

**Greetings from UN-Water to participants at the conference on
“Sustainable Water Management in Cities”**

Dear Colleagues,

Please allow me to offer a very warm welcome to all of you on behalf of UN-Water. I regret not being able to join you at this important meeting on Sustainable Management of Water in Cities due to some unavoidable commitments.

I want to congratulate both the organizers – that include UNW-DPAC, UN HABITAT and the Zaragoza City Council – and all of you for the contributions you bring to this meeting.

The issues being discussed at the conference – sustainable urbanization and provision of basic services like sanitation and safe water – are crucial to the UN member states and are the center of attention for UN-Water. The conference also links directly to the celebrations of the World Water Day in March 2011, when many of you will gather again in Cape Town and identify initiatives to take forward.

I am truly impressed by the diversity of urban experience that has assembled: From Accra to Zaragoza, and Rabat to Rawalpindi, you have an unparalleled resource to draw on as you focus on practical solutions and paths forward, related to sanitation and water for all. On a personal note, I am pleased to see that my city of birth, Rawalpindi, is well represented at the conference.

Your consideration of different development contexts will certainly be enriched by so many diverse regional participants, and this regional focus is very much aligned with the strategic priorities of UN-Water. I would like to assure you that UN-Water will collectively pay close attention to the outcomes of this conference and follow through with support for initiatives that emerge out of your deliberations.

I wish you well in your discussions and look forward to hearing about the outcomes of the conference.

Muchas gracias.

Dr. Zafar Adeel
Chair, UN-Water
Zaragoza, 13 December 2010