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> Consensus and LRA in Figures

- **1450** representatives from the Local and Regional Authorities (LRA) participated in the 3rd International Conference of Local and Regional Authorities for Water, 14-15 March
- **500** elected officials, including 230 mayors, governors and presidents of territorial authorities
- **60** countries represented
- Important regional participation with **45** infra-state representatives
- 10 March 2012, **1070** signatories of the Istanbul Water Consensus, originate from 56 countries: 60% from Latin America, 29% from Europe, 8% from Africa and 3% from Asia

Editorial

From time for Solutions to time for commitments

Since Monday, the 6th World Water Forum has gathered in Marseille thousands of participants who have exchanged, discussed and argued. And like everyone, I am delighted! In all, I have found a passionate spirit seeking practical solutions.

This proves that our idea of making this Forum the Time For Solutions was realistic and achievable. Moreover, I have seen a greater involvement of all stakeholders: politicians, NGOs, companies, scientists, experts...

All is not finished yet. Here now is commitment time. We are now facing the challenge to act. And we are expected to act!

We can improve the lives of billions of people who suffer every day from lack of water or sanitation. For this, we move forward:

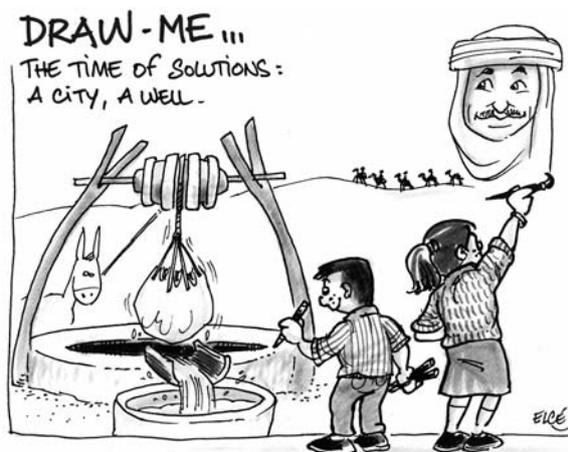
- At the field level where solutions come from, available here at the Forum. It is up to us to disseminate and contribute to their implementation;
- The path of hydro-diplomacy, these are the commitments that governments, local and regional authorities have defined.

Tomorrow at Rio +20, we will recall that "Water Security" - for domestic, social, economic needs and for environmental balance - is among the strategic needs for the future! ●



©Photo DR

Loïc Fauchon,
President of the World Water Council



« African countries commit to funding water and sanitation in rural areas »

Republic of Congo, Ivory Coast, Niger, Chad, France, Italy and Switzerland have pledged \$80 million as part of the Rural Water Supply Initiative in Africa. The announcement was made during the conference on the partnership for strengthening water security in Africa. This initiative is supported by the African Water Facility within the African Development Bank. The conference ended with the launch of the 4th African Water week scheduled for 14-18 May 2012 in Cairo, Egypt.

Belgian emergency solution for drinking water system

The District Water Company of Liège (CILE) has for the last two years counted on spring can water production plant. If there is a network breakdown preventing users from accessing water from the tap, the plant comes online without delay. This underexploited plant functions only 2 or 3 times a year. The Belgian society proposes this stopgap solution (at cost price) in neighbouring areas.

Wells In The Desert

"A City, A Well", is a construction project of clean pastoral and market gardeners in the Agadez region (Niger) which strongly involves the local community. Initiators of this operation, the NGO Tidène, the A City, A Well Operation, Rotary International, other NGOs, local collectives and enterprises take local population needs and recommendations into account. This structure provides a means to include autonomous inhabitants in the management of their wells.

Desalinated Solutions: Water and Energy in the Arab States

Ministers, local authorities and technicians from Arab states find coherence on the need for desalination to assure drinking water. How to power this solution is a key question



(Left to right) Eng. Zaher bin Khalid Al-Sulaimani (Director General of Projects for the Public Authority for Electricity and Water-Oman), Dr. Abid Thyab Al Ajeeli (Arab Parliament) and Ahmed bin Abdullah bin Mohammed Al Shehhi (Minister of Regional Municipalities and Water Resources – Oman)

The Arab world represents 5% of the world's population, but possesses only 1% of the planet's fresh water. "Currently 18 of the 22 Arab States suffer from water scarcity and by 2050 this will turn into water distress," predicted Dr. Abid Thyab Al Ajeeli from the Arab Parliament on Wednesday 14 March 2012 at the 6th World Water Forum. During the Arab dialogue session entitled "Water and Energy," Dr. Al Ajeeli stressed the need for technical innovation in desalination and renewable energy.

