

## RATIONALE OF THE EVENT

As a driver and enabler of sustainable development, water availability, access and management can determine the way in which individuals and communities plan and shape their future. Likewise, gender equity strengthens social inclusion, reduces poverty, improves water resources management and sanitation, as well as contributing towards environmental sustainability and food security. Similarly, education, research and science are instrumental in building healthy societies and developing new economic opportunities. As highlighted in the forthcoming UN World Water Development Report: *"Water plays a vital role in generating and sustaining jobs across a wide array of sectors and in unlocking the potential for indirect employment opportunities through its multiplier effects"* (WWDR 2016 "Water and Jobs").



This high-level event will discuss the central role of water resources in connecting all segments and sectors of society and all the SDGs. Speakers will highlight their commitment to enhancing the policy-science interface, and the importance of investing in modern water assessment, as key factors for long-lasting peace and sustainable development.

## THE UN WORLD WATER ASSESSMENT PROGRAMME (WWAP)

WWAP is the leading UNESCO programme on the assessment, monitoring and reporting on the status of freshwater resources worldwide and is tasked to inform policymakers and relevant stakeholders about the challenges and opportunities faced by these resources globally. Among other activities, WWAP publishes annually on behalf of UN-Water the United Nations World Water Development Report, considered the most authoritative thematic review of freshwater resources in the United Nations System.

## AGENDA

### 15:00 – 15:05 **Welcome remarks**

- ◆ Catuscia Marini, President, Region Umbria, Italy (**Chair**)
- ◆ Fernando Nardi, Director, Water Resources Research and Documentation Centre (WARREDOC), University for Foreigners of Perugia

### 15:05 – 15:15 **Opening remarks and setting the scene**

- ◆ Stefan Uhlenbrook, Coordinator, WWAP

### 15:15 – 15:20 **Water for a Sustainable World: A vision for 2030** (video)

### 15:20 – 15:40 **Round of short presentations on "Water Is ..."**

- ◆ "Water Is = Education and Research" by Huub Savenije, President, International Association of Hydrological Sciences (IAHS)
- ◆ "Water Is = Gender" by Michela Miletto, Deputy Coordinator, WWAP
- ◆ "Water Is = Peace" (video) by WWAP

### 15:40 – 16:10 **High-level Panel Debate "UNESCO and Italy - The road towards achieving Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development through water sustainability"**

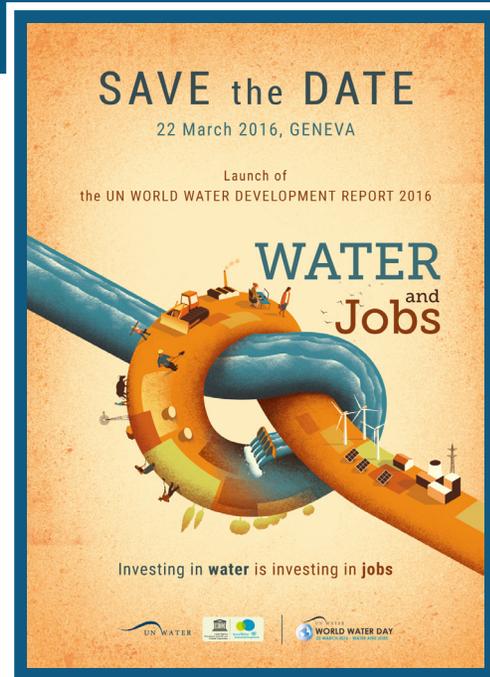
- ◆ Irina Bokova, Director General, UNESCO
- ◆ Mario Giro, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, Italy
- ◆ Barbara Degani, Undersecretary, Ministry of the Environment and the Protection of Land and Sea, Italy

*Moderator:* Enzo Fortunato, Director, Press Office of the Sacred Convent of Assisi, Italy

### 16:10 – 16:15 **Closing remarks**

### 16:15 **Reception**

*\*Simultaneous interpretation from/to EN-IT is provided*



# HIGH-LEVEL SYMPOSIUM

MONDAY 15 FEBRUARY 2016



## INFO

United Nations World Water Assessment Programme  
Programme Office for Global Water Assessment  
UNESCO, Division of Water Sciences  
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Achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)  
through Education, Science and Culture around Water