

22 March 2014

**Message of H.E. John W. Ashe
President of the 68th Session of the United Nations General Assembly,
for World Water Day**

On World Water Day, I encourage Member States to make water conservation and the promotion of renewable energy central to our Post-2015 Development Agenda. At the same time, eradicating poverty through sustainable economic growth should remain a top priority. We have witnessed remarkable achievements in this regard in recent years, but much more needs to be done.

It has become clear that in order to eradicate poverty, developing countries need to grow their economies in a sustained and inclusive manner. We all know that industrial development relies heavily on extensive use of resources, including water and energy. Global energy demand is expected to grow by more than one-third by 2035. And developing countries are expected to account for the bulk of this growth. Similarly, global demand for water is projected to increase by roughly fifty percent during the first half of this century. Governments, civil society, and other stakeholders must work together to meet these pressing needs without further depleting the planet's natural resources.

We all now recognize that in order for our Post-2015 Development Agenda to be a success we must find creative solutions that allow economic growth and environmental protection to be mutually supportive rather than mutually exclusive. Let us all renew our commitment to protect the world's water supply—the one natural resource without which no country can flourish.