



## Loic Fauchon's Speech

### Opening of Kick Off Meeting of the 10<sup>th</sup> World Water Forum

Jakarta, le 16 février 2023

Dear Minister Basuki,

Dear Minister Siti Nurbaya,

Mr. Governor of Jakarta,

Ministers and Ambassadors, Excellencies

Honorable friends from Indonesia, and from abroad,

Dear friends of water,

Why, Ladies and Gentlemen, are we gathered here in Jakarta, the capital of one of the largest and most populated countries on our planet?

We are here in Indonesia, today and tomorrow, because we are concerned, worried, and much preoccupied about the water situation in the world.

Here and there, water can be angry, it can get out of its bed, destroy everything and spread terror and death.

In some other places, water has disappeared. Droughts kill more than floods, threatens agricultural and livestock production, and displaces people.

Very often, water is still available for human activities, but it is polluted, sometimes even toxic, leading to epidemics and diseases.

And with population growth and the constant expansion of cities eating up the countryside and the best agricultural land, water is becoming increasingly scarce. And in addition to the increase in the world's population, there is also climate change, changing temperatures, increasing extreme weather events, disturbances in ocean life and upper sea levels. And climate evolution affects the availability of water.

These, my friends, are some of the important reasons, among many others, why we are here today. We have in common that we are interested in the future of water, but also in the present.

I would like first to celebrate the commitment of Indonesia, its President, its ministers, in particular my friend Minister Basuki, and the entire staff and secretariat of the forum. I would like to thank them for the quality of the preparations for this KickOff and more generally for the warmth of their hospitality. Thank you to Indonesia, thank you to the Indonesian people.



With Indonesia and the World Water Council, we have built a strong, professional and friendly relationship, which provides a solid foundation for an effective and successful joint organization of the 10<sup>th</sup> World Water Forum.

I wanted to say this at the opening of this KickOff meeting and to express our gratitude to you, on behalf of all the Council members, present in this room.

So, dear friends, what is the purpose of the Bali Forum in 15 months' time, and therefore what is the purpose of this KickOff meeting in Jakarta?

Water is the only natural element on earth that cannot be reproduced. Air, soil, can be replenished, not water! And this is a simple reason to take the best care of it.

For this 10th Forum, we have decided on the simple motto, "water for shared prosperity". Everyone understands this idea. This obligation to achieve abundance, peace and serenity through sharing. But sharing requires possessing, protecting, safeguarding and respecting. And in this case, we have to take care of water, to spare it with full respect. This is what we want to say, "spare to share", "spare water to share prosperity". Let's spare water to share its benefits, its presence, its quantity, its quality. In all languages, in all religions, there is a sentence which says "water is life". And this, dear friends, is what billions of people on this planet expect from us. To provide concrete, sustainable and equitable solutions to allow each and every one of us to have access to water. For all the uses necessary for this search and sharing of prosperity.

We know that the challenges are high.

Spare water for food. How can we manage our water resources, our soils and our land, to produce food for this planetary population that continues to grow and grow ?

Spare water to feed. To feed the sprawling cities, in the suburbs, the slums, which are the reservoirs of scarcity and poverty.

Spare water for Health. To avoid the millions of deaths from water-borne diseases or to protect against pandemics, such as Covid, with their terrible economic but also social consequences.

Spare water for Education. Because we no longer want to accept that one school out of three in the world has no access to water and no toilets.

And the essential challenge of this century, Spare water, for both Humans and Nature, because biodiversity, earth and ocean ecosystems also need their water quota. In order to leave our children tomorrow, safe nature that allows water to replenish and regenerate itself.

And finally, and especially in this Indonesia that we love, Spare water to avoid disasters and to limit their effects. Be it for floods or droughts, Spare water for disaster prevention, for damage assessment, and for reconstruction.

This is a quick summary of what we need to do, what the poorest and most vulnerable people expect from us.



And the Bali World Water Forum is holding out its arms to us to change the course of water history, to write its future of abundance to achieve shared prosperity.

The first milestones have been set by our joint Indonesian and Council team. They are based on three key words: knowledge, finance and governance.

This is why the construction of this Forum is naturally built around three processes.

First, the thematic process, which is already proposing six sub-themes for your consideration, which will be developed this evening and especially tomorrow.

Then the regional process with the Asia-Pacific region and all its particularities. And also with the Mediterranean area, one of the cradles of civilization where water has been the mother.

And finally the political process, which will be nourished by the products of the thematic and regional processes.

As you know, dear colleagues, we must take the debate to the various institutional levels.

We have to make our first voice heard by all the decision-makers, be they political, economic or social: **STOP IGNORING WATER !**

Let's get to know water, let's respect it, let's preserve it, let's save it.

And then, the second voice is even more voluntary. We need real political will at all levels of decision-making. The message is clear, **WATER IS POLITICS.**

We are here to carry these messages and work together on how to implement them. We are here to listen to each other, to talk about our ideas, our wishes, our ever more concrete solutions.

Let us listen to each other with humility, and speak with modesty, in the service of a common ambition, to give back hope, dignity, through the possibility of access to water, sanitation, security and prosperity for all.

Yes, let's work together to Spare Water for Shared Prosperity!

Thank you to everyone here for your commitment and contribution.

Successful KickOff, on the road to Bali 2024.

Terimakasih untuk semua orang yang ada disini untuk komitmen dan kontribusinya.

Keberhasilan pertemuan untuk perjalanan ke Bali tahun 2024.