

## “Making Commitments and Commitment Day”

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The 6th World Water Forum emphasises Commitments to Water and Sanitation issues around the world. In order to promote and gather commitments, this note proposes to:

- Define commitments;
- Lay out the process to collect them before the Forum;
- Propose a design for the Commitment Day’s sessions, based on an integrated approach between the Forum’s processes.

### 1. Commitments: definition and collection process

#### ▪ **Defining Commitment:**

**A commitment is a pledge to take a certain action by a specific deadline.** This support could take various forms such as pledges for implementation, funding or promotion.

#### ▪ **Who will commit?**

All stakeholders from the international water community and beyond may commit at the 6<sup>th</sup> World Water Forum. Commitments can be taken by a single organisation or be developed jointly by several partners together.

Commitments can be taken:

- Political decision makers (Governments, Parliamentarians and Local/Regional Authorities and their representatives, etc.)
- Organisations (International organisations, public and private companies, donors, major groups, universities, NGOs, etc.)
- Individuals

#### ▪ **What could the commitments focus on?**

All stakeholders may commit to any **general action** that will support progress in one of the 15 areas of the 6<sup>th</sup> World Water Forum’s Thematic Framework, ranging from access to water for all to food security or climate change.

On the other hand, the Forum’s Working Groups have also developed a series of ambitious Targets, Action Plans and Solutions –sometimes with great depth of details- that would greatly benefit from strong **specific commitments**.

In both cases, commitments may be:

##### **a. An existing pledge that the organisation has already planned or wants to prolong/renew and could benefit from being profiled at the 6<sup>th</sup> World Water Forum**

E.g.1 (general): A particular city that intends to become a signatory and “champion city” of the Istanbul Water Consensus and to make its commitment public at Marseille.

E.g.2 (specific): Under the theme CS2 “Finance Water for All”/ Target 5 “1% Water and Sanitation Solidarity Levy”, a financial commitment of the French water agencies and local & regional authorities to increase the number of people with access to water and sanitation in the Developing Countries through the use of the “Oudin-Santini” domestic law;

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**b. A new pledge in favour of one of the Forum's priorities or, whenever relevant, Targets, Action Plans and/or Solutions**

E.g.1 (general): a "Global Water Help-Desk" is set up and implemented in the form of a web-based platform and knowledge tool that will store and promote good practices and solutions case studies in the areas of water legislation, institutional organizations, financing, technical or technological approaches, taking into account socio-cultural contexts; this platform will include a module for monitoring the implementation of 6<sup>th</sup> World Water Forum's commitments.

E.g.2 (specific): Under the theme 1.5 "Contribute to Cooperation and Peace" / Target 4 "Cooperation mechanisms for joint management of transboundary aquifers", the "Pact of Marseille" developed by the International Network of Basin Organizations (INBO) commits for the development of IWRM at national and transboundary levels. The Pact includes the 'Declaration and call for action of basin organisations' and the 'Commitments of basin organisations'.

▪ **How will the commitments emerge?**

Commitments can emerge from any of the Forum's processes or sub-processes. Both Working Groups and the Forum's Commissions will play a crucial role:

- The Forum Working Groups have been requested to seek supporting commitments whenever possible for their Target, Action Plan and/or Solutions. The Core Groups can be a driver of commitments through their own networks and should actively support the efforts of their TSG coordinators.
- The Forum's Commissions will seek highly visible commitments that cover broader issues and could generate strong interest and motivation from potential high-level commitment makers.

There will also be a series of Political meetings and conferences during the Forum which may further lead to commitments.

In addition, the Platform of Solutions will provide a commitment template for spontaneous commitments to the Forum's Priorities or, whenever relevant, Targets, Actions Plans and/or Solutions. The template will be composed of three main areas:

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| <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1) What do you wish to commit to? (Which priority, Target(s), Action Plan(s), Solution(s)?)</li><li>2) What is the nature of your commitment? (e.g., I hereby commit to fund/implement/promote the following Solutions/Actions)</li><li>3) Who is committing? (Signatures, on behalf of..., country, contact details)</li></ol> |
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Communication tools, including social media, will be used to promote the commitments.

Last, the Forum Working Groups and Secretariat should take advantage of all events taking place in the five months ahead as opportunities to collect and encourage commitments.

