

10th World Water Forum, Bali, Indonesia

Opening of Parliamentarians Day, Monday 20 May 2024

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



“Time has come for sobriety. Sobriety in behaviour to reduce waste. But also, sobriety for an equitable balance between “water for humans and water for nature”.



Madame Puan Maharani, Speaker of the house of Representatives of the Republic of Indonesia
Excellencies, Dear Parliamentary Friends,

On behalf of the World Water Council, as co-organizers, we welcome you to the 10th World Water Forum in Bali.

Thank you for agreeing to take part in the parliament meetings of our political process.

After all, can we imagine debating the future of water without the active participation of the parliamentary body? You have agreed to participate, and I would like to thank you warmly.

So why is there a parliamentarian day in the World Water Forum?

What can we expect from you, dear fellow parliamentarians, at the heart of this Forum, where we want to "preserve water to share prosperity".

As I mentioned during this morning's opening ceremony, our world is navigating through both challenging and inspiring times.

We are experiencing multiple crises: climatic, demographic, food, health and diplomatic tensions.

And the availability of water is suffering from these crises.

Water, our global water on planet Earth is at risk, and we all have a huge responsibility.

Decade after decade, we have wasted, abused and often plundered the water we have been given.

Today, climate evolution and its uncertainties, growing demographics, giant urbanization and rising living standards are all adding to the daily and yearly increasing demand for additional volumes of water, leading to dangerous pollution for both humans and nature.



We are gathered here in Bali to face up to this challenge, to move from plundering to sharing, and we know that parliamentarians have an essential role to play in bringing us their support, their experience and their influence.

We know the main solutions, and we would like to see an active water security policy be implemented everywhere, based above all on improving water resources and controlling water demand.

On the one hand, we need to increase the volumes of available water through ongoing innovations, such as desalination of marine and brackish water, and reuse of wastewater. These innovations use the best of digital technology and other advanced technologies.

On the other hand, we need to manage better, and still need to make considerable progress in supply savings and consumption.

As agriculture is the world's largest water consumer, it is imperative to promote more efficient irrigation practices to produce enough food for the ever-growing population. Considerable savings can also be made in industry. But it is in our homes that the greatest potential for awareness on savings lies: every individual must be aware of the value of water and actively contribute to its preservation.

It is therefore crucial to set up large-scale awareness-raising programs to change our consumption habits and make people understand the importance of every drop of water.

Time has come for sobriety. Sobriety in behaviour to reduce waste. But also sobriety for an equitable balance between "water for humans and water for nature".

To maintain biodiversity and respect ecosystems, we need to preserve water quantity and quality. To achieve this, we must not be afraid to innovate.

But innovation is only one of the 3 pillars of the House of Water. Innovation goes hand in hand with intelligent governance and diversified financing.

You know all this, dear parliamentary friends, just as you know that we need to combine health, food, energy and education to form the basic matrix of development. It is our responsibility to unite, not separate.



It's also our responsibility to give absolute priority to sanitation and wastewater treatment in cities, of course, but also in rural areas. And I must say loudly here that urban growth and giant megacities must no longer be considered as inevitable.

Ladies and Gentlemen, above and beyond all our obligations, we must make water a political issue. "Water is Politics" is to be supported by decision-makers and media.

Water needs will and commitment, and the role of Parliaments is to help write the story of Water for the Future.

Water needs you.

You are first and foremost lawmakers, and we are counting on you to help create or complete Laws and regulations which are favorable to water protection and water sustainable development.

But the best laws are useless without national and local budgets for water and sanitation, and also for rainwater management and prevention of water-related disasters due to droughts and floods.

There are many areas in which we can exchange ideas, share new practices and strengthen the water situation, and the place of water in local and national policies.

This is what our World Water Council aims to achieve by strengthening international cooperation between the various political segments. Firstly, through the new launch of a Parliamentary Water Help Desk. It aims to help parliamentarians around the world who are committed to the right to access to water. They will benefit permanently from information and guidelines on laws and regulations, on budgets and on possible parliamentary action in favor of water.

Our Council is ready to work with you in this direction, establishing permanent cooperation as part of our joint efforts for the Future of Water.

I wish you all excellent working sessions.