



## 4<sup>th</sup> Karachi International Water Conference Declaration

We celebrate the success of the Fourth Karachi International Water Conference. It brought together a diverse range of stakeholders, especially women's groups, youth, regional, national and international organizations, researchers, professionals, decision-makers, business innovators, practitioners, and experts.

The conference considered the original 'Water Energy Food' concept applied to water security (access and supply), food and energy with water holding center stage. The Nexus approach allows exploration through the prism of valuing water, food, social and economic inclusion (gender and youth), water governance, water infrastructure, and investment. Delivering water, energy and food for all in a sustainable and equitable way is one of the major challenges faced by society.

The conference explored these themes, and we believe the aim must now be to build on the ideas and solutions and keep up the momentum to bring the Water Energy Food Nexus to a wider audience, foster thinking, develop innovative solutions and work towards greater implementation on the water agenda in 21st century Pakistan. Such further engagement will see the emergence of an agenda for research, policy and action on WEF nexus and connections developed between developed and developing countries.

The conference noted the disconnect between practice and academia as well as between the work of NGOs and the private sector. We need to value the work on the ground done by NGOs as well as those relevant solutions developed by the private sector. However, all stakeholders' practices should align to the objectives and principles of the national policies on water and food security.

We believe the lessons from the Murray-Darling basin continue to be relevant for The Indus Basin and will enhance our linkages with the Australian Government to ensure continued mutual learning. We are opening a new chapter with Australia; it faces and has faced similar challenges which it has managed successfully.

The conference recognized the pivotal role of gender in the food and energy nexus. Women are needed in policy making at all levels of the water sector as guarantors for water reforms. Women and girls, and the way they are impacted by access to water, food and environmental entitlements constitute a large part of the picture, and most importantly a large part of the solution.

The conference recommends continued water discourse with young people, girls and boys taking due care in closing the digital and gender gap. We pledge to develop committed water professionals and mainstream young people in the water sector.

We can look at the WEF Nexus as the central pillar of the Sustainable Development Goals agenda and recognized its usefulness in addressing competing priorities.

The conference recognized the essential role of citizen's groups in bringing the debate on water to the forefront. We all know the challenges, now we must focus firmly on solutions. As the water crisis grows, we will continue double our efforts. Pakistan has risen to the challenge before, and we can do it again. People accepted the 'citizen's water policy' because it is realistic and precise, with clear goals and time frame. We have seen growing concern and response from government.

We welcome the support, interest and commitment of the President of Pakistan and Governor Sindh, and urge them to take these recommendations to all levels of provincial and federal government.

This conference calls for the coordination, people-centric provincial and national policies using the following principles:

1. Base strategies on a mutually agreed evidence base
2. Ensure cost-effectiveness
3. Improve governance and institutional capacity at all levels
4. Adapt responses to local conditions
5. Ensure policy alignment between water, energy, agriculture, food security and environment
6. Anticipate change through robust decision making and adaptive management

### **The Hisaar Foundation pledges:**

We will continue deepening and strengthening the dialogue among different stakeholders and promoting data-driven inclusive solutions

The Panjwani-Hisaar Water Institute will foster multi disciplinary integrated research with relevance to the water, energy food nexus and produce the person-power required to face the water challenges of the 21st Century.