

# 10<sup>th</sup> World Water Forum

MAY 18-25, 2024



## THE PROPOSALS OF THE FRENCH WATER PARTNERSHIP TO IMPROVE GLOBAL WATER GOVERNANCE

1

**Drastically accelerate the actions to achieve the 20 global water-related targets.**

Taking action on water and sanitation does not guarantee that the global targets will be met. The world is far behind on many of them.

- **Action plans** that explicitly address the 20 water-related SDG targets are needed at all levels of governance. These plans must entail the mobilisation of the necessary means: human capacities, financing, knowledge and measurements, innovations and governance, i.e. the 5 axes of acceleration recommended by UN-Water.
- **UN Member States** should regularly review their collective progress towards the 20 water-related SDG targets and take corrective action where necessary.

2

**Break out of the sectoral 'silos' and integrate the central role of water and sanitation in the 2030 Agenda into all UN work.**

- **Include** a 'freshwater' component in all thematic UN summits, whether they are related to Health, Food, Climate, Biodiversity, Energy, or Urban Development in the spirit of achieving the many ambitions of the 2030 Agenda in an operational way.
- **Organise** a UN World Summit dedicated specifically to the theme of «water, soil and agriculture for sustainable development» by involving the water and agriculture communities.
- **Mobilise** the water-using sectors (agriculture, energy, health, industry, etc.) to take effective action towards the global freshwater goals. Conversely, mobilise the water sector to achieve the global goals for these sectors.

## + OUR THEMATIC MESSAGES



### Access to safe water and sanitation

The SARS-CoV-2 pandemic has highlighted the vital importance of access to water, sanitation and hygiene and the difficulties of those who lack it. More active policies are needed to:

- **accelerate the reduction in the number of people** without adequate access to safe drinking water (SDG target 6.1) or sanitation (SDG target 6.2: access to a safely managed toilet), in all contexts and for all parts of the population.
- **Identify all concerned people** regardless of their status, lifestyle or nationality and track them statistically.
- In some contexts with high population growth, the number of people without access to water and sanitation services is increasing: **it is imperative to reverse this trend.**



french  
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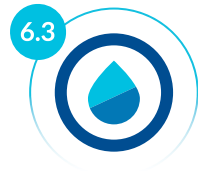


partenariat  
français  
pour l'eau

## Cleaning up wastewater

Today, 45% of domestic wastewater is discharged into the environment with little or no treatment.

The global target for wastewater treatment (SDG target 6.3) is ambitious but necessary to ensure good human and ecosystem health. Achieving it **requires action along the entire wastewater chain (from collection to treatment and recovery)**, using appropriate systems in each case. These can be collective or individual.



## Managing water in an integrated way: IWRM<sup>1</sup> (SDG target 6.5)

Water connects all of Earth's ecosystems: not only as a prerequisite for life, but also as an environment and a habitat. Freshwater ecosystems do not exist in isolation from other terrestrial and marine ecosystems. They are part of a continuum: rivers and lakes reach the sea through rivers, and the species they support depend on this continuum. Human activities upstream have an impact on the quantity and quality of water downstream, and can alter the availability of the resource for other users.

Responsible water resources management can therefore only be achieved through integrated and **concerted management at catchment scale, which takes into account the constant interactions between terrestrial and marine waters**. This management must be transparent, democratic, cross-border, inclusive and supportive, and based on knowledge, action planning and dialogue with all stakeholders in order to share the needs and necessary financial contributions of all actors in the catchment area.

1. Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM)



## Water, Resilience et Climate Change

**Strengthen global mitigation strategies for a just transition**, as any increase in greenhouse gas emissions also increases water-related disasters and makes adaptation more difficult: consumption reduction, production and recovery of energy by water and sanitation services, strengthening carbon sinks with the utmost vigilance on certain mitigation technologies likely to have negative effects on water and nature.

**Strengthen and put water at the heart of adaptation strategies with the implementation of sciences-based institutional, technological, economic and social solutions** ("no regrets solutions"), preferably using Nature-based Solutions favouring a shared management of the resource.

**Break out of sectoral "silos" and recognize the central role of water and freshwater ecosystems for climate action** in all United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) workstreams, and more broadly in all UN forums, especially by making sure that water and freshwater ecosystems are on the agenda of official negotiations, and that World Water Forum outcomes are integrated to UN conventions work.

