

NOTE REGARDING OUTCOMES OF THE 8TH WORLD WATER FORUM

Views from the TC

Rationale and Special Considerations

The Thematic Commission (TC) has identified a need for a synthetic document emanating from the 8th World Water Forum whose messages may direct political action at all levels, as well as guide collective action to support practical implementation of the water-related aspects of the 2030 Development Agenda and other international frameworks and initiatives over time.

The value of such an outcome document would be to:

- Present a short number of strong political messages that can be taken on board by others inside and outside of the water community;
- Promote mainstreaming of key water commitments and aim at high level decision/policy makers engagement;
- Identify alignment with global frameworks such as the SDGs, the Paris Agreement, the New Urban Agenda and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction;
- Define a very forward-looking macro-level plan for intermediate and long-term actions that will move the 8th Forum's themes forward over time;
- Assemble a community of actors willing to contribute to collective action related to each theme;
- Reinforce linkages between editions of the World Water Forum and demonstrate the usefulness of Forum processes within a wider context, in particular the legacy of the 8th World Water Forum;
- Welcome collaboration between business and water development actors wherever interests can be aligned.

This outcome document is not meant to replace the Forum's Final Report (comprehensive document of all Forum outcomes), neither the "highlights" document (a concise and communicative report of Forum outcomes edited shortly after the event) nor other substantive synthesis. Its main purpose is providing greater visibility to the Forum and opening doors for connecting with the 2030 Agenda and other frameworks, the Implementation Roadmap process and with future Forums to ensure greater continuity.

The possible creation of an on-line platform has been evoked and questions of longevity, responsibility and ownership, utilization and expense have been raised and would need to be adequately addressed. At the same time, such a platform would offer greater flexibility.

Potential outline

The TC proposes that the outcomes of the 8th Forum are structured in a concise document – **10 (or so) KEY WATER MESSAGES FROM BRASILIA – moving towards implementation** – with the following potential outline (chapters and potential content below):

I. Introduction

The 8th Forum thematic framework has been structured to link to the SDGs and other relevant agreements. It has also carefully considered connections between the 8th Forum preparatory processes. Therefore, the TC understands that the key outcomes messages could have a strong impact and greater continuity if built upon each of the 9 themes (Climate, People, Development, Urban, Ecosystems, Finance, Capacity, Sharing and Governance).

II. Themes 1 to 9

The TC proposes that the outcomes document presents a section on each of the themes, with the following content:

- a. Key political messages (per theme; maximum equivalent to the number of topics per theme)
- b. Specific linkages to international frameworks (SDGs, Paris Agreement, Habitat-3, Sendai, etc.) and how these messages should be taken into account
- c. Current state of affairs of the theme (i.e. here it is where we are at in 2018)
- d. Short-term Goals (Where do we need to be in 2021 and 2024 – next two Forums as stepping stones—in clear and simple language)
- e. Long-term Goals (Where do we need to be in 2030 in clear and simple language?)
- f. How do we get there? Plan for scaling up. This could include some focus on good practices.
- g. What did the Political Process of the Forum say about this theme? (Heads of State Panel, Ministers, Parliamentarians, Judges and Prosecutors, Local and Regional Authorities)
- h. What did the Sustainability Process say about this theme?
- i. What are the Citizen's Process perspective to this theme?
- j. Specific Regional considerations that need to be taken into account with regards to this theme.

III. Conclusions

Hundreds of organisations are currently committed to contribute to the 8th Forum preparatory processes. The expected outcomes of the Forum should aim at mobilizing this network of organisations « for action ».

- a. List of organizations that are together formally willing to contribute to reaching the short-term and long-term goals – This list should be dynamic in principle, allowing for new organizations to come on board at any point in time. It may also be useful to list different categories of participation, areas of interest of collaboration (core group, contributor, by theme and/or topic)

Multi-stakeholder platforms and multi-track partnerships provide an essential part of the 'infrastructure' that is necessary to scale up collaboration for the SDGs implementation. Creating effective, sustainable platforms, however, is a significant challenge. It requires a whole range of skills, support and processes to engage stakeholders from the water sectors and ensure they receive sufficient value to remain engaged; to host innovation labs and provide technical support to facilitate partnerships; furthermore, all the time ensuring the platform has sufficient resources and a sustainable business plan.

Proposed Next Steps¹

The TC proposes that a requirement for all Themes to contribute to the outcomes document is included in the session guidelines that will shortly be issued to the Thematic, Topic and Session Coordination Groups. It will be important that all Themes and their component Topic and Session groups have the same 'goalposts' in mind and that they therefore generate contributions to the outcome with the same structure and format. The TC will create a format that reflects the outline in Section II above for use by all Themes. Once completed, this will ensure that all outcomes from each Theme can be efficiently synthesized into a cohesive outcomes document including clear, communicative messages that contribute to the legacy of the 8th Forum and building continuity to the 9th Forum.

¹ A timeline might be developed in due time.