To help solve the water and sanitation issues in the Palestinian municipality of Al Ubeidyeh, Maher Abu Sarhan called for increased water allocation equity with Israel. This local Palestinian authority also identified the need for investments for wastewater treatment plants that incorporate solar and biogas energies as well as wastewater reuse.

Saltwater Sun Solutions

Desalination and energy dominated the discussion. Both the panel and participants rallied around the need for increased investment in innovation for desalination plants and renewable energies for the sunny

region. Oman plans on investing in 200 MW of renewable energy projects over the next 4 years. "In Oman, 80% of drinking water comes from the sea," says Zaher bin Khalid Al-Sulaimani, Director General of Projects for the Public Authority for Electricity and Water-Oman.

Desalination in the Arab world, particularly in the Gulf States, is already widespread. Currently, large fossil fuel reserves provide the energy to drive these processes. Solar energy reserves, however, are limitless and free of charge. Dr. Al Ajeeli demonstrated how solar radiation models can be used to ensure appropriate localisation of solar installations. He also presented the solar humidification-dehumidification (HDH) desalination process as a sustainable solution. This process is similar to the natural water cycle and is driven strictly by solar energy.

"Water is paramount if we want sustainability and a sustainable future," proclaimed H.E. Ahmed bin Abdullah bin Mohammed Al Shehhi (Minister of Regional Municipalities and Water Resources – Oman). The use of sun and saltwater will certainly play a pivotal role for Arab states in this future. ●

©Photo: L. Johnson

American "success stories"

For a better future of water and sanitation in Americas, five countries present their solutions. Each of them with their own convictions.

Which legislative framework? Which public/private funding? Which power devolution? Representatives from Mexico, Honduras, Equator, Brazil and the United States debated these issues. The roundtable dedicated to the American continent was organised with the intention to propose "already experimented Solutions that could be implemented in different countries" declares Rodrigo Rollemberg, Senator and President of the Commission on the Environment of Brazil.

As an example, in order to fight against pollution in waterways, Brazil promotes its national policy for solid wastes which forbids surface garbage. Before its enforcement, garbage was directly dumped near the rivers. Victor Lippi, mayor of Socoraba in Brazil, insists on the importance of establishing action plans to help municipalities focusing on priorities and actions to implement for their sanitation projects. "Government's participation is essential as municipalities do not have the necessary financial and technical means", he says. Like Rollemberg, Lippi underlines the necessity to create water agencies covering the territories of the river basins.

PPPs and grassroots action at the heart of the debate

In Mexico, river basin management is also encouraged. Since its creation in 2006, the Apatlaco River Basin Commission has improved the ecological conditions in the zone. Eleven wastewater treatment plants have also been constructed with a 12th to be inaugurated on 16 March. To ensure their proper long term working, Fernando Maira, representative of the Morelos State, Mexico insists on the need for technical monitoring and recommends delegating this mission to the private sector, in order to ensure. Marlo Lara, parliamentarian from



©Photo Noa Shlesinger

Rodrigo Rollemberg, president of the Environment Commission of the Brazilian Senate.

the National Congress of Honduras, agrees with the need for laws concerning public-private partnerships.

Evelyn Pamela Falconi, representative for Equator argues, on the contrary, that "banning the privatisation of water and giving back power to the populations will be the only way to ensure the right to water for all".

Empowering citizens remains the main objective of Senator Karen Fraser from the State of Washington, USA. "Empowering local authorities" is the solution she promotes to ensure access to water and a good resource management.

Finland political Solutions

Katariina Poskiparta, Secretary of State of the Finnish Ministry of Environment highlighted water taxation as one of the key measures aiming to cover the cost of water supply and treatment. Finland has also established a reduction programme of waste water coming from the municipalities and industries. The country created in 2009 the first Finnish Water Forum, which allows public and private actors to exchange Solutions on the subject. Lastly, a collaboration process is engaged with Russia on issues concerning the Baltic Sea.

