
SUSTAINABILITY DECLARATION

0-DRAFT VERSION: WORKING PAPER

**For consideration and contribution of all
participants of the forum.**

**A revised version considering received
contributions will but discussed on Thursday 22nd**

To contribute: fill the form at

[sustainability declaration](#)

or send e-mail at: SUSDET@gmail.com

Update: March 18th, 2018



We, multi-stakeholder participants attending the 8th World Water Forum “*sharing waters*”¹, welcome the ministerial declaration issued on March 20th, the call for action of local and regional authorities (March 21st), the youth declaration (March 18th), the parliaments and legislative powers declaration (March), the Brazilian business declaration (March 19th), the water governance initiative pledge (March 21st), and well as the outcomes of the nine thematic closing sessions, of the regional process, of the citizen process, of the political process and of the sustainability focus group reported in their closing sessions [to be completed during the participatory process].

Considering the convergence of all these statements, we call for an urgent mobilization to ensure a sustainable future for the World and we commit to contributing to common efforts to overcome the increasing water challenges.

Sustainability means the capacity for development in harmony with the environment which leads to the respect for biodiversity, respect for human rights, response to basic needs for a dignified life (health, food, energy), resilience to face natural hazards, mitigation and adaptation to climate change, responses to emergency and the provision of an environment for cooperation and peaceful resolution of conflicts.

Water is among the most threatened resources as well as the most necessary for of humankind and the planet’s ecosystems. Its proper governance and management is indispensable to achieve sustainability.

¹ The 8th World Water Forum has been jointly organized by the World Water Council and the Brazilian authorities. It will gather thousands of participants in Brasilia from 18th to 23rd of March 2018. Many sessions, panels, events are open to/accessible to? all types of representatives and stakeholders, coming from ... countries.

We consider that current water policies will not be sufficient to reach the targets of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). We ask the High Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development of the United Nations (HLPF) to give in July 2018 a determined push to cooperative alliances, water reforms and financial innovations.

We call for the strengthening of the United Nations' support of its Member States and for the development at the highest level of a political dialogue and regular UN meetings on water. We recommend the reinforcement of the scientists' and practitioners' platforms on water and the promotion of international cooperation based on the United Nations Decade.

Global water challenges are growing in the world. Action towards the targets related to water must be implemented without delay and achieved in due course. There is not much time left until the first review of Goal 6 on water in July 2018 by the HLPF.

Many indicators show that SDG targets cannot be achieved with current policies and that we, together, must commit to the implementation of best practices (Many of them have been presented during the forum).

- Governments should announce voluntary national commitments to increase their ambition towards achieving SDG 6 and other SDG's targets related to water;
- Financial innovative funds, tools and instruments at all levels need to be developed to ensure progress towards all SDG targets is achieved, encourage stability and peaceful resolution of conflicts through arrangements and alliances as well as to support climate change mitigation and adaptation at all relevant scales; transboundary water cooperation based on win-win solutions contributes to sustainable development;
- Knowledge and monitoring need to progress at the national level in many fields and be better used. Current indicators do not suffice to monitor the targets set by countries in the SDGs and new sub-indicators needs to be brought forward; finalization by the UN Statistical Commission of the methodology of Tier III indicators relative to Water is needed;
- Science, including human sciences, information, technology and innovation at large benefited through traditional knowledge should be recognized by policy makers as the core to develop and implement wise and sound solutions;
- Strong collaboration and cooperation are needed, between components of the society at large, including indigenous peoples' communities and minority groups, private and financial sector, academics and policy makers, as is the strengthening of capacity building;

We affirm that the United Nations and the governments, as well as all societies must consider water as a need to achieve Sustainability. No solution for water issues can be found without progress for Sustainability in many other sectors. Dedicating a specific SDG to water and sanitation has been a major step in this direction. But efforts remain to be accomplished beyond the water sector to develop holistic policies and avoid fragmented approaches.

Progress in water management has not only to be considered as an objective *per se*, but also as a pivotal contribution to the global success of most SDGs of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (ASD).

Achieving water targets is essential to the success of the whole ASD. Water is essential for sustainable development, in urban and rural areas, essential to food, energy, health, cities, education, gender, climate, biodiversity, resilience to natural hazards, oceans, human well-being and human rights and the ecosystems. For example, ensuring availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all is a necessary condition for ending poverty and hunger, improving quality of life and achieving most of the other ambitious goals proposed in the 2030 Agenda.

Water issues must no longer be considered separately, by focussing on the terrestrial part of water cycle alone (from crest to reef) but have to be strongly related to the oceans and the atmosphere, as a unique cycle. In all institutions and decision-making processes, sectorial approaches must be questioned, and tools must be built to ensure coherence.

Water issues cannot find solutions in contexts where peace, human rights, equity, gender respect and equality, education, are not being respected. Due to the cross-cutting nature of water, specialists in the sector must be better at working and communicating with other sectors and the water sector must be open to people “out of the water box”.

Self-commitment of the Forum to reduce its own footprint

We all considered from the beginning of the Forum’s preparation that the Forum itself had to be as respectful as possible of the environment. Many efforts have been made to reduce the footprint of our activities and a report of these efforts will be published.