



The 8th World Water Forum highlights the need for information sharing and global cooperation to confront shifting Water Security challenges

- *Co-organized by the World Water Council and the Government of Brazil, the 8th World Water Forum, held in Brasilia last week was attended by over 70,000 visitors, 12 Heads of State, 60 ministers and ten thousand water experts.*
- *By 2025, half of the world's population will be living in water-stressed areas.*
- *80% of countries report insufficient funding to meet national drinking water targets.*
- *40% of the world's population is affected by water scarcity.*
- *The World Water Council has prepared a [Video News Release](#) giving an insight into 8th World Water Forum, which places water firmly at the heart of global development.*

World Water Council, World Water Forum, 28 March 2018 – The 8th edition of the world's biggest water-related event, the World Water Forum, came to a close at the Ulysses Guimarães Convention Center in Brasilia, Brazil, on Friday 23rd March, a day after World Water Day. The World Water Council, in cooperation with the Government of Brazil, held its triennial World Water Forum in the Brazilian capital between the 18th and 23rd March. Over 10,000 delegates and experts participated in the summit, along with 12 Heads of State and 60 ministers, 134 parliamentarians, 150 local authorities, 83 judges and prosecutors, CEOs from several fortune 500 companies, representatives from the United Nations, the European Union, the World Bank, the Inter-American Development Bank, the OECD, and other international organizations. In addition, over 70,000 people visited the World Water Forum's Fair and Citizen's Village. More than 172 countries were represented across 300 thematic sessions.

"We had here a fundamental citizen participation, but most importantly we had the involvement of world leaders, ministers and Heads of State, mayors and governors, all working together with water professionals, and therefore we reached our objective," explained World Water Council and World Water Forum President, Benedito Braga.

One of the main purposes of the Forum is to raise political awareness and mobilization of decision-makers on water issues, linking technical issues to political action. Some major political outcomes during the World Water Forum included the [Ministerial Declaration: An Urgent Call for Decisive Action on Water validated by ministries from over 100 countries](#), which recognizes that all countries must take urgent action to address challenges related to water and sanitation, including sharing knowledge and fostering cooperation across sectors. The Ministerial Conference also established multi-lateral cooperation through multi-stakeholder roundtable dialogues. The local and regional authorities

declaration, Brasilia [Local and Regional Governments Call for Action on Water and Sanitation](#), encourages local leaders to consider several recommendations to encourage fair and sustainable governance and management of water resources and decentralized funding, among others, as outlined in the guide for local and regional authorities, [Start with Water](#). This publication seeks to provide strategies and support to help cities make concrete contributions to global agendas. Likewise, the Conference of Parliamentarians within the 8th World Water Forum published its [Parliamentarian Manifesto](#), emphasizing their role in proposing and defending legislation related to the right to water and sanitation. The Brasilia Declaration of [Judges on Water Justice](#) is a declaration of ten fundamental principles to promote water justice through the application of water law and the environmental rule of law.

In addition, the [Sustainability Declaration](#) highlights that current water policies will not be sufficient to reach the targets of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and requests high-level decision makers within the water community to push for cooperative alliances, water reforms and financial innovations.

Many high-level panels also took place at the 8th World Water Forum, aiming to influence decision makers and public policies in an endeavor to find solutions for water-related challenges, for example related to water security, financing, sanitation, climate change, or the interaction between freshwater and oceans.

Igniting action on water-related issues and reducing widespread water crises is paramount to achieving Sustainable Development Goal 6, ensuring access to safe drinking water and sanitation for all, by 2030. Across the globe, some of the most pressing problems surrounding water are not about quantity, but quality. This is a matter of life and death for many worldwide as 40% of the world's population faces water scarcity and 2.4 billion lack access to improved sanitation.

In particular, severely low levels of sanitation coverage are leading causes of death and disease across the globe; as recently as 2016, 8% of children under 5 died from diarrhea, which is usually caused by contaminated drinking water. Those without adequate sanitation access live primarily in Asia, Sub-Saharan Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean. Women and girls are affected the most by drinking water and sanitation issues, as they spend a collective 200 million hours per day collecting water.

“Let the experiences you have heard and learnt allow you to share and secure our water resources, and inspire you to take action to improve something - big or small - in your life, for your organization, or for your community. Let us create a ripple effect of the Forum’s spirit across our countries. This will be the real legacy of this extraordinary week in putting water at the center of the global development agenda,” explained World Water Council and World Water Forum President, Benedito Braga, during the closing ceremony.

About the World Water Council:

The World Water Council (WWC) is an international multi-stakeholder platform organization, the founder and co-organizer of the World Water Forum. The World Water Council’s mission is to mobilize action on critical water issues at all levels, including the highest decision-making level,

by engaging people in debate and challenging conventional thinking. The Council focuses on the political dimensions of water security, adaptation, and sustainability, and works to position water at the top of the global political agenda. Headquartered in Marseille, France, and created in 1996, the World Water Council brings together over 300 member organizations from more than 50 different countries. The seven previous World Water Forum editions were held in Marrakesh (Morocco, 1997), The Hague (Netherlands, 2000), Kyoto (Japan, 2003), Mexico City (Mexico, 2006), Istanbul (Turkey, 2009), Marseilles (France, 2012), and Gyeongju and Daegu (South Korea, 2015). More on www.worldwatercouncil.org @wwatercouncil #wwatercouncil

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