OECD Provides Environmental Outlook and Policy Reform Guidance

OECD published on Tuesday 13 March two books presenting the latest prospects concerning the socio-economic evolutions for the next four decades and their impacts on four important fields: climate change, biodiversity, water and environment pollution effects on health.

Costs of inaction could be enormous according to OECD. The growing energy demand will result in an increase of 50% in world's greenhouse gases and worsening air pollution. Such pollution could become by 2050 the first environmental cause for death in the world. China and India will be by far the most affected countries. The world water demand will increase of about 55%. 2.3 billion additional people will lack water.

Portfolio



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Frances Lucraft (Programme Officer, IWA), coordinator of the "World Water Monitoring Challenge", a water quality testing program raising awareness in 77 countries.



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Refreshing moment in Morocco.



©Photo 6th World Water Forum / J.C. Barba

Refreshing moment in Japan.



©Photo 6th World Water Forum / NBC

On the stand of the International Institute of Water Engineering and Environment.



©Photo 6th World Water Forum / Audrey Bonneville

Discussions at Citizen's House of Water.



©Photo 6th World Water Forum / NBC

Reconstruction of a well in the middle of the desert.



©Photo 6th World Water Forum / Jeanne Grueau

Benedito Braga, President of the International Forum Committee, Catarina de Albuquerque, UN Special reporter on the Human Right to Safe Drinking Water and Sanitation, Loïc Fauchon, President of the World Water Council (Photo 6th World Water Forum / Jeanne Grueau).



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International frenzy at the press room.



©Photo 6th World Water Forum / Photo Audrey

Gaston Kaba, Assistant Governor of the 9100 district in Niger (Rotary representative), with Mohammed Ixa (president of the NGO Tidène), for the project Les Puits du Désert- Sanou B. Hyacinthe.



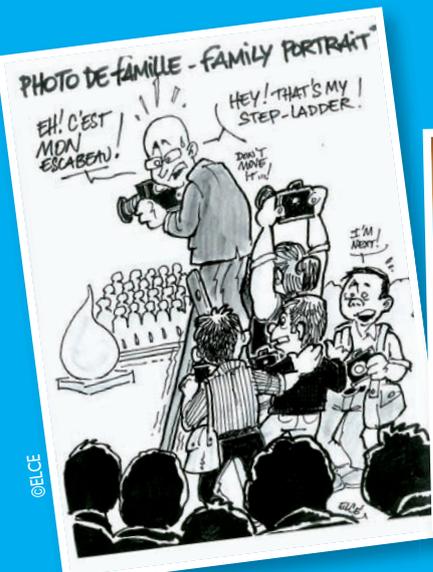
©Photo 6th World Water Forum / Christophe Taimour

Hydraulic fracturing discussed during one of the on 15 March sessions with Food and Water Watch...

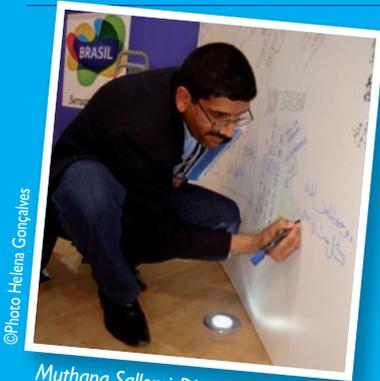


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Maude Barlow, Chair of the Council of Canadians and President of Food and Water Watch based in Washington.



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Muthana Sallomi, Director of Baghdad Environmental Directory, Iraq, writes on the walls of the Brazilian Pavilion a sentence from the Qur'an on the Brazil Pavilion walls: "Everything in life comes from water".



@Photo 6th World Water Forum - Maime Guyomard

"We believe that traditional knowledge is solution", Deborah Sanchez, Co-Chair (Barbareno Chumash Council-affiliate of the Seventh Generation Fund).



