



INFORMATION NOTE ON THE PARLIAMENTARIAN CONFERENCE Of the 6th WORLD WATER FORUM March 15-16, 2012

Organised every three years by the World Water Council in partnership with the host country, the **World Water Forum** offers a unique opportunity for decision makers and key players in sustainable development to be a driving force for proposals on all questions linked to water and sanitation.

The recognised need for an adapted legislative framework and budgets dedicated to water policies have placed parliamentarians at the heart of the process of previous Forums. Thus over 260 parliamentarians from around 60 different countries participated to the Istanbul Forum (March 2009). Given their major responsibilities in these fields as well as in the ratification of international treaties, **parliamentarians will have a leading role to play in structuring the debate over water issues** and the major challenges of the 21st century during the next Forum.

The 6th **World Water Forum**, which will be held in **Marseille from 12 to 17 March 2012, is to be the Forum of Solutions and Commitments**. It will aim to consolidate the dynamic of previous Forums and enable Parliamentarians **to identify the solutions** within their fields of competence and to make **commitments**, at their political level, that will help advance the cause of water in favour of public health, sustainable development, the environment, and peace.

A **Parliamentarian Conference** will be organised on **Thursday 15 March** (full day) and **Friday 16 March 2012** (morning only) to which parliament representatives and their teams from across the world will be invited to attend, together with experts from international organisations on water legislations.

GOALS OF THE PARLIAMENTARIAN CONFERENCE OF THE 6th WORLD WATER FORUM

This Parliamentarian Meeting will serve four main purposes:

1. Sharing and compiling the best practices and parliamentarian solutions for water and gathering the key political commitments of Parliaments guaranteeing their implementation;
2. Supporting the key role exercised by parliamentarians in the drafting, voting and monitoring of legislations and national budgets relating to water.
3. Strengthening capacities and contributing to the development of a worldwide parliamentarian network. A Water Legislation Helpdesk will be presented, more specifically dedicated to parliamentarians and their assistants.
4. Increasing parliamentarian mobilisation for water governance within political processes. Particular attention will be paid to the United Nations Conference on sustainable development to be held in Rio from 20 to 22 June 2012 (Rio+20), and the Millennium Development Goals (MDG);

The parliamentary process will be an opportunity to assess the water solutions implemented by Parliaments on an international level, based on a series of fundamental questions that were examined during an initial preparatory parliamentary meeting that took place at the Council of Europe on 10 June 2011 in Strasbourg (France). A secondary preparatory parliamentarian meeting was held on 16th February in the French National Assembly (Paris) in the form of a working seminar. (For more information on this meeting, please visit the following page: <http://www.worldwaterforum6.org/en/news/single/article/preparatory-meeting-of-the-parliamentary-process-of-the-6th-world-water-forum/>)

Those questions will include:

- **Security of water supply and access to clean water and sanitation (water rights/rights to water);**
- **The economic dimension of water in reducing poverty, sustainable development and green growth.**
- **Governance of water and sanitation services, including decentralisation issues;**
- **Transboundary superficial and ground water management ;**
- **Nexus between Water, Energy, Food and Health.**

To meet these challenges in concrete terms, the **preparatory work** for the parliamentarian process will need to identify the **legislation, good practices and case studies presenting solutions** that comply with the Forum's *SMART* requirement criteria (*Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant, Timely*) -- For the full list of target goals and conditions for success responding to the 6th Forum's directions and action priorities, please refer to: http://www.worldwaterforum6.org/fileadmin/user_upload/pdf/Thematic_targets_En.pdf

Moreover, these major questions may be broken down into a series of themes that will emerge over the course of the parliamentary-process preparatory works (e.g. global changes, water and disaster risk reduction, etc.) and parliamentary initiatives to resolve them.

The most promising solutions will be compiled in a "**Guide of Parliamentary Best Solutions and Good Practices**". This guide will be available for consultation at the water legislation helpdesk, and will be developed outside of the Forum. For more information, consult the World Water Council (s.legrand@worldwatercouncil.org)

**Request for Contribution
to the "Guide of Parliamentary Solutions and Good Practices"**

We invite you to play an active role in the process for preparing the Parliamentary Conference and encourage you to inform us as of now of your concrete solutions for water, which would be borne by your Parliament.

