



MESSAGES FROM THE FRENCH WATER PARTNERSHIP
FOR THE WORLD WATER WEEK OF STOCKHOLM 2016:

WATER AND CLIMATE CHANGE TWO SIDES OF THE SAME COIN



PUT WATER AT THE HEART OF ADAPTATION STRATEGIES

93% of the nationally determined contributions (NDCs) submitted at the COP21 which include an adaptation component mention water (Study FWP-Coalition Eau updated in June 2016): this proves that water is seen as a major issue by most of the countries in a context of climate change: droughts, flooding, rise of the sea level, degradation of the water quality, biodiversity degradation etc. Climate change participates indeed to the **modification in time and space of the allocation of water resources**, leading to economic, social and environmental impacts all around the world including in Europe.

The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change should **take water into account as a priority for the discussions on adaptation**, including within the Adaptation Committee, to ensure that water is present during the COP22 and in the Marrakech declaration.

The topic of the World Water Week 2016 « Water for sustainable growth » provides a good opportunity to rethink the issues related to water and climate in the light of economic growth. We shouldn't forget that if we don't implement appropriate water policies, water scarcity increased by climate change could cost some regions up to 6% of their GDP by 2050, (Report *High and dry : climate change, water, and the economy*, World Bank, May 2016).



DON'T FORGET WATER IN MITIGATION EFFORTS

Water, which is a common element of most of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 7, 8, 11, 13, 14, 15) is as important for adaptation as energy can be for mitigation. However, **if water is a key for adaptation to climate change, it can also contribute quite largely to the mitigation** of CO2 emissions, in particular through a better management of the energy consumption linked to its uses, for example drinking water and wastewater treatment and processes. Water can also be a renewable source of energy.



LINK WATER, CLIMATE CHANGE AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

The issues related to water and climate change are closely linked to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Climate is indeed a major obstacle to achieve the SDGs targets: successfully reaching the SDG6 on water depends on our ability to fight against climate change. On the opposite, many water projects will not only contribute to the SDG6 but also to the SDG13 on climate (adaptation and mitigation). **Coherence and complementarity should therefore be anticipated when implementing the SDGs and the Paris Agreement on climate**. For example, the reporting could be the same for both processes.



INSERT THE CONTRIBUTIONS INTO THE NATIONAL POLICIES

All countries should make sure they **connect their national determined contributions (NDCs) into their national adaptation and mitigation strategies and policies**: water should emerge as a priority in national policies and be integrated within other major sectors such as energy, food security, health, education. To this end, **financial but also technical support** should be provided to the countries by the international community. The **civil society also plays an important role** to raise the general public awareness and to encourage the governments to include water into their adaptation policies.



PROMOTE APPROPRIATE FUNDING STRATEGIES

Donors' attention should be drawn to the necessity of appropriate funding for climate and water, notably **with the opening of climate funds (Green Climate Fund, Adaptation Fund) to adaptation projects in the water sector**. In the long run, 50% of those funds should be dedicated to adaptation, thus making water one of the top priorities. Those funding, which will add up to the funds dedicated to development, should be made accessible to developing countries.

Water and climate funding will have to support integrated water resources policies, including not only infrastructures but also measures to **improve resources knowledge** and **strengthen the water governance**, involving the civil society. It will therefore have to focus **on capacity building** and include **monitoring and evaluation of water policies**. To this end, financing tools adapted to the countries, especially developing ones, should be implemented.

Beyond international funds, **funding mechanisms at national, basin and local levels should be implemented or reinforced**, as well as innovative mechanisms: decentralized cooperation, tax on financial transactions etc.



REINFORCE WATER AND CLIMATE KNOWLEDGE

To analyze needs in terms of response to climate change, we need to **enhance knowledge on climate and its impact on water management**, particularly at the local level. To reduce the climatic uncertainty and better manage water resources, we must improve both social and scientific knowledge (climatology, hydrology, meteorology). Data that has either been measured (hydro-weather stations, swell meters, etc.) or forecasted (models) and water information systems are fundamental for efficient planning.



UNITE FOR MORE VISIBILITY

The international community of water needs to be united (example of the **#Climateiswater initiative**) and needs to develop closer connections with the climate community, as well as with the energy and agriculture communities.

The World Water Week is also a milestone towards the COP22. It gives the opportunity **to promote initiatives launched at COP21** to mobilize states, cities and private sector on water and climates issues (Paris Pact on Water and Adaptation to Climate Change in the Basins of Rivers, Lakes, and Aquifers; Megacities Alliance for Water and Climate, Business Alliance for Water and Climate). Other initiatives such as the ones undertaken by the Youth or NGOs should also be promoted and followed-up.

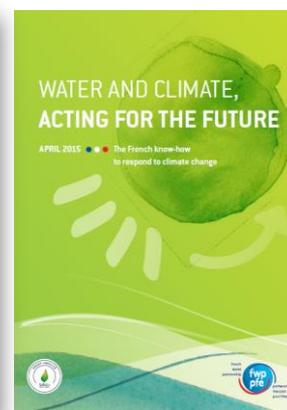
In the framework of the COP22 Action Agenda, one half-day should be dedicated to water. This day would give the water community the opportunity to work together to give more visibility to water. A parliamentary section on water could also be organized for the next COPs.

⇒ *Join us at the #climateiswater event of the World Week in Stockholm - Thursday, September 1, at 4PM in NL Music Hall to discuss how water issues can be more visible at COP22*



SOLUTIONS AND INNOVATIONS FOR WATER & CLIMATE

Discover multi-stakeholders projects and solutions in our publications « water and climate: acting for the future » and “adapting to climate change in the field of water: typology and recommendations for action” available online on the website of the FWP.



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