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> Figures about the Forum

- **173** countries in Marseille
- Over **1400** solutions on solutionsforwater.org platform
- Close to **1200** journalists from the five continents
- Over **1400** representatives of local and regional authorities
- Over **2600** young involved in Forum's preparation and its sessions
- Nearly **200** projects from civil society : associations, artists ...

A recognised success for the 6th World Water Forum which gathered with 35,000 participants in Marseille

The 6th World Water Forum was characterised by a strong mobilisation of the international political community and of civil society so as to make the cause of water and sanitation move forward during more than 400 open sessions of which fifty major ones.

After these six days of debates and exchanges, built on 1,400 solutions for water and sanitation posted on the solutions sharing platform, all the stakeholders (UN agencies, governments, parliamentarians, local authorities, donors, water professionals, NGOs and civil society actors, women and youth representatives) have already announced more than a hundred concrete commitments. These solutions and commitments should enable a faster access to water and sanitation, a universal human right which was recognised in 2010, and improve the conservation and management of this major threatened resource. Just like the Village of

Solutions, www.solutionsforwater.org, the Solutions platform created especially for the 6th World Water Forum - the Time for Solutions - and which is also intended to welcome stakeholders' commitments, is perpetuated so as to become a place of sharing, exchange and monitoring for the 7th World Water Forum which will take place in Daegu Gwan-gyeoksi, South Korea, in 2015. The World Water Council will bear these solutions and commitments to Rio de Janeiro (Brazil) for the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development Rio+20 from June 20th to 22nd 2012, for which the water and sanitation issue is already on the agenda. ●

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Bart Devos, Eun-Kyung Park, Loïc Fauchon, Henri de Raincourt, Ben Braga, Martine Vassal at the session of commitments.

Grassroots and Local Commitments for Water

Grassroots and Local Commitments for Water are based on knowledge, sharing and water preservation. In Marseille, they included education programmes, the creation of 32 water funds, the signature of the Istanbul Water Consensus, and the creation of a knowledge sharing network.

The human being is the foundation of the commitments. "However small we might be, we must act for water", highlights President of the World Youth Parliament for Water, Bart Devos. The numerous commitments aim to "build ties" between the young and the authorities, across generations, between the scientific and political worlds, and among neighbours of the same water basin. For example, one of the commitments of the French Academy for Water is the creation of a sharing platform for climatologists and water network managers.

"Solutions must be in harmony with the land", insists French Minister for Cooperation, Henri de Raincourt.

Other key players, including Marseille high school student Michel Frey, also aim to conserve water resources. He is one of the water "sentinels", who are committed to spreading awareness among other high school students "so that they do not spend half an hour in the shower".

"Marseille is committing for water", states Martine Vassal, Deputy Mayor of Marseille and President of the Grassroots and Citizenship Commission. Save, Act and Share has become the new triptych of Marseille. One of the primary themes of the 6th World Water Forum is empowering local key players and officials, associations and citizens to act.

Hydro commitments to continue efforts

Closing the 6th World Water Forum, the parties agreed on the path of water policies. The implementation of more integrative solutions and the enforcement of existing rules and international agreements were discussed.



Commitments of parliamentarian members from Bhoutan , Mali and Benin presented to the forum.

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More integrative solutions

All actors agree on the need to integrate all water-related issues, including services rendered by the environment. The Academy of water is committed for example, through Jean-Luc Redaud, "to establish a platform for exchanges between scientists and managers" to integrate climate change. EDF meanwhile, with the International Hydropower Association and the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research, agree to limit the water footprint of its hydroplants.

A consensus also appears to promote the construction of multi-level governance. "We recognize the value and necessity of the involvement of local governments to achieve universal access to water and sanitation," says Juanita During, the Intergovernmental Agency of water and sanitation in Africa.

Enforcement and existing regulations

Representatives of parliamentarians worldwide

and OECD agree to the inclusion of the right to water and sanitation in national policies. They support States to implement existing laws and conventions.

International agreements

New agreements were launched, as an agreement on groundwater in the Arab region. This is to implement an integrated water management, highlights Chahra Kisa, president of the center of Arab water security. Several organisations are engaged in creating international structures to share information and experiences : Association of Latin American multinationals FEMSA, for example, plans to invest \$ 27 million in 32 funds for watershed conservation in their region. Efforts must continue. Brice Lalonde, coordinator of the Sustainable Development Summit, is committed in this way: "I will carry the best resolutions from the World Water Forum in Marseille to Rio+20".

