



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 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.

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.

Mediterranean

21. We, the youth of the Mediterranean, commit to create regional committees that are mandated to organize events and share knowledge. The aim of the events is to increase awareness and change behavior towards managing water demand and the protection of water resources, depending on the reality and challenges within each country. The actions are targeted at secondary schools, universities and volunteers in the regional committees. This will be implemented at the local and national level, with experiences to be exchanged with the members of World Youth Water Parliament.

Rhine and Baltic Sea

22. We, the youth of the Rhine and Baltic Sea basin, commit to introduce an educational tool for water governance in school programs to raise awareness among the youth in the river basins. After 30 hours of class study on water governance and river basins, a river basin passport will be awarded to the participants. With this “BLUE PASSPORT” borders will be replaced by those of the river basins in order to facilitate exchanges and to valorize the river basin.

Commitment to Engagement-

23. We, the world youth representatives, engage ourselves fully to the actions in the World Youth Parliament for Water and invite our partners to create a public platform in order to share the actions realized and to make them available to society, in particular to young people from our respective regions.