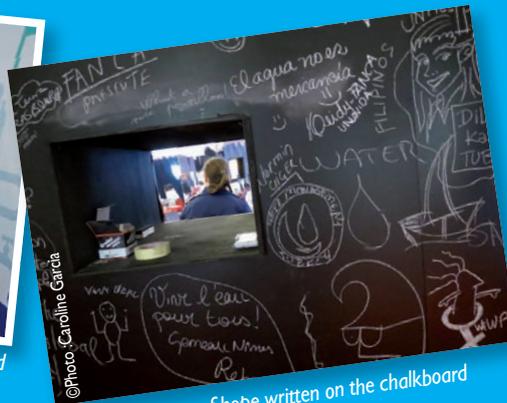
@Photo Helena Gonçalves

Dancing presentation in the China Water Pavilion.

@Photo : 6th Water World Forum / Christophe Taamouré



Young journalists from the Forum's Gazette interview Bernard de la Villardière about the teachings revealed in his film, "Le temps des solutions".



@Photo Caroline Garcia

Messages of hope written on the chalkboard in the Policy Pavilion.



@Photo Marine Guyomard @ 6th World Water Forum

Mister Muttukumaru and Issaka promote decentralized cooperation. Romesh Muttukumaru, Deputy Director of the UNDP Partnerships Bureau (left) ; Issoufou Issaka, Minister of Water and Hydraulics, Government of Niger (right).

@Photo : 6th Water World Forum / Christophe Taamouré



At the Forum, pieces of a fresco created by students from the Ecole de La Croix rouge in Aulnay-sous-Bois are received by Japanese youths.



Photo Marine Guyomard @ 6th World Water Forum

Children from the 4th grade of Hozier school from Marseille discover water issues.



@Photo 6th Water World Forum / Christophe Taamouré

Bernard de la Villardière and François Danel (Director General, Action Against Hunger) present "Le temps des solutions", a film to raise the awareness of Marseille public and experts from around the world about water access issues on the planet.

@Photo Caroline Garcia



An appetizer of Marseille water for 5th grade students at the Ecole Milan de Marseille.



@Photo Caroline Garcia

At the World Water Council stand, students from the Gilles Vigneault school in Marseille were unaware of the important role water plays in the world.



@Photo 6th Water World Forum / Christophe Taamouré

Blaine Grindler, Brian Monongie and Deborah Sanchez at the session « Indigenous Peoples and Water : Culture, Rights and Well-Being ».

Big ideas from small mouths

Emphatic solutions were proposed by six children in the session, Children solutions session! Let's talk about water, held on 15th March.

"Good preparation and knowledge will decrease disaster victims!"

"Let's enjoy hands-on activities together!"

"Cleaning riverbanks, reducing trash and research of wildlife are the key to raise awareness of living with aquatic life!"

"Making opportunities will lead to local actions!"

"Generating interest and spreading information to the public are necessary to keep our water culture alive!"

The dynamic team of six was selected from the Children's WWF Follow-Up held in Tokyo in August 2011 and organised by the Foundation of River & Watershed Environment Management in Japan.

Kidron valley wastewater to the Dead Sea

Israeli engineers offer solutions to manage the wastewater coming downstream from eastern Jerusalem and Palestinian territories, which is spreading pollution through the Kidron valley and into the Dead Sea. Certain solutions require an agreement with Palestinian authorities: create a treatment plant in Palestinian territory, or use existing pipelines in that area to send wastewater to an existing treatment plant. However an alternative, albeit expensive, method exists to circumvent the territory. Even if Israeli and Palestinian engineers work together in the field, reaching an agreement remains a challenge.

Youth on the move

The 6th World Water Forum innovates in giving youth a large importance. From students to young professionals, they all contribute to success of the different events that are taking place. Flashback on the main initiatives



Youth participants marching for the Forum.

the journey of Baladine, a water drop (movie from Henri-Marc Becquart). Others, like Kentaro Nakano, a Japanese student, suggest gaining back ownership over the river. Other students also participate through the creation of awareness projects or meetings with local authorities.

Young professionals are also actively involved. Twenty-eight young people from all over the world have been recruited by the Projection Network – international network of young professionals in the essential service sectors – to realise "Solutions", the Forum newsletter. Spaces for exchange were also installed by the Projection Network, such as the Slum Pavilion in the Village of Solutions.

A fresh look on water

The youth movement brings a new look on water issues. It helps "create links between us", explains Marie-Alix Prat, one of the three leaders of the Youth Movement for Water working group.

