

Oficina de Naciones Unidas  
de apoyo al  
Decenio Internacional  
para la Acción  
"El agua, fuente de vida"  
2005-2015

Naciones Unidas  
Departamento de Asuntos  
Económicos y Sociales  
(ONU-DESA)



UN WATER

# Press Release

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## Josefina Maestu - New Coordinator at UNO-IDfA in Zaragoza, Spain

The United Nations Office to Support the International Decade for Action 'Water for Life' 2005-2015 (UNO-IDfA) announces a change in leadership starting from 15 September 2009. Ms. Josefina Maestu has been appointed to serve as coordinator of UNO-IDfA, implementing and coordinating the UN-Water Programme on Advocacy and Communication (UNW-DPAC).

Prior to her appointment in Zaragoza, Spain, Ms. Maestu, a national of Spain, served as senior advisor to the Ministry of Environment, Rural and Marine Affairs. Recently she has represented Spain in the UN Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE), the Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development, and backstopped the Spanish EU Presidency.

Her extended professional career in the field of water, international relations, national civil servant positions and international advisor consultancies include coordination of the preparation of the economic analysis of River Basin Management Plans in implementation of the Water Framework Directive and the economic evaluation of infrastructure investment projects and programs and European Funded Programs. Further on, for several years, she was Secretary-General of the Mediterranean Water Network, and has been technical adviser to the European Commission and several UN agencies and programmes including the World Bank.

Ms. Maestu has been appointed to serve UNO-IDfA as Coordinator starting from September 2009. "I am looking forward to work closely with the all UN-Water members and partners to support the member states in reaching the Millennium and Water Decade goals in water and sanitation." Ms. Maestu states, "We shall not forget the importance of water. Water and sanitation are crucial for sustainable development and indispensable for human health and well-being - water is essential for life!"



### Background

**Water Decade 2005-2015.** The primary goal of the 'Water for Life' Decade is to promote efforts to fulfill international commitments on water-related issues by 2015. These commitments include the Millennium Development Goals to reduce by half the proportion of people without access to safe drinking water and sanitation by 2015, to stop unsustainable exploitation of water resources. The Water Decade also promotes the development and implementation of Integrated Water Resources Management and water efficiency plans.

**The United Nations Office to Support the International Decade for Action 'Water for Life' 2005-2015 (UNO-IDfA).** In the purpose of supporting Member States worldwide and UN-Water, the United Nations interagency coordination mechanism on water, in the efforts to achieve water and sanitation goals and targets, UNO-IDfA facilitates and implements communication, information and awareness raising activities in the framework of the 'Water for Life' Decade. UNO-IDfA is hosted and led by the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN-DESA) and implements the communication and awareness raising programme of UN-Water.

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