

10th World Water Forum, Bali, Indonesia

HLP 2 – Climate-Water-Energy-Food-Ecology System of Systems,

Thursday 23 May 2024

Speech of Mr. Loïc Fauchon, President of the World Water Council



“We need to transform the way we think, the way we act and go further towards what I call the “Five Fingers Alliance”, meaning a transversal approach that systematically integrates water, energy, food, health and education.”



Dear colleagues, dear friends of water,

I am honored to be with you today. On behalf of the World Water Council and myself, please allow me, as co-organizers of the 10th World Water Forum, to congratulate you for the organization of this High-Level Panel. I would also like to take this opportunity to warmly thank Rabi Mohtar for his work on the matter of transversality and IWRM. We have known each other for a long time, and I would like to congratulate him on his work and commitment over the years.

Dear Ladies and Gentlemen,

The beginning of the story is simple. Water is a resource that is essential to humans and nature. Finite and irreplaceable. Yet, we do not value water as it deserves, and we do not manage or protect it as well as we should.

Millions of people around the world still have no access to water, compromising many aspects of their lives. And given all the progress made in recent decades, this is a terrible injustice for those affected.

And I stress the "we" because while water is a common good, it is above all a shared responsibility.

Faced with these crises in a world where everything is interconnected, one solution is emerging: water.

Nowadays, in the face of our modern challenges, water needs to be managed transversally. We must go beyond the traditional integrated water resource management.

What do we want ultimately? We want everyone in the world to have access to essential services.

What are these essential services? It is water, electricity, food, health and education at the very minimum. Until recently, Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM), which is a vertical approach, was the dominating model. Water for water, only water.



For over ten years now, I have been saying that ensuring water security will help to ensure security in many other areas.

Of course, progress has been made, particularly around solutions that include water, energy and food.

But we need to transform the way we think, the way we act and go further towards what I call the “Five Fingers Alliance”, meaning a transversal approach that systematically integrates water, energy, food, health and education.

Water transcends sectors and can only be effectively preserved through coordinated action by the sectors concerned.

Only collective action will help eliminate disparities in access to water, whether in urban or rural areas, and ensure that marginalised and vulnerable populations have access to this vital resource.

In the World Water Council report “Opening-Up Integrated Water Resource Management: To Include Energy, Food, Health and Education” which was launched last September in Beijing, Rabi explains this very well through Integrated Water Resource Management's new vision, a systemic vision and a holistic approach.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I would also like to stress the need to discuss and collaborate with stakeholders from all sectors, such as governments, private and public operators and civil society.

The solutions for water must be looked at the same time as the solutions for energy, food, health and education.

This new vision transcends traditional silos and places sustainability and equity at the heart of its actions.

Beyond this cross-sectoral approach, it is imperative to have decision-making based on solid scientific data, and responsibility in the use of water resources.

As I often say, Water is Politics.



Sound governance is therefore essential to ensure that water is managed fairly and sustainably, especially in a context of increasing competing demands between sectors.

We need transversality. We need a new vision for the future. For the people.

And thank you to be the Messengers of transversality. It is a continuous fight for securing access to water.

Thank you very much for your attention and I wish you a fruitful meeting.