

WATER & THE CLIMATE: TAKE ACTION NOW!

NOTE TO DECISION-MAKERS



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FLOODING, DROUGHT, DESERTIFICATION, RISING SEA LEVELS...

Climate disruption affects the whole water cycle. It adversely impacts the quantity and quality of water resources, increases the pressure on these resources and heightens the risk of natural disasters. NGO field practitioners see the effects this has on people and the environment every day: water points are drying up; rainfall is becoming less frequent; extreme weather events that affect crop yields are becoming more commonplace; ecosystems are disappearing; there is greater tension around and competition for the water resource; and people are being displaced...

The aim of the new Sustainable Development Goals is to chart a path toward universal access to essential services and sustainable development; however, efforts made to achieve these goals may well be undermined by climate change. **The people most affected by the impacts of climate change are, and will continue to be, among the world's most vulnerable populations,** particularly those living in the least developed countries and fragile states.

THE GREATEST IMPACTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE MANIFEST THEMSELVES THROUGH WATER

1.8 billion people consume water that is faecally contaminated¹.

Agriculture accounts for around **70%** of global freshwater withdrawals² and energy for **15%**³.

40% of the world's population will experience severe water stress by 2050⁴.

90% of all natural hazards are water-related².

1 - Progress on Drinking Water and Sanitation, 2014 Report, WHO/UNICEF Joint Monitoring Program

2 - 4th Edition of the UN World Water Development Report: Managing Water under Uncertainty and Risk (2012)

3 - United Nations World Water Development Report 4. Volume 1: Managing Water under Uncertainty and Risk. WWAP, 2012

4 - OECD, Environmental Outlook to 2050: The Consequences of Inaction, OECD Publication, 2012

THE SITUATION IS URGENT, IT IS TIME TO ACT!

During their international climate change negotiations, Coalition Eau calls upon governments to:

- **Adopt an ambitious and binding agreement at the 2015 Paris Climate Change Conference (COP21) to keep global warming below 2°C compared to pre-industrial levels.** Countries' engagements currently fall far short of what is required. Were the global temperature to rise above the 2°C threshold, the disruption of the water cycle would be immense.
- **Place water at the centre of climate change negotiations and agreements.** There is too little awareness and emphasis on the water/climate nexus. However, it is through water that climate change will most noticeably impact on our societies and ecosystems.

When setting their international and national development and climate change policies, Coalition Eau calls upon governments to:

- **Provide universal, sustainable and equitable access to safe drinking water and sanitation** in order to build people's resilience and particularly the resilience of the most vulnerable groups.
- **Make water available for family farms** to help them adapt to climate change and ensure their food security.
- **Enhance implementation of Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM)** by ensuring all stakeholders are effectively involved.
- **Protect and restore the local water cycle** to help regulate the climate.
- **Establish water-efficient development models.**
- **Improve the prevention of, preparation for and response to water-related humanitarian crises.**
- **Fund adaptation to climate change in the water sector** in addition to financing development.
- **Involve civil society** in climate change and water management policy decisions and negotiations and build civil society's capacities in these areas.

Coalition Eau is a network of French NGOs working to promote universal and sustainable access to safe drinking water and sanitation while preserving water resources.

OUR MEMBERS: ACAD, Action contre la Faim, ADEDE, AVSF, CCFD, Coopération Atlantique Guinée 44, CORAIL, CRID, 4D, East, Eau Sans Frontières International, Eau Vive, GRDR, Green Cross International, GRET, Hydraulique Sans Frontières, IDO, Ingénieurs Sans Frontières, Initiative Développement, Kynarou, Morija, Réseau Foi et Justice Afrique Europe, Secours Catholique – Caritas France, Secours Islamique France, Sherpa, Solidarité Eau Europe, Toilettes du Monde, Triangle Génération Humanitaire, WECEF.