World Water Forum in Dakar

Thematic collective message approved by the Bureau of the FWP on

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MEANS AND RESOURCES

> **The current rate of annual investment in water and sanitation is deemed to be three to four times below what is needed to achieve the ambitions set by the 2030 Agenda. Cooperation in this field is still too limited in terms of financing and does not make sufficient use of blended or innovative financing methods.**

> **Many countries have implemented governance mechanisms for water resources,** usually at catchment area level. The input of French stakeholders such as the International Office for Water has been a determining factor for this. **However, these mechanisms are often incomplete as they rarely feature a virtuous financial cycle, do not bring together all the stakeholders concerned, and are not sufficiently based on detailed knowledge of water resources.**

> A lack of decentralization in many developing countries also results in **weak governance of water and sanitation services** and subsequently limits access to safe drinking water and sanitation.

> **Water legislation and regulation are often still insufficient** in many developing countries and dedicated institutions are lacking or malfunction due to a lack of political will.

> **Innovation is often insufficient** due to lack of capacity or willingness at all levels.

> **This situation will prevent the achievement of a sustainable world by 2030** 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).

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 water policies and projects at all geographical levels, initially in catchment areas, 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 action, and for "commons" 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.

With regard to financing:

> Governments should focus on suitable combinations that can be envisaged for financing and allow project leaders easier access to funding. It is preferable to use various sources of funding, choosing those which best suit each situation based on the "3 Ts" principle (tariffs, taxes and transfers).
> **The development of innovative "blended" finance,** which combines different sources of funding (private, public, solidarity funds) for projects that reconcile the need for a financial return with the need for an impact on sustainable development, must be at the heart of the strategies adopted by project owners and politicians. This requires **clear and robust legislation and efficient and transparent institutions to be put in place to harness the different types of funding.**
> **The first type of financing should be internal, from the countries and local regions, starting with the catchment areas.** This requires water-related legislation to be brought in and a strong political will to implement virtuous mechanisms at regional level (license fees and financial aid). These mechanisms should enable investment in infrastructures and their operation, as well as establishing data acquisition and information systems, and increasing capacity.
> **International aid, including public funding for development, should primarily be used for vulnerable areas, as per the equity and universality criteria of the 2030 Agenda (least developed countries, urban areas but also peri-urban and rural areas) and as a priority in the form of donations.** The aid paradigm should also be widened from the provision of infrastructure to include support for putting in place services and sustainable management that incorporates knowledge, better quality projects, increased capacity, institutional support and good governance. In some poor regions, imparting simple technologies can also achieve sustainable results that cost very little and are suited to the context of the situation.

With regard to good governance:

> **The need for multi-sectoral and regional approaches for the sustainable management and rational use of resources, first and foremost in catchment areas,** which address issues related to water, soils, climate change, and biodiversity, but also energy, food security and

waste management from source to sea. Saving water, using it more efficiently, and preserving water in soils should be strongly encouraged. When possible and sustainable, the use of new resources may be considered, depending on the issues specific to each catchment area and region.

- **The implementation of multi-scale integrated water resources management (IWRM) systems,** which implies participatory and multi-stakeholder governance, enables concerted decisions to be made among authorities, manufacturers, farmers, associations and the government, on how to manage and share resources.
- **Transparent and participatory governance of safe drinking water, sanitation and hygiene services** to provide effective, sustainable and affordable access to the entire population as well as in schools and health facilities.

With regard to knowledge:

- **Making it a priority for government policies to fund the improvement of the quantity and quality of national data collected** and ways to share and use that data (investing in networks and maintenance, setting up water information systems, using satellite data, etc.), increase capacity, and raise awareness among stakeholders.

With regard to environmental, social and technological innovation:

- **Wide-scale development of nature-based solutions** alongside more traditional solutions (grey solutions) to meet the Sustainable Development Goals for water. Nature-based solutions are often less costly and can simultaneously increase the resilience of regions to climate risks, play a role in protecting and restoring biodiversity and soils, and address other development challenges.
- **Promoting social innovations** taking into account the socioeconomic characteristics of populations (level of income, distribution of male-female roles, customs, intergenerational relationships, etc.) as well as their representations and their use of water. **One example is social pricing for water,** which consists of a progressive water rate based on income and the number of people in a household.
- **Stepping up research and innovation on methodologies and technologies:** massive acquisition and exploitation of in situ and remote sensing data (soil, space), recovery and local production of energy (wastewater, water turbines etc.), developing smart cities, increasing climate services, reusing treated wastewater for irrigation, artificial groundwater recharge, recirculating drainage water for farming or biodiversity, recycling industrial water etc. **in combination with traditional solutions** which can often solve the problem (harvesting rainwater, using simple means to detect groundwater, creating boreholes or toilets etc.) and are sometimes better adapted to the issues and characteristics of the regions concerned.