



FRESQUE RÉALISÉE PAR LE PMJE DANS LE CADRE DU PRÉ-FORUM DE DOUAI DE NOVEMBRE 2011



The Youth Parliament for Water which was embedded in the 6th World Water Forum under the theme “Time for Solutions”,

March 6th – 17th, 2012



Shanaz Bacchus

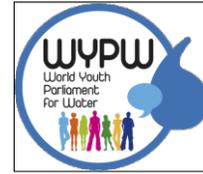


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The First World Youth parliament for Water, which was embedded in the 6th World Water Forum under the theme “Time for Solutions”

The first World Youth Meeting hosted in Marseille - France from March 6th to 15th 2012 was to launch the World Youth Parliament for Water, where young people will finally have a real place for their opinions to be heard at the World Water Forum. This initiative brought together young persons from around the world who are motivated to participate in water governance.



Identification

- WYPW is now recognized as an official component of each of the World Water Forums.
- The WYPW has considered the 28th of July 2010 United Nations resolution making access to clean water a human right, in its Charter.
- The WYPW is an initiative supported by the French Water Agency Artois-Picardie and coordinated by the International Secretariat for Water, Solidarity Water Europe, in partnership with GREEN Belgium, the Water Embassy and the International Scheldt Commission.
- The WYPW's ambition is to challenge world leaders on global water issues by pointing out social, ecologic and economic consequences. The youth want to provide them with strong recommendations and, also to commit themselves to engage in actions.
- The WYPW requested official recognition by the diverse stakeholders of the recently concluded 6th World Water Forum as the voice of youth on water issues, and most notably during the next forums.



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WYPW is open to all young people who recognize themselves or their organizations at least in one of these characteristics:

1. Reshape our future by taking part in discussions on water-related issues.
2. Strongly emphasize the importance of youth participation in decision-making processes; to create and stimulate platforms for youth participation.
3. Strongly emphasize the importance of education of youth and by youth about water-related problems.
4. Raise awareness of water related issues, especially among the young people on local, national and global level concerning water and climate change.

Introduction / Background

The World Youth Parliament for Water, which is the largest youth meeting in the world on water issues, was held in Marseille, France from March 6th – 17th, 2012. The WYPW brought together 80 young people, between 18 to 23 years old, who are committed to a local project in the water sector and excited to share their vision and their solutions. These young citizens of the world have been selected for the WYPW for their ability to represent youth committing themselves and carrying out concrete projects for the good of society. They are all very motivated to inspire and lead change in their 71 countries and 5 continents. The theme of this forum was ambitious, for it was to propose concrete solutions for water, and not only identify problems connected to water issues.



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Purpose of Trip

The first World Youth Meeting hosted in Marseille - France from March 6th to 15th 2012 was to launch the World Youth Parliament for Water , confront perspectives on sustainable human development, set a common agenda of action, share knowledge and start up new initiatives.

85 youth delegates from 80 countries gathered from a range of cultural backgrounds and experience representing government, politic, science and culture, international organizations, media, civil society and private sector to achieve these goals.

The Meeting revolved around the 6th World Water Forum, one for each of the meeting days and about 15 thematic workshops. The three main topics for the Parliament were: “Access to Water and Sanitation”, “Climate change and Natural Disasters” and “Water Basin Governance”. The workshops focused on global issues for development and the potential of tackling them at local level.



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Details of Activities

To begin with, the WYPW was held in Aix-en-Provence, at the Canal de Provence; it then moved to Marseilles for the 6th World Water Forum. Activities included registration, plenary, working groups and capacity building workshops with an intercultural evening.

Daily Activities

Arrival Day

Arrival of the Parliamentarians at the Youth Hostel - Jas de Bouffran Youth Hostel in Aix-en-Provence from 5 to 11 March 2012. There was a brief meeting to welcome the participants to Marseille by the coordinators to explain the work plan.

Days 1-5, Tuesday 05th – Saturday 9th March, 2012.

Aix-en-Provence workshops (March 5-9, 2012)

From March 5 to 9, the parliamentarians held meetings during which we created the WYPW Charter and tailored the message we wanted to convey during the 6th World Water Forum: the WYPW Declaration.



PR and Media Links

The following links provide an idea of some of the activities that took place at the meeting:

- http://www.pmje.org/sites/docs/CP_bilan_EN.pdf
- http://www.pmje.org/sites/default/files/maj/20022012/021712-Press_release_WYPW.pdf

Lessons Learned

Being apart of the World Youth Parliament for Water showed me that the youth of the world are able to work together to achieve a common goal. It was clear that the need for access to an abundance of clean potable water for human consumption is vital. It was also clear, that there is a need for the involvement of the youth so as to ensure that our future generations have access to water and sanitation. Despite the challenges of differing languages and a hectic schedule, it was clear that international youth were up to the challenge, and have placed water high on their agenda. In the end concrete solutions were established to offer aid to existing challenges.

NB: Challenges and Solutions can be found in the Addendum section in the WYPW Declaration.



Follow Up

Some upcoming events after the recently concluded World Youth Parliament for Water are listed below.

- World Water Day – March 22th, 2012

Addendum

- The WYPW Charter
- The WYPW Declaration
- The WYPW Hymn



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The WYPW Charter establishing the World Youth Parliament for

Water

March 9, 2012

Aix-en-Provence, France

Preamble : General and Specific Objectives of the World Youth Parliament for Water

General objectives

Considering the 28th of July 2010 United Nations resolution making access to clean water a human right,

The World Youth Parliament for Water declares its will to:

1. Reshape our future by taking part in discussions on water-related issues.
2. Strongly emphasize the importance of youth participation in decision-making processes; to create and stimulate platforms for youth participation.
3. Strongly emphasize the importance of education of youth and by youth about water-related problems.
4. Raise awareness of water related issues, especially among the young people on local, national and global level concerning water and climate change.



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Specific objectives

The World Youth Parliament for Water aims to:

- 1) Coordinate, supervise, guide, and support youth programs and suggest concrete measures to facilitate results and increase the visibility of accomplishments and the quality of realized youth projects.
- 2) Provide the practical and theoretical tools for cooperation and collaboration among youth so that they will be prepared to communicate effectively, share knowledge and resources.
- 3) Facilitate cooperation between youth and stakeholders, especially in governmental decision making process.
- 4) Improve knowledge about water issues among youth by stimulating education. As it is youth who experiences firsthand the water problems of today, it is also important to bring young peoples' practical knowledge to the forefront of water education.
- 5) To promote World Water Day as a global day of action and education.

Chapter 1: General Provisions

The World Youth Parliament for Water is secular and democratic. It ensures equality of all its members, without discrimination of origin, race, gender, religion or belief.

The main working-language of the World Youth Parliament for Water is English. However, in order to ensure participation of non-English speakers, translations into French and Spanish must be provided for the sessions of the Parliament, and for all official documents.



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Chapter 2: Membership

From the applications sent by the candidates and in cooperation with the board, the organization team selects the parliamentarians. The organization team has to base its selection on the following criteria:

- The overall number of parliamentarians should be between 60 and 100.
- The President, the Vice-Presidents, the Regional Representatives and their back-ups have the right to participate in the next session of the Parliament.
- At the beginning of the session, the parliamentarians should be between 16 and 25 years old.
- Without prejudice of chapter 1 of the present Charter, the selection committee is strongly advised to take in consideration gender balance.
- Regarding balance between continents, a minimum of parliamentarians per continent is imposed, and a maximum of parliamentarians per continent is imposed. The minimum and the maximum are held quite spaced out. The minimum and the maximum are proposed by the Board and decided by the organization team.
- The number of nationalities represented in the Parliament and the global spread of the participants should be maximized.
- No more than 50% of the members of the current session should have taken part in a former session of the Parliament.
- Each parliamentarian must have fulfilled the application form sent by the organization team.



Chapter 3: The Organs

Article 1: The General Assembly

- The General Assembly is composed by all the parliamentarians. It meets every three years.

Article 2: The President

- The President is elected among the parliamentarians who's age is 22 or less at the time of the election. He is elected for a three years mandate by all the parliamentarians during a secret vote.
- The President is the figure head and the coordinator of the World Youth Parliament for Water.
- The President moderates the debate.
- The President signs the official documents of the World Youth Parliament for Water.

Article 3: The Vice-Presidents

- The two Vice-Presidents are elected among the parliamentarians who's age is 22 or less at the time of the election.
- They are elected for a three years mandate by all the parliamentarians during a secret vote. The candidate who receives the greatest amount of votes becomes the First Vice-President. The candidate who receives the second greatest amount of votes becomes the Second Vice-President.
- The Vice-Presidents support the President in its work.



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Article 6: The Board

- The Board is composed of nine members: the President, two Vice-Presidents, six Regional Representatives.
- The Board works on the text proposed by the Presidency. Each member of the Board can propose amendments to the Presidency's proposal. As soon as two thirds of the members of the Board agree, the proposal is considered accepted.

Chapter 4: Internal regulation of the Parliament during its session

The Parliament works either in plenary, either in Committee.

Article 7: Committees

Each Committee tackles a precise subject. The lists of the subjects are decided as follows:

- Each parliamentarian can send his contribution on the choice of the subjects for the Committees to the Board and the regional back-ups.
- The Board and the regional back-ups proposes a precise list of several subjects. The list is considered agreed after a two thirds majority vote of the Board and the back-ups.

Each Committee starts working on a proposal. The proposal is written as follows:

- Each parliamentarian can send his contribution on the content of the proposal to the Board and the regional back-ups.
- The Board and the back-ups proposes a precise proposal. The proposal is considered agreed after a two thirds majority vote of the Board and the regional back-ups



Chapter 5: Miscellaneous provisions

- No later than 4 months before the beginning of the session of the Parliament, a preparation meeting takes place.
- After one Parliament session, the parliamentarians are obliged to take concrete local actions. They can send a report on those actions to the board. The report can be used as an extra recommendation if the parliamentarian applies for a next session of the Parliament.

Chapter 6: Charter adoption and modifications

- This charter is adopted by the General Assembly.
- This charter can be only be modified by the general assembly. A two third majority has to be reached to modify the text of the Charter.
- This charter shall enter into force at the end of the month of its adoption.

Annex I: Definition of continents and the organization team

1. Africa
2. Europe
3. Asia
4. Oceania
5. North America
6. Latin America and Caribbean



Declaration of the World Youth Parliament for Water

March 9, 2012

Aix-en-Provence, France

-Preamble-

1. We, the young representatives from the world's river basins, having met in Aix-en-Provence, France, from 05.03.2012 to 09.03.2012, are working together for the protection and better management of natural resources; particularly water.
2. We affirm our commitment to find solutions to the challenges that are threatening the livelihoods of millions of people around the world, with emphasis on water access and sanitation, global climate change and water governance.
3. We are in agreement with all the water-related concerns raised in different international accords such as Agenda 21, the implementation plan for Johannesburg, the Dublin Principles, the Millennium Development Goals Declaration, as well as regional and national legislation.

-Our Concerns-

4. Firstly, we recognize that the lack of strategic infrastructure and increase of pollution by human activities; including deforestation, industrial pollution, and unsustainable consumption and production, affects the quality and quantity of potable water.
5. Second, we are concerned about the insufficient awareness at all levels of the causes and



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consequences of global change including climate change, natural disasters, migration of populations, ocean acidification, desertification and rapid depletion of potable water resources.

6. Third, we acknowledge that good governance and stakeholders' participation at local, national, international and basin levels are essential for equitable and inclusive water distribution. In this regard, we also acknowledge the role of the parliamentarians in generating inclusive participation in cooperation with governments and civil society actors.

-Guidelines-

7. Solutions to water challenges must consider the particular needs and conditions within each water basin. To overcome water challenges, solidarity and cooperation must be stimulated between leaders and youth to achieve a lasting impact.

8. We understand that to achieve universal water access and sanitation, it is essential to promote and increase cooperation between different actors, including youth, to improve local knowledge and innovation.

9. Achieving good water governance must be a guiding principle in all initiatives. We define water governance as a set of rules and actions taken to manage water resources. Consequently, good water governance is a set of actions that equitably distributes the benefits of water resources between society, the economy and the environment.



10. The proposed solutions must be promoted by world youth at local, regional, national and international levels in order to facilitate the installation of information. This information must address global changes in partnership with different actors of the society.

11. The government and civil society actors must create adequate mechanisms to increase stakeholders' participation at all levels of society, including youth, in order to promote ownership of the initiatives at the local level.

-Regional Youth Commitments-

12. In following the positions expressed above, as representatives of world youth, take the responsibility to take concrete actions according to the reality of our river basin.

Central Africa

13. We, the youth of Central Africa agree to work together at local and national levels in order to propose solutions to improve access to water and sanitation. In this regard, we will work with different actors to inform and build their capacity concerning access to water, and the impact they can have towards influencing government decisions.

West Africa

14. We, the youth of West Africa, commit to initiate the project ACT FOR WATER, which concerns water governance in the Niger basin. Educational and awareness raising actions concerning water problems, specifically water governance, will take place among young people both in and out of schools. This initiative will increase youth participation in the decisions linked



with the problems about which we are concerned, in order for all the population in the basin to have equitable access to water.

Asia and Pacific Region

15. We, the youth of the Asian and the Pacific river basins, commit to start a movement to share knowledge by an online network and conferences with the goal of improving the understanding of young people on climate change and natural disasters by the year 2013. These actions taken at the local level will focus on educating young people through a knowledge network, seminars, and school education.

Great Asian Rivers

16. We, the youth of the Great Asian Rivers, commit to develop the “Water Issues Educational Exchange Program” (WIEEP) to educate young people from rural and urban areas, on the means to promote better management and distribution of water resources at the local level. The participants in this program will also be involved in the creation of a social network to share the ideas of local people.

Central America and the Caribbean

17. We, the youth of Central America and the Caribbean, commit to create the first School for Water at the regional level, where children and youngsters will be educated in topics related to water governance. In addition we commit to promote the creation of an ecological corridor in Central America in collaboration with civil society, governments and the private sector.



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North America

18. We, the youth of North America, commit to organizing a North American Youth Parliament for Water by May 2013. This action will encourage exchanges among youth from Canada, the United States, and Mexico. This parliament will give the youth the possibility of realizing concrete actions in their local regions and of creating a network to share ideas and experiences linked to water problems, especially water quality in industrialized countries, water wastage, and transboundary river basins.

South America

19. We, the youth of South America, commit to generate the “Red Latino Americana de Juventudes por el Agua” (RLJA). This network will seek to articulate and strengthen national water initiatives to create a real and sustainable impact in South America. In addition, we will seek to promote an interdisciplinary network of organizations for a better understanding of water issues at the national, regional and international level.

Danube and Black Sea

20. We, the youth of the Danube River Basin and Black Sea, commit to work towards the promotion of public awareness on water issues at the local and international level and to increase active involvement of youth by 2015. We will work with different stakeholders and organizations (such as schools, NGOs, and foundations), state bodies and local authorities to share information on local water issues and to promote sustainable “green” lifestyles.



Picture 6



Parliamentarians casting their ballots



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