For more than 2 years, the "Roots and Citizenship Commission" has been focusing on the initiatives and contributions of students (age 18-25) from all over the world, reaching multiple outcomes: youth vision development, declaration from the Water Youth Parliament, conferences, etc.

From different schools and high schools, more than 700 teenagers came to the Forum to share about water. Some of them get accustomed to water uses thanks to

The Forum puts forward youth and general public awareness-raising regarding the "Youth and Water" network's role to make the voice of the young heard abroad and to foster dialogue between all the generations.

"Young people have the right to sit at the Solutions table in the institutions", declares Olivier Thibault, General Director of the Artois-Picardie Water Agency.

Right to water: solutions anchored in reality

Upholding the right to water and sanitation results from a long process, according to a panel of experts introduced by Loïc Fauchon, President of the World Water Council. Concrete examples, however, prove that it is possible.

It begins with legal incorporation of the term into national law, followed by establishing action plans that are in turn backed by increased and targeted investments. This must happen while respecting several conditions: encouraging stronger cooperation, facilitating knowledge sharing between NGOs, States and local actors, organising the management of service operators and promoting the adaption of appropriate technologies for implementation.

But for the panel, this approach can only succeed if benefiting communities are implemented into the decision-making process, and then able to manage, operate and evaluate provided services. As an example, an animated film follows the voyage of a French family as they discover the difficulties of accessing water for a village in Mali. The most vulnerable populations must be identified, targeted and provided with appropriate financing.

Means of Financing

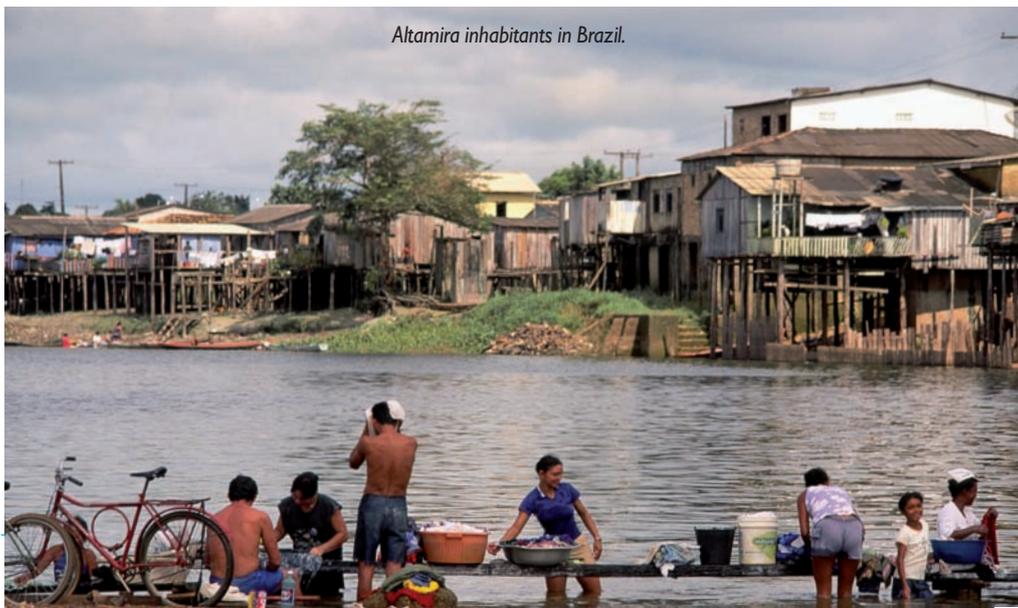
According to Alejandro Molinari, the Argentinian Quality of Services Manager of the NGO ETOSS/ERAS, it is necessary to measure the frequency of supply, the consump-

tion, the quality, the quantity, and the cost of water. For the ONG, the cost of the water bill should not exceed 5% of the household income, and the operators should provide regular water quality reports.

Up until 1999, in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, the most impoverished households relied only on one central well where water was often stolen and sold at exorbitant prices. The city thus financed a programme in partnership with the World Bank and the City of Paris. According to Nao Long, Deputy General Director of the Phnom Penh Water Supply Authority (PPWSA), 27,000 direct connections to the water supply network have been created. Households can spread out their payment over 22 months, if necessary, and receive benefits of up to 70% of the cost. Ouane Habib, Mali's Minister of Energy and Water, presented another concept consisting of using a portion of revenues from telephone calls to be used towards improving water access.