Parliamentarian Conference adopts its Manifesto

Parliamentarians from around the world commit to proposing water governance solutions and adopt a Manifesto to serve as a road map.



6th World Water Forum/ Christophe Taamourte

Large numbers of elected officials were at the Parliamentarian Conference.

After two working days, the parliamentarian Conference reached large consensus, with 250 participants adopting a manifesto. André Flajolet, co-coordinator of the parliamentary process declares, "it is a universally accepted text that reflects sensibility in terms of water. It orients the conclusions of the Marseille World Water Forum in route to the Rio +20 conference".

The manifesto underlines the importance of the parliamentary assistance board, which is a knowledge tool created by the World Water Council. It will help the national Parliamentarians to share expertise concerning good practices in water governance. Speaking to parliamentarians, Pierre Victoria, second co-coordinator of the parliamentary process claims, "this project should make links between parliamentarians in order to create a World Water Parliament."

The regional parliaments commit

The representatives of parliaments from the world (European parliament, Panafrican parliament, Lebanon parliament, etc.) presented their regional commitments. Sophie Auconie, member of the Environmental Commission and member of the European Water Intergroup detailed the resolution adopted yesterday by

the Strasbourg assembly. "The parliament calls on all the member States to join the 1997 transboundary river Convention of United Nations and asks the Commission and the member States to commit more actively for the Millennium Development Goals", states Sophie Auconie.

After explaining the great challenges of Arab countries for water access, the Lebanon parliament representative, Mohamed Kabbani, confirmed "an inter-ministerial council of the Arab League in 2011 gave the green light for the implementation of a platform for experience sharing." The Council also is preparing an action plan that will focus on how to save water in the agricultural sector and focuses on the impact of climate change on water and sanitation access.

The Panafrican parliament adopted a nine point road map concerning water and sanitation access in neglected areas. To end the parliamentarian Conference, Henri de Raincourt, French cooperation minister, underlined that, "in the history of the world, parliaments have recognised, set up, implemented, defended, widened and deepened every fundamental right throughout centuries. Each of these essential liberties provides every citizen with the dignity to be free and safety from servitude."

International cooperation on water extends to SMEs

A Global Network of Water Small and medium-sized enterprises (SME) was launched on 16 March 2012, through the initiative of the French association Ea eco-entreprises and with support from UNIDO (United Nations Industrial Development Organisation) and Ubifrance.

The launch of the network was preceded by a meeting between water SMEs and water SME networks from all over the world (Colombia, Chile, Morocco, Israel, Portugal, etc). The participants put in place a collaborative charter for the new network, as well as its first action plan. The creation of the Global Network of Water SMEs intends to connect the world's water SMEs in order to promote North-South, North-North and South-South SME exchanges. It also encourages competency and technology transfer.

The French like their water

87% of French citizens are satisfied with the water supply in their community; constantly increasing over the last few years.

The 16th barometer CI EAU/TNS Sofres "The French and Water" also reveals that 7 out of 10 French citizens enjoy the taste of their tap water, and 8 out of 10 French citizens trust tap water quality. They are also more concerned with the evolution of resources today than in previous years. In fact, 46% of them are worried about future water scarcity.

Portfolio



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The amazing model of the Three Gorges Dam (China).

©Photo 6th World Water Forum - Audrey de Bonneville



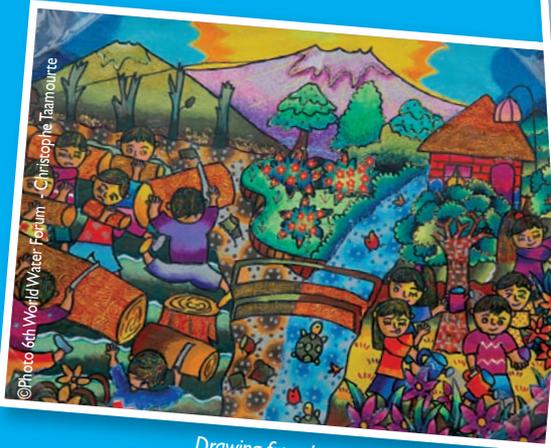
Frédéric Mugira committing for the world

©Photo 6th World Water Forum - Audrey de Bonneville



Clean without polluting, that's what Valerie Miravalls from Workshop for the Mediterranean Environment.

