



WORLD WATER DAY 2022 :

THE EMERGENCY OF A POLITICAL MOBILIZATION FOR WATER!

Montreal, March 22, 2022

This March 22, the water community will celebrate **World Water Day** at the heart of the **World Water Forum**, organized from March 21 to 25 in Dakar (Senegal).

While water is the major social and ecological issue of the 21st century, the NGO coalition of **the Butterfly Effect** calls on political decision-makers to prove their determination to meet the challenge of sustainable management and universal access to water and sanitation.

SIGNIFICANT CHALLENGES

Today, 2 billion people, 30% of the world's population, still live without access to domestic water supply services. 3.6 billion people do not have access to safely managed sanitation services and water resources are subject to multiple pressures (pollution, overexploitation, land grabbing, etc.). Given the challenges, the international objectives will not be met: 107 countries are not on track to guarantee sustainable water management and universal access to water and sanitation by 2030.

THE WORLD WATER FORUM : WHAT TO EXPECT?

The World Water Forum remains to this day the largest multistakeholder platform of the water sector and, for the first time, it is taking place in sub-Saharan Africa. This edition is organized by Senegal (host country) and the World Water Council.

For the occasion, **the Butterfly Effect** is mobilizing to promote and enhance the participation of international civil society and advocate for positive and ambitious commitments to heads of States and other decision makers.

We regret that, for many reasons, neither of the two Summits announced by the organizers - the Heads of States Summit and the Extraordinary Summit of the African Union - will not be able to take place, thus depriving the Forum of a major political component, even though **a strong political commitment to the cause of water and the preservation of this vital resource is essential**, and given that the last - and only - United Nations intergovernmental conference on water dates back to 1977.

Furthermore, while we welcome the will and commitment of the host country to a strong participation of civil society, we regret that obstacles such as the late implementation of a financial support mechanism for travel, as well as the high registration fees, may have limited participation in the Forum.

However, we would like to salute and congratulate the determination of the organizers to provide the Forum with a **Youth Space** which will be a space for exchange and learning, but which unfortunately cannot position itself as a high-level political meeting place, while the vital cause of water can only find its solutions in actions and decisions shared at all levels.

OUR GLOBAL WAKE-UP CALL

Meeting the challenge of the global water crisis is not impossible, but it requires political awareness and urgent concrete decisions.

The organizations of the "**Butterfly Effect**", a global coalition of 140 member organizations, call for 5 major policy changes to accelerate efforts:

- More political will,
- Strengthened water governance,
- Civil society involvement,
- Strong and transparent financial commitments
- A renewed multilateral framework

These demands are detailed into concrete proposals addressed to the attention of States and the international community. They were developed following an advocacy process launched in March 2021, **which mobilized more than 200 representatives** of international civil society in the water sector, on 5 continents.

TO GO FURTHER

- **The Butterfly Effect's call for a global response to the water crisis, here:**
<http://www.effetpapillon.org/en/our-policy-demands>

CONTACT

Anne-Catherine Mercuri, International Secretariat for Water (Butterfly Effect): amercuriesee-swe.org

WATER IN FIGURES

- **2 billion people** do not have access to drinking water services. (Joint Monitoring Program, 2021)
- **3.6 billion people** do not have access to safely managed sanitation services. (JMP, 2021)
- **52% of the world's population** will live under water stress by 2050 (UN-Water, 2020)
- **20% of the world's land area** will be affected by a reduction of more than 10% of renewable groundwater in the case of a +1.5°C rise. And 2% of the world's land area will experience an extreme decrease of more than 70% of renewable groundwater resources in the case of a +2°C rise. (IPCC special report on the impacts of global warming of 1.5 °C, 2018)
- **1000 children** die every day due to diarrheal diseases, caused by unsafe water and lack of sanitation. (WHO, 2017)
- **90% of natural disasters** are water-related (UN-Water 2012)


The Butterfly Effect ("Butterfly Effect" - BE) is a coalition of more than 140 international and local CSOs/NGOs that advocates for effective local solutions that have a sustainable impact on improving access to water and sanitation and on water resources management.

Secretariat provided by the International Secretariat for Water (ISW)

 butterflyeffectcoalition@gmail.com

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