

MESSAGES FROM MEMBERS OF THE FRENCH WATER PARTNERSHIP

TO PARTICIPANTS AT THE HIGH LEVEL POLITICAL FORUM 2018

The 170 members of the French Water Partnership congratulate Ministers gathered at the World Water Forum in Brasilia in March 2018 for confirming their commitment to achieve the SDGs.

They nevertheless resolutely draw HLPF participants' attention to the fact that current policies are insufficient to reach the water-related targets of the Sustainable Development Goals. This warning was clearly highlighted in the declarations resulting from the 8th World Water Forum. It is crucial that the international community as well as all stakeholders (local councils, companies, civil society organizations, citizens, etc.) understand the benefits of sustainable development and act collectively to achieve the set objectives without further delay and in due course: the effective implementation of the right to safe drinking water and sanitation and the sustainable management of resources in a context of climate change. The SDGs' ambition is universal and aims at equity. This requires acting specifically in favor of and paying particular attention to disadvantaged populations.

KEY FIGURES



30% of the global population still doesn't benefit from services that ensure easy, regular access to quality drinking water [JMP2017]
76% of the global population still doesn't benefit from services that ensure easy, regular access to quality drinking water [JMP2017]



4,5 billion people, or 60% of the global population, do not have toilets with adequate evacuation and treatment facilities



40% of the world's population will face water shortages in 2050 [OCDE 2012]

72% of the Sub-Saharan African population live without safely-managed sanitation [JMP 2017]



80 % of wastewater around the globe is discharged into the environment without treatment [WWDR 2017]



64% of the earth's wetlands have disappeared since 1900 [Nick C. Davidson 2014]



By 2050, 200 million people could be displaced due to climate change [Norman Myers 2005]

THE FRENCH WATER PARTNERSHIP'S EXPECTATIONS

1 RECOGNIZE THE CRUCIAL ROLE PLAYED BY WATER IN REACHING ALL SDGS

Goal 6 dedicated to water is composed of 8 targets: universal and equitable access to safe drinking water, sanitation and hygiene for all, improved water quality, integrated water resource management, restoration of water-related ecosystems, development of international cooperation and strengthened local participation in water and sanitation management. Beyond SDG6, 12 other targets are directly related to water, such as Target 2.4 on the resilience of agricultural systems to floods and droughts, Target 3.3 on waterborne diseases, Targets 11.5 and 11.b on water-related risks in cities or target 14.1 on marine pollution from rivers. Generally speaking, water is directly connected with ensuring food security, preserving the quality of agricultural land, managing waste, sustainably sharing resources between uses, preserving aquatic biodiversity, and making societies more resilient.

- Water cuts across all of the SDGs: not one SDG can be reached without resolving water issues. **Water should be the object of an official thematic session at each annual High Level Political Forum** (and not just the years when SDG6 is evaluated), or alternatively integrated into SDG review sessions. Water should also be systematically mentioned in voluntary national reviews (VNRs).
- **Promote multi-sectoral approaches that include issues related to water, health and nutrition, energy, food security and waste management from source to sea.**

2 ESTABLISHING INTERNATIONAL WATER GOVERNANCE: TOWARDS THE CREATION OF INTERGOVERNMENTAL UNITED NATIONS BODIES FOR WATER

There is no intergovernmental negotiating body within the United Nations which provides recommendations on the progress specific to the 2030 Agenda's water-related targets and which suggests corrective measures when needed. Since 2003, UN-Water has acted as an inter-agency coordinator for all issues related to freshwater and sanitation, but it does not have a political mandate.

- The FWP supports the recommendations of the High Level Panel on Water and the United Nations Resolution UNEP/EA.3/L.27 which call upon the necessity of establishing an intergovernmental body within the United Nations system dedicated to all water-related issues. This body could regularly contribute to the High-level Political Forum's work of monitoring the SDGs' progress. A strengthened UN-Water could serve as its secretariat.
- A **group of intergovernmental water experts** could also be created, similar to the IPCC for climate, with a secretariat entrusted to UNESCO IHP. It could support the science-focused Global Sustainable Development Reports published every four years.

3 ESTABLISH THE MEANS TO SUCCESSFULLY IMPLEMENT AND MONITOR SDGS

Current policies are insufficient to achieve the water ambitions of the SDGs.

