

## THE MEMBERS OF THE FWP CALL FOR THE INCLUSION OF WATER-RELATED ISSUES AT THE HEART OF THE FUTURE UNITED NATIONS SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AGENDA (AGENDA POST 2015)



*In December 2014, Mr. Ban Ki-moon, Secretary-General of the United Nations, shared his opinion on the major issue raised by the vote on the Sustainable Development Goals : « Never before has the world had to face such a complex agenda in a single year, the year 2015. And this unique opportunity will not come again in our generation. »*

### Water is a fundamental component of human development

Challenges for the water sector are enormous and still growing.

Agriculture, which depends on water, and food security are threatened by climate change. However, 9 billion people will need to eat by 2050.

Access to safe water and sanitation remains a major issue. Each year, in children under five years of age, 361 000 deaths could be prevented through better water, sanitation and hygiene (WHO, 2014) ; 1.8 billion people use water contaminated with fecal matter (WHO-UNICEF 2014) and 90% of all waste water in developing countries is discharged untreated, polluting rivers, lakes and seas (UN Water 2012).

Water must be managed throughout an integrated and sustainable approach to meet and reconcile the human and natural needs such as domestic water, water for agriculture, energy and industry, water for nature. In the mean time, water resources are degraded or threatened in many regions.





## MDGs, SDGs : what's the difference?

The Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) covered the period from 2000 to 2015 and concerned only developing countries. They were a first step towards establishing a common vision of our future between the different countries. The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) will cover the period from 2015 to 2030 and will concern all countries (developed and in development). These goals set out a common road map for the sustainable future of the planet and humanity. This road map will be applied by the States.



One target to meet :  
the members of the FWP want to see  
better account taken of **water quality**.

**Hygiene** is an essential pillar for any  
sanitation-related initiative.

# The FWP's commitments

In a context in which water is still a major issue for our development, the French Water Partnership is advocating for incorporating water into the definition of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). These Goals will be negotiated until the United Nations General Assembly in September 2015.

The issue of water was addressed in the MDGs primarily in terms of access to water and sanitation. The aim was to halve the proportion of the global population without access to improved water source (protected from animal pollution) and basic sanitation. Although the goal of providing access to water was achieved, the actual quality of the water was not really taken into account. As for the goal on sanitation, it is far from being reached.

The members of the French Water Partnership are conducting an initiative in favor of adopting a much more ambitious Sustainable Development Goal for water within the United Nations Sustainable Development Agenda . This Water goal must guarantee a sustainable management of water resources to satisfy the needs of all the sectors and ensure universal access to water and sanitation services.

Furthermore, members of the French Water Partnership advocate for the need to link water with other Goals connected with water resources (Food Security, Poverty, Health, Energy, Sustainable cities, Disasters ...). Each Goal must have targets which include water issues.

# The Water Goal

Members of the French Water Partnership propose a Water Goal which would include the following six dimensions :

 **Achieving universal and equitable access to safe and affordable drinking water for households, schools and health institutions.**

The MDGs did not take into account the quality of water. The members of the FWP would like to see water services that guarantee minimal levels of fecal bacteria (Escherichia coli), arsenic and fluoride. These services, which should be managed safely, would include measures aimed at protecting water supplies and ensuring that water is safe to drink.

 **Achieving access to adequate and equitable sanitation and hygiene for all, and ending open defecation.**

Members of the French Water Partnership wish that the new Sustainable Development Goals ensure that human excreta are safely managed, in particular for households, schools and health institutions in urban and rural areas.

 **Improving water quality by reducing pollution through halving the proportion of untreated wastewater and increasing the proportion of recycled and reused water in an appropriate context.**

Sustainable management of water resource must ensure the needs of all sectors.



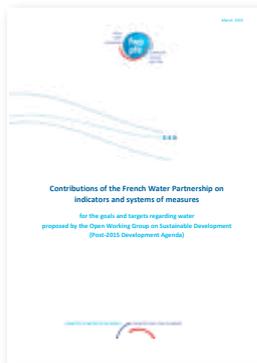
Increasing water productivity (a drop of water produces more and better) in particular to ensure food needs and, in regions where water is scarce, better manage water resource to reduce its overexploitation while ensuring the needs of all sectors.



Implementing an integrated management model for water resources at all levels, including through cross-border cooperation.



Protecting and restoring aquatic ecosystems, including mountains, forests, wetlands, rivers, aquifers and lakes.



## The Sustainable Development Goals: beyond good intentions

The SDGs must give local and vulnerable populations their rightful place and must be based on:

- good governance tools ;
- a high degree of decentralization ;
- adequate levels of funding to address the challenges at hand ;
- technology transfers along with training ;
- strict monitoring and operational follow-up.

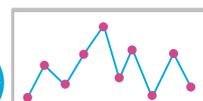
These objectives will only be effective there are combined with a monitoring system based on ambitious, reliable indicators that allow for assessing each country's progress toward achieving the Goals.

The French Water Partnership worked alongside its foreign partners and the French Ministry of Ecology as well as the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs to develop a monitoring system using indicators linked to the water-related targets.

A more detailed version of these indicators is available at [www.partenariat-francais-eau.fr](http://www.partenariat-francais-eau.fr)

**STEADY  
MONITORING  
OF PROGRESS  
IS NECESSARY**

indicators



monitoring

