



6th World Water Forum - Marseille, 15-16 March 2012

Political process: Parliamentarians' Manifesto

We, the representatives of Parliaments of the world, meeting within the framework of the Parliamentary Conference of the 6th World Water Forum held in Marseille on 15th and 16th March 2012

- a) Considering the recognition by the United Nations General Assembly, in July 2010, of the right to safe drinking water and sanitation as a human right;
- b) Considering that the lack of access to safe drinking water and sanitation for billions of people is a major cause of mortality worldwide, and that this situation is a direct attack on human dignity, respect for the environment and economic development;
- c) Noting delays in achieving the Millennium Development Goals, specifically as regards expanding access to sanitation;
- d) Considering that fair peace and equitable shared basin-management are a necessity to the development of riparian peoples and sustainable development;
- e) Stressing the need for water issues to be placed at the center of public policy, in particular education and health, the requirement for additional efforts and solidarity, and the need to establish sustainable resource management and improve shared governance;
- f) Reaffirming the importance of water as a source of life, taking into account the increasing population and water demand, the consequences of climate change and decreasing and threatened water resources which require specific protection, in particular as regards wetlands.

We, the representatives of Parliaments of the world, propose to mobilize within our respective assemblies and to advocate the following solutions:

1. Recommend that all countries ensure that access to safe drinking water and sanitation for all, in terms of availability, quality, acceptability, accessibility and costs, particularly for vulnerable populations, is a priority and allocate the necessary financial resources to these issues at all levels;
2. Insist that particular attention be paid to sanitation, based on an integrated approach: toilets, wastewater collection, treatment and recycling;
3. Call for a collaborative management involving all stakeholders in all countries.
4. Recommend that effective solidarity mechanisms between rich and poor countries and populations be included in the legislation of all countries, with a primary focus on access to safe drinking water and sanitation, conservancy and protection of water resources, emergencies, education and training;
5. Ask that national water policies and those conducted jointly by countries with shared water resources integrate the energy/water/food security nexus for all stakeholders;

6. Emphasize the need to promote sustainable agricultural, industrial and urban development that is water resource efficient and friendly to nature as regards surface water , groundwater and wetlands, thus tending towards sustainable development and a better management of the water resources;
7. Emphasize the need, insofar as environmental damage is concerned, for each country to effectively establish preventive as well as restorative policies that involve all stakeholders.
8. Welcome the creation of a knowledge and expertise tool available to parliamentarians of the world, intended to become part of a Virtual knowledge-based University, and hope that this tool of knowledge built by the World Water Council will be subject to governance involving the various stakeholders, particularly parliamentarians.
9. Reaffirm the pivotal political and operational role of local and regional authorities to ensure sustainable and equitable management of water and sanitation services and protect water resources;

We, the representatives of Parliaments of the world, meeting within the framework of the Marseille World Water Forum, collectively commit to:

10. Take action consistent with our responsibilities to strengthen water policies and solidarity mechanisms by submitting bills or amendments to proposed bills, by exerting our oversight on their action for the same purpose, and by voting sufficient budgets;
11. Act during parliamentary debates so that water and sanitation-related priorities be supported by sufficient budgetary and financial resources as well as by appropriate institutional and legal arrangements, in particular as regards implementing the right to safe drinking water and sanitation; ensure, in this respect, that resources allocated to science and technology are able to contribute to the establishment and attainment of goals set by public policy and that management mechanisms include citizens and users;
12. Work towards the entry into force of texts, resolutions and conventions on transboundary watercourses and aquifers, and propose, in this regard, and as appropriate, that meetings be held between the parliamentarians of the involved countries, thereby contributing to establishing a new water and sanitation governance at global level;
13. Participate in the governance of the tool of knowledge and expertise that will be available to parliamentarians of the world, whose first version was presented during the Forum of Marseille (HelpDesk);
14. Work towards establishing a mechanism for the monitoring and evaluation of solutions advocated and commitments undertaken by the World Water Forums, to be made available to all stakeholders, in particular, to parliamentarians;
15. Ask our representatives to support these proposals and commitments during the Rio+20 Summit of June 2012.

We, the representatives of Parliaments of the world, meeting within the framework of the Marseille World Water Forum, invite the parliaments of the world to present their solutions and commitments for ensuring access to safe drinking water and sanitation and sustainable resource management in the context of the specific platforms created for the Forum of Marseille.

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<http://www.worldwaterforum6.org/en/commissions/parliamentarian/>