

# WATER AND CLIMATE EMERGENCY

## TIME TO MOVE FASTER TOWARDS ACTION!

### NOTE TO DECISION-MAKERS



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## THE PARIS AGREEMENT V. THE CLIMATE EMERGENCY

The Paris Climate Agreement, adopted in December 2015 by the 195 party nations to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), has provided a universal cooperative framework for tackling climate change. **Countries have pledged to hold the increase in the global average temperature to below 2°C above pre-industrial levels and to pursue efforts to limit the temperature increase to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels.** They have thus submitted their National Contributions (national action plans) with a view to reducing greenhouse gas emissions and focusing on climate change adaptation from 2020 onwards.

**BUT THE SITUATION REMAINS URGENT!**

**Record temperatures, rising sea levels, flooding, droughts... the projected impacts of global warming are regularly being revised upwards,** yet the National Contributions currently suggest a future global temperature increase of between 2.7 and 3.5°C. Despite the efforts made to ensure the Paris Agreement's rapid entry into force, the lack of political will for real transition and the complexity of the UN system are resulting in delays...

However, climate change could sabotage all the efforts being undertaken to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals. **Climate change particularly affects, and will continue to affect the most vulnerable people,** especially those living in the least developed countries and fragile states.

# WATER: A KEY ELEMENT FOR TACKLING AND ADAPTING TO CLIMATE CHANGE

It is through water that climate change will most notably impact on both people and the environment. Climate change affects the whole water cycle. It has an adverse impact on the quantity and quality of water resources, including the water available for human use; it increases the pressure on these resources, heightens the risk of natural disasters and can result in conflicts over the sharing of water...

But water, an element that cuts across all other sectors, also provides a solution to climate change. Providing access to water for human consumption and farming helps improve the living conditions of the most vulnerable population groups and strengthens their resilience. Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) is one of the pillars of climate change adaptation. Furthermore, many low-carbon energy solutions also require water.

## WATER, AT THE HEART OF CLIMATE CHANGE

**2 billion** people are currently experiencing water stress. *(United Nations, 2016)*

**1,8 billion** people lack access to safe water. *(JMP, 2014)*

Agriculture accounts for around **70%** of global freshwater withdrawals and energy for **15%**. *(UN-Water, 2012)*

**90%** of all natural hazards are water-related. *(UN-Water, 2012)*

## TIME TO RESOLVE THE CLIMATE EMERGENCY THROUGH WATER!

In order to ensure that COP22 really is the "COP of Action", Coalition Eau calls on the international community and governments to:

- **Ensure that the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda (Sustainable Development Goals), the Paris Climate Agreement and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction complement each other and are consistent.**
- **Transcribe the commitments made under the Paris Agreