



## MESSAGES FROM THE FRENCH WATER PARTNERSHIP – XVI WORLD WATER CONGRESS

# ACTING FOR AN INTEGRATED IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS AND THE PARIS AGREEMENT ON CLIMATE

## SDGs AND CLIMATE: INDISSOCIABLE AGENDA

**The SDGs are a coherent and transversal Agenda, and water management is fundamental to attaining all of the 2030 Agenda.** Governments should not prioritize goals and targets, as many can only be achieved if others are too. **A cross-sectoral and multi-stakeholder approach is needed** to reach a coordinated and integrated implementation and gain cross benefits. Successfully reaching the SDG6 on water depends on our ability to fight against climate change. Climate change participates indeed to the **modification in time and space of the allocation of water resources**, leading to droughts, flooding, rise of the sea level, degradation of the water quality, biodiversity degradation etc. Conversely, good water management can help to act against climate change (SDG 13). It is necessary to place water at the heart of adaptation to climate change, as highlighted by 93% States in the “adaptation” component of their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) submitted on the framework of the Paris Agreement on Climate. This shouldn't however overshadow the role water can play for mitigation (energy efficiency for water and sanitation utilities, hydropower...)

## A NECESSARY APPROPRIATION OF SDGs BY ALL STAKEHOLDERS

Achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and implementing the Paris Agreement imply a real **appropriation and commitment from all** (governments, local communities, companies, civil society organizations, citizens).

For governments, it means ensuring that the current national policies are aligned to achieve the 2030 targets. As the SDGs' targets are more ambitious than the current trends, many national policies need to be reviewed, strengthened and accelerated. All countries should make sure they **connect their commitments, notably 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 and capacity building should be provided to the national and local stakeholders by the international community.

**For non-state stakeholders**, it means assessing how their activities can contribute to achieving the 2030 Agenda, limiting activities that are contrary to the 2030 Agenda spirit, and encourage the governments to adopt similar measures. Policy makers are sensitive to the public opinion, so non-state stakeholders have a vital role to play in making sure the latter is aware of the importance of SDGs and of the Paris Agreement. They are also key players in implementing these agendas.

## ENSURING THE POLITICAL FOLLOW UP OF WATER-RELATED TARGETS

**Member states of the UN will need to regularly evaluate progress towards the 18 water-related targets and** take corrective measures in case of insufficient progress.

The UNSGAB report submitted by the United Nations Secretary General Advisory Board on Water and Sanitation - stresses that the water sector suffers both from the lack of coordination among the 31 UN agencies involved in water and the absence of a Regular High Level Water Forum.

**France - with a growing number of developing and developed countries - promotes the recommendations of this report, including the creation of an intergovernmental body with a political mandate** - and integrated into the United Nations system. Dedicated to all water issues, this body should encourage better consideration of water issues at the international and national levels. It would regularly feed the work of the High Level Political Forum (HLPF) on Global Monitoring of SDG. The report proposes that UN-Water- already in charge of the coordination of the main UN reports in the field of water - provides the

secretariat for the intergovernmental body. The creation of the latter must be the subject of a resolution of the General Assembly of the United Nations.

The members of the French Water Partnership call for the rapid establishment of such a body so that water does not become the weak link of the 2030 Agenda, and so that the foreseeable delays can be associated to adequate measures. This Forum should integrate the contributions of existing global platforms and water partnerships and include a **multi-stakeholder consultation mechanism**.

## KNOWLEDGE AND MONITORING: TWO IMMEDIATE PRIORITIES

**A monitoring framework based on reliable, ambitions and cross-sectoral indicators** is needed to measure progress in every country and aggregate them globally. The monitoring indicators developed by each state on the basis of the international SDGs' indicators should thus provide an effective monitoring and evaluation framework of the transcript of SDGs into national policies. National statistics should also be adapted to monitor progress in the implementation of existing international frameworks (SDG, Paris Agreement on Climate, Habitat III).

**Additional national or regional indicators will be needed.** For instance in Europe, an indicator on the recycling of wastewater would be an interesting example of adapting the global framework to the local context in order to meet the ambition of the target 6.3. In the case of the indicator 6.4.2, water stress is not a sufficient meter of progress for sustainable water resources management, as it does not include the issue of underground exploitation. A more appropriate indicator could be identified.

**Organizing access to existing data**, and processing this data to produce useful information, are fundamental and vital to the success of policies and action plans for the sector. Data is sorely needed: to plan water resources and investments, adapt to climate change, provide sectorial management (surface water, underground water, quality control, irrigation, energy, water and health, etc.), reduce risks (flooding, drought, etc.), manage resources on an operational level and make decisions, for example, on territorial development or how to deal with the consequences of major events. **Two priorities of actions: finance knowledge and build capacities.**

## AMBITIOUS AND ADAPTED FUNDING

Universally and equitably implementing the right to water and sanitation, integrated water resources management and protection against floods and droughts **will require more funding than is available today**. The planning of the necessary funds to meet this goal by 2030 can bring a government to consider changing its usual forms of financing to examine all possible sources of funding available. **Complementary and flexible financing** is preferable, and must be appropriately chosen according to each situation: following the 3T rule (Taxes which are the national budget, Tariffs which are the water bills paid by households, and Transfers which are public assistance funding to development), grants, loans, private investment, tax on financial transactions or the 1% solidarity for water and sanitation (Oudin-Santini law in France).

Furthermore, water should be one of the strong priorities of Climate Funds (Green Funds, Adaptation Funds), and should add up to the funds dedicated to development

These funding should be made accessible to developing countries and reoriented in priority **towards the poorest households and vulnerable zones** (Least Developed countries, Urban areas but also suburban and rural). The aid paradigm must also be enlarged to include infrastructure as well as a support to sustainable and affordable services and water management through good governance, knowledge systems (data acquisition systems, information systems, models) and capacity building. To do this, donation envelopes will need to be expanded.

## 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.