©Photo 6th World Water Forum - Audrey de Bonneville



Drawing from Japan.

©Photo 6th World Water Forum - Christophe Iamourre



"Adopt a sardine and commit yourself to save the planet", an initiative of the Workshop for the Mediterranean environment.

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Paul and Juliette discovering the Village of Solutions.

©Photo 6th World Water Forum / NBDC



The Fountain, creation of artist Hundertwasser, welcomes visitors at the "City of Marseille" stand.

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"Toilets are not garbage". The water exhibition - The future.

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A big thank you to all volunteers!

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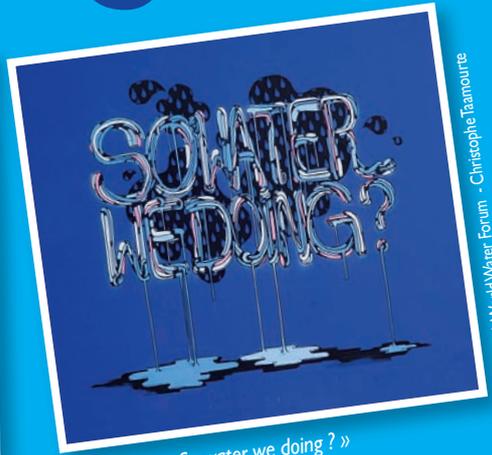


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Solidarity concert by the World Water Council.



©Photos Jean-Christophe Barila



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« So water we doing ? »

During the Forum, EDF opened the hydroelectric plant of Saint-Chamas (Bouches-du-Rhône) to 500 visitors for a urban ballad elaborated by the Streets Art Company Ilotopie.



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Eun-Kyung Park and Jens Berggren presenting the next steps during the youth closing ceremony.



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"Multiplying solutions in response to water security challenges in Africa" session.



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The Third Kyoto World Water Grand Prize given to Katosi Women Development Trust Uganda.



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O Mamaô, an aquamusical show for small children.



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Flag transfer between France and South Korea. Goodbye Marseille! See you soon Daegu for the next Forum!



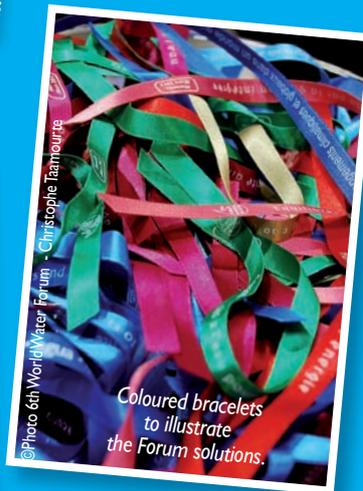
©Photo Noa Schlesinger et Claire Vigé-Hélie

In family at the Slum Pavilion.



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Citizen debate on Saturday morning.



©Photo 6th World Water Forum - Christophe Taamourre

Coloured bracelets to illustrate the Forum solutions.



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Recyclable reading at the Library Pavilion.

Cities networks tackle global changes

In Marseille, local authority networks are engaged in the questions of urbanisation and climate change. "The 21st century will be the century of cities" predicts David Cadman, President of ICLEI- Local governments for sustainability. In effect, by 2050, two-thirds of humanity will be city-dwellers, totaling 6 billion compared to 3 billion today. We will have to double our current urban capacity. This means building in 40 years what we have previously done in 4000 years. It is impossible without changing our consumption patterns and type of urban development," warns David Cadman.

Climate change make the transformation of cities more urgent. Muchadeyi Masunda, mayor of Harare, Zimbabwe, co-president of United Cities and Local Governments reports: "More and more of our members in Africa are already feeling the impact of climate change". In this context, it is even more important to better manage water resources. Thus, Harare collaborates with the city of Munich, Germany. "It is important for us to directly learn from more mature jurisdictions. The city networks are an important medium to implement concrete solutions," highlights Muchadeyi Masunda.

