

8th WORLD WATER FORUM

Brasilia, March 19, 2018

OPENING CEREMONY

**Speech of Mr.Loïc FAUCHON
Honorary President of the World Water Council**

Mrs and Mr Ministers and Ambassadors and Mission Heads from NATO and international Organizations,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Dear friends of water,

Here we are, opening this 8th World Water Forum!

As the Honorary President of the World Water Council, first of all, please let me thank all our Brazilian colleagues and friends who made possible this magnificent event.

Because the forums, organized around a country and the World Water Council every three years have become indispensable gatherings for the action of the international water community.

And let me express special thoughts for my friend Ricardo Andrade and all his team, who are in charge of the special responsibility of the logistical organization, but also the intellectual and professional content of this 8th Forum.

Ladies and gentlemen,

The world is going from crisis to crisis. Political crisis, diplomatic crisis, military crisis. But also climatic crisis, energetic, sanitary and food crisis. And of course hydric crisis, due sometimes to over-abundant water or sometimes to lack of water with repeated dryness. The term of “water-related disasters” is now commonly adopted.

On our planet, billions of inhabitants are suffering from these crisis every day.

Our behaviour, our mistakes, our selfishness are the main causes.

Whereas urbanization is ever-growing and creates cities where poverty is more and more spreading, when populations are now urging to have access to the basic services, and when the climate is disfunctioning year after year,

It is mainly because, we, humans, and specially the decision-makers, have become blind when taking political, economic and financial decisions with the objective of more production but low sharing.

We left our natural resources unprotected.

And water is one of those natural resources which is now scarce in quantity and in quality.

Nowadays several places on the earth are suffering from a growing demand and a reducing offer.

Our collective and individual responsibility is to secure water availability.

If we do not guarantee water security we condemn entire populations to stay out of development and basic human rights.

These are reasons why we must concentrate our will and our efforts to provide water security,

Everywhere, for us all, by us all.

Dear friends, if we want to implement the objective of this 8th Forum, “sharing water”, we need to make water available in quantity and in quality, at any time and for every community of men and women in the world.

Provide water security means, first, securing availability and protection of water resources.

Provide water security is establish a balance between water for today and water for tomorrow.

To achieve this, we need human genius combined to permanent innovation.

Tomorrow, with the development of technologies, we will pump deeper, transfer water further, adopt more sustainable treatments and purify water more efficiently.

And all this, we must do while respecting bio-diversity and protecting ecosystems.

Water for mankind AND water for nature.

It is not only a necessity but a moral and civic obligation for the future generations.

This is the reason why, beyond technology, the most important points are human behaviours and political will.

The question of behaviour is central because, today and tomorrow, we must be lower and better consumers and give spirit to the relationship between Mankind and Nature.

We must end up progressively with wasting.

We must convince that to achieve permanent water availability, it requires investments and efficient management and transparency. And that a public service is costly, the price of the service being a compromise to set up.

On these subjects, the question of political will is important. The political function is to initiate, implement and control the success of what we call “the water home”. And this success is based on three pillars on which is built our water home. The three pillars are governance, finance and knowledge.

The strength of the pillars and a good control allow to improve the efficiency of every drop of water.

This is why a complete commitment to water security allows us to to share it properly.

Global water security is now part of the National Security and the foreign policy of every country.

We therefore need to set up a real hydrodiplomacy, which can be defined as the art to build peace around this vital resource.

Hydrodiplomacy in climate negotiations, hydrodiplomacy to explore and save new “ hydrosports” and hydrodiplomacy to refinance water debts in the poorer cities and countries.

Water security will progressively be under the responsibility of Parliaments, basin authorities, metropolis, municipalities and village communities.

Together they will act for the respect of the right to water. The right to water, a concept so easy to formulate but yet so difficult to enforce, must be the framework and the engine for all water security policies.

Ladies and gentlemen, on the occasion of this Forum in Brasilia, we have the opportunity to work on the implementation of different Pacts for Water, such as a global Pact under the United Nations, local Pacts in basins and community Pacts in our daily lives.

This is our duty, this is our challenge during this week and after.

We shall go on together and united, never resigned and always committed, to approach the banks of the water future with confidence and determination.

Thank you for your attention