



# Regional advocacy workshops of the Butterfly Effect

## Synthesis of the demands

*What are the necessary policy changes to fulfill the human rights to safe water and sanitation and for sustainable and equitable water management?*

*February 2022*

Synthesis produced by:



# Index

INTRODUCTION.....	4
THE BUTTERFLY EFFECT ADVOCACY INITIATIVE.....	4
THE CHALLENGES.....	4
COMMITMENTS EXIST BUT ARE NOT RESPECTED .....	5
<b>I DEMONSTRATE POLITICAL WILL AND ACCOUNTABILITY FOR COMMITMENTS MADE .....</b>	<b>5</b>
1. DECLARING THE GLOBAL WATER CRISIS.....	5
2. RECOGNIZING WATER AS A COMMON GOOD .....	5
3. RECOGNIZE THE HUMAN RIGHTS TO WATER AND SANITATION IN LAWS OR CONSTITUTIONS .....	6
4. RECOGNIZE THE ESSENTIAL AND TRANSVERSAL ROLE OF WATER IN ACHIEVING THE SDGs.....	6
5. ALIGN NATIONAL COMMITMENTS WITH INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS.....	6
6. STRENGTHEN MONITORING OF COMMITMENTS AND ACCOUNTABILITY MECHANISMS .....	6
<b>II STRENGTHENING LEGAL AND INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORKS AND WATER GOVERNANCE .....</b>	<b>7</b>
1. ADOPT STRONG LEGISLATIVE FRAMEWORKS AND PUT IN PLACE AMBITIOUS NATIONAL STRATEGIES.....	7
2. ENSURE MULTISECTORAL MANAGEMENT AND APPLY INTEGRATED WATER RESOURCES MANAGEMENT (IWRM) .....	7
3. RECOGNISING AND STRENGTHENING THE ROLE OF LOCAL AUTHORITIES .....	7
4. STRENGTHENING THE CAPACITIES OF THE VARIOUS ACTORS .....	7
5. MANAGING WATER DEMOCRATICALLY AND TRANSPARENTLY .....	7
6. ESTABLISH EFFECTIVE AND ACCESSIBLE DATA COLLECTION AND SHARING SYSTEMS .....	8
7. ESTABLISH MECHANISMS FOR REGULATION, CONTROL, COMPLAINT AND RESOLUTION OF DISPUTES .....	8
8. MONITORING THE PRIVATE SECTOR FOR THE RESPECT OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND THE PROTECTION OF WATER RESOURCES .....	8
9. ENSURING LEGAL PROTECTION FOR WHISTLEBLOWERS AND ENVIRONMENTAL ACTIVISTS .....	9
<b>III STRENGTHENING CIVIL SOCIETY AND ENSURING CITIZEN PARTICIPATION .....</b>	<b>9</b>
1. ENSURE EFFECTIVE PARTICIPATION OF CSOs AND CITIZENS IN THE DEVELOPMENT AND CONDUCT OF WATER POLICIES .....	9
2. SET UP FRAMEWORKS FOR CONSULTATION AND USER PARTICIPATION .....	10
3. ENSURING THE MEANS TO ACT FOR CSOs AND FACILITATING THEIR MOBILISATION .....	10
4. ENABLING CITIZENS TO ACCESS THE RIGHT TOOLS AND TRAINING .....	10
5. GENDER MAINSTREAMING AND INVOLVING WOMEN IN WATER MANAGEMENT .....	10
6. RECOGNIZING YOUTH AS AN AGENT OF CHANGE IN THE WATER AND SANITATION SECTOR.....	11

