

**COP26**  
**Initiative “Youth 4 Climate”**  
**on**

“Water Security  
and Food Security Nexus:  
the Challenge  
of Climate Change”

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## **Alessandro Leto**

*HLRT Symposium Chairman,  
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### OPENING REMARKS

Esteemed Excellencies, dear Colleagues and Friends,  
the reasons that inspired the conception of our today's HLRT Symposium relles on the tentative to associate our efforts and our missions to be collectively more efficacious in facing and tackling the great challenge of the nexus existing between Water Security and Food Security.

This same challenge is known in its implications since decades, it has been investigated and studied, but nowadays this defiance is even more complicated by the irruption of Climate Changes in our daily lives almost under any latitude.

To be more efficacious in dealing with this epochal challenge means a shift of paradigm, we need to adopt a new vision that generally speaking would be able to consider the term "sustainability" as a noun, a substantive, and not anymore as an adjective. More in particular instead, this shift of paradigm means the adoption of a New Culture of Water able to let all of us around the world to consider it well before any other consideration, as the mother of life, the same biological premises of any form of daily living being.

If and when we would be able to adopt this new paradigm, the first logical outcome could be the "Aware Consumption of Water".

We know that 70% ca of fresh water is consumed in Agriculture. And in presence of the need to feed already today, a growing world population in presence of a decrease availability of water in terms of quantity, it is only if we focus our efforts mainly in agriculture and its related domains that we can make the difference.

The awareness of the tremendous difficulties that rely upon this challenge, literally force us to join together efforts, resources and commitments.

We in WA SRD Foundation were born to serve this cause and the model of our High Level Round Table Symposium testify our commitment

and our willing in terms of inclusion, inter-disciplinary approach and intellectual curiosity, all in favor of our role in the field of Science Diplomacy.

Taking advantage of the proposal offered by the COP26 Presidency to conceive and organize a HLRT Symposium, especially in this magnificent Campus (let me thanks once again the very valid Team of IAM for their friendly and very professional support), my esteemed friend Nicola Lamaddalena and I we create the premises to put together a high profile Group of international Panelists able to merge their specific respective knowledges, to walk the talk.

Considering that today's Symposium is another important step forward in the root and diffusion of a New Culture of Water.

I declare open the works.

## JOINT DECLARATION TOWARD GLASGOW 2021 14th-15th September 2021 - Bari (Italy)

Agriculture uses almost 70% of freshwater resources on our planet. In the last decades technology significantly improved allowing farmers to have access to new methodologies for irrigation.

Nevertheless, at the global level outdated irrigation techniques are still often adopted that irrationally use an untenable amount of water, impoverish the soil and pauperize social communities.

Despite the numerous campaigns in favor of different actors in the Agricultural field, we still need to increase efforts and allocate additional resources to use less water to produce more crops.

A new alliance between governments, farmers and users result to be amid the most crucial challenge to be faced in order to tackle the misuse of water resources at any latitude.

So, the need to increase awareness among consumers is of paramount importance to let them be conscious to adopt a New Culture of Water: we drink water while eating.

Nowadays efficient tools such as the Virtual Water Indicator and the Water Footprint Indicator are available, that can be of great help in the calculation of water consumption in our daily life.

The computation of such indicators can help to better manage the consumption of water, as it is primarily the Source of Life. Such indicators should also induce people to reduce the waste of food which means, indirectly, to reduce the waste of water.

As stated in the Geneva Water Initiative launched by Water Academy SRD in 2016, a New Culture of Water shall be diffused and rooted.

This can be achieved thanks to a New Alliance that include Higher Education at all levels, Research, Culture and the Private Sector.

The High Level Round Table Symposium organize in Bari in the framework of the COP 26 Initiative “Youth 4 Climate”, have the main objective to stimulate a prompt call for actions, nowadays very urgent due also to the consequences of Climate Change that reduce agricultural

production, undermine the foundations of our societies, increase social injustice and worsen women discrimination.

From the Bari workshop, WATER ACADEMY SRD Foundation and CIHEAM-Bari, do confirm their full institutional, personal and professional commitment to foster and encourage all needed actions to reinforce the “Water Security/Food Security Nexus”.

**Alessandro Leto**

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**Nicola Lamaddalena**

*HLRT Symposium Co-Chairman,  
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