



THE BUTTERFLY EFFECT: THE INTERNATIONAL NGO' NETWORK 'FROM LOCAL TO GLOBAL'

The Butterfly Effect is a **network of international and local civil society organizations**, which advocates for effective local solutions that have a sustainable impact on improving access to water and sanitation and water resources management. The Butterfly Effect is made up of over 90 civil society organizations, NGOs, networks, youth's and women's organizations representing 4 different regions in the world (Africa, Americas, Asia, Europe).

Since the 6th WWForum in Marseille, where the network was launched, the Butterfly Effect is recognized as an important **coordinator of civil society participation** in this event and during its preparation process. Lately, through its activities and advocacy actions, the Butterfly Effect network facilitated the participation of around 150 civil society organizations in the 7th WWForum. Thanks its influence, members of civil society were present in the organization commissions of all the processes (political, thematic, science/technology and regional) and were also involved in organizing different sessions and panels.

MOBILIZE – ADVOCATE – PROPOSE – SHARE

Our objectives are to:

- **Mobilize and facilitate meaningful NGO and CSO participation and contribution** in WWForum and on the “Water” international agenda in general by pooling knowledge and resources and exert greater influence over the sector's actors and decision-makers;
- **Promote inclusive processes** in the WWForum in order to ensure a prominent role for civil society organisations, both throughout the preparatory processes and during the Forum;
- **Share innovative expertise:** The Butterfly Effect proposes solutions based on human rights principles, communities' experience that relate to policies, projects, information campaigns and empowering stakeholders. Crucially, these solutions are local, sustainable, adaptable, innovative, equitable, accountable and people-orientated.

OVERCOME THE WATER CRISIS AT ALL LEVELS

We have identified several key water governance issues that need addressing to overcome the water crisis and contribute to water security in the broader sense:

- **The human rights to water and sanitation:** Rapid implementation, by all appropriate means and at all levels. Develop human rights based national roadmaps for its implementation.
- **Governance:** Integrate specifically the equity, participation and accountability dimensions of a human rights-based approach in water governance.
- **Finance:** Implement sustainable reliable finance mechanisms that are earmarked for water and sanitation services for the poor.
- **Capacity Development:** Create a demand / needs-based capacity development program that enables and empowers civil society, community organizations and stakeholders.
- **Peace and (transboundary) cooperation:** Ratify and domesticate the UN Watercourses Convention, (and were appropriate the UNECE water convention) and the protocol for Water & Health.
- **Water and natural resources management and climate change:** Empower local communities and relevant institutions at the lowest appropriate level to plan and manage water and related natural resources through scaling-up and enhancing valuable community-based mitigation and adaptation strategies and programs.



OUR RECOMMENDATIONS FOR *WORLD WATER FORUM 2018*

Overall:

- The Butterfly Effect recalls that the WWForum includes a 3-year preparation phase, a one-week event, a presentation of the results and a monitoring process making the link to the next forum and following implementation. We are stressing the importance **to ensure a robust, transparent and inclusive monitoring and evaluation of the Forum's commitments, including the Implementations Roadmaps.**
- **The links between the different process should be promoted:** from the regional to the thematic to the political process. The Citizen Forum should be cross-cutting, as well as the Sustainability Focus Group.
- The Butterfly Effect considers and proposes that the **WWForum 2018 general framework** to be oriented around the **Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development** and other UN Agreements (Cop21, Addis Ababa and Sendai Agreements, etc.).
- The Butterfly Effect stresses the need to make sessions interactive with room for **intervention of all major groups/partners in all processes** and as well as a systematic integration of divergent and different perspectives. **A balanced international representation** should be ensured.
- To ensure quality of interventions and create synergies between the different stakeholders, **the total numbers of sessions and events should be around a hundreds.**

Inclusion of civil society:

- The Butterfly Effect stresses the importance of fully **transparent, inclusive and participatory processes** towards and during the WWForum 2018. Concerning the thematic process, criteria for contributions' submissions should be communicated clearly and ahead of deadlines and selection criteria should also be fully transparent.
- Inclusive and balanced civil society's participation to WWForum 2018 will be possible only if enough funds are secured in this endeavor. The Butterfly Effect is calling for **an adequate and a transparent budget allocation** and this in an acceptable timeframe.
- The WWForum is a unique opportunity to **connect and exchange with citizens and society at large** and we welcome the presence of a **Citizen Forum**. However, participation and intervention of civil society should be ensured **in all WWForum 2018 processes** (sustainability, thematic, political and regional process), including in **the governance bodies** (e.g. processes committees).

Communication and information:

- To increase awareness on water issues among society at large, **wide communications efforts** - prior, during and after the event - are essential components. Local and international **media coverage** has to be triggered and online communication enhanced.
- To guarantee inclusive and active participation of stakeholders, all communications tools as well as sessions and event should be translated at least in: **English, Spanish, Portuguese and French.**

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