

SPECIAL REMARKS



**HON.
SEBASTIAN
PIÑERA**

Former Chilean
President



Remarks presented at IDA 2022 World Congress in Sydney



Ladies and Gentlemen, it's a great honor to participate in the International Desalination Association World Congress 2022 in Sydney, Australia. I would like to thank and congratulate all the scientists and researchers around the world that contribute so much to ensure water flow. Each generation has its own challenges and missions, but no generation has faced such an urgent and formidable challenge as climate change and global warming and such a vital and great mission as surviving. This is the battle for our lifetime. The human being is the smartest and most ingenious creature living on planet earth, and yet, it is the only one capable of destroying its own planet, our only planet. Some people are skeptical about global warming, but the scientific evidence is overwhelming. We know too much to remain skeptical. This is not anymore a matter of opinion, it is a matter of facts and science. We need to take now bold action and tackle the root of the problem to reduce our emissions and increase our capture of greenhouse gases. This is why Chile pledges to become carbon neutral before 2050. We also must adapt to the new climate reality.

Adaptation is not an option, it is an urgent task for the benefit of this generation and those to come. In this context, the desalination is a good solution, and Chile is fully committed to desalination. In the last thirteen years, Chile has experienced its worst drought in its history. That is why we have taken tough measures to combat this dramatic drought, to ensure water for human consumption, and to advance in efficiency and agriculture and other economic sectors. Because of our geography, the Pacific Ocean can quench thirst, can alleviate this serious drought, and can promote great progress for our lives. We already have 35 desalination plants working, producing water for human consumption and natural use, and we have many more plans under construction. My dear friends, I'm convinced, fully convinced, that the alliance between technology, nature, and entrepreneurial spirit can transform millions of liters of salty water into drinkable water and useful water, which means 'Life' for millions of people. Water is Life, let's protect our water. Have a useful journey, and thank you very much.