



Dear colleagues

Latest FIDIC State of the World report highlights urgent need to address global water challenge.

The second report in the series, *Establishing the value of water - the business case for change* explores and addresses the world's current and future water challenges, the financial and social value that needs to be placed on water and discuss the business case for action. The report builds on the themes in the first *Time to \$Tn-vest* report and also the previous 2015 *State of the World* report on water challenges and provides a foundation for the third report in the series, which will explore innovative solutions which are currently adopted or should be considered in addressing water challenges.

The report highlights the expected increase in the global demand for water, the energy-food-water nexus, and the challenges associated with adequately charging for water and sanitation services to ensure that these are properly funded to serve current and future generations properly. FIDIC claims that this is not the case now and it won't be for future generations unless urgent and aggressive action is taken now.

To address the challenge, FIDIC makes three key recommendations in the report: -

1. To increase the perception of value, reduce waste and ensure that critical water systems are available for future generations, prices for water, wastewater, ecosystems and stormwater services should be established with the assistance of qualified professionals and be sustainable enough to recover operational costs, allow for maintenance, rehabilitation and expansion to enable adequate use by future generations.
2. More stakeholders need to be involved in developing approaches to address water-related issues, including more local community involvement and consideration of using total cost concepts like TOTEX, along with customer input, to ensure that the right projects are developed to effectively address the right issues.
3. To embrace the UN sustainable development goals and resolve the issues of those without access to safe drinking water and adequate sanitation, there needs to be more constructive dialogue with governments, the private sector and NGOs to identify and implement realistic solutions.

"FIDIC and the infrastructure sector more widely needs to communicate much more clearly the importance of all elements of water in our daily lives and if the investment required is to take place, the economic and social value may need to adjust and it should not be underestimated that the challenge of providing universal services in the water sector is not a small one and it will require government decision-makers and the public sector to invest more in solutions and for the private sector to also step up and invest to play its role. This report is part of FIDIC's ongoing effort to more broadly communicate 'state of the world' issues which engineers can help address," **William Howard, President, FIDIC**

[Click here to read a report on the launch webinar of the second State of the World report.](#)

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all contributors to the report - FIDIC president, William Howard, Peter Macy, President, Rockblue, April GU, Professor, School of Civil and Environmental Engineering, Cornell University, Miguel Mondria, Director General Técnico, Grupo TYPESA, Jeshika Ramchand, Bosch Projects, Adam Bialachowski, Chair, FIDIC Future Leaders Council and Vintage Consulting, Tracey Ryan, Managing Director, Aurecon, Jose Juarez Cornelio, Mexico FOA Consultores, Stéphanie Groen, Director, Coastal and Climate Change Asia, Aurecon, Professor Damian Helbling, Associate Professor, Cornell University, Peter Guthrie, Professor, Cambridge University, Cosmin Tobolcea, General Manager, Pro Toby, Michele Kruger, Advisor to the Minister of Human Settlements, Water and Sanitation at Department of Water and Sanitation, Professor Adebayo J. Adelaye, Professor of Water Resources Management at Heriot-Watt University, Rowan Palmer, Programme Officer, UNEP and special thanks to Graham Pontin, FIDIC head of economics and strategic policy, who is responsible for the planning and delivery of the new *State of the World* report series.

FIDIC is keen to engage the global construction and infrastructure industry on the issues raised in the State of the World report and the conclusions we have put forward around the urgent need for action to address current and future water needs. We would welcome your feedback on the report, so please do get in touch with us at fidic@fidic.org if you have any comments or ideas.



With best wishes,

Nelson Ogunshakin

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Click here to download FIDIC's second 2021 State of the World report, Establishing the value of water - the business case for change



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