disclose, manage and share vital environmental information. CDP works with market forces, including 822 institutional investors with assets of US\$95 trillion, to motivate companies to disclose their impacts on the environment and natural resources and take action to reduce them. More than 5,500 companies disclosed environmental information through CDP in 2015. CDP now holds the largest collection globally of primary climate change, water and forest risk commodities information and puts these insights at the heart of strategic business, investment and policy decisions. Please visit www.cdp.net or follow us @CDP to find out more.

About the World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD)

The World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD), a CEO-led organization of some 200 forward-thinking global companies, is committed to galvanizing the global business community to create a sustainable future for business, society and the environment. Together with its members, the Council applies its respected thought leadership and effective advocacy to generate constructive solutions and take shared action. Leveraging its strong relationships with stakeholders as the leading advocate for business, the Council helps drive debate and policy change in favor of sustainable development solutions.

The WBCSD provides a forum for its member companies - who represent all business sectors, all continents and a combined revenue of more than \$8.5 trillion, 19 million employees - to share best practices on sustainable development issues and to develop innovative tools that change the status quo. The Council also benefits from a network of 70 national and regional business councils and partner organizations, a majority of which are based in developing countries. www.wbcd.org

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