



Cairo Water Week, 17 October 2022

Closing session, Policy Dialogues in Water Scarce Countries to achieve SDGs

Loic Fauchon, President of World Water Council

Dear Minister of Water Resources of Egypt

Ecellencies

Dear Friends of Water

WATER IS CLIMATE, CLIMATE IS WATER

WATER IS DEMOGRAPHY, DEMOGRAPHY IS WATER

WATER IS FOOD, FOOD IS WATER

WATER IS ESSENTIAL FOR HUMANS AND NATURE ,
ESSENTIAL, HUMANS AND NATURE ARE WATER

It is time for decision-makers to INCLUDE THIS CERTAINTY IN
THEIR MIND, THEIR HEART, THEIR ACTION, THEIR DECISIONS

We, Water professionals, experts, operators, researchers, we know this and we are convinced.

But WATER IS POLITICS

We multiply studies, debates, meetings, Forums to make our voices heard.

However we are hearing more about the price of gas barrel, of weapons markets, on energy crisis and on diplomatic and military tensions.

Twenty years ago I said

TAPS BEFORE GUNS

But it is still GUNS BEFORE TAPS !

But who paid attention to the big scientific work published a few weeks ago by the very respected scientific revue The Lancet ?

6 to 8 millions people die every year due to the conjunction of pollutions in air, water and soils. It is the equivalent of 2 Covid pandemics EVERY YEAR !

To these terrible figures should be added human disasters due to droughts and floods.

Indeed, our voice for water should be reinforced and better heard !

It is our role and responsibility.

In Dakar, last March, the World Water Council, and Egypt is a founding member, presented various global resolutions for the FUTURE OF WATER and for I am calling more specifically THE PEACE OF WATER.

First : Increase in every country, every city, every local community, water security.

On the one hand by producing more fresh water and drinking water through pumping, water transfers and storages and more and more desalinization, recycling and reuse. These so called unconventional resources are the next water revolution in this century.

And on the other hand, by respecting and saving water for a better maintenance of infrastructures and networks and also by changing our awareness on water. We should then

MAKE WATER SECURITY AND WATER SAVING A WORLD PRIORITY

Second : We need to re-consider completely the financing mechanisms of the water sector in the poorest countries. Put a small part from Climate Funds into water financing, establish specific blended financing for water and apply enlarged sub-sovereignty principles for all cities which are proved to be solvent.

And finally, we need to give a new reality to hydro-diplomacy which has been practicing our World Water Council for twenty years.

We are saying that “rivers peace give shared prosperity to river lands”.

We are saying that we need a real harmony between water for humans and water for NATURE, sufficient water to save biodiversity and ecosystems.

Hydrodiplomacy means dialogue, again and again dialogue !

And with all these elements, we will give a true reality to the right to water, the right to access to water and sanitation, the right to access to safe water which will, step by step, be enforceable for all.

These very simple principles about water, Securing, Financing, Governing, Sharing, we want to take them to Sharm-el-Sheikh for COP 27.

And we are all together going to proclaim them, along with some other proposals, in New-York in March 2023.

And to finish, I would like to announce here, together with our Indonesian Colleagues, that we are now on the road to the 10th World Water Forum which will be held from 18 to 24 May 2024, under the theme of “Water for Shared prosperity”. Our purpose is to present thousands of solutions for water to meet the hopes of

billions of inhabitants of our planet who would like to be able to appreciate every morning the Happiness of Water.