The Ugandan Parliament member, Kaitake Sarah NDOBOLI maintains the indispensable role of the United Nations in the implementation of this human right. ●

Altamira inhabitants in Brazil.



©Photo Rui Faquima/ANA Brazil

Satellite Resources: A Near Perfect Solution

A network of satellites, intelligently coordinated, offers unlimited prospects, among them new jobs and services. Satellite technology offers not only the best information in terms of quality to price ratio, but also the means for African countries to improve governance and become masters of their own resources. Etienne Massart K. Makagam, Managing Director of AGEOS-Gabon, strongly invited African countries to overcome mistrust and begin using satellite technologies. However, raising awareness about the benefits and limitations of such technologies is an imperative.

Ministerial declaration: "Butterfly Effect" on the way to South Korea

The 90 NGOs that compose the "Butterfly Effect" consider that "the ministerial statement innovates in several areas". They expressed satisfaction with the clear statement of the right to water as an inalienable human right and the recognition of the concept of humanitarian crisis. The "Butterfly Effect" hopes the 7th World Water Forum in South Korea will continue along the same lines, since the 6th World Water Forum has for the first time integrated the NGOs that are engaged in the development process. The following steps are the states' commitment to the implementation of the right to drinking water and sanitation, as well as the ratification of the UN International Watercourses Convention (1997).

Share, to merge both river ecosystems and hydropower requirements.

« In the Alps, hydropower is the first renewable energy source. But its ecological impacts threaten the water quality. The SHARE project (Sustainable Hydropower in Alpine Rivers Ecosystems) offers a decision support system tool, the multi criteria analysis, which to merge, on an unprejudiced base, these opposite needs. » explains a responsible from GERES, Renewable energies, Environnement and Solidarity Group. The association presents its solution on 16 March at the 6th World Water Forum. A tool born out of the co-operation between 13 Alpine organisations and financed by the European Union.

Drylands and Oasis

Through exhibitions, conferences, meetings or stands, desertification problems are gradually revealed in the CARL association's presentation of "Drylands and Oasis". The varied subjects consist of: river water, agriculture, land ownership, desertification.

These NGOs present concrete solutions: installing a well, planting date palms, etc. By inviting students to write their ideas or poems and by hanging them in a tree of life which recalls that solutions are within hands reach.

Wells In The Desert

"A City, A Well", is a construction project of clean pastoral and market gardeners in the Agadez region (Niger) which strongly involves the local community. Initiators of this operation, the NGO Tidène, the A City, A Well Operation, Rotary International, other NGOs, local collectives and enterprises take local population needs and recommendations into account. This structure provides a means to include autonomous inhabitants in the management of their wells.

Water actors reveal their commitments

Wednesday 14 march 2012, public and private decision makers, non-governmental organisations (NGOs), associations and water specialists met around a large panel to present their commitments in the field of water and sanitation.

Effective water policy and management constitute a both local and world preoccupation which involves a multiplicity of actors at the level of basins, municipalities, regions, states, etc. Some representatives of these various sectors presented, on 14 march 2012, their experiments and innovating methods of good water governance.

"Stakeholders commitments are not homogeneous", declares Rob Dowling, Director of Australian company SA Water Corporation". However, good water governance supposes a close coordination between all the actors involved in the decision making and implementing process. "This governance", underlines Monique Corier, chair of the confederation of Marseille residents association, "cannot be done without the active participation of water users".

A common objective for the good water governance

Stakeholders involved in water management pursue a common objective: to satisfy the most underprivileged water users. The NGOs are committed in various countries in order to help people from marginalised area to be conversant to good water governance concept",



The Stakeholders present their commitments for the good water governance.

emphasises Mary O' Connel, representative of Initiative Butterfly Effect. In Colombia, over taxation of the water distributed to the richest people finances the subsidies granted to the poorest", maintains Rubén Avendano. Togolese and Dutch develop a quadripartite policy to reinforce technical capabilities of local actors in the field of water and sanitation.

"The 6th World Water Forum must make it possible for the stakeholders to dynamise their commitments in favor of an effective water policy and management", mentions Aziza Akmouch, Policy analyst Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD). ●

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