

10th World Water Forum, Bali, Indonesia

Leaders' Summit Day, Monday 20 May 2024

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



“We are working for people and nature, to conserve and enhance biodiversity and revitalize the ecosystems that surround and support us.”



Mr. President of the Republic,
Mr. Head of States and Head of Governments,
Excellencies,

Allow me once again to thank President Joko Widodo and his entire team for the fantastic organisation of the 10th World Water Forum.

Our world, ladies and gentlemen, is suffering and so are its inhabitants. Our earth is damaged, and its natural resources are in great danger. This situation is often due to our lack of awareness. We all want to improve this situation and the injustices it causes. And during this week of the Forum, let's turn our dreams into reality. Let's go to the waterbed. Through our actions, let's work together to cure the disease of all the ills we inflict upon it. We are working for people and nature, to conserve and enhance biodiversity and revitalize the ecosystems that surround and support us.

Excellencies, you hold the highest responsibilities in your respective countries. In the field of water as in others. That is why we say to you here, with respect and consideration, that we need you, your understanding and your commitment.

What can we tell you, what can we ask you?

First and foremost, my key message is that we must precisely assess the state of water resources in each of your countries.

We talk a lot about the climate, but the attacks on water, the lack of Water Security are also due to demographic growth, urban overcrowding, precarious housing, uncontrolled pollution and their consequences for public health.

The main cause of immigration in the world is from the countryside to the cities, which are becoming more and more huge reservoirs of poverty where hunger and disease reign.



Ladies and gentlemen, urban sprawl is not inevitable. We must first restore the essential services of water and energy to rural areas, where half of humanity now lives. In practical terms, this means adapting water resources, distributing access to water and implementing sanitation throughout the country.

The technical solutions are known and are available to you. And if necessary, our World Water Council is there to publicise them and encourage discussion.

My second message concerns the financing of water. Since the Dakar Forum, and again today in Bali, we have been calling for the water debt to be waived for the poorest countries and cities. We want your help to ensure that a significant proportion of the various climate funds are directly earmarked for access to water, sanitation and the repair of water-related disasters, droughts and floods. Join our "Money For Water" coalition to help solve this financing problem.

The third message is to support the horizontal approach, through the "Five Fingers Alliance", to integrate water, energy, health, food and education, in innovation, financing and governance. It is by linking essential basic services that we make progress against poverty and for prosperity.

And my last message concerns governance. Governance should guarantee an equitable responsibility shared between the states, basins, and local authorities, because time of centralism is over. At international level, please call for water priority based on multilateral cooperation. It is essential for strengthening the rules of mediation for rivers, lakes and basins. True Hydrodiplomacy, bringing peace to the banks rather than wars to the rivers.

I believe that it is in this way, through dialogue and sharing, that the future of water for prosperity and peace will be written.