



Political
Process

Parliamentarian
Conference

8th World Water Forum

Conference on the Role of Parliaments and the Right to Water

PARLIAMENTARIANS' MANIFESTO

We, representatives of parliaments, participants of the 8th World Water Forum, gathered in Brasilia to discuss “The role of parliaments and the right to water”, on March 20, 2018, recognize the importance of the effort of parliamentarians to ensure water security, universal access to safe drinking water, elimination of inequalities and promotion of sustainable development. Within this context, we recall that:

- a) Water is an essential element for the maintenance of life with dignity, quality and health on the planet, for everyone’s development, the elimination of inequalities, the equilibrium of ecosystems, the production of food, the generation of clean energy and transportation.
- b) Access to drinking water and sanitation is a human right recognized by the United Nations (UN), according to resolution 64/292 of 2010. Its just and equitable universalization is one of the targets of Sustainable Development Goal 6, which must be achieved through public policies and adequate legislative frameworks to guarantee water security and the progressive elimination of inequalities, being the duty of all countries to ensure this right domestically.
- c) As the global population and water consumption grow and inequitable practices persist, access to drinking water is becoming increasingly expensive and complex. All countries must reverse this negative trend and make the SDG vision a reality for all. Developing countries need to prioritize the right to drinking water and sanitation, but they need international cooperation to ensure this human right. On the other hand, developed countries have enormous potential for reducing their water footprint.

- d) Multilateral collaboration and partnerships at the national and global levels - amidst parliaments, governments, civil society, academia, international organizations and the private sector - are essential to ensure that SDG 6 is achieved by 2030.
- e) The Paris Agreement, signed in 2015, and the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) are of enormous importance in the fight against global warming, the effects of which affect hydrological regimes, make water availability less predictable and increase the incidence of extreme events, such as droughts and floods, which consequently result in food insecurity and migration, to the detriment of peace.
- f) Good water governance is based on participatory and democratic processes that need to give more value to decisions taken at the national and international levels. The waters must be shared internally and externally by nations in a peaceful, just and sovereign manner.
- g) There is a need to share innovations, experiences, solutions – in an ever cost-effective manner – based on nature, public policies, legal frameworks and good practices developed in each of the participating countries to ensure efficiency in water use, resilience and adaptation to climate change, as well as in solving the challenges of management and use of water at environmental, social, economic, cultural and educational levels.

We, the representatives of parliaments participating in the 8th World Water Forum, gathered in the conference to discuss “The role of parliaments and the right to water”, in Brasília, commit to supporting the following initiatives to realize the human right to drinking water and sanitation:

1. Request that water security and sanitation be priorities in the allocation of budgetary and non-budgetary, national and international resources, to countries with difficult access to safe drinking water and sanitation. Encourage other countries to cooperate, including through water infrastructure and technology

transfer, especially for the most vulnerable populations, traditional populations, indigenous and tribal peoples.

2. Encourage international organizations to increase the share of their budgets in the realization of the human rights to drinking water and sanitation, as well as for the application of the resources of the Climate Change Adaptation Fund to prioritize investments in water and sanitation. Offer more concessional funding to solve water and sanitation problems.

3. Promote the adoption of the necessary legislative framework and public policies to ensure water governance, the enjoyment of the human right to drinking water and sanitation, as well as work for the implementation and monitoring of public policies that improve the rational use of water, water efficiency in production processes, research and innovation in the areas of water and sanitation.

4. Support the ratification and implementation of international agreements on the issues of environment, forest, water and sanitation to integrate the global effort in the fight against climate change, the destruction of forests, and pollution of the environment and water resources, as well as ensure the protection of the rights of the most vulnerable populations. Above all, support policies to address the effects of climate change on water security to reduce the vulnerability of human populations and ecosystems.

5. Defend sustainable development so that the use of water by the agricultural, industrial and urban sectors is efficient and equitable, minimizing waste and negative impacts to surface and groundwater. Negative socio-environmental impacts on production costs need to be internalized.

6. Ensure the progressive elimination of inequalities in the fulfilment of the human rights to drinking water and sanitation, guaranteeing priority in the allocation of resources to the most vulnerable populations.

7. Promote debates and conferences with civil society on water and sanitation to share water use and management experience; improve the decision-making level of public policies, ensuring a significant participation from civil society, as

well as educational and research institutions; mainstream water and sanitation in basic education.

8. Ensuring a broad participation of civil society organizations is fundamental to deepen the understanding of current challenges in the elimination of inequalities, realizing the right to drinking water and sanitation through policies to improve water security.

9. Promote the necessary legal and economic security to strengthen the public and private sectors responsible for water supply and sanitation services, with a focus on universalization, transparency and tariff moderateness; guarantee transparency and social control over the sanitation and drinking water supply services.

10. Strengthen the International Network of Parliamentarians for Water by supporting cooperation amidst countries to solve problems related to water and sanitation, exchange best legislative practices, as well as initiating and refining water-related legislative proposals. Lead negotiations on cooperation, public policies and public budgets.

11. Ensure the debate in the Parliaments so that the human right to drinking water and sanitation is included in national legislation, in the Constitution or in nonconstitutional legislation.

In conclusion, we, the representatives of parliaments, participating in the World Water Forum, agree to implement the following initiatives collaboratively:

- We commit to adopting the actions established in this Manifesto to strengthen the role of parliaments in the universalization of the human right to drinking water and sanitation.
- We reinforce the need to prioritize measures to mitigate climate change that are related to water security, protection of forests, incorporating water as a central component of adaptation actions.



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- We commit to working globally with the many partners who promote the implementation of SDG 6 and guarantee human right to drinking water and sanitation.
- We request that the representatives of our countries support the proposals contained in this Manifesto, in the Paris Agreement and in the One Planet Summit, before the United Nations General Assembly.

On the eve of the International Day of Forests, March 21, and World Water Day on March 22, we, representatives of parliaments, participating in the World Water Forum, present, through this Manifesto, contributions to the achievement of universal access to water and sanitation and commit to implementing them.

This Manifesto aligns with the achievement of the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals and the goals set out in the Paris Agreement.

Brasília, March 20, 2018