<b>IV</b>	<b>ALLOCATE CONCRETE AND TRANSPARENT FINANCIAL COMMITMENTS FOR WATER AND SANITATION .....</b>	<b>11</b>
1.	ALLOCATE SUBSTANTIAL AND PREDICTABLE NATIONAL PUBLIC BUDGETS.....	11
2.	INCREASE FUNDING FOR SANITATION AND HYGIENE SPECIFICALLY .....	11
3.	PRIORITIZE EFFORTS TO THE MOST VULNERABLE AND MARGINALIZED POPULATIONS.....	11
4.	ENSURE TRANSPARENCY AND INTEGRITY IN BUDGET MANAGEMENT .....	12
5.	ENCOURAGING INVESTMENTS AND INNOVATIVE MECHANISMS.....	12
6.	APPLYING THE POLLUTER PAYS PRINCIPLE.....	12
7.	IMPROVING AID TARGETING AND ACCOUNTABILITY IN INTERNATIONAL DONOR FINANCING .....	12
8.	INCREASE NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL FUNDING DEDICATED TO ADAPTATION TO CLIMATE CHANGE IN THE FIELD OF WATER.....	12
<b>V</b>	<b>IMPROVING INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION AND THE MULTILATERAL FRAMEWORK FOR WATER AND SANITATION .....</b>	<b>13</b>
1.	RECOGNIZE SDG6 AS A PRIORITY FOR INTERNATIONAL ACTION AND STRENGTHEN DIPLOMATIC ENGAGEMENT ON WATER AND SANITATION.....	13
2.	CREATE A UN INTERGOVERNMENTAL MECHANISM DEDICATED TO WATER AND SANITATION .....	13
3.	FACILITATING THE RATIFICATION OF CONVENTIONS ON TRANSBOUNDARY WATERS.....	13
4.	STRENGTHENING THE BINDING INTERNATIONAL LEGAL FRAMEWORK .....	13
5.	TAKING INTO ACCOUNT LOCAL ACTORS AND CIVIL SOCIETY IN INTERNATIONAL DECISIONS .....	14
6.	PROVIDING AN INTERNATIONAL RESPONSE TO HUMANITARIAN EMERGENCIES.....	14
	<b>PARTNERS .....</b>	<b>15</b>

## INTRODUCTION

### THE BUTTERFLY EFFECT ADVOCACY INITIATIVE

The Butterfly Effect NGO coalition co-organized, between November and December 2021, **six regional advocacy workshops** for civil society organizations active in the water and sanitation sector.

In total, nearly **180 representatives of NGOs and CSOs** took part in these workshops, organized at the regional level and coordinated by regional networks (Asia, North America, Latin America, Europe, Anglophone Africa, Francophone Africa).

These workshops are part of a broader advocacy process carried by the network at global level and aiming at enabling NGOs and CSOs to speak with a strong voice and influence decision-makers for a better management of water resources and concrete implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

The Butterfly Effect has identified two main international advocacy targets:

- **The Heads of States Summit of the 9th World Water Forum** (21-27 March 2022, Dakar, Senegal): a political initiative led by Senegalese President Macky Sall to promote high-level political mobilization for water, in the framework of the next Wwforum ;
- **The United Nations Conference for the 2023 Water Decade** (New York, 22-24 March 2023): the first global intergovernmental conference on water since 1977 and a most strategic platform for States' commitment to achieving the goals of SDG6.

These meetings made it possible to deepen the messages identified [during an online consultation](#) conducted by the Butterfly Effect in August 2021 and to bring out a series of political demands to be presented to decision-makers on a global scale. During the workshops, participants exchanged on one main question: *What policy changes are needed to realize the human rights to safe drinking water and sanitation and for sustainable and equitable water management?*

This document presents a summary of the main policy demands formulated during these 6 workshops. The demands presented in this synthesis are not intended to be exhaustive regarding the issues they address; they aim to be a fair reflection of the discussions that took place during the various workshops.

A short positioning document will be elaborated from this synthesis and addressed to the States, for the next major international events in the water and sanitation sector.

### THE CHALLENGES

Water is the major ecological and social issue of the 21st century. Storms, floods, droughts... The natural disasters that are multiplying around the world testify that the climate crisis is a water crisis. The climate only worsens the multiple pressures exerted on water by human activity: pollution, overexploitation, intensive agriculture, waste, monopolization, and commodification... The effects are deleterious on aquatic ecosystems and human societies and increase the risk of conflicts over the resource. By 2050, 40% of the world's population will face water shortages.

The Covid-19 pandemic has brought back to the forefront the absolute need for access to water, hygiene and sanitation. 2 billion people are without daily access to safe drinking water. 3.6 billion do not have a safely managed sanitation service.

