

THE RIGHT TO SAFE WATER AND SANITATION

A PRIORITY



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THE RIGHT TO SAFE WATER AND SANITATION - A PRIORITY

The World Water Council, among other organisations, has striven for recognition of the right to water and sanitation.

In 2006, during the 4th World Water Forum (Mexico), the World Water Council laid the foundations for a definition of the right to water and its conditions of implementation, by publishing a report.

Since then, a lot of progresses have been accomplished. In 2010, the United Nations General Assembly (Resolution A/RES/64/292) and the Human Rights Council (Resolution A/HRC/15/L.14) recognised the right to safe water and sanitation as a human right on the same level as other social rights such as the right to food and the right to health.

FROM CONCEPT TO IMPLEMENTATION

Despite this international recognition, there is still much to be done: every ten minutes, ten people including four children die of diseases directly related to water. The time has come for the right to water and sanitation to be put into effect.



AN INTERNATIONAL POLITICAL PRIORITY DEFENDED BY THE WORLD WATER COUNCIL

As in previous forums, the World Water Council aims to place the right to safe water and sanitation at the top of the international agenda. This commitment goes beyond the 6th World Water Forum, notably for the United Nations Conference on sustainable development (Rio+20) in June 2012.

The World Water Council invites all countries that have declared their support for the right to water and sanitation in different declarations to turn their commitments into concrete and measurable actions.

MAKE THE RIGHT TO WATER AND SANITATION A PRIORITY ON THE INTERNATIONAL AGENDA

→ In the light of United Nations General Assembly Resolution 64/292 on the human right to water and sanitation, priority should be given to the bottom billion who live without access to drinking water, and especially those who are deprived of their right to food, health and energy.

→ Universal access to drinking water and sanitation services should be a major goal of the post-2015 agenda for governments.



THE RIGHT TO SANITATION, THE POOR RELATION OF THE RIGHT TO WATER

Although implementation of the right to water is on the right path, implementation of the right to sanitation is less easy:

- 2.6 billion people are still without access to improved sanitation.
- Only 20% of public spending for water sector goes to sanitation.

Millennium Development Goal (MDG) 7, which aims to “halve, by 2015, the proportion of the population without sustainable access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation”, should be achieved by 2015 for water but not for sanitation.

MAKE THE RIGHT TO SANITATION A REALITY FOR ALL; IT'S A MATTER OF POLITICAL WILL

Access to sanitation is a fundamental dimension, often overlooked or misunderstood, of human dignity, human rights, economic development and environmental protection. The World Water Council invites the international community, governments and civil society to advocate for the cause of sanitation with renewed energy.

➔ PRACTICAL INITIATIVES

To continue promoting the right to water and sanitation, the World Water Council has launched a number of initiatives aimed at the general public and water and sanitation experts:

For experts:

➔ Participation in the French edition of the publication “On the right track” by Catarina de Albuquerque, United Nations Special Rapporteur on the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation. This publication highlights a large number of best practices for ensuring the realisation of the right to water and sanitation.

➔ The World Water Council and Waterlex co-authored a report on global governance for the implementation of the right to water and sanitation, published by the UN World Water Assessment Programme (UNESCO-WWAP) in the run-up to Rio+20 conference.

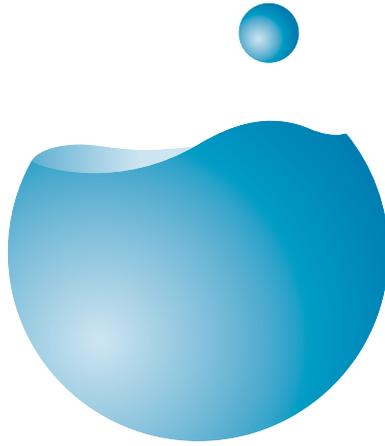
For the general public:

➔ An education pack on the right to water, produced by “e-graine d’images”. Designed for secondary school, it includes an educational cartoon and seventeen teaching sheets for further exploration of the subject.

➔ A web documentary presenting the evolution of the right to water and sanitation these ten past years and solutions to make it a reality.



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