**What is Water Security?**

**GOOD GOVERNANCE**
Adequate legal regimes, institutions, infrastructure and capacity are in place.

**FINANCING**
Innovative sources of financing complement funding by the public sector, including investments from the private sector and micro-financing schemes.

**TRANSBOUNDARY COOPERATION**
Sovereign states discuss and coordinate their actions to meet the varied and sometimes competing interests for mutual benefit.

**DRINKING WATER AND HUMAN WELL-BEING**
Populations have access to safe, sufficient and affordable water to meet basic needs for drinking, sanitation and hygiene, to safeguard health and well-being, and to fulfill basic human rights.

**ECO SYSTEMS**
Ecosystems are preserved and can deliver their services, on which both nature and people rely, including the provision of freshwater.

**ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES AND DEVELOPMENT**
Adequate water supplies are available for food and energy production, industry, transport and tourism.

**PEACE AND POLITICAL STABILITY**
The negative effects of conflicts are avoided, including reduced water quality and/or quantity, compromised water infrastructure, human resources, related governance, and social or political systems.

**WATER-RELATED HAZARDS AND CLIMATE CHANGE**
Populations are resilient to water-related hazards including floods, droughts and pollution.

**WHAT IS WATER SECURITY?**

“The capacity of a population to safeguard sustainable access to adequate quantities of acceptable quality water for sustaining livelihoods, human well-being, and socio-economic development, for ensuring protection against water-borne pollution and water-related disasters, and for preserving ecosystems in a climate of peace and political stability.”

*Working definition, UN-Water, 2013*

Water is central to achieving a larger sense of security, sustainability, development and human well-being. UN-water supports the inclusion of water security in the post-2015 development agenda as part of the Sustainable Development Goals.

Achieving water security requires collaboration across sectors, communities, disciplines and political borders, to reduce the risk of potential conflicts over water resources, between sectors and between water users or states.