



Special session on China
World water congress
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Loïc Fauchon, President of the World Water Council

Excellency, Minister Li Guoyin,
Dear colleagues,

It was with great pleasure that I accepted the invitation from Minister Li Guoyin, Minister of Water Resources of the Chinese government, to take part in this special session on Chinese water practices and global water governance. And it is an honor to be here with you today.

Indeed, relations between China and the World Water Council are long-standing and have been particularly important over the past 15 years. China is present on the Council's Board of Governors and in the Bureau of our organization.

The Chinese Ministry of Water Resources participates very actively in the Task Forces and has been focusing on Water Security issues since the years 2010.

We have produced books on water together, organized conferences and worked together on the success of several World water forums.

And we still have several projects in common, such as the publication of 2 books for children, called “the journey of a drop of water”.

We both give great importance to the role of children in raising awareness about water in tomorrow's world.

From now on, the Chinese Ministry and the Council have also decided to work together to co-organize the international seminar on water security on an annual basis, as well as many other projects, which will be studied in a friendly and highly professional atmosphere.

For all this, Mr. Minister, I would like to congratulate you and thank you. And I would like to include your teams in our thanks, because our respective teams have been working hand in hand for years in a climate of great trust.

And in addition, many Governors from our Board- and there are many of them in this room - have established working relationships with Chinese experts.

As I said, the main focus of this joint work is water security.

And here I would like to emphasize China's significant contribution in this field for the benefit of all populations.

In the principles of your brochure "Implementing Water-related Goals for Sustainable Development", called "China in action", which you published last March for the United Nations Water Conference, you underline the importance given to the issue of drinking water safety for rural residents and particularly for poor populations and ensuring such people have access to compulsory education, basic medical services and housing.

Between 2016 and 2020, it was implemented into a 210 billion Yuan program for rural water supply projects.

Tens of millions of people have seen their access to water improve, and today over 90% of the Chinese population has direct access to drinking water. And since 2021, Mr. Minister, you have amplified this effort through the National Rural Water Supply Security plan.

This remarkable progress has been facilitated by the measures you have taken in terms of governance and management, through the "Management responsibility system for rural drinking water safety". More simply, you have emphasized the responsibility of local governments.

What I would call a true deconcentration or decentralization of water governance, by including the full participation of water users in the entity process, giving the right to information, participation and supervision to water users.

You say that Innovation, financing and governance are the main “feet” of your policy.

It's the very example of what our council advocates when it comes to water policy. And it also illustrates that "water is politics" !

Dear colleagues, China is an example of innovative and proactive water policy, and we are delighted that this example is being followed by many countries.

This is also why we are working closely with our Indonesian friends to prepare the 10th World Water Forum. A forum for political commitment and concrete responses.

Thank you to China for its active participation to the preparation and for contributing to its upcoming success.