

The French Water Partnership's water & SDGs news digest



*Latest quarterly news from the French Water Partnership on water and Sustainable Development Goals
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HIGH LEVEL PANEL ON WATER CALLS FOR GREATER EFFORTS

At the end of its mandate and following two years of reflection, on 14 March the High Level Panel on Water (HLPW) published its outcome document, "[Making Every Drop Count – An Agenda for Water Action](#)". The Agenda includes a mobilization video, a final report and an open letter to heads of state calling on them to rethink inclusive, partner-based management of water to reach water targets and to double their investments in water infrastructures over the next five years.

The final report brings a reminder of the forecast of a 40% drop in water availability by 2030, while water is the factor that connects nearly all of the SDGs. The three key action words are: UNDERSTAND (including investing in water data), VALUE (attribute real value to water taking into account its social, cultural, economic and environmental dimensions) and MANAGE (IWRM and governance mechanisms). The Agenda's diverse recommendations include strengthening the United Nations system to establish high-level political dialogue on water, and considering a scientific water panel (water IPCC).

THE WORLD OF WATER DOES TALK ABOUT SDGS – BUT IN A FRAGMENTED WAY

On World Water Day, the international water community regrettably found itself geographically divided.

In Brazil, the 8th Global Water Forum, positioned as a major milestone in the lead-up to the forthcoming High Level Political Forum, was an occasion for the international water community to discuss Agenda 2030. All of the sessions raised the issue of connections between and progress towards SDGs, in particular SDG 6 on water services and sanitation management, which gave numerous participants a chance to get to know the content of the various water-related targets. The forum's diverse political declarations (ministerial, parliamentary, local and regional authorities, judges and magistrates) also emphasized that governments have committed to implementing SDGs, and that reaching them will require combined efforts. However, the jointly prepared Declaration of the *Sustainability* process pointed out that current policies are not sufficient to reach the SDGs.

In parallel, in New York on 22 March, the General Assembly of the United Nations launched the [Water Action Decade](#) (2018-2028), which has three objectives: 1. Put an end to the compartmentalization between water services, water management and risk management; 2. Align existing programmes and projects with Agenda 2030; 3. Generate political volition for stronger cooperation and partnerships. Given the current absence of a UN political body devoted to water, this initiative is highly significant since it can trigger high-level dialogue around the SDG "water" targets.

NEW DEVELOPMENTS IN TOOLS TO MONITOR SDG PROGRESS

Progress made in reaching SDGs is officially assessed each year in the annual report of the Secretary-General of the United Nations (June), and the annual report of the UN Statistics Division (July), and by civil society via the [SDG Index and SDG Dashboard](#) produced by the sustainable development solutions network (SDSN).

In addition to these reports, this first quarter also saw the launch in March 2018 of the [SDG-Tracker](#), which is an easy way to visualize UN and international data, and [Resource Watch](#) launched by the World Resources Institute (WRI) in April to put the focus on water.

National platforms to monitor progress also exist ([United States](#), [Australia](#)). France is preparing its own version, due to go on line this summer.

WHAT ABOUT FRANCE?

This first quarter of 2018 saw France reaffirm its commitment to the SDGs. At the Interministerial Committee for International Cooperation and Development (CICID), which met on 8 February 2018, the government gave a clear political thrust to the effective implementation of Agenda 2030 in France.

At the SDG work day, organized on 27 March by the Ministry for the Ecological and Inclusive Transition, Brune Poirson, Secretary of State to minister Hulot, stated that, “in order to ensure the coherence of policies to promote sustainable development and strengthen synergy in implementing Agenda 2030 and the Paris Agreement, the government reaffirms its commitment to implementing the SDGs both nationally and internationally”. The day was an occasion to jointly construct and prepare the stages and roadmap for France in implementing Agenda 2030. THE FWP has passed on comments relating to SDG 6 from the next French report to HLPF 2018 and has been invited to participate in the high-level steering committee working on sustainable development goals.

PUBLICATIONS OF INTEREST

- **World Bank Report** Entitled “[Water-Scarce Cities: Thriving in a Finite World](#)”: a report that puts water security at the heart of human development, sustainable cities, the combat against climate change, and food and energy security, illustrated with examples from Marrakesh, Amman, Windhoek, Perth and Murcia.
- **European Commission Report (March 2018)** “[Implementing the Sustainable Development Goals through the next Multi-Annual Financial Framework of the European Union](#)”, bringing a reminder of how urgent it is to meet SDG challenges at European Union level and the need for Europe to act as a pilot in implementing the Goals. It suggests that the Multiannual Financial Frameworks should truly take the SDGs into account.
- **FAO Report:** “[2018 Water stress and human migration: a global, georeferenced review of empirical research](#)”
- **World Water Council reports** “[Ten Actions for Financing Infrastructure](#)” (March 2018) and “[Increasing Financial Flows for Urban Sanitation](#)”
- The Danish human rights institute has produced a very interesting study connecting the specific processes of analyzing human rights (UPR – the human rights equivalent of the HLPF) and SDGs, and has developed a software tool ([UPR-SDG Data Explorer](#)) illustrating these connections. According to the report, almost 90% of SDGs reflect international human rights and international labour standards.
- A similar study was used to establish [NDC-SDG Connections](#), which make the link between the Climate Agenda and Agenda 2030.

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



Check out the FWP water and SDGs toolbox here !