



World Water Forum in Dakar

Thematic collective message approved by the Bureau of the FWP on February 22, 2022

WATER AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

- > **Rural maldevelopment compounded by climate disruption has consequences that go beyond rural areas**, with heightened risks related to food, water and sanitation insecurity, the climate, and sociopolitical issues around the world.
- > **This maldevelopment will prevent the achievement of a sustainable world by 2030** and, if nothing changes, will delay the progress of SDGs 2 (zero hunger and sustainable agriculture), 6 (water and sanitation), 13 (climate) and 15 (life on land) and will affect SDGs 1 (no poverty), 3 (good health), 5 (gender equality), 8 (decent work and economic growth), 10 (equality), 11 (cities), 12 (responsible consumption and production), 16 (peace).

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 and systemic (silo-busting), dynamic and adaptive, and centered on the optimized and integrated management of water in nature.
- > **The fundamental importance of integrating rural development 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 usefulness of having the owners of policies and projects assess the related impacts in regard to the 17 SDGs using the Water4allSDGs application.**

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 actions (place importance on rural matters and break down a silo mentality and approaches), and for “commons” approaches.
- > **The need to create consistency across all frameworks, directives, strategies, institutions and sectoral policies focusing primarily on the SDGs 2, 6, 13 and 15, both at regional and national levels**, 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.
- > **The promotion of a new generation of “farming, water, soils, climate and rural development” projects at regional level**

With regard to universal access to safe drinking water, sanitation and hygiene:

- > **The political will of States to achieve universal access to safe drinking water, sanitation and hygiene as a fundamental prerequisite for achieving the SDG ‘water’ targets** (including targets 6.1, 6.2 and 6.3), leaving no one behind, including in the current context of pandemics (COVID) and in regions in crisis.
- > **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).
- > **Transparent and participatory governance of water and sanitation services** to provide effective, sustainable and affordable access to the entire population, in schools and health facilities.

With regard to agriculture:

- > **The reorientation or joint expansion of agricultural and research and development policies towards an agro-ecology that can contribute to the joint achievement of SDGs 2, 6, 13 and 15 in rural areas.**
- > **Combining the different options possible in each region for the quantitative management of water resources, taking into account local specificities** (managing demand, improving efficiency, choice of crop varieties, reinforcing water resources when relevant and sustainable) without opposing any of them, and by integrating the effects of climate change and the impact of international trade on food security, deforestation or the state of bodies of water (notions of virtual water and water footprint), changes in eating habits, etc.
- > **Promoting, guiding and supporting nature-based agricultural solutions (NBS)**
- > **Tackling diffuse pollution** through more environmentally friendly farming practices and the treatment/use of livestock manure.
- > **Adopting crossed viewpoints in terms of agricultural and rural development and water management (green, blue, gray) in 10, 20 or 30 years at different scales of geographical areas.**
- > **Cross-measurement of the performance of government policies on “farming, water, soils and climate action”** to ensure that they make an effective contribution to SDG 2, 6, 13 and 15.
- > **Training a new generation of stakeholders** qualified in terms of participatory approaches, sustainable agricultural and rural development, and integrated resource management, farmers and agricultural leaders by seeking support from experts in environmental and social sciences.
- > **Encouraging countries and public and private landowners to use flexible financial resources that are suited to the needs and requirements of sustainability** and to initiate then multiply this type of project.

