

## **Statement by Ms. Catley-Carlson, Chair of the Global Water Partnership**

### ***1. What are the issues of water for food and ecosystems?***

The increasing demands on water resources are driven by a continuing population growth, increased prosperity, changes in diets and changing economic developments in water use. This has resulted in some remarkable developments over the last century: i) the irrigated area has grown fivefold since the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century; ii) available water is decreasing within many basins, also due to pollution; iii) for the first time in world history water demand for non-agricultural uses is growing more rapidly in absolute terms than water demands for agriculture; iv) the costs of irrigation development are rising. However Africa still clearly needs increases in its development.

What will be the relation between agriculture, nature, industry and domestic use, how are we to build upon their symbiosis in the future?

Our challenges are still clear: we will need to grow more food, but in a more efficient manner in which water is valued in more appropriate manner that reflects its increasing scarcity. The issues we need to tackle are clear, although their implementations prove often more elusive. i) we need to increase productivity and value agricultural water use; ii) water should be priced more realistically, especially for agricultural use, but this is related to developments in the abolishment of agricultural subsidies; iii) more commitments have to be made to increase environmental water flows; iv) and in particular, enhance the productivity of rainfed agriculture as an important means to reach our MDGs; v) phasing out groundwater overdraft worldwide.

### ***2. What is an Enabling Environment***

An enabling environment is an environment that makes things happen. This requires:

- Policies that set goals for water use, protection and conservation.
- An accompanying legislative framework that establishes the rules to follow to meet the policy goals;
- Financial and incentive structures that enable implementation of the policy goals.

However, these elements will need to be accompanied by institutions, capacity building and good management instruments, (such as assessments, plans, demand management instruments, conflict resolution etc.)

### ***3. How do we create the environment for change?***

To create an enabling environment, we clearly need the commitment of the highest political level towards fostering change. Support from, and coordination of, cross-sectoral decision makers are essential. In addition, an enabling environment has to be founded on stakeholders participation, at all key stages of development and change. Agreement on a realistic plan of implementation.

The use and application of technological innovation and scientific developments will be essential in achieving change. These will have to be harnessed to identify and direct concrete developments in agricultural water use, both irrigated and rainfed. These developments should aim at increasing the efficiency, efficacy and economic value of agricultural water use that enables stakeholders to meet the challenges defined above. Focus has to be at increasing value per unit of water.

#### ***4. The Partnership Imperative***

Partnerships are essential to implement the change, especially between agriculture and other sectors. What partnerships do we need? i) with education; to educate our people ii) with stakeholders; iii) coalitions with banks, organizations etc. for development of infrastructure that enables implementation of the changes and vision; iv) with research and science community. We need to emphasis, especially for donors, to build partnership at the ground that are focused at implementing IWRM at basin scale, rather than keep emphasising global issues in global fora.