These people, primarily women, are deprived of the most basic necessities: drinking clean water, getting medical care, going to school, working, and living in dignity. Millions of people in humanitarian crisis also need immediate assistance to meet their basic water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) needs.

## **COMMITMENTS EXIST BUT ARE NOT RESPECTED**

The water crisis is global: the entire international community is concerned. The human rights to water and sanitation have been recognized by the United Nations since 2010. States reiterated their commitment to universal access to safe drinking water and sanitation and the sound management of water resources, within the framework of the 2030 Agenda, by adopting Sustainable Development Goal 6. They have also made commitments within the framework of the Paris Agreement on climate, commitments on biodiversity and at regional conferences.

However, at the current rate, international targets will not be met. 107 countries are not on track to ensure sustainable water management and universal access by 2030.

There are still many obstacles:

- There is no high-level political support for water and sanitation
- The governance of the sector is deficient
- Human activity degrades our water resources
- The sector is largely underfunded
- The voice of civil society and users is not sufficiently taken into account
- Political instability and conflict hamper progress in many countries
- The multilateral framework does not provide sufficient incentives for States to act

**We need a global surge to accelerate progress.**

## **WHAT POLICY CHANGES DO WE NEED?**

### **I DEMONSTRATE POLITICAL WILL AND ACCOUNTABILITY FOR COMMITMENTS MADE**

#### **1. DECLARING THE GLOBAL WATER CRISIS**

The climate crisis is actually a water crisis, and the entire international community is concerned. Despite the many international commitments made (recognition of the fundamental right to water and sanitation by the UN in 2010, adoption of the SDGs and the 2030 Agenda in 2015), progress is too slow: States must declare the global water crisis and the urgency to act at the UN, just as they did for the climate crisis. Only a strong political will and financial means that are up to the challenge will guarantee the achievement of international objectives.

#### **2. RECOGNIZING WATER AS A COMMON GOOD**

Water is subject to multiple pressures (pollution, commodification, scarcity, monopolization, disruption of cycles) that threaten its availability both quantitatively and qualitatively. The international community is thus called upon to recognize water as a common good, under the collective responsibility of States a recognize

water as a common good, under the collective responsibility of States and to be managed democratically, in solidarity and collectively.

By recognizing water as a common good, States must make a strong commitment to the protection of this resource and put safeguards limiting the impact of human activities on its availability and quality.

### **3. RECOGNIZE THE HUMAN RIGHTS TO WATER AND SANITATION IN LAWS OR CONSTITUTIONS**

While the majority of States supported the resolution adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in 2010, the fundamental right to water and sanitation is still only partially recognized as such in national legislation, undermining its proper implementation. Each State has the primary responsibility for ensuring the application of this right in its territory. States are thus asked to enshrine human rights to water and sanitation (HRWS) as fundamental rights, recognized as such by laws or Constitutions. In the same way, priority in the use of water must be given to domestic uses over any other use.

This recognition is often the marker of a political will to improve the conditions of access to water and sanitation for populations, especially the most vulnerable. It is also a commitment that enables civil society to hold leaders accountable. In some cases, the explicit legal recognition of HRWS can make these rights justiciable and allow them to be claimed in court.

### **4. RECOGNIZE THE ESSENTIAL AND TRANSVERSAL ROLE OF WATER IN ACHIEVING THE SDGS**

Through their social, economic and environmental dimensions, water resources management and the development of water and sanitation services contribute to the achievement of many other SDGs. Water supply and management must therefore be considered, not only as an end in itself, but as an essential means to any development policy and to the achievement of 2030 Agenda's objectives both nationally and internationally.

States are thus asked to integrate water and sanitation issues into all other public policies (health, energy, environment, etc.) in an intersectoral approach. States must also pay greater attention to water in policy dialogues, at the national and international level, on issues such as health, food, education, energy, climate change, environment, etc.

### **5. ALIGN NATIONAL COMMITMENTS WITH INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS**

While strong political will on WASH is needed from individual States and the international community, it is essential that the commitments made correspond to the standards set by the UN through the various SDGs. States are therefore asked to align their commitments so that they can achieve the targets set in the 2030 Agenda.