To this end, please submit your proposal (e.g. law, regulation, budget guide, case study, best practice, etc.) to the Platform of solutions of the 6th Forum at the following address: <http://www.solutionsforwater.org/parliamentarians>.

In order to ensure their monitoring, please fill in the form below and return it to the following two addresses:

s.legrand@worldwatercouncil.org and fx.imbert@worldwaterforum6.org

Country:

Organisation:

Name of contact person:

Position:

E-mail address:

URL link for further information on the solution:

Solution type¹:

Solution title:

Brief description:

How will this solution enable the target objective to be achieved?

For whom is this solution intended, and why?

In what way will this solution help them?

¹ **Solution type according to the principle of the 6th World Water Forum:**

Regardless of its type, the solution must contribute to resolving a water-related problem and achieve a World Water Forum target goal in one or more regions across the world.

REGISTERING FOR THE 6TH WORLD WATER FORUM AND BOOKING A HOTEL

REGISTRATION

To register for the 6th Forum, please click on the inset below or visit the website of the 6th Forum at the following address:

<http://www.worldwaterforum6.org/fr/inscription/>



FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

In order to ensure the greatest participation of parliamentarians from across the world, the International Forum Committee may, up to a certain budgetary limit, financially assist the attendance of those parliamentarians with the lowest resources.

For any financial support request, which you must make prior to registering, please fill in the attached form and return it to the following two addresses as soon as possible: s.legrand@worldwatercouncil.org and fx.imbert@worldwaterforum6.org

Application deadline: *Before March 1st, 2012*

We are counting on your contribution and your participation in the Solutions and Commitments Forum; we hope that this Session will enable you to fully ensure that your voice is heard as a key political decision-maker in addressing the major challenges presented by water and sanitation.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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PROVISIONAL PROGRAMME OF THE PARLIAMENTARIAN CONFERENCE OF THE 6th WORLD WATER FORUM

Please note that this not the final programme, and will be subject to change.
Further details about the sequence of events and key-speakers will soon follow.

Thursday 15 March 2012 (8:30am – 7pm) – “Time for Solutions”

- Two series of round tables bringing together parliamentarians and experts from the different regions throughout the world, working on joint themes:
 - ✓ A first work session focusing on the **identification of "parliamentarian solutions."** Those will be included in a “Guide of Parliamentarian Solutions and Good Practices” that will be available for consultation on the water legislation helpdesk beyond the Forum;
 - ✓ A second work session focusing on the **pledges made by parliamentarians** that will feed into a joint statement whose draft version will be presented to parliamentarians for discussion and amendments.
- A plenary session divided into two segments:
 - ✓ Presentation of a **"Water Legislation Helpdesk" project.** A preliminary version and a simulation of the Helpdesk’s operation will be presented to participants for their suggestions and recommendations;
 - ✓ Proposals as to the development of a **mechanism to monitor decisions and pledges** beyond the forum,
 - ✓ Presentation of the amended **Joint Statement** for final amendments before its endorsement by all parliamentarians.

Friday 16 March 2012 (8.30 am – 1.00 pm): “D-Day for Commitments to face global water challenges”

- Presentation of the **leading pledges** by main regional Parliaments and Parliamentary organisations, in conjunction with the main issues discussed during the Conference:
 - ✓ Presentation of the **contributions** and the **role of Europe**;
 - ✓ Additional contributions to be announced.
- Presentation of the **Joint Statement** for final endorsement by all the parliamentarians;
- **Perspectives** beyond the forum:
How can parliamentarians increase their commitments within **political processes** on questions relating to water governance and their impact on poverty reduction, sustainable development, and green growth? **Link with the Rio+20 conference and the MDGs.**
- **Closing speech/Press conference**

Another important event of the Forum are the **inter political dialogues**, bringing together parliamentarians, local authorities and government officials, to be organised on a regional basis on **14 (afternoon) and 15 March (morning)**. The discussion basis of these dialogues will be a regional target goal, for which the panellists will share their solutions and examine the joint action priorities in order to achieve it.