



6th World Water Forum, Marseille (France), 12th -17th March 2012 TIME FOR SOLUTIONS

The Role of Local and Regional Authorities

→ Background

Every three years, the World Water Council organises a World Water Forum in close collaboration with the authorities of the host country. These forums are the largest international events related to the water sector and the last forum which was held in Istanbul in 2009 reached 25,000 participants.

A political process was launched by the Local and Regional Authorities at the March 2006 4th World Water Forum in Mexico with the support of the United Cities & Local Governments (UCLG). On this occasion, a high level dialogue was established between local representatives, ministers and parliamentarians. The Declaration which was adopted at the time by the local authorities was incorporated into the Ministerial Declaration.

During the 5th World Water Forum (Istanbul, 2009), the UCLG, the International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives (ICLEI), Local Governments for Sustainability and the World Water Council joined efforts in order to mobilise more than 250 representatives worldwide and convince them to adopt the Istanbul Water Consensus. This Consensus brings together local key players who get involved and seek the best policies and practices within the water and sanitation sector in order to meet global challenges. To this day, more than 900 cities and regions have signed the Istanbul Water Consensus, and we hope to reach 1,000 signatories for the 6th World Water Forum.

As part of the 6th World Water Forum – Solutions Time – which will be held between 12th and 17th March 2012, local and regional authorities will be invited to bear witness of their commitment, share their own solutions to tackle major water-related issues worldwide, and reassert their essential role in improving access to water and sanitation.

→ Local and Regional Authorities' political process: objectives for the 6th Forum

There are five specific objectives:

1. Increase international mobilisation of Local and Regional Authorities (LRAs) within the water sector and encourage them to make commitments, for example by signing the Istanbul Water Consensus;
2. Give LRAs the opportunity to engage in a dialogue with experts working in the water and sanitation sector. As a result, they will be able to identify and develop concrete solutions to meet the challenges they are facing;
3. Develop and improve the geographical balance of signatories to the Istanbul Water Consensus;
4. Encourage new partnerships between LRAs (e.g.: via decentralised cooperation);
5. Develop a constructive dialogue between other political levels.

→ Structure and political content of the Forum

So as to best respond to the global water challenges, the 6th World Water Forum is guided by 12 Priorities for Action and 3 Conditions for Success, translated into common and measurable goals. These targets and their roadmaps provide a strategic frame to the identification and replication of promising solutions.

Ensure Everyone's Well-Being	1.1 Guarantee access to water for all and the Right to Water 1.2 Improve access to integrated sanitation services for all 1.3 Contribute to hygiene and health through water and sanitation 1.4 Prevent and respond to water-related risks and crises 1.5 Contribute to cooperation and peace through water
Contribute to Economic Development	2.1 Balance multiple uses through IWRM (<i>Integrated Water Resource Management</i>) 2.2 Contribute to food security by the optimal use of water 2.3 Harmonise water and energy 2.4 Promote Green Growth and value ecosystem services
Keep the Planet Blue	3.1 Improve the quality of water resources and ecosystems 3.2 Adjust pressures and footprints of human activities on water 3.3 Respond to climate and global changes in an urbanising world
Conditions for Success	CS1 Good governance CS2 Financing water for all CS3 Enabling environments

The political process of the 6th World Forum will include:

- Ten high-level roundtables (behind closed doors) organised by one or several governments: on 13th March (am);
- A Ministerial Conference on 13th March (pm);
- The **3rd International Conference of Local and Regional Authorities for Water: on 14th & 15th March** (am & pm);
- **Four “ regional dialogues”** (Africa, Americas, Asia-Pacific and Europe) organised between ministries, parliamentarians and local governments: **14th March (pm)**;
- A Parliamentary Conference: 15th March (am & pm);
- **Commitment Day (declarations and official speeches): 16th March.** Local and regional authorities shall express their views in the afternoon.

→ 14th-15th March: 3rd International Conference of Local and Regional Authorities



United Cities and Local Governments
 Cités et Gouvernements Locaux Unis
 Ciudades y Gobiernos Locales Unidos

Over 350 local and regional authorities are expected to attend this conference organised by the World Water Council in partnership with the United Local Cities and Government. Several sessions will be held with a view to:

- Put forward solutions implemented by the LRA to cope with challenges they are facing in the sector of water and sanitation. As part of the Conference, a prize will be awarded to the best solution presented by an elected representative;
- Present the progress achieved by the IWC signatories since the 5th Forum within the following contexts: rural, urban, megalopolis, village.
- Exchange on key issues such as water and urbanisation, cooperation and solidarity or regional governance;
- Develop and foster new partnerships between cities and/or regions through a "Partnerships Fair." An announcement listing new partnerships will be made during the afternoon of Friday 16th March, on the official Commitment Day.

→ How can I participate in the Forum and its organisation?

1. **Sign the Istanbul Water Consensus**, determine your own targets and report on progress achieved at the 6th World Water Forum session www.istanbulwaterconsensus.org
2. **Share your local solutions** to tackle water and sanitation issues. Register and publish your solutions on the online form. The Solutions Platform will guide you through the process: www.solutionsforwater.org or contact solutions@worldwtareforum6.org

3. **Join a theme-based workgroup** of the 6th World Water Forum by:
 - consulting the list of priorities and target objectives on the official website; (<http://www.worldwaterforum6.org/fr/commissions/thematique/des-priorites-daction-aux-objectifs-cibles/>);
 - selecting your objective(s) and identifying the coordinator in charge;
 - contacting the coordinator via email and sending him/her your contribution.

4. **To intervene during the 3rd International Conference of Local and Regional Authorities on Water (14th-15th March)**, please contact the World Water Council (c.dubreuil@worldwatercouncil.org) or UCLG (m.boussraoui@cities-localgovernments.org) specifying which theme is of interest to you.

5. **Register to the "Partnerships Fair"** (contact person: c.dubreuil@worldwatercouncil.org) either as:
 - a city/region signatory to the Istanbul Water Consensus, willing to sponsor or offer a partnership to another city/region within the water and sanitation sector; or as
 - a city/region signatory to the Istanbul Consensus looking for a partnership.

→ How do I register and book a hotel room?

Register online on the following website: <http://www.worldwaterforum6.org/fr/inscription/>

Take advantage of discount rates **before 1st January 2012**.

Considering the large number of Forum participants, we recommend you to **make a hotel reservation online today** (pre-registration is not compulsory):

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

→ How do I obtain financial support to participate in the Forum?

You have to fill out the form attached and send it **before 31st December** to the following email address:

financialsupport@worldwaterforum6.org with copy to Ms Celine Dubreuil

(c.dubreuil@worldwatercouncil.org) and Mr Mohamed Boussraoui (m.boussraoui@cities-localgovernments.org)

A booking request does not guarantee financial support. Financial support can be full or partial. Any request received after the 31st December 2011 deadline will not be taken into consideration.

The World Water Forum Secretariat will review motivated requests with precision by assigning value to active players within workgroups and commissions, but also by paying close attention to those originating from the least-favoured geographic areas. A reply will be sent out to them on 15th January 2012.

→ Place and dates

The Forum will take place between 12th and 17th March 2012 in Marseille, France.

The 6th World Water Forum will be held at Chanot Park – "Palais des Congrès et des Expositions" (Congress and Exhibitions Palace) in Marseille. Located in the 8th arrondissement in Marseille's city centre, Chanot Park covers a 170,000 square-meters-area and is only a few minutes away from the beaches and the Old Port.

The Forum will be open from 8.30 am to 9.30 pm.