### **6. STRENGTHEN MONITORING OF COMMITMENTS AND ACCOUNTABILITY MECHANISMS**

Accountability in the sanitation sector is not systematic and many countries do not report sufficiently on achieving their targets. States are therefore called upon to commit themselves to systematic accountability for the monitoring and achievement of the goals, both at national and international levels.

States should also promote the establishment of independent monitoring authorities (including civil society) that would be responsible for tracking the proper implementation of policies, the achievement of targets and the respect of commitments made.

## **II STRENGTHENING LEGAL AND INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORKS AND WATER GOVERNANCE**

### **1. ADOPT STRONG LEGISLATIVE FRAMEWORKS AND PUT IN PLACE AMBITIOUS NATIONAL STRATEGIES**

States must adopt strong and legally binding legislative provisions that allow people who are still deprived of these rights to hold their governments accountable. Where they exist, they should be enforced and strengthened where necessary.

Similarly, the establishment of strong institutional frameworks and the adoption of ambitious national strategies must go hand in hand with operational and financial planning in the water and sanitation sector, while providing the necessary governance mechanisms for their effective implementation.

### **2. ENSURE MULTISECTORAL MANAGEMENT AND APPLY INTEGRATED WATER RESOURCES MANAGEMENT (IWRM)**

Water resources and sanitation management is a cross-cutting issue covering different sectors (agriculture, industry, energy, health, etc.) and requiring an integrated approach at the watershed or local level. It is therefore requested that States make Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) one of the priorities of their development strategies, ensuring the effective participation of all actors in the watershed, including civil society. States need to clearly define the roles and responsibilities of the different actors working in the WASH sector at all levels to harmonize interventions and break down silos.

### **3. RECOGNISING AND STRENGTHENING THE ROLE OF LOCAL AUTHORITIES**

As they're in direct contact with users, the role of local authorities in water management must be recognised and strengthened by national authorities. States are asked to guarantee local authorities the budgets and legislative frameworks necessary for the proper exercise of their powers, not only in terms of water supply and sanitation but also in favour of water preservation. States are also asked to strengthen the capacities of local elected officials in their role of managing these different services.

### **4. STRENGTHENING THE CAPACITIES OF THE VARIOUS ACTORS**

Developing the capacity of all actors involved in the water and sanitation sector is essential for the overall improvement of service levels, as well as its sustainability. All the different actors working in the water and sanitation sector must see their capacities strengthened. States must invest in human capital and establish engineering, scientific and technical training programmes, as well as in all areas of the water sector: politics, law, governance, finance, information technology and management.

### **5. MANAGING WATER DEMOCRATICALLY AND TRANSPARENTLY**

Governance bodies in the water and sanitation sector must integrate a diversity of actors. The participation of CSOs and citizens needs to be strengthened in the development and conduct of public water and sanitation policies, with a meaningful representation of marginalized groups and vulnerable populations.

Similarly, and in terms of the allocation of public funds, corruption, conflicts of interest or clientelism are an obstacle to socio-economic progress and directly impact the bond of trust between the people and their decision-makers. States must therefore ensure transparent decision-making processes, especially in regard to the allocation of public funding in the framework of public/private partnerships.

## **6. ESTABLISH EFFECTIVE AND ACCESSIBLE DATA COLLECTION AND SHARING SYSTEMS**

Open access to quality data is essential for the proper monitoring and control of water and sanitation sector policies. It makes it possible to anticipate risks, assess the good or bad achievement of objectives and adapt policies accordingly. States are therefore asked to allow full access to data on the sector, particularly with regard to :

- The quality and quantity of available water resources (groundwater, rivers, drinking water distribution networks, catchment points used in rural areas, etc.)
- The performance of services and policies (monitoring report on water and sanitation policies, achievement of objectives, respect for commitments, impact studies, etc.)

States are also asked to strengthen and further finance the use of decentralized and participatory approaches to information collection, for example by relying on the tools offered by "citizen sciences", thus putting the citizen back at the heart of the process of policy monitoring.