- **The States' political will to reach water-related targets is a fundamental prerequisite for the success of the 2030 Agenda.** To achieve the SDGs, these issues need to be taken on at both State and local level and local participation in decision-making – especially of young people and women – is essential.
- **The SDGs are more ambitious than the MDGs: faster action is therefore vital.** In many countries, efforts to train, educate and raise awareness on water-related issues are not strong enough in light of existing issues. This requires adapting national strategies to the new targets and indicators established by SDGs.

The HLPF must be based on an international monitoring system based on reliable, ambitious and inter-sectoral international indicators and informed by national data is needed to measure progress made in each country and aggregate it at global level. States must make a real effort to improve the quantity and quality of the national data collected, as well as to enhance and encourage sharing this data, particularly in developing countries. Efforts should be taken to make visible groups of people who do not feature in the statistics (homeless people, refugee camps, migrants). Financing knowledge improvement (investment in networks and maintenance, implementation of water information systems, etc.), capacity building and awareness-raising among stakeholders is a necessity.

- **States must transparently report back on their progress** in implementing the SDGs for water and sanitation, within efficient and inclusive national and international accountability mechanisms (HLPF, Voluntary National Reviews ...)
- **Civil society should also be more widely associated with the HLPFs' work.**



THE FRENCH WATER PARTNERSHIP'S RECOMMENDATIONS



FOCUS ON THE SDGs FEATURED AT HLPF 2018



SDG 6

While the quantity of quality freshwater available is decreasing, resource-sharing between different uses (drinking water, agriculture, industry, energy, navigation, etc.) is becoming more complex. Furthermore, there are more than 260 rivers and 592 aquifers in the world shared by at least 2 countries. The lack of cooperation between countries sharing the same basin can lead to regional imbalances and even conflicts.

Achieving the SDGs water targets requires much more funding than today. The priority given to climate finance should not hide this reality. The World Bank estimated in 2016 the need to multiply by 3 current funding to achieve universal access to drinking water and sanitation services

Our recommendations :

- **Support multisectoral and territorial approaches for sustainable management and a smart use of resources that take into account issues related to water, energy, food security and waste management from source to sea.** Saving water, strengthening water-use efficiency and preserving groundwater resources should be strongly encouraged. Where possible and sustainable, the mobilization of new resources may be considered, depending on issues specific to each basin and territory. The establishment of multi-scale integrated water resources management (IWRM) systems – which imply participative and multi-stakeholder governance – makes concerted decisions between communities, industrialists, farmers, associations and the State for water resource management and sharing possible.
- **Ensure that the economic and social values of water are recognized.** Faced with increasingly scarce water resources, we need to raise awareness on the fact that this shared common good is available thanks to government dynamics, infrastructures and techniques, for both drinking and irrigation; and that this availability therefore has a cost (the real price of water vs. the amount featured on your bill).
- **Acknowledge and act to promote the interrelations between the various SDGs and ensure consistency between water-related indicators connected to different SDGs.** For example, inadequate waste management and treatment impacts the establishment of efficient sanitation policies, which means that the issue of waste prevention, management and processing should be systematically associated with water projects. Another example: improving drinking water and sanitation has multiple advantages for health, ranging from fewer diarrhoeal diseases such as cholera, to better nutrition and higher quality care in health facilities. However, critical connections between these sectors are not always considered for WASH investment priorities and targeting.
- **Facilitate transboundary basin management and cooperation structures between States to be established, in line with the principles fixed by the UNECE Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes (1992), the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Non-Navigational Uses of International Watercourses (1997) and the 63/124 Resolution of the United Nations General Assembly on the Law of Transboundary Aquifers.**

