

Introduction:

# Committed to Accelerating Sustainable Solutions for Life

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Denmark is committed to delivering an 8th World Water Forum that furthers, and widens, the water agenda. Our clear aim is to bring water solutions to life through strong and innovative partnerships.

Denmark is committed to translating sustainability into reality for the benefit of communities and eco-systems. The linkage between water, energy and food is vital to this ambition.

The 8th World Water Forum represents a great opportunity to accelerate the implementation of sustainable solutions world-wide.

We will draw on our experience and long tradition for inclusive but focused collaboration across boundaries and sectors.

We offer a strong organisational framework which is firmly anchored within the Danish government, NGOs, research institutes and the private sector. The anchoring will expand through strong regional and global partnerships.

We are committed to working hard and together for the accelerated implementation of ambitious Solutions for Life.

# Solutions for Life

## Executive Summary

The World Water Forum is a unique platform which brings together citizens, academia, business, NGOs, international organisations, as well as regional and national authorities in a search for practical solutions to global and local challenges.

The 8th World Water Forum, to be held in Copenhagen on 13-18 May 2018, aims to accelerate real solutions that make a difference to people worldwide.

### Commitments as Host

Denmark's offer to host the 8th World Water Forum has been developed through extensive global, regional and local consultations with key stakeholders. Consultations will continue to unfold and engage even more stakeholders in search of refinement and elaboration moving towards 2018.

Denmark offers to host the 8th World Water Forum in Copenhagen:

1. With a strong emphasis on linking vital water-dependent fields such as energy and food for the development, dissemination and deployment of solutions that are crucial for sustainable development with a particular focus on the needs of developing countries.
2. On the basis of a Nordic tradition of transparency and inclusiveness the strength of the Forum will be in bringing together all stakeholders in a solution-oriented process, undertaken in close collaboration with the World Water Council, the designated Commissions and Chairpersons of the processes.
3. Based on a strong organisational framework under the leadership of three ministries within the Danish government, and with a solid national, regional, and global anchoring which will be continually strengthened as we approach the kick-off.
4. In a city which is safe, where logistics can easily facilitate success, and where stakeholders can be inspired by innovative approaches and practical solutions from across the Øresund Region.

### A Focused Approach

Denmark is committed to engaging in a three-year solution-oriented process, which builds on previous World Water Forums.

Identifying solutions was central to the process of the 6th World Water Forum in Marseilles in 2012 and implementing solutions will be the focal point in Daegu in 2015. A World Water Forum in Copenhagen will accelerate the delivery of sustainable solutions by:

- **Widening the water agenda**

The inclusion of water-dependent fields such as energy and food will be crucial in these efforts. Water, food and energy are vital ingredients for life and are inextricably linked. Long-term success depends on our ability to implement solutions that address these fields in an integrated manner.

- **Focusing on key challenges**

There are many aspects to this agenda, hence a need to focus on those key challenges that make a real difference. The key challenges should be identified through inclusive stakeholder consultations and will

form the basis for delivering solutions for sustainable development.

- **Facilitating connection across sectors**  
Partnerships across sectors and regions will be formed around the key challenges with the aim of accelerating implementation.
- **Establishing 'Co-action for Life' platforms**  
Building upon the Solutions Platform in Marseilles and the solutions implementation process of Daegu, the 'Co-action for Life' platforms are virtual and real life tools, which will allow stakeholders to take the collaborative actions required for distributing and implementing solutions, where they are needed.

#### **Great Potential for All**

Delivering accelerated implementation of sustainable water solutions is essential to protect eco-systems and to secure clean water as well as energy and food for all. This can attract investments and spark continued green growth.

The Danish government, private sector, NGOs and researchers are actively engaged in partnerships and close cooperation related to identifying solutions to challenges around the world in close cooperation with local, regional and global stakeholders. The substantial Danish track record on water development projects and common efforts lay a strong foundation for continuing the drive for solutions for life. Danish engagement in partnerships with developing countries will be crucial in this respect.

Denmark proposes a communication strategy that utilises a wide range of media in order to target stakeholders who contribute to sharing and implementing promising water solutions. The outreach programme will ensure that the wider public is not only informed about the water challenges, but is also engaged as active ambassadors of sustainable blue solutions.

#### **From Local to Global Dedication**

Copenhagen is internationally recognised as a friendly, safe, and inspiring conference

destination, and Bella Center offers one of the greenest congress venues in the world. Getting here and getting around is easy, with a well-connected international airport and city centre within 10 minutes of the conference venue.

To host the 8th World Water Forum, Denmark has a strong organisation with extensive international ties. The initiative is strongly anchored, nationally and locally, within NGOs, business and academia as well as throughout the Nordic region. This collaboration will continue to extend globally through existing and new partnerships.

The efforts of the Danish government are endorsed by the Danish Prime Minister and lead by the Minister for Business and Growth, the Minister for the Environment and the Minister for Development Cooperation.

It is our firm belief that the proposed approach can significantly advance the water agenda and accelerate sustainable solutions for life. We hope to prove this in a constructive collaboration with the World Water Council, and with the many organisations and stakeholders who are dedicated to realising sustainable development around the world.