## **7. ESTABLISH MECHANISMS FOR REGULATION, CONTROL, COMPLAINT AND RESOLUTION OF DISPUTES**

Legislative frameworks must incorporate legal provisions binding on public authorities as well as the private sector in cases of non-respect of HRWS. States must integrate strategies and mechanisms to resolve conflicts generated by lack of access to water and sanitation or poor management of water resources.

Monitoring of water policies and services at the national level is most often carried out by decision-makers without return or participation from the grassroots stakeholders. For more flexible and adaptive water and sanitation policies, states need to integrate mechanisms that allow citizens to take an active part in policy monitoring and question their decision-makers when necessary.

## **8. MONITORING THE PRIVATE SECTOR FOR THE RESPECT OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND THE PROTECTION OF WATER RESOURCES**

Water is a common good and the involvement of the private sector is a most controversial issue in most countries. In all cases, States must ensure that the privatization of water and sanitation services takes place in a manner that respects the public interest as well as human rights and the environment. States are thus asked to strongly regulate these privatization processes and, where appropriate, to protect their populations when third parties, including companies, violate human rights on their territory and/or under their jurisdiction. States must also regulate, limit or punish pollution and overexploitation of water resources due to agricultural and industrial activities.

States are called upon to establish mechanisms such as :

- Obligation for companies to carry out social and environmental impact studies prior to their projects / investments
- Sanctions and fines for non-compliance with the law: sanctions based on the "polluter pays" principle, limitation of the use of the resource, etc
- Conditioning the allocation of public funding on strict respect of HRWS and the abolition of public subsidies to organizations that do not respect these rights
- The introduction of financial penalties for companies that do not comply with the HRWS and the payment of compensation to affected populations
- Participation of citizens and civil society in all negotiation processes aimed at awarding public funds or contracts to private companies
- Informing consumers about the environmental impact of consumer products, through labels
- Incentives for companies that consider social and environmental sustainability in their strategy.

## **9. ENSURING LEGAL PROTECTION FOR WHISTLEBLOWERS AND ENVIRONMENTAL ACTIVISTS**

Whistleblowers bring to the public square potential dangers for Humanity and its environment. Bearing in mind the multiple pressures they face and the risks of reprisals to which they are exposed, States must provide the necessary legal tools to secure the status of whistleblowers and grant them the necessary protection.

The international community is also called upon to sanction States that themselves exert pressure against whistleblowers and/or environmental activists..

## **III STRENGTHENING CIVIL SOCIETY AND ENSURING CITIZEN PARTICIPATION**

### **1. ENSURE EFFECTIVE PARTICIPATION OF CSOS AND CITIZENS IN THE DEVELOPMENT AND CONDUCT OF WATER POLICIES**

Citizen participation is the ability of individuals, citizens and populations to put forward their points of view in the development of public policies and in collective decision-making. As they're close to users and citizens, the participation of NGOs and CSOs is an essential condition for the effective implementation of the HRWS and the proper management of water resources. States must formalize and include in their legal and administrative frameworks tools to ensure the proper participation of civil society in the development and conduct of water policies at different levels:

- in the choice of priorities and the definition of public policies on water and sanitation;
- in the definition of the budgets allocated to the sector;
- in the control of the allocation of public funding, in particular in the context of public-private partnerships;
- in monitoring the implementation of policies and the collection of results and impact indicators;
- in the monitoring and control of water services, by including them in the monitoring, performance control and alert systems.

It is also up to States to encourage all other actors in the sector (public and private) to adopt this inclusive approach.

## **2. SET UP FRAMEWORKS FOR CONSULTATION AND USER PARTICIPATION**

States must create the necessary conditions for citizens and users to consult and collectively take ownership of water and sanitation policies. This includes:

- The strengthening and recognition, by politicians, of organizations representing citizens and users;
- The establishment of spaces for dialogue open to citizens;
- The organization of citizen consultations prior to the development of policies and the taking into account of the results of these consultations;
- The establishment of mechanisms for monitoring and evaluating policies that include citizens.

States are also requested to consider the transboundary dimension of water-related issues and promote the creation of platforms for cross-border engagement and consultation.

