



OUR WAKE-UP CALL TO TACKLE THE GLOBAL WATER CRISIS !

Water is the major social and ecological issue for the 21st century.

All stakeholders recognize the major challenges we face to:

- 💧 make the human rights to water and sanitation a reality
- 💧 manage our water resources in an equitable and sustainable way

Commitments exist but are not being met.

The human rights to water and sanitation were recognized by the United Nations in 2010. States have reaffirmed their commitment to universal access to safe drinking water and sanitation and to the proper management of water resources, by adopting Sustainable Development Goal 6 of the 2030 Agenda. They have also made commitments to the Paris Climate Agreement, biodiversity conferences and regional conferences.

**AS DISCOURSES ARE NOT TRANSLATED INTO ACTIONS,
INTERNATIONAL GOALS WILL NOT BE REACHED.**

**CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANISATIONS, UNITED IN THE « BUTTERFLY EFFECT » COALITION,
CALL FOR 5 CONCRETE POLITICAL CHANGES:**



**STRONGER
POLITICAL
WILL**



**STRENGTHENED
WATER
GOVERNANCE**



**ACTIVELY
INVOLVED
CITIZENS AND
CIVIL SOCIETY**



**STRONG AND
TRANSPARENT
FINANCIAL
COMMITMENTS**



**A RENEWED
MULTILATERAL
FRAMEWORK**

Although water is primarily managed locally, the water crisis is GLOBAL: the entire international community is concerned. The World Water Forum in March 2022 in Dakar is a key step towards the United Nations Conference on water in March 2023, where all States will gather. The Butterfly Effect expects a political momentum and a real mobilization of States around this major sequence.

OUR 5 DEMANDS TO THE STATES AND THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY



STRONGER POLITICAL WILL

In most of our countries, inaction and lack of political will have us up against the wall. Water impacts all aspects of our existence: it must have its rightful place at the core of public policies. We expect States to take actions that truly reflect their will to act.

We call on each State to:

- ◆ **Enshrine the human rights to water and sanitation** in legislation and/or Constitutions and regulations.
- ◆ **Be transparent and systematically report on the commitments made:** improve information systems, strengthen accountability mechanisms, particularly through monitoring and control authorities.

We call on the international community to:

- ◆ **Declare the GLOBAL WATER CRISIS** at the UN in the same way as the climate crisis.
- ◆ **Recognize water as a common good** that must be managed democratically and collectively to be a limiting barrier to the impact of irresponsible human activities.



STRENGTHENED WATER GOVERNANCE

Poor governance of the water-sanitation-hygiene (WASH) sector hinders progress. WASH services and water resources must be managed with integrity, equity and transparency, involving citizens and all stakeholders. Water governance must take into account the critical linkages between sanitation, water, climate, environment, health, food, agriculture, energy, equity, etc.

We call on each State to:

- ◆ **Adopt strong and integrated legislative frameworks as well as ambitious national strategies** to strengthen operational and financial planning for the sector and measures to check and enforce implementation.
- ◆ **Develop water-related risk management, adaptation plans and disaster response plans in crisis situations,** and strategies for access to WASH in at-risk areas, with an associated budget, in the relevant ministries.
- ◆ **Apply integrated water resources management (IWRM)** at the basin level or local level, to ensure sustainable and equitable use of water and the protection of ecosystems
- ◆ **Foster cooperation between ministries** of water, sanitation, environment, health, climate and other

related water issues in order to align policies and solutions for ecological and social crisis.

- ◆ **Recognize the role of local authorities and communities'** management and strengthen the capacities of local actors.
- ◆ **Establish effective, accessible, disaggregated and public data** collection and monitoring systems (including civil society and citizen science).
- ◆ **Monitor all operators and main users – including the private sector – and take measures to regulate actors,** resolve litigation, and impose strong penalties for human rights abuses and resource degradation.
- ◆ **Ensure legal protection for human rights and environmental defenders.**



ACTIVELY INVOLVED CITIZENS AND CIVIL SOCIETY

Too often, citizens are not involved in the development and implementation of water related public policies. There are several obstacles: lack of political will, insufficient or unfavorable institutional framework, absence of institutionalized and effective dialogue spaces, lack of information sharing, threats to civil society representatives, etc. On the side of individuals or civil society organizations, the lack of human and financial resources deprives them of adequate coordination mechanisms to have strong influence on decisions.