- **Count on complementary sources of funding** and allow project developers – particularly local councils – easier access to this funding. Various sources of funding are to be favored by choosing those that are best suited to each situation according to the 3T principle (tariffs, taxes and transfers). Additional funding from foreign governments and bilateral and multi-lateral international financial institutions will not suffice to raise the necessary funds. It is first and foremost essential that national governments encourage local economic development by mobilizing national funding. This can be done by developing upstream-downstream relations between all water users through the polluter pays principle, for example.
- **Redirect international aid, including public development aid, with a priority focus on vulnerable areas** (least developed countries, urban, peri-urban and rural zones, and consideration of refugees and people subject to humanitarian emergencies) primarily financed through donations), while guaranteeing that aid is efficient.
- **Develop environmental, social and technological innovations and research to achieve SDG water and sanitation targets** (such as nature-based solutions, or social water pricing) without losing sight of the fact that in some poor regions, transferring knowledge on simple technologies can lead to sustainable results adapted to the situation at a much lower cost. At water basin level, for instance, with solidarity between all water users (those who withdraw or pollute water pay a fee).
- **Unite the international water community to bring it closer to the communities of other SDGs concerned by water.**



SDG 7

Water and energy, two fast-growing sectors, are essential to each other. At the global level, the energy sector is, after agriculture, the second largest user of water : hydroelectric power generation, cooling of thermal power plants, extracting and refining oil and gas products, etc. In turn, energy is essential to the entire water use cycle, from extraction to transportation and treatment.. Despite their close interdependence, the international community does not yet have a framework for the shared analysis of interactions between energy and water. Better integration of energy and water management policies and the development of circular economy would be required in situations of vulnerability brought about by this interdependence .

In this context, **the members of the French Water Partnership** are working on an integrated approach for the water and energy sectors that is compatible with sustainable development.

Our recommendations :

- **Promote coherence between water and energy policies** through adequate planning and the creation of governance bodies at the basin scale by involving all actors and integrating issues related to the supply of drinking water, sanitation and energy as well as those related to the environment, agriculture and tourism ;
- **In both sectors, promote a rational approach to water use (in terms of quantity and quality)** for the energy sector (water footprint) and a rational approach to energy use for the water services sector (energy efficiency) through the use of strict monitoring mechanisms. All water and sanitation operators can carry out very simple actions to improve their energy efficiency, e.g. by upgrading equipment with more efficient systems.
- **Use water and sanitation as sources of energy :** Develop sustainable hydropower that is inclusive of different uses and allows for optimizing these uses in a concerted fashion; Recover wastewater calories to fuel heat systems; promote the use of biogas to convert sludge from water treatment plants.



SDG 11

In a context of rapid urbanisation where water resources are increasingly put in peril, water must be at an affordable price and its associated services provided in an equitable manner to citizens.

A deliberate push for improvements to services provided to populations who are essentially deprived of them is necessary in conformity with SDG 11, without neglecting the robustness of services threatened by climate disruptions (droughts, degradation of water quality, salinisation of water in coastal areas) or humanitarian crises. In humanitarian emergencies (natural catastrophes, man-made crises and epidemics), drinking water supply, sanitation and hygiene practices, which are crucial to life and human health, can be disrupted or even interrupted. This can have dramatic consequences for the affected populations and create setbacks in reaching SDGs. Both the Sendai Framework for Disaster Reduction and SDG11 advocate going beyond crisis management and developing the resilience of populations and territories, in particular the most disadvantaged (informal settlements and peri-urbanized towns).

Our recommendations :

• Promote equitable access to urban water and sanitation services,

Numerous solutions to reduce water consumption (increase service efficiency, particularly reduction of leaks in the main system, user awareness, etc.) or to increase the amount of water available (recuperation of rainwater, recycling of waste water, etc.) are available. These must be developed within the more general framework of an integrated management at the basin level for sustainable resource allocation and protection of surface and ground water. In many urban contexts, the enormous investment and question marks over the sustainability of the resource require reflection on solutions outside the traditional centralised network framework. Faced with the diversity of inhabited areas, planned or otherwise, and in line with principles of equity and equalisation on the scale of a conurbation, alternatives, sometimes arising from the populations themselves, must be considered in order to improve accessibility to services for everyone throughout the region, particularly for the most modest-income households.

• Reinforce the resilience of cities to major risks associated with water

In addition, cities are especially vulnerable to climate risks associated with water (floods, droughts, the rise in the sea level, hurricanes and tornadoes...). Within this context, in order to reduce the vulnerabilities of cities, it is necessary to rethink **urban planning and design** by orientating reflection towards the development of urbanization in relation to the occupation of their catchment area (suburbs, upstream rural and natural environments) and their internal rules of construction. The development of “**sponge cities**”, in which rainwater absorption and runoff is facilitated by means of **depermeabilisation**, a good **balance between gray infrastructures and solutions based on nature, the development of new green spaces and roof gardens**, as well as other advances introduced at a plot level to help limit or slow down runoff in rainy spells, all merit encouragement. These green infrastructures entail co-benefits for the quality of life in the city, for example the fight against heat islands. Moreover, actors must work together to design an “**intelligent**” and more **decentralized city**, favouring **powerful and efficient synergies between urban services** for water management, sanitation, waste and energy.

