European Toilet
Declaration

We – the people and organisations signatory to this declaration – recognise that access to safe, clean and private toilets is a basic human right and a precondition for human and economic development.

We can't accept a world in which one in three people lacks access to adequate sanitation, where one billion people have to defecate in gutters, behind bushes, or in rivers or ponds. We can't accept that billions of school and working hours are lost every year because of diseases caused by dirty water and poor sanitation. We can't accept that women and girls are made more vulnerable to the risks of harassment, violence and animal attack when looking for somewhere to go.

We urge the European Union to seize the unique opportunity presented by the Sustainable Development Goals. We must address the unfinished business of the Millennium Development Goals – such as sanitation, which is one of the most off-track targets of all the MDGs – and agree to ambitious but achievable new goals, targets and indicators.

We call on EU Member States to champion a common position on the Sustainable Development Goals that supports:

- A dedicated goal on water and sanitation with targets to eliminate open defecation, achieve universal access to basic water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) by 2030 and to extend access beyond homes to schools and health-care facilities
- Integrated targets and indicators that recognise the fundamental link between WASH and other sustainable development objectives such as gender equality, health, nutrition and food security and urban sustainability
- Universal targets on WASH that strive to leave no one behind and focus on eliminating inequalities in access for the poorest and marginalised.

The EU is a key development partner with an important part to play in shaping the Sustainable Development Goals. We therefore urge the EU to use its leadership position to help end the water, sanitation and hygiene crisis.

Only by doing so can the world eradicate poverty and bring development to all.

1. WHO/UNICEF (2014) Progress on sanitation and drinking water - 2014 update.

WaterAid/GMB Akash/Panos