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- **Timeline and follow-up of commitments after the Forum :**
  - **November 2011:** Simple commitments templates will be made available on the Platform of Solutions.
  - **7 December 2011:** The proposed commitment approach and associated tools will be further tested and refined during the second coordination meeting with Core Group (CG) and Regional Coordinators.
  - **January 2012:** Working Groups will submit their final session proposals, including their report’s “commitments” section. The 6<sup>th</sup> World Water Forum Commissions and Secretariat will build on these sections to compile the commitments gathered thus far and support their profiling during the Forum Week.
  - **February 2012:** In addition a ‘Prep Commitment Day’ could be organized in February 2012 with these coordinators, and other key actors supporting the build-up of commitments.
  - **12-17 March 2012:** Commitments will be announced and more commitments may be gathered at the 6<sup>th</sup> World Water Forum. They will be a key part of the Forum’s outcomes.
  - **Post-Forum follow up:** Building on the Platform of Solutions and dedicated resources, a monitoring procedure will be developed to follow the implementation of successful Action Plans and commitments.
  - **Transfer to the 7<sup>th</sup> World Water Forum:** More commitments are gathered and the whole procedure is handed over to the organisers of the 7<sup>th</sup> World Water Forum

<b>2. Commitment Day: structure and outcomes</b>
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- **Building up to Commitment Day during Forum Week:**

Throughout the week, Multi-stakeholder Sessions, Wrap-up Sessions, High-Level Panels and Roundtables and can help build on commitments and consensus towards Friday’s Commitment Day.
- **The Commitment Day :**

During the Forum Week, the Friday, 16 March, will be dedicated to commitments. This will provide key committing organisations/institutions/governments with even greater visibility and a stepping stone in view of Rio+20 and/or other international (political) processes.

  - *In the morning, 7 x 4-hour **regional sessions** will take place in parallel (1 session for each regional and cross-continental process). Each session will be made of: 1 hour for the synthesis of all the outcomes and inputs, especially commitments, from the related previous sessions (Targets, Roundtables, Dialogues, etc.) and the Platform of Solutions and then 3 hours for the profiling of commitments proposed by regional coordinators. These 3 hours should be devoted to commitments taken by key **regional institutions and governments** (or championed by a country from the region). An option could be to have commitments from related Local & Regional Authorities presented here too. The sessions should be divided in 15’ to 30’ slots/commitment maker.*

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Regional coordinators are responsible for the organisation of their respective sessions.

- *In the afternoon, 4 x 4-hour sessions (1/Strategic Direction + Conditions for Success) + 3 to 5 x 4-hour sessions (for stakeholders, including some Major Groups) will take place in parallel. Each session will be made of: 1 hour for the synthesis of all the outcomes and inputs, especially commitments, from the related previous sessions (Targets, Panels, Wrap-ups, etc.) and the Platform and 3 hours for the profiling of commitments giving 15' to 30' slot/commitment maker. Core Group Coordinators and the representatives of relevant stakeholders (e.g. Business, NGOs, LRA, Parliamentarians, others) are responsible for the organisation of their respective sessions. Lead coordinators will be designated to facilitate the preparation process and ensure a good liaison with the Secretariat. When necessary, additional support could be provided by the Secretariat through mobilization of external expertise and assistance.*

Dynamic and high-level facilitation and animation will be required to make these sessions both official and engaging. The Day will be followed by a press conference delivered by key sessions' organizers.

- **Expected outcomes:**

- **'Marseille Framework for Action':** All commitments gathered under various forms (templates, pacts, etc.) before and during the Forum and presented during Commitment Day will be compiled in the Marseille Framework for Action. This reference document can provide the basis for the monitoring and evaluation of commitments by relevant stakeholders.
- **Platform of Solutions & Commitments:** The Platform will present all commitments collected on-line, before, during and beyond the 6<sup>th</sup> World Water Forum.
- **Contribution to other Forum outputs:**
  - Forum Statement
  - Stakeholder Declaration

There will also be a series of Political outcomes from the Forum which stakeholders may also support by making further commitments, such as:

- Istanbul Water Consensus and other outputs from the Local/Regional Authorities Process
- Water Legislation Helpdesk (Parliamentarians)

Gathering support from non-political actors to support commitments by government officials is equally most welcome in order to strengthen the action taken on a given commitment.