

# The French Water Partnership's water & SDGs news digest



*A quarterly update on the topic of water and Sustainable Development Goals by Melisa Cran, deputy director and coordinator of the SDGs working group at the French Water Partnership*

## INTERNATIONAL: NEW WASH & HLPF2017 FIGURES

Two events to look out for this summer:

The **publication of the latest [WHO/UNICEF Joint Monitoring Programme report](#)**, which relates that 2.1 billion people, or 30% of the global population, lack access to safe, readily available water at home, and 4.5 billion, or 60%, lack safely managed sanitation.

The **second High-level Political Forum (HLPF)**, which took place from 10 to 19 July in New York, provides an annual assessment and follow-up on the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals. This inter-governmental event is split into two parts comprising a first technical week, during which almost a third of the SDGs are closely scrutinised each year, and a second week with a political focus (ministerial level) and two ambitions: to allow certain countries to give a voluntary national review (VNR), and to negotiate a political declaration.

Attendance levels were on the increase at this second HLPF, with 2,400 civil society representatives, 600 from the private sector, and 180 side events. Six SDGs were reviewed: 1 Poverty, 2 Hunger, 3 Health, 5 Gender, 9 Infrastructure and 14 Life Below Water, along with the presentation of 43 voluntary national reviews (15 minutes per country). Noteworthy countries include Denmark, which has opted to align its ministerial budgets to the SDGs to ensure that public policies are consistent with them; Bangladesh, which chose to really use SDG indicators for its VNR; Finland and Colombia, which have set up regular exchanges (similar to twinnings) on SDG issues; and Sweden, which confirmed that it has already attained 49 of the 169 targets.

Next year, water and sanitation (SDG6) will rank among the Goals in focus. The French Water Partnership intends to be present.

## IN FRANCE: 2<sup>nd</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF THE ADOPTION OF SDGs

To mark the 2<sup>nd</sup> anniversary of their adoption, the French government looked closely at the question of SDGs during a collaborative day with Wikipedia. The event featured an updating of the [French page](#) on Sustainable Development Goals and a key day on 25 September including numerous representatives from the government and civil society (IDDRI, B&L Evolution, French Paralympic and Sports Committee, Comité 21, FWP, etc.), who expressed their commitment and support for SDGs.

Two key messages were expressed during the event:

- Brune Poirson, Secretary of State to Minister Nicolas Hulot (Environment), stated that her ministry needed to set an example, and that France should present an annual progress report to the HLPF, along with an SDG roadmap to parliament each year.
- Barbara Pompili, President of the Commission on Sustainable Development and Land Planning at the National Assembly, said that she saw SDGs as a means to breathe life into public debate and guide national action and legislation, transcending political differences. She expressed the Commission’s commitment to continue closely following the question of SDGs, for example the round table organised on the topic on 20 September ([Video](#)).

Célia Blauel, vice-president of the French Water Partnership and deputy to the Mayor of Paris on water issues, was present to talk about the SDG priorities of the FWP and the city of Paris. The afternoon workshops on SDGs 6, 7, 11, 12, 15, 17 centred on preparing the next French report to the HLPF2018 in a participative and collaborative process.

### CIVIL SOCIETY CONTINUES TO TAKE ACTION ON SDGs

Civil society continues its action on SDGs, including the publication (in French) of some interesting studies:

- PS-Eau has published a guide “[Les Objectifs de Développement Durable pour les Services d’Eau et d’Assainissement – Décryptage des cibles et indicateurs](#)” (Sustainable Development Goals for water and sanitation services – a guide to the targets and indicators);
- Astee published its analysis of “[actions Eau à mener en France pour réussir la contribution française aux ODD mondiaux](#)” (water action to undertake in France to succeed the French contribution to global SDGs)
- The agency B&L published a study entitled “[Entreprises engagées pour les ODD, quelles pratiques se démarquent ?](#)” (companies committed to SDGs: which practices stand out?);
- Comité 21 organised a debate on 7 September on the outcomes of HLPF 2017.

### ABOUT FWP

The French Water Partnership, presided by former French deputy Jean Launay, is a public and private platform gathering 140 internationally active members into 6 groups: the state and public bodies, NGOs, associations and foundations, local and parliamentary authorities, economic actors, training research institutes and qualified personalities. For a decade, it has been lobbying at international level to make water a policy priority and promoting French expertise in the field.

<http://www.partenariat-francais-eau.fr>



### THEY ARE THE MEMBERS OF THE FWP