We call on each State to:

- ◆ **Include in the legal and administrative frameworks provisions for citizen participation**, policy development, sector budgets, pricing, management modalities, control of public funding allocation, and monitoring and evaluation.
- ◆ **Establish tools to ensure inclusive, informed and effective participation of civil society**, i.e. information sharing, recognition of representative organizations, spaces for dialogue and user participation, citizen consultations, monitoring and evaluation mechanisms, among others.
- ◆ **Guarantee means of action for CSOs and facilitate citizen coordination and mobilization**, by recognizing

them as key actors and supporting them in their organization, human and financial resources, capacities and training.

- ◆ **Take measures to ensure equitable representation of women, youth and indigenous people in water management**, particularly in decision-making bodies and leadership positions.
- ◆ **Recognize women and youth as agents of change** and invest in capacity building and professional training.

We call on the international community to:

- ◆ **Recognize the right of participation of NGOs and local actors in the negotiations** and development of international water and sanitation policies.



STRONG AND TRANSPARENT FINANCIAL COMMITMENTS

The WASH sector is largely underfunded: annual investments would need to triple or quadruple by 2030 to achieve universal water and sanitation coverage. Existing funding is often misdirected, failing to reach the most vulnerable populations and areas, while sanitation and hygiene are left behind by national and international investments. Not investing in water has a cost!

We call on each State to:

- ◆ **Allocate a predefined percentage of its GDP to the WASH sector each year**, as well as introduce a «no regression clause» in its legislation, prohibiting future cuts and reductions.
- ◆ **Increase funding and establish a separate budget for sanitation and hygiene specifically**, allocating a dedicated percentage of the sector budget to it.
- ◆ **Prioritize efforts to reach the most vulnerable and marginalized populations and areas** by identifying them thoroughly and through budgetary funding and subsidies.
- ◆ **Take transparency and anti-corruption measures to ensure integrity in budget management.**
- ◆ **Increase funding for climate change adaptation** in the water sector and acknowledge the interconnections between water and climate.
- ◆ **Apply the polluter pays principle**, as a contribution to social and environmental costs, as well as severe fines and restoration obligations when norms are not respected.

We call on the international community to:

- ◆ **Increase the Official Development Assistance (ODA) dedicated to the WASH sector in the form of grants**, in particular the share dedicated to sanitation which should reach 50% of WASH ODA.
- ◆ **Improve the targeting of aid to local level, to the most vulnerable areas and populations** and increase the accountability of international donors' funding.

A RENEWED MULTILATERAL FRAMEWORK

There is no «binding» international policy on water management, apart from the conventions on transboundary waters ratified by approximately 1/3 of the States. Yet it is a major geopolitical issue and a PEACE issue: water knows no borders and must be managed in a concerted manner and acknowledging the water cycle. There is also a «void» in the United Nations on this issue, since there is no intergovernmental body where States could exchange on the corrective measures that are necessary on a global scale for water.

We call on each State to:

- ◆ **Make water a priority in its diplomatic action** and participate actively in high-level water-related conferences and meetings.
- ◆ **Ratify the Helsinki (UNECE 1992) and New York (UNWC 1997) international conventions** on transboundary water cooperation.
- ◆ **Create or ratify regional agreements on access to information and public participation.**

We call on the international community to:

- ◆ **Agree on the establishment of an intergovernmental committee within the UN dedicated to water management and access to WASH**, responsible for accelerating and coordinating efforts to achieve and monitor international goals.
- ◆ **Systematically include water as a specific segment on the agenda of international conferences dealing with water-related issues** such as health, food, climate change, environment, etc.).
- ◆ **Foster the inclusion of water in national adaptation plans under the UNFCCC and acknowledge the role of water in the convention on biodiversity.**
- ◆ **Provide an international response to humanitarian disasters** and increase the financial share of WASH in the budgets of humanitarian response plans.
- ◆ **Prohibit and strongly condemn the use of water as a weapon of war.**



THE « BUTTERFLY EFFECT » ADVOCACY INITIATIVE

The « Butterfly Effect », a coalition of local and international NGOs/CSOs, launched a broad consultation between July 2021 and March 2022, in which more than 180 organizations representatives took part. The objective is to allow civil society to express itself with a powerful voice on the occasion of major international meetings, bringing together States:

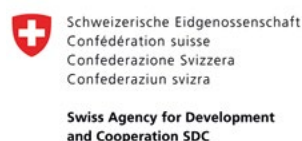
- ◆ The Heads of States Summit of the World Water Forum in March 2022 in Dakar
- ◆ The United Nations Conference on Water in March 2023 in New York

This position paper presents the main political demands identified by our network to the attention of the States. A detailed synthesis is available here: <http://www.effetpapillon.org/en/resources>

« Butterfly Effect » Consultation Coordinators:



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