Water *4*all SDGs

Water4allSDGs supports the Sustainable Development Goals



**Our commitment in the Water Action Agenda of the 2023 UN Water Conference : Water4allSDGs,** a tool to assess the impacts of any water project/policy on ALL the SDGs

→ [water4allsdgs.org](https://water4allsdgs.org)



## Investing in Nature-based Solutions

**Not only invest in Nature-based Solutions, but also put in place robust economic incentives to accelerate and intensify biodiversity conservation practices** (such as payments for environmental services). Stopping harmful subsidies is not enough: we need to engage actors from the private, agricultural, industrial, and urban sectors in a sustained and supported transition.

**Adopt a «source-to-sea» approach, that also considers groundwater, when managing aquatic ecosystems. The responsible management of aquatic ecosystems** can only be achieved with concerted management at the basin level, that takes into account the constant interactions between groundwater, inland and marine waters. This management must be transparent, democratic, inclusive and concerted, so as to reflect the needs of all the stakeholders of the watershed - including those of its biodiversity.

**Link the World Water Forum to international processes relating to water governance (COPs Climate, Biodiversity and Desertification, UN Water...)** to truly break down the silos between international bodies and conventions, to strengthen a cross-cutting and engaging message on Nature-based Solutions. The protection, restoration and rehabilitation of wetlands and mangroves in particular are effective NbS that provide multiple ecosystem services, including for the climate. They must be supported by all existing international mechanisms.



## Water Resources, Soils, Agroecology and Food Security

**Align the World Water Forum with international UN processes, including to conventions dedicated to agriculture and food systems** (FAO), to truly enable the international water and agriculture communities to break down silos, and to reach agreements on how to jointly contribute to achieving the global goals set by the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Water and food security, two fundamental conditions for sustainable development identified by the 2030 Agenda, must be addressed in the context of climate change.

**Provide political, technical, economic and capacity-building support to farmers and the food industry to speed up the transition to agro-ecological and soil conservation practices.** Ensuring global food security while preserving the quality and quantity of water resources can only be achieved with strong support. It is essential to promote the implementation of water management methods and agriculture Nature-based Solutions, which take into account soil health, the water requirements of farming systems, and ecosystems.

**Manage surface and groundwater resources as a common good, in line with Elinor Ostrom's principles, giving significant responsibility to local authorities.** Within the framework of local collective governance, these principles are the most adequate to define policies and projects tailored to their specific needs, taking into account the various possible options and avoiding conflicts. This type of governance must consider the most up-to-date data on the observed and possible consequences of climate change. It must be based on the evaluation and monitoring of the impact of such policies and projects with regards to the Agenda 2030, and must establish contracts between all stakeholders, in order to restore coherence and effectiveness to policies concerning the water-soil-agriculture nexus.

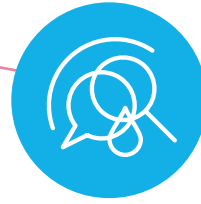


## WHICH FUNDING SOURCES?

→ **Governments should focus on the complementarity of possible forms of financing and allow project leaders easier access to financing. Various sources of financing should be favoured by choosing those that are best adapted to each situation according to the 3T principle (tariffs, taxes and transfers).**

→ **The development of innovative «blended finance», which brings together funding from different sources (private, public, philanthropic) 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 of project leaders and politicians. To achieve this, strong and clear legislation and efficient and transparent institutions must be put in place to capture the different modes of financing.**

# CALL TO ACTION



## ... FOR SURVIVAL AND RESILIENT WASH RESPONSES

**The convergence of multiple and protracted crises – the Covid pandemic, climate change, violent conflicts, geopolitical instability – has exacerbated fragility across countries and regions. When fragility increases, so do humanitarian needs.**

The French Water Partnership, member of the [WaSH Road Map](#) (a coalition of international actors in the water, sanitation and hygiene sector) has signed and invites to sign a Call to Action. This calls on governments to:

- **Primarily focus** their efforts on people living in FCV settings.
- **Increase support** for humanitarian WASH responses and coordination to deliver predictable, effective (timely) and sufficient survival WASH responses and ultimately safeguard the lives and health of those living in FCV contexts.
- **Build** sustainable and resilient WASH services that can withstand crises (climate crises, conflicts, natural disasters).
- **Actively promote** the effective implementation of International Humanitarian Law obligations relating to the protection of WASH personnel and UN Security Council Resolution 2573 (2021).
- **Support** the request to the UN Secretary-General to swiftly nominate a UN Special Envoy for Water, in order to establish an ongoing UN-hosted intergovernmental mechanism to discuss global water issues and ensure the achievement of SDG 6 and all water-related SDGs.

### READ THE CALL TO ACTION

→ [Here](#)

Projects led by the French Water Partnership are possible thanks to the support of its donors

