



WORLD BANK GROUP

26<sup>th</sup> November 2024

*Madame, Sir,*

At a time when challenges are spreading across the globe, our world needs reinforced efforts to foster peace and prosperity and promote fair and sustainable development. This demands further actions and investments in water which is a fundamental need to protect our common goods.

As many countries struggle with the effects of climate change, the alteration of the global water cycle has various impacts, such as floods, droughts and desertification. Access to water is increasingly becoming a global challenge, raising adaptation issues for many key economic sectors, including agriculture, energy and healthcare. Water lies at the heart of the adaptation agenda, with 60% of adaptation measures linked to it.

Today, the international community must urgently address the water issue at national and international levels. In this context, on behalf of our Heads of State and President, we invite you to attend the "One Water Summit" they will chair on **December 3, 2024, at 4pm, in the Ritz Carlton Hotel, in Riyadh**, on the sidelines of the 16<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP) to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD).

This summit will bring together Heads of State and Government, local authorities and communities, development financial institutions,

businesses, philanthropies, NGOs, and scientific experts from across the world. We seek to share the experiences of regions exposed to or at high risk of water scarcity and droughts, exacerbated by significant demographic, socio-economic, and climate pressures with the experiences of either countries rich in freshwater resources that require better water resources management or countries who already managed to deal with those challenges in their development process.

Through the comprehensive agenda of the summit, we aim at fostering joint initiatives on global water governance, strengthening transboundary cooperation, implementing innovative science-based and technical solutions and securing financing models to facilitate the adoption of new water technologies, methods and sustainable practices.

As an incubator of solutions, the One Water Summit will champion progress for water security in context of sustainable development, climate change and access to water for all.

Please accept, Madam, Sir, the assurances of our highest consideration,

Sincerely,

***Barbara Pompili***, Special Envoy to the President of the French Republic for the One Water Summit

***Zulfiya Suleimenova***, Advisor to the President - Special Representative to the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan on International Environmental Cooperation

***Bertrand de la Borde***, Director and Global Head Infrastructure at the International Finance Corporation (IFC)