Site visits in Provence: practice sharing in Provence and the Mediterranean

Land owner's unions and the Société du Canal de Provence (SCP) welcomed around 450 participants for a technical visit on 14 March, in Tholonet near Aix-en-Provence. The schedule included conferences, debates and seven site visits to exchange technical solutions and models for governing irrigation networks in the Mediterranean. For almost 50 years, the SCP carries out and manages the necessary water supply work for eastern and coastal Provence.

Istanbul Water consensus, historical recognition of local and regional authorities

At the end of the historical local and regional authority political process, the Istanbul Water Consensus reached over 1100 signatories. In a time of global changes, local mayors and leaders bring concrete solutions to water problems.



The signatories of the Istanbul Water Consensus demonstrate their commitment.

On Thursday 15 March, the local and regional authority process came to a close. The co-president of the process and mayor of Bourges, Serge Lepeltier, was clear, stating, "The countries where water management is strongest are those with a strong degree of decentralisation; the local and regional authorities play a central role." These entities actively participated in this 6th World Water Forum, obtaining historical recognition, according to Loïc Fauchon, president of the World Water Council.

Communities, in fact, hold solutions. The community of Bourges Plus has piloted a programme aimed at improving water quality by promoting more reasonable agricultural production. In Rabat, Morocco, carps are used to stabilise water supply quality while creating a new local economic activity. In Osaka, Japan, wastewater is used to produce energy and at the same time reduce greenhouse emissions. Intelligent solutions should be exchanged through a co-operative decentralised process on "equal footing," underlines Michel Delebarre, President of United Cities.

Mobilising actors toward global changes

The Forum is an opportunity to accentuate the mobilisation of sustainable local level water governance. Many communities have signed the Istanbul Water Consensus, increasing the number of signatories to over 1100. The document reaffirms the need for local public control of water as a public good and calls for urgency adapting to climate change and urbanisation. Mayor of Banforo, Burkina Faso, Souleymane Soulama testifies that, "over the last 20 years, the wet season has shortened by two months and the flow of our rivers has collapsed."

Water, urbanisation, and climate changes are all cross-cutting challenges that rest at the heart of sustainable development. In Marseille, local authorities have increased their mobilisation and have become recognised as principal actors. For Mercedes Bresso, President of EU Committee of the Regions, "we should be inspired by the Forum process on the way to Rio+20".

Monitoring and evaluation for a better water service

Access to water is not an end in itself if the quality of the service is not met. Indicators measure the performance levels.

Peri-urban areas and small towns of developing countries are often abandoned on water and sanitation issues. When systems exist, performances displayed are often inferior to levels foreseen. Through participant interventions from approximately fifteen countries, the French Development Agency (AFD) sought to demonstrate that Water Monitoring and Reporting (WMR) can improve the quality of the service supplied to users while reducing the costs. The monitoring and reporting rest on the collection of data at a local level. This allows to provide a certain number of performance, technical, financial and institutional indicators. This information, reflecting on service quality, is given back to all the different stakeholders: users, operators, main contractors, ministries responsible for water, development agencies....

Some developed countries are already implementing this approach. In France, the National Observatory of Water and Sanitation Public Services, part of the ONEMA (Aquatic and water national office), play this role: local information is collected in a national data basis. This makes the production of a report stressing various performance indicators possible. It equally allows comparisons between regions in order to adapt public policies if necessary.

Monitoring and reporting progress in the South

In the South, this practice is common as well. So, in Kenya, the information system on water regulation identifies nine key-indicators on performance. Every year, the annual report expresses its satisfaction with local operators who transmit requested information and do not hesitate to expressly mention the ones that do not play by the rules. In Niger where associative structures approved by government assure the follow-up of evaluation, water sales up to 0,03 per m³ cover the system's cost. The best way to recover the arrears favoured by this system facilitate the cost efficiency of the exploitation and the amounts saved are used to renew the equipment.

In Madagascar, Haiti, the Palestinian Territories or even in Congo, such mechanisms start to be implemented. Major challenges remain, specifically to guarantee the reliability and harmonisation of collected data and to reinforce local capacities. Nevertheless, supporting mechanisms such as the cooperation proposed by the Syndicat des eaux d'Ile de France (SEDIF), are available.



More transparency in the drilling techniques through hydraulic fracturing

In addition to the enormous quantity of water needed for digging, the soil gets cracked because of the brutality of this technique used for extracting natural gas. This technique is applied all over the world. In case of improper sealing, several thousands of liters of highly toxic extraction water can reach and contaminate groundwater. Corinne Lepage, French member of the European Parliament, pointed out the slow development of a good jurisdiction and lack of transparency when chemicals are used for such extraction. The Food and Water Watch NGO recommends banning the drilling through hydraulic fracturing.