## **3. ENSURING THE MEANS TO ACT FOR CSOS AND FACILITATING THEIR MOBILISATION**

Civil society actors must be supported in their organization, whether in terms of capacities or human and financial resources, so that they can influence public policies and participate in a structured and concerted way. As they're in direct contact with grassroots actors, NGOs and CSOs want to carry out projects as close as possible to vulnerable populations. States need to direct more funding to local NGOs and CSOs, through grant programmes for projects or institutional development of organisations active in the water and sanitation sector. States should also promote access to adequate tools and training programmes for NGOs, enabling them to strengthen their capacities and methods of action.

## **4. ENABLING CITIZENS TO ACCESS THE RIGHT TOOLS AND TRAINING**

States must ensure that citizens have access to reliable and accessible information on water and sanitation issues. This includes:

- The allocation of more national and international funding for education and awareness of water and sanitation issues for the general public, with priority given to youth and vulnerable groups;
- The establishment of platforms for sharing knowledge and expertise, at the local, national and international levels, aimed at strengthening the water sector by reinforcing professionals and decision-makers.

Similarly, it is requested that States facilitate citizens' engagement in water and sanitation, through micro-financing, scholarships or training supporting citizen-led actions and mobilization spaces.

Finally, as an essential part to economic and social development while contributing to the continuity and quality of services, water jobs are also a great opportunity for citizens to play an active role in building a sustainable future. States are thus asked to invest in vocational training and water jobs trainings, with a particular focus on young people but also women and girls.

## **5. GENDER MAINSTREAMING AND INVOLVING WOMEN IN WATER MANAGEMENT**

Women remain largely excluded from decision-making processes concerning water and sanitation management at all levels. States are thus asked to recognize women as full actors in the water and sanitation sector and to ensure their good representation in decision-making bodies and/or leadership positions.

States are also asked to systematically consider the gender implications of water and sanitation policies or projects in order to anticipate possible negative impacts of projects/programmes on women and girls.

## **6. RECOGNIZING YOUTH AS AN AGENT OF CHANGE IN THE WATER AND SANITATION SECTOR**

Youth are tomorrow's decision-makers and will have to deal with the consequences of the decisions we make today. However, young people are still largely absent from decision-making processes, including in the water sector. States are therefore asked to adopt an intergenerational approach that includes young people in the processes of developing and monitoring water policies.

Young people are also valuable and innovative solution providers to today's water challenges. States are asked to finance more trainings for young people on water and sanitation issues in order to enable them to take action and be actors of change.

## **IV ALLOCATE CONCRETE AND TRANSPARENT FINANCIAL COMMITMENTS FOR WATER AND SANITATION**

### **1. ALLOCATE SUBSTANTIAL AND PREDICTABLE NATIONAL PUBLIC BUDGETS**

When developing their budgets, States should give priority to the financing of the WASH sector. They must mobilize, allocate and spend, in a transparent manner, sufficient funding that meets the real needs of the populations. Each state must commit to allocating a predefined percentage of their national GDP to the WASH sector each year, and this target must be transparently reported. States must also ensure to prohibit any cuts or reductions in WASH budgets. These provisions should be applied in the implementation of national water and sanitation programs.

### **2. INCREASE FUNDING FOR SANITATION AND HYGIENE SPECIFICALLY**

Access to sanitation and hygiene is severely neglected, despite considerable needs. Public action is decisive in this area: the positive effects of access to sanitation appear only if the whole local community has massive access to sanitation. For this reason, national budgets and Official Development Assistance (ODA) donors need to correct funding imbalances for sanitation and meet their commitments. Thus, each state must commit to allocating a predefined percentage of the total WASH budget to sanitation each year.

Similarly, and beyond sanitation systems as such, it is the entire sanitation value chain that States need to further develop.

### **3. PRIORITIZE EFFORTS TO THE MOST VULNERABLE AND MARGINALIZED POPULATIONS**

HRWS requires ensuring that access to WASH services is financed in an affordable way for households. Appropriate financing modalities for the service are based on a fair distribution between the different contributors (State, users, donors...) and allow the basic needs of households and certain essential institutions, such as schools and health centers, to be met through, for example, transfer mechanisms, equalization, social measures...

