



Danish Ministry  
of the Environment

World Water Council  
Att.: Danielle Gaillard Picher  
Espace Gaymard  
2-4 Place d'Arvieux  
13002 Marseille  
France

Minister  
for the environment  
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### **Expression of Interest to host the World Water Forum 2018 in Copenhagen, Denmark**

It is with great pleasure that I forward this Expression of Interest for Copenhagen to host the 8<sup>th</sup> World Water Forum in 2018.

With climate friendly traditions, unique competences in water management and the proven ability to host prestigious events, Copenhagen would be a natural host for the World Water Forum in 2018.

The working vision for WWF8 in Denmark is "ReThink Water", focusing on key areas such as Green Growth, Urban Water Management and Consumers' Resource Responsibility. The Forum will be a platform for sharing ideas, solutions and commitment on water challenges, and will raise the awareness of critical water issues at all levels in order to encourage political commitment and push for action.

#### **Denmark – a nation of water and climate management**

Denmark is globally known for its technological know-how, best practice and high potential within water management, water supply and sanitation. The water governance system in Denmark, the competences of small and large companies in solving global water challenges and not least the active engagement of the public in saving and preserving water resources has made Denmark a showcase for good water management for the benefit of the people, environment and economic development.

Denmark has shown that it is possible to increase growth and decrease the stress on scarce resources like water at the same time. The link between development and the sound management of natural resources is vital for the growing global population. Sharing our knowledge with developed as well as developing countries will help strengthen the global capability to manage water resources.

#### **Copenhagen – a green city with capacity to organize the World Water Forum**

Copenhagen is the largest city in Scandinavia and has proven itself more than able to organize successful large-scale events in innovative and appealing settings. The obvious main venue for the World Water Forum is the Bella Center Copenhagen, which has hosted such important events as the European Wind Energy Association Conference 2012, the UN Climate Change Convention 2009, and the IOC Olympic Congress 2009. It is a large, ultra-modern, state-of-the-art facility situated just 5 minutes from Copenhagen Airport and 9 minutes from the city centre by metro.

Copenhagen is a city which effortlessly combines old and new, preserving its 1,000-year old history yet always looking to the future. As one of the most environmentally friendly cities in the world, the Copenhagen harbour is clean enough for swimming, 55% of its citizens commute by bicycle every day and 64% of the city's hotel rooms are eco-certified. Moreover, the city has been chosen as European Green Capital in 2014.

A working group has been tasked with examining the feasibility of a Danish bid to host the World Water Forum in 2018. It remains a condition for a bid that sufficient public funds for preparing and hosting the Forum can be allocated under the budgetary restrictions that exist, and that the required degree of firm commitment from private co-financers of a possible WWF8 in Copenhagen is in place.

The Danish Government looks forward to initiating a dialogue with the World Water Council.

On behalf of the Danish Government,



Ida Auken  
Minister for the Environment