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HLP 9 Global One Health approach, Wednesday 22 May 2024

Speech of Mr. Loïc Fauchon, President of the World Water Council



“The concept of “One Global Health” goes hand in hand with “One Global Water”. These two concepts are rooted in the logic of the earth's ecosystem and mirror the reality of globalized societies, calling on States to assume responsibility for their policies and to work together to shape a sustainable future.”



Dear Ladies and Gentlemen,

Dear colleagues, dear friends of water,

I would like to begin by expressing my sincere congratulations and gratitude to Dr. Kocamemi and Dr. Gawlik, co-coordinators of this session. Their dedication to promoting global health, and by sharing their expertise, enable the people outside the scientific community to gain a more concrete understanding of the subject.

The importance of adopting a global approach to health was highlighted during the COVID-19 pandemic from 2020 to 2022. However, this period, marked by a global crisis, also served as a time for reflection and opportunity, further emphasizing the interconnection between human, animal, and environmental health.

During this period, the World Water Council reacted swiftly by creating a new Task Force in addition to the existing ones on water quality and health, starting from wastewater surveillance.

This new working group, specifically dedicated to the water-related aspects of COVID-19, placed particular emphasis on the critical role of wastewater as a tool for early detection and monitoring of disease.

This Task force was also chaired by SUEN, which is a key player in national wastewater vigilance for the maintenance of public health. And I would like to take this opportunity to salute the precious contribution of Mr. Saatçi and Mrs. Kocamemi.

The World Water Council has consistently prioritized the Water and Health theme, exemplified by their recent initiative at the Board of Directors meeting in Istanbul, where Dr. Gawlik was invited to speak on the subject.

Ladies and gentlemen, the management of natural disasters underscores the need for collaborative approaches to prevention and control.



The people involved in promoting global health operate across various scales and sectors, ranging from specialized agencies to veterinary services and local environmental organizations.

Effective cooperation and communication among these entities is essential for understanding shared risks and benefits, and for developing adaptable, equitable, and global solutions. This collaboration is crucial to addressing the challenges of health, food security, and ecosystem integrity.

The link between water and health serves a broader purpose, which is mainly to provide universal access to safe drinking water, sanitation and hygiene purposes.

Water quality is affected by many factors, including inadequate wastewater treatment, agricultural runoff, industrial chemicals and endocrine disruptors.

Let us embrace principles of reduction, recycling, and reuse to minimize pollution and provide safely treated water as an alternative resource.

Ultimately, let us focus on innovation and advanced technologies to protect surface water, groundwater, and marine ecosystems from a wide range of pollutants.

All these efforts must be supported by strong and realistic political commitment and adequate investments.

The concept of “One Global Health” goes hand in hand with “One Global Water”. These two concepts are rooted in the logic of the earth's ecosystem and mirror the reality of globalized societies, calling on States to assume responsibility for their policies and to work together to shape a sustainable future.

During this World Water Forum, on behalf of the World Water Council, I encourage us to design prioritized and concrete pathways that will enable us to achieve global water and human health.