Qatar: ways to overcome thirst and starvation

Qatar has neither rivers nor lakes; groundwater is the only available source of accessible freshwater for human consumption and agricultural uses in the country. In 2008, the government sets the Qatar National Food Security Programme (QNFS) to reduce the Qatar's reliance on foods imports through the realisation of self-sufficiency. Energy renewal, water, agriculture and food are the main pillars of the programme. For Fahad Bin Mohammed Al-Attiya, Chairman of the programme, seawater desalination and wastewater treatment are used to meet the domestic water requirements and food security sufficiency in the dry land countries through the Global Dry Land Alliance.

Monitoring means better quality and costs reduction.



Jordania: Actions Against Challenges

Despite difficulties to convince the farmers to irrigate their plants by greywater, 80% of farmers now use greywater in Jordan valley stated Guy Honore, Programme coordinator GIZ-Jordan, which reflects on national economy. Worth to say, Jordan has done many steps towards water challenges like transfer of Disi water projected to supply the capital with 100 million cubic metres of water annually. Al Disi project will be implemented by the Turkish company GAMA, funded by the European Investment Bank and the French Development Agency extended two \$100 million soft loans to the government.

North-South integration to address the challenge of the water resources and ecosystems

"We'll need two World Water Forums to define a real water and ecosystems management strategy," indicates Chris Baker, Program and Strategy Director of the NGO Wetland International (WI), during the session "Committing to Bridging the Water Resources Management and Ecosystems Gap" on the 15 March.

Wetland International (WI), a nonprofit NGO, founded in the United Kingdom in 1954, focuses on wetland protection and sustainable management.

The meeting had the aim of proposing commitments that address the challenges related to the quality of water and ecosystem resources. Chris Baker welcomed the cooperative agreement for water and ecosystem resource management signed between WI, the Niger River Basin Authority, the Organisation for the Development of the Senegal River and the International Commission for the Protection of the Danube.

Water and Disasters: "Prepare for the unexpected"

One year after the Fukushima catastrophe, natural catastrophes links to water appeared as a subject of major preoccupation on an international scale, more so in the North than in the South. Political will is key.

On Thursday 16 March 2012, a high level panel on water and disasters insisted on the importance of natural disaster prevention. The conference began with a video presented by the Prince of Japan Nahurito to revisit the earthquake, the tsunami and the resulting nuclear accident one year after Fukushima, then inviting the panel to extract the lessons learnt from the past. He underlined the incredible resilience of his people, "our ancestors have faced, struggled and overcome similar difficulties. Despite enormous losses, problems and sadness, we have encouraged to move forward because our society has been built on such unrelenting efforts of the people to mitigate and recover from disasters."

The prestigious guests unanimously recommended a preventive approach to disasters, putting forward the examples of the Dutch initiatives.

According to these experts, the Japanese catastrophe teaches us that a holistic approach to risks such as the multi-catastrophes, or multi-hazard approach of the international Strategy of the United Nations for the prevention of catastrophes (UNISDR) is essential. "It is necessary to prepare with the unforeseeable," declared Jose Luis Irigoyen, Director for Transport, Water, Info & Communications Technology (World Bank).

Benoît Miribel, President of Action Against Hunger (ACF), also insisted on the necessary coordination between actors, and the sharing of experiences and practices. Disasters are indifferent whether a country is developed or not. Genuine international solidarity is indispensable for their prevention



©Photo Favangab

The tsunami that has devastated the Fukushima sites confirmed the necessity to coordinate public policies.

and mitigation. "Collective local competences need to be reinforced," concludes Benoît Miribel.

"We hope to see States engaged"

The importance of educating the public was stressed, in particular by Maria Mutagamba, the Minister of Water and Environment, Uganda. Vis-à-vis more socio-economic than technical challenges, "it is our duty to inform our people", she insists. The transparency of decisions taken by the governments is the key of the good prevention policies.

The President of ACF thus invited all actors, including civil society, to closely follow the commitments made by the States. The message is clear, "we hope to see States engaged."

Political will proves again to be essential to the development of effective solutions.

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