• Responding to emergencies and building resilience through :

Increased action to prevent and forecast water-related crises by developing warning systems to build the resilience of populations, territories and infrastructure; **An immediate response, funded and coordinated by different stakeholders**, to ensure access to drinking water, sanitation and hygiene for all those affected by the crisis, but also respect for international law and the right to water and sanitation, particularly for refugees, asylum seekers, internally displaced and repatriated persons, and the integration of this response into risk management; and **an approach based on cyclical risk management**, which creates a crucial link between emergency responses, participatory and sustainable reconstruction and long-term development.

- **Favour governance and citizen involvement,**

Changing people's behaviour, the participation and training of all key actors and progressive regulatory frameworks (urban adaptation and mitigation plans) extended to the catchment areas and social acceptance are core stages for city adaptation to climate change. This open-mindedness and culture of dialogue have, as their corollary, the sharing of information, commitment to transparency and international cooperation between cities.

Regional planning must also take into account local realities based on the three scales of development (small, medium-sized and large city). The very high population growth in certain areas calls for integration of informal development into the urban fabric. Moreover, Urban Climate and Energy Plans must necessarily incorporate a chapter on Water, which is not generally the case at present. The mobilization of financial resources is a major issue in city initiatives against climate disruption. Local authorities are partly responsible for social, economic and environmental investment in their region, which can represent between 50% and 60% of public investment spending. Nevertheless, in many developing countries, they are very poorly equipped to promote development or finance dispositions in the long term. The strengthening of their financial state of health and management skills therefore goes hand in hand with the mobilization of long-term funding, which will be based on the 3T principle (taxes, tariffs, transfers).



SDG 12

Consumption and production are the cornerstones of the global economy. Yet the current approach leads to deforestation, water scarcity, food wastage and considerable carbon emissions, which are the main causes of ecosystem decline. The global population will reach 9.5 billion people in 2050, 70% of whom will live in urban areas requiring a great deal of resources.

Our recommendations :

- **Promote water-efficient production processes and behaviour**

A "water footprint" indicates the direct or indirect use of water by producers or consumers, and can be used to evaluate the impact on water resources.

- **Reduce pollution of water resources**

All efforts should be made to avoid contaminating watercourses with pesticides and pollutants, which is crucial to reach the objective of generalizing sustainable production modes and consumer practices. Areas to develop include integrated farming and agro-ecology, storm water management, and combating micro-pollutants.

- **Harness the potential of wastewater**

A circular economy approach presents significant opportunities, in particular financial and human benefits. The potential for recovering urban wastewater (e.g. nutrients transported by wastewater, carbon, nitrogen and phosphorus) is currently under-exploited. For sanitation, energy production from carbon opens up the potential for energy autonomy and an effective contribution to reducing greenhouse gas emissions locally.

- **Adopt a multi-sectoral vision**

Inadequate waste management and processing affects the implementation of efficient sanitation policies and has a negative impact on achieving goals 6, 11, 12 and 14. The issue of waste prevention, management and treatment should systematically be associated with water-related projects.



SDG 15

Numerous warning signs at global level show that aquatic biodiversity is subject to considerable traumas with high risks for the future of living beings. This observation is of great concern. An estimated 64% to 71% of wetlands have disappeared since 1900. Since 1970, this has led to the disappearance of 76% of freshwater species populations (Nick C. Davidson, 2014). The deterioration of this biodiversity is significantly worsened by the impacts of climate change (hotter temperatures, acidification of oceans, perturbation of hydrological cycles, rising sea levels, etc.).

Our recommendations:

- **Ensure that the Aichi Biodiversity Targets are coherent with the Sustainable Development Goals**

Reaching the aquatic biodiversity targets of the Sustainable Development Goals will not be possible if the Aichi Targets are not met. It is therefore imperative that voluntary national reviews of SDGs 6 and 15 evaluated at HLPF in New York in July 2018 serve as a basis for negotiations due to take place at the Biodiversity COP in November 2018, and for achieving the goals featured in national biodiversity strategies and action plans (NBSAPs)..

