



BUTTERFLY EFFECT NGO COALITION: OUR MESSAGES FOR THE 6TH WORLD WATER FORUM

The Butterfly Effect is a coalition of international NGOs, which advocates effective local solutions that have a sustainable impact on water and sanitation. We have consulted with NGOs for over a year, bringing our experience and expertise together with a common set of messages for government delegates at the 6th World Water Forum, March 2012.

Made up of over 90 civil society organisations, NGOs, networks and womens' organisations, we are an open movement that's growing fast. Our solutions are based on human rights principles, communities' experience, and relate to policies, projects, information campaigns and empowering stakeholders. Crucially, these solutions are local, sustainable, adaptable, innovative, equitable, accountable and people-orientated.

We have identified several key water management issues that need addressing if the number of people with access to safe water and adequate sanitation and hygiene services is to increase. As such, we are committed to working on these issues by using evidence-based models and innovation, integrating both traditional knowledge and demonstration of best practices.

In order to effectively address these issues, we urge governments and (where appropriate) other stakeholders to:

- **Commit** to implementing this human right quickly, by all appropriate means. Accelerating the process will help overcome the water crisis at all levels. Develop human rights based national roadmaps (national action plans) for the implementation of the human rights to water and sanitation by 2015
- **Integrate specifically** the equity, participation and accountability dimensions of a human rights-based approach in water governance
- **Commit to** dependable finance, which have been earmarked for water and sanitation services for the poor (namely where fiscal and grant financing takes precedence over loan financing)
- **Increase** access to water and sustainable sanitation services to fulfill the human right criteria (quantity, quality, affordability, accessibility, and acceptability) and MDG goals
- **Engage** with civil society and community organisations to create a needs-based capacity building program that empowers organisations and stakeholders to fulfill their roles in water management
- **Ratify** and domesticate the UN Watercourses Convention, thus promoting basic rules for cooperation and sustainable and equitable use of international watercourses shared between States
- **Empower** local communities and relevant institutions at the lowest relevant level to plan and manage water and related natural resources through scaling-up and enhancing valuable community-based mitigation and adaptation strategies and programme
- **Recognise** the value of local knowledge and ensure local voices are taken into account in policies and their implementation at all levels
- **Support** the appropriation and application of the Hyōgo framework for action by all States facing chronic crisis

OUR CALLS TO GOVERNMENT, AND CIVIL SOCIETY COMMITMENTS

1. Governance

- Integrate a Human Rights-Based Approach in Sustainable Water Governance, especially its equity, effective participation and accountability dimensions.
- Create the conditions of effective participation in the decision making process at all levels, and propose new models for water management.
- Create collectively redress-mechanisms as part of good sector governance to empower citizens to hold their governments to account, and ensure the progressive realisation for the right to water and sanitation.
- Organise inclusive national dialogues on water management by government and major groups, in coordination with independent regulatory bodies.

2. Finance

- Review contracts with service providers in light of new international law, such as the Human Rights to Water and Sanitation; and embed legally enforceable social and environmental safeguards in legislation on infrastructure development.
- Shift their emphasis from the financing of large scale centralised economic infrastructure through loans, to the financing of small scale decentralised infrastructure for livelihood development and basic needs, through fiscal and grant mechanisms.
- Ensure sustainable cost recovery through appropriate technology, planning for maintenance and depreciation costs, ensuring affordability for the poor and payment for environmental services.
- Commit to dependable finance earmarked for water and sanitation services for the poor, such as the Sanitation and Water for All partnership framework, with fiscal and grant financing taking precedence over loan financing.

3. Access to the human right to water and sanitation

- Commit to accelerating the implementation of this right by all appropriate means to overcome the water crisis at all levels; and develop a human rights based national roadmap (national action plan) for the implementation of the human right to water and sanitation by 2015.
- Show stronger leadership of the sector and promote public scrutiny of investment in water, sanitation and hygiene so that the public can hold governments and donors to account.
- Provide financial and other support for people without access to clean water and sanitation, in particular women and children and those with disabilities or special needs, marginalised or vulnerable groups. Measures to this end will be part of the national action plans.

