



**2<sup>nd</sup> WIF 2016**

6<sup>th</sup> November 2016, Chiang Mai, Thailand

## **Delivering SDGs through Agriculture Water Management**

### **Declaration of Ministers' Meeting**



RECOGNIZING that Agriculture Water Management (AWM) is key to enhancing water security, ensuring the sustainability of the surface and groundwater resource, achieving food security in a world confronted by limited natural resources while positively influencing the process of achieving almost all Sustainable Development Goals (SDG);

ACKNOWLEDGING the need for advocacy for enhanced investment, means of sharing experiences, exchange of best practices, and transfer of technologies with focused attention on more effective and sustainable management of agricultural water, setting targets and evolving monitoring mechanism;

NOTING that the International Commission on Irrigation and Drainage (ICID), a professional, voluntary, not-for-profit International Organization, dedicated, inter alia, to enhance the world-wide supply of food and fibre for all people by improving water and land management, through application of irrigation, drainage and flood and drought management for achieving sustainable irrigated agriculture and disaster risk reduction, is supported by more than 60 member countries and serves as the required network;

ACKNOWLEDGING that ICID shares mutual goals of poverty alleviation through food and water security with UN entities Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), International Fund for Agriculture Development (IFAD), World Meteorological Organization (WMO) as well as other International Organizations such as International Water Management Institute (IWMI), International Crop Research Institute for Semi-arid Tropics (ICRISAT) with participation of Asian Development Bank (ADB) and World Bank (WB), and has a mutual interest and commitment to work for better management of agriculture water and mitigation of water-related disasters caused by floods, droughts, etc., using the latest tools and information;



NOTING that the Paris Climate Conference (COP21) through article 7 of the Paris Agreement established the global goal on adaptation and called upon parties to strengthen their cooperation on enhancing action on adaptation by augmenting adaptive capacity, strengthening resilience and reducing vulnerability to climate change;

NOTING also that the Addis Ababa Action Agenda on Financing for Development calls for investing in sustainable and resilient infrastructure, including for energy, water and sanitation for all, as a pre-requisite for achieving many of our goals, and recognizes South-South cooperation as an important element of international cooperation for development as a complement, not a substitute, to North-South cooperation;

NOTING that Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development recognizes Partnership as a means of implementing the agenda and encourages the establishment of voluntary partnerships for the achievement of these Goals;

NOTING with appreciation the efforts by FAO to bring sustainable agriculture and food systems to the forefront of the global Climate Change Agenda and the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda and the partnership initiative on “Coping with water scarcity in agriculture: a global framework for action in a changing climate”;

Ministers, participating in the Second World Irrigation Forum, hosted by the Kingdom of Thailand, based on their deliberations on 6<sup>th</sup> November 2016 decided to:

- (a) **Establish** a High Level Advisory Group on “Partnerships for Agriculture Water Management” as an action-oriented multi-stakeholder partnership to:
  - (i) Facilitate improving agricultural water productivity, especially in irrigated areas where the competition for water is intensifying and/or water supplies are becoming less reliable;
  - (ii) Support member countries in achieving the SDG targets related to AWM by enabling existing partnerships as well as promoting new partnerships, where required;
  - (iii) Support the UN System efforts in monitoring the progress on related SDGs;
  - (iv) Strengthen the World Irrigation Forum, which provides opportunities for reviewing progress made by existing partnerships with inputs from regional and national partnership dialogues;
  - (v) Advocate strong policy support for higher investments in AWM to ensure food and water security;
  - (vi) Review and provide policy recommendations at the regional level for consideration by relevant regional bodies; and
  - (vii) Use the partnership to share experiences on SDG implementation.
- (b) **Allow** the membership of the High level Advisory Group to be open to all Members of the United Nations and its specialized agencies including multi-lateral development agencies, and will be chaired by a Member State of ICID. The High Level Advisory Group shall meet on a regular basis (at least once a year) and constantly monitor and guide the progress
- (c) **Invite** entities of the United Nations system, international and regional organizations, and major groups, to contribute to the efforts, as appropriate. Countries are to participate on a voluntary basis in national, regional, and global multi-stakeholder dialogues;
- (d) **Encourage** member countries to organize national multi-stakeholder partnership platforms in AWM, where possible through their National Committees affiliated with ICID, which could also contribute to the regional and global multi-stakeholder partnership through existing forums and meetings, where applicable; and
- (e) Recommend ICID to establish a dedicated Task Force to provide support to the High Level Advisory Group.