- **Ensure a balance between grey and green solutions**

Significant efforts need to be made to implement so-called “green” solutions. These solutions, which are complementary to “grey” or “classic engineering” solutions (e.g. concrete sewage pipes, dams, etc.), are multi-functional and help support flora and fauna ecosystems while responding to initial development requirements (e.g. regulation of a watercourse, reduction of flooding, etc.). One particularly pertinent type of green solution is known as **nature-based solutions**, defined by the IUCN as “actions to protect, sustainably manage, and restore natural or modified ecosystems, that address societal challenges effectively and adaptively, simultaneously providing human well-being and biodiversity benefits” (2016).

- **Unite the international water community around biodiversity**

The international water community must unite around biodiversity in order to create a multi-sectoral, multi-disciplinary network that reflects global public and private actors involved in this area. The network should communicate with the networks of other SDGs (Climate, Agriculture, Energy). The International Declaration on Nature-based Solutions for Water Management under Climate Change, launched at COP23 in Bonn by FWP and AMEC, is an example of a tool that will facilitate this networking.

- **Protect rivers, deltas, coastlines and oceans in a more integrated way because they are connected by numerous aspects:** pollution, navigation, etc. Currently, the governance of these different types of water lacks consistency.

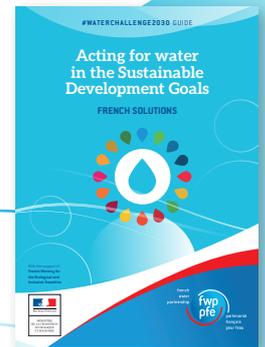
THE FRENCH WATER PARTNERSHIP'S ACTIONS

● The FWP: SDG pioneer and actor in France and worldwide

From 2012-2015, in the run-up to the adoption of the Sustainable Development Goals, French stakeholders got together within the French Water Partnership to push for the consideration of water and sanitation in defining the SDGs, and to suggest pertinent indicators for measuring progress. Today, FWP participates in disseminating, supporting and implementing the water targets of the 2030 Agenda's Water Goal.

Read our new publication "Acting for Water in the Sustainable Development Goals" and find out:

- The SDG basics
- How France is committed to achieving the SDGs
- 20 water-related targets to reach by 2030
- Remaining challenges, in France and internationally
- Solutions from French water stakeholders that contribute to SDGs



● Encourage non-state actors to adopt the SDGs

Last year, Committee 21, the first network of sustainable development stakeholders in France, initiated a report devised to evaluate the extent to which French non-state actors have adopted the 2030 Agenda and its 17 SDGs. The report results from joint input and identifies numerous concrete, yet often isolated, initiatives. It aims to trigger partnerships and coalitions encouraging gradual mass adoption of good practices and behaviour patterns to encourage the acculturation of SDGs in French society. In this year's edition, the chapter on SDG6 was co-edited by FWP and pS-Eau.

FWP will be publishing a guide in November 2018, with the Caisse des Dépôts et Consignations and ASTEE, explaining the benefits of SDGs in implementing sustainable development policies on water and sanitation services.



● A communication campaign to make water visible at the HLPF

Water plays a vital role in achieving the SDGs, but it is the focus of very few official sessions at the HLPF. Yet in the absence of inter-governmental bodies on water, the HLPF provides a unique opportunity to seriously discuss the content of SDG6.

To ensure that the theme of water can occupy the place it deserves at the HLPF, FWP has launched a communication campaign called #HLPF4Water, which invites all members and partners to share "water challenges" videos on social networks.

Join us in the campaign, spread the word and communicate with the #HLPF4Water hashtag.



The French Water Partnership is the go-to platform for all the public and private French water stakeholders, operating at international level. For more than 10 years, the FWP has been advocating for water so that it becomes a real priority in sustainable development policies worldwide. The FWP also stands as a facilitator for exchanges between the french and international water know-how.

Members of FWP develop projects that directly contribute to SDGs. For more information and details on these projects, visit the Water Expertise France website.

www.water-expertise-france.com