



World Water Forum in Dakar

Political collective message approved by the Board of Directors and the Bureau of the FWP on February 22, 2022

⇒ Global state of play

- ▷ The number of people without access to safe drinking water as defined by SDG indicator 6.1 (safely managed water services) is now 2.2 billion; a reduction of only 7% in 17 years (2000 - 2017) (WHO/UNICEF JMP, 2019).
- ▷ In 2020, 23% (1.8 billion) of the world's population were living in fragile contexts and current efforts will need to be quadrupled to reach the goals of SDG 6.1 by 2030.
- ▷ 4.2 billion people do not have access to safely managed sanitation services (WHO/UNICEF JMP, 2019) with 494 million people practicing open defecation.
- ▷ 2.3 billion people do not have access to a basic handwashing facility (1.6 billion people have limited access to soap and water and 700 million have no access to soap and water) (WHO/UNICEF JMP, 2021).
- ▷ More than 80% of all wastewater in the world is discharged into the environment without being treated (WWDR, 2020).
- ▷ The average global temperature has risen by 1.1°C since 2003. By 2030-2040, the level of +1.5°C required by the Paris Climate Agreement is set to be exceeded and the prospect of +3°C is becoming increasingly likely by 2100, rendering adaptation efforts less and less effective.
- ▷ 20% of the population lives on overexploited aquifers (WWDR, 2014), global energy demand is expected to grow by 40% by 2030 (WWDR, 2017) and food demand by 60% by 2050 (WWDR, 2016), increasing pressures on water resources.
- ▷ 60% of 276 international rivers have no cooperative agreements (WWDR, 2012).
- ▷ 28% of the 86,313 species surveyed by experts are threatened, including 42% of amphibians (WWDR, 2017).
- ▷ The financing needed to achieve universal access to safe drinking water and sanitation is estimated to be 3 to 4 times greater than current investments (World Bank, 2016).
- ▷ 40% of the population will face water shortages by 2050 (OECD, 2012), 90% of all natural hazards are water-related and their frequency and intensity are increasing (WWDR, 2012).

- ⇒ **This maldevelopment will prevent the achievement of a sustainable world as defined in the 2030 Agenda** and, if nothing changes, will delay the progress of SDGs 6 (water and sanitation), 13 (climate) and 15 (life on land) and will affect SDGs 1 (no poverty), 2 (agriculture), 3 (good health), 4 (education), 5 (gender equality), 8 (decent work and economic growth), 10 (equality), 11 (cities), 12 (responsible consumption and production), 16 (peace), with all the negative consequences expected.

In this context, the members of the French Water Partnership are convinced of:

- ▷ **The need to take complexity into account. This requires a vision of development that is inclusive, locally-deployed (catchment areas from source to sea, including transboundary catchments) and systemic (silo-busting), dynamic and adaptive, and centered on the optimized and integrated management of water in nature.**
- ▷ **The fundamental importance of integrating water policies and projects into every aspect of the 2030 Agenda and its 17 SDGs and their rationale which is based on determining 2030 targets, roadmaps, indicators, mechanisms and multi-stakeholder forums for progress monitoring.**
- ▷ **The fact that climate change accelerates injustice, social and geopolitical tensions.**

- ▷ **The usefulness of having the owners of policies and projects assess the related impacts in regard to the 17 SDGs using the Water4allSDGs application.**
- ▷ **The need to take into account populations affected by armed conflicts and natural disasters, living in fragile contexts, in humanitarian support policies.**

Consequently, the members of the FWP insist upon:

- ▷ **The importance of the theme:** the development, balance and stability of all regions of the world, and especially Africa, depend on it.
- ▷ **The need for a profound shift in vision, mentality and culture** in public and private action, and for “common good” approaches.
- ▷ **The need to create consistency across all frameworks, directives, strategies, institutions and sectoral policies focusing primarily on the SDGs covering the 20 water targets (6, 13 and 15 as a priority), at both regional and national level** through appropriate governance at the relevant geographical levels, in priority at hydrological basin level.
- ▷ **Regional land use** and the implementation of **regional projects** at scales that can take specificities into account, onboard stakeholders, and ensure coherence, while ensuring that the interfaces between the different levels function efficiently.
- ▷ **The need for extensive decentralization**, places where multiple stakeholders can communicate and, if necessary, for legitimate and effective arbitration systems to be structured in order to serve the general interest.

They urge the international community to demonstrate strong political will to make a major contribution to achieving the SDGs , with a view to the March 2023 UN Conference on Water and the 2030 Agenda by:

- ▷ **Developing ambitious action plans to break down silos, particularly in regard to catchment areas, to quadruple the rate of annual progress for water and sanitation:** access to safe drinking water, sanitation and hygiene; pollution and wastewater; water in nature and its uses; aquatic ecosystems and biodiversity; climate change mitigation and adaptation, while being mindful of the risks of maladaptation, water-related disasters, rural development and sustainable farming practices, soil management, and civic participation (including youth and indigenous and populations in need) in water management, leaving no one behind, even in the context of Covid and areas in crisis.
- ▷ **The UN conducting a review for its Member States every two years, of all the global issues regarding water and sanitation**, to decide on possible corrective measures and guide the United Nations’ actions in this field. This could be done by **setting up a UN Intergovernmental Committee on Water and Sanitation**. This type of intergovernmental work, whose Secretariat could be handed over to a reinforced UN-Water, should be informed by an independent UN Scientific Panel on Water and Sanitation, entrusted with the job of collecting global data on the major water challenges.
- ▷ **Moving away from thematic silos by including a Water component in the negotiations of the Summits and Conferences organized by the UN** on the themes of climate, biodiversity, food, energy, growth, poverty, cities, etc. **and having representatives of these themes at international water-related events.**
- ▷ **Strengthening governance at all levels**, including legislation, monitoring mechanisms, training, vulnerability diagnostics, research and innovation, **the need for multi-stakeholder, multi-sector and regional approaches for the sustainable management and rational use of resources**, for catchment areas as a priority, and **the implementation of multi-scale Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) systems from Source to Sea.**
- ▷ **Considerably increasing the amounts allocated for operations and investments in the water and sanitation sectors** by drawing on and combining all possible sources of funding without distinction: self-financing, user contributions, public budgets, national and international public and private solidarity funds (cf. Addis Ababa Action Plan, UN).
- ▷ **Promoting and investing in nature-based solutions** to address climate change and conserve biodiversity, provided that the level of global warming remains within control.