Thus, budget planning must direct funding according to the needs of populations, especially the most vulnerable (rural areas, women and girls, homeless people, people with disabilities, refugees, displaced persons, indigenous communities, etc.).

#### **4. ENSURE TRANSPARENCY AND INTEGRITY IN BUDGET MANAGEMENT**

Water and sanitation governance bodies must ensure that public funds are allocated equitably and adequately to local water and sanitation challenges. Coordination between the different local, national and international actors is necessary in the management and allocation of these funds.

States are also asked to make the allocation of funding conditional on prior impact studies taking into account the environmental, health and social consequences induced by these investments. Particular attention must be paid to the impact on the most vulnerable or isolated groups (homeless people, refugees, women and girls, indigenous populations, minorities, etc.).

Finally, budget monitoring mechanisms including citizens must be put in place, or strengthened if existing, to ensure transparency in the management of these budgets.

#### **5. ENCOURAGING INVESTMENTS AND INNOVATIVE MECHANISMS**

States should provide incentives to the local private sector to invest in the WASH sector. For example, governments need to stimulate the diversification of financing options, such as microcredits in the WASH sector, or encourage WASH loans subsidised by community financial institutions.

With regard to international aid, the establishment of innovative financing systems must also be strengthened, such as the "1% water" provided for by the Oudin-Santini law in France.

#### **6. APPLYING THE POLLUTER PAYS PRINCIPLE**

States must provide for effective fines and penalties for pollution or degradation of the resource, as well as environmental restoration obligations. The revenue from these fines will be allocated to the WASH sector to fund measures to preserve and protect water resources.

#### **7. IMPROVING AID TARGETING AND ACCOUNTABILITY IN INTERNATIONAL DONOR FINANCING**

Donor States are asked to commit to increasing overall development assistance dedicated to the water sector while increasing the share dedicated to sanitation and the development of basic services.

In general, grants should be prioritized over loans to finance WASH projects to target the most vulnerable areas and populations exposed to lack of WASH access.

Similarly, too much international financing is still granted without taking into account the real needs expressed by the populations. This results in the implementation of projects that are sometimes excessive and unsustainable from a technical, financial or environmental point of view. The negative impacts of these investments mainly affect local populations. International donors are therefore asked to ensure that sustainability and accountability are at the heart of development projects and to include in their programmes compensation and/or penalty mechanisms for projects that negatively impact the population.

#### **8. INCREASE NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL FUNDING DEDICATED TO ADAPTATION TO CLIMATE CHANGE IN THE FIELD OF WATER**

States must provide special financing to address the multidimensional impacts of climate change, including water and agriculture issues in vulnerable countries. Financial commitments to climate change mitigation and adaptation must increase within national budgets, while international donors must prioritize them within their programmes.

Similarly, it is requested that States integrate more water issues into their climate-related funding, both at national and international level.

In terms of infrastructure development, States are asked to prioritize nature-based solutions that are softer and more sustainable for the environment and water resources.

## **V IMPROVING INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION AND THE MULTILATERAL FRAMEWORK FOR WATER AND SANITATION**

### **1. RECOGNIZE SDG6 AS A PRIORITY FOR INTERNATIONAL ACTION AND STRENGTHEN DIPLOMATIC ENGAGEMENT ON WATER AND SANITATION**

SDG 6 must be recognized by the international community as a pillar of its diplomatic action and serve as a common thread for all development policies. States are called upon to strengthen their individual diplomatic commitment to water, including by:

- Acceding to international conventions on transboundary waters (Helsinki Convention of 1992 and New York Convention of 1997) and strengthening their implementation
- Strengthening the multilateral framework for dialogue on water and actively participating in water-related conferences and high-level meetings (including the 2023 UN Water Conference)
- Increasing the percentage of development aid devoted to drinking water and sanitation
- Respecting and monitoring multilateral commitments (2030 Agenda, Human rights resolutions)

### **2. CREATE A UN INTERGOVERNMENTAL MECHANISM DEDICATED TO WATER AND SANITATION**

The global water crisis requires a collective and coordinated response. However, to date, there is no intergovernmental platform dedicated to water and sanitation issues. This institutional void hinders the coordination and the good articulation of international policies. The international community as a whole must therefore establish an intergovernmental committee on water within the United Nations, whose role would be to accelerate and coordinate efforts and ensure the follow-up of international objectives.

The UN water conference scheduled for March 2023 in New York marks an important first step towards strengthening the multilateral system on water and sanitation.

### **3. FACILITATING THE RATIFICATION OF CONVENTIONS ON TRANSBOUNDARY WATERS**

States must also recognize the transboundary component of water-related issues and accept a high level of multilateralism in this regard. This requires increased international dialogue and an end to unilateral decisions if they may impact the water resources of another country (e.g., the construction of dams). States must therefore ratify the New York and Helsinki Conventions on transboundary water cooperation.

### **4. STRENGTHENING THE BINDING INTERNATIONAL LEGAL FRAMEWORK**

International water law remains today a weak and ineffective right. States must ensure that commitments made in international treaties are systematically transposed into national laws. This transposition will be controlled by the international community through mechanisms put in place at the time of the ratification of each treaty and penalties must be applied in case of failure.

Similarly, international legal frameworks for the water sector must allow for increased monitoring of the achievement of commitments made. All states must put in place monitoring systems based on verifiable indicators and ensure that monitoring data is accessible and disseminated.

## **5. TAKING INTO ACCOUNT LOCAL ACTORS AND CIVIL SOCIETY IN INTERNATIONAL DECISIONS**

International policy-making is still the prerogative of States and international institutions. The right of NGOs and CSOs to participate in the negotiations and development of international water and sanitation policies must be recognized and enshrined by the international community. This should include:

- The establishment, at national and international level, of mechanisms guaranteeing the involvement of local actors and civil society in the elaboration of political agendas as well as in the operationalization of decisions ;
- The possibility for local actors and civil society to hold States accountable when international commitments made are not respected, for example by bringing a case before a competent jurisdiction;
- Scaling up innovative solutions and taking greater account of grassroots practices in policy-making;
- Greater use of local know-how and expertise in the implementation of water policies;
- Making decisions conditional on the systematic organization of public consultations to anticipate and reduce negative impacts on local populations.

## **6. PROVIDING AN INTERNATIONAL RESPONSE TO HUMANITARIAN EMERGENCIES**

In a context of prolonged crises with ever-increasing movements of displaced persons and refugees, access to water, sanitation and hygiene services remains a major challenge and humanitarian actors are increasingly faced with difficulties in reaching these people. The international community must commit to providing humanitarian assistance in emergency situations so that affected populations can meet their basic needs. A rapid and effective response must be made to each crisis to ensure the human right to water and sanitation for all.

## PARTNERS

Regional workshops coordinated by



With the support of



Bunkers by



*The views set out in this document do not in any way represent the official views of the organizations providing their financial support.*

### About the Effet Papillon

*The Effet Papillon ("Butterfly Effect" - BE) is a network of more than 130 international and local CSOs/NGOs that advocate for effective local solutions that have a sustainable impact on improving access to water and sanitation and on the management of water resources.*

*Our mission is to ensure that the voice of NGOs/CSOs from all regions of the world is strong and heard in the international water agenda when it comes to advocating for the essential role of water in sustainable and equitable development. The network does not speak on behalf of its members, but rather helps them to express their views within strategic water-related international platforms (World Water Forum, 2030 Agenda, UN Water Decade Conference, climate change conferences, etc.) in order to coherently influence the international water policy agenda.*

*The Butterfly Effect Secretariat is coordinated by the International Secretariat for Water (ISW)*



[www.effetpapillon.org/fr/](http://www.effetpapillon.org/fr/)



[butterflyeffectcoalition@gmail.com](mailto:butterflyeffectcoalition@gmail.com)



[@ButterflyEffectNgoCoalition](https://www.facebook.com/ButterflyEffectNgoCoalition)



[@BEeffectNetwork](https://twitter.com/BEeffectNetwork)

DRAFT