4. Water, sanitation, hygiene and health linkages

- Improved and sustainable water, sanitation and hygiene facilities and services will require a high level of user and community ownership, participation, education and empowerment, and should take into account gender and equity issues. Most lasting benefits and health impacts in domestic water and sanitation services must be accompanied by knowledge, attitude and behavior changes, so it is essential that the ultimate users at household and community levels are involved in understanding the range of health, hygiene and environmental issues. They should also be involved in the selection and implementation of chosen technologies.
- Effective water sanitation and hygiene policies, and programmes, must be inter-sectoral and holistic, integrating WASH issues and approaches with nutrition, food security, health, education and the environment. Sound policies must be based on a holistic understanding of the critical linkages between sanitation, water, environment, health and nutrition, and the importance of community empowerment through access to information, political, economic and psychological resources. National policies and programmes should facilitate the uptake of decentralised service strategies –e.g. rainwater harvesting, household water storage and treatment, and sustainable sanitation.
- Given the economic value of a healthy population, the budget allocated for sanitation and hygiene should match, or exceed, the costs of poor health resulting from inadequate services. Countries must ensure adequate and proportional funding for critical community participation, education and training components of water and sanitation programs.

5. Capacity development

- Water sector training and water education at all levels is essential. Incorporating a socio-technical and integrated perspective of water resources management should be criteria for project funding by ODA and other donors. Interdisciplinary and interlinking subjects should be introduced in capacity building programmes, transcending thematic and institutional divides.

- Governments must speedily address the critical need to employ more women in government sector institutions related to water for health, livelihoods and ecosystems, especially in developing countries, so they may act as conduits of information and agents of change to community women.
- Water related sensitization and education should start at primary school level and continue for the length of a child's education. Cross-sectoral linkages should be developed by academia and other agencies, and ensure a policy/ research continuum that is supportive of community education programmes and formal education.

6. Peace and (trans-boundary) cooperation

- Ratify and domesticate the UN Watercourses Convention 1997, as it is the only global instrument establishing basic rules for cooperation between states sharing international watercourses. By doing so, they will promote the sustainable and equitable use of these watercourses, promote international security, and provide a legal framework for the management and use of the world's numerous trans-boundary basins.
- Build the capacity of relevant stakeholders to effectively identify value, and share the bundle of trans-boundary water resources benefits (mechanisms). This should be done in a manner that is agreed as fair and transparent for all the riparian states, and provides more grassroots' benefits that trickle to the rural poor, which need to be incorporated in the bundle of benefits.
- Ensure all-inclusive effective stakeholders' participation from the affected population(s) in trans-boundary basin decision making processes, to respond to the development needs of local communities and ensure that the established processes contribute significantly to more equitable and sustainable outcomes.

7. Water and natural resources management and climate change

- Empower people and local institutions to manage water and related natural resources, through community-led processes at the relevant scale. This concept is based on communities' priorities, needs, knowledge and capacities. It also supports traditional gender-sensitive institutions, by scaling-up and enhancing community-based mitigation and adaptation programmes – as a response to water-related hazards and a coping mechanism for the effects of climate change.
- Set-up a dialogue platform to develop regional arrangements and action plan on water management and land use. This will be implemented at strategic scale (catchment/regional area), respecting democratic principles that build nations' and communities', in order to realise the human right to water and sanitation, and maintain water-related natural resources and riverine ecologies.
- Advocate for (ear-marked) funding, honouring of commitments, and priority setting that increases and improves inclusive access to a financial envelope dedicated to tackling or preventing the effects of climate change. Such advocacy should not affect existing and under-funded MDG priorities. There should also be a prioritisation of adaptation funds over mitigation funds, with a focus on risk prone areas.

8. Water and food security

- Recognise the value of local knowledge, and ensure that local voices are taken into account in policies, and their implementation, at all levels. Such recognition would guarantee water for small-scale farming. It would also support sustainable farming and investment for strengthening capacities, and technology for models such as agro-ecology, family farming, and cohesion models, thus closing the loop of nutrient or vertical farming.
- Harmonise land and water rights, and ensure these rights are granted to small scale farmers (following the UN Special Reporter's principles on the right to food) to stop the pressure on land, water and natural resources on which they depend. Special attention should be granted to ensure that women have access to water and land rights when development or post-disaster planning is carried out.
- Cut back water footprints for food production using the 5 Rs (redesign, reduce, recycle, reuse, reallocate). Additionally, recognise the role that sustainable farming models play in addressing the environmental and poverty crisis through nutrient, soil, water, and environment conservation.

9. Water and emergencies

- Increase operational stakeholders' coordination, adaptation of the response to new contexts and humanitarian funding mechanisms to produce a predictable, larger, and more coherent and effective response to emergencies.
- Support application of the Hyōgo Framework for Action by all States facing chronic crisis – to better prevent risks and WASH-related crisis impact.
- Improve the connection between emergency work and longer term development needs by: a) integrating early recovery strategies into emergency planning; and b) lobbying for new funding mechanisms that deal specifically with these recovery strategies.



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