



## MAJOR CITY NETWORKS PARTNER FOR A WATER-SECURE WORLD

**Marseille, 28 October 2014** – According to the United Nations World Health Organization, over half of the world's population now lives in cities and this figure will continue to grow, especially in less developed regions. Therefore, delivering safe water and sanitation in cities will be key to securing sustainability for human, economic and environmental prosperity in the future.

On Tuesday, 28 October, six organizations joined forces to tackle this issue. Through the signature of a Partnership Agreement, UN-Habitat's Global Water Operators' Partnership Alliance, ICLEI - Local Governments for Sustainability, United Cities and Local Governments, the Daegu Gyeongbuk Development Institute, the National Committee for the 7th World Water Forum and the World Water Council committed to work together to address the important role that local and regional authorities and operators play in managing and providing water and sanitation for their populations while safeguarding water resources and to support cities in rising to this challenge.

This Partnership Agreement will serve as an important stepping stone for the preparation and organization of the Local and Regional Authorities Conference of the 7th World Water Forum, which will take place 12-17 April 2015 in Daegu-Gyeongbuk, Republic of Korea and at the Habitat III conference on housing and sustainable urban development in 2016. The partnership with these key players will allow for greater mobilization of local and regional authorities and water operators and will help make their voices heard in the Post-2015 Development Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals.

The objectives of this partnership include:

- > To propose a roadmap for local and regional authorities to reach quantitative and qualitative objectives for water and sanitation, with the Istanbul Water Consensus;
- > To support cities world-wide in their commitments to facilitate access to basic services;
- > To promote the definition and the implementation of local water policies.

### ABOUT...

**UN Habitat – GWOPA** is an alliance of partners working towards the common goal of making Water Operators' Partnerships (WOPs) happen more often and with greater impact by creating awareness about WOPs, producing and sharing knowledge, tools, and rallying the funds and political backing to enable effective WOPs practices. [www.gwopa.org](http://www.gwopa.org)

**ICLEI - Local Governments for Sustainability** is an international association that represents the interests of local authorities world-wide and supports local government in the implementation of sustainable development, both globally by advocating for their interests and needs vis-à-vis international organizations as well as locally by providing technical consulting, training, and information services to build their capacity. [www.iclei.org](http://www.iclei.org)

**United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG)** is the united voice and global advocate of democratic local self-governance. Representing over half of the world's population, members of UCLG are

present in 140 of the United Nations member states and in all regions of the world: Africa, Asia-Pacific, Europe, Eurasia, Middle-East West Asia, Latin and North America – organized into seven continental sections and one metropolitan section and one Forum of Regions. UCLG has more than one thousand cities in regions that are direct members and 155 member associations of local governments. Among the key areas of political interest for UCLG are: Local democracy, climate change and environmental protection, achievement of the Millennium Development Goals, local finance, urban development and city diplomacy in peace building.

**The National Committee for the 7<sup>th</sup> World Water Forum** is co-organizer of the 7<sup>th</sup> World Water Forum in Republic of Korea, 12-17 April 2015, the largest international event that seeks to advance the cause of water. <http://eng.worldwaterforum7.org/en>

**Daegu Gyeongbuk Development Institute (DGI)** is a public research institute that aims to make contributions to the development of the Daegu Gyeongbuk region by carrying out policy research in a variety of domains of the region including industry, economy, urban and rural areas, welfare, tourism, environment, etc., and in particular, have long been involved in the policy research of water issues.

**The World Water Council (WWC)** is an international multi-stakeholder platform organization and co-organizer of the World Water Forum that aims to achieve a strategic common vision of water resources and services management for all stakeholders within the water community, including local authorities. [www.worldwatercouncil.org](http://www.worldwatercouncil.org)

**About the Istanbul Water Consensus (IWC)** for local and regional authorities: It is a unique initiative that recognizes that Local and Regional Authorities are at the center of water management. This initiative of the World Water Council has gathered to date more than 1,100 signatories worldwide. By providing support and opportunities to exchange, promote and learn, the Consensus helps and challenges local decision makers to improve their water management strategies and services in the face of global changes. More on [www.istanbulwaterconsensus.org](http://www.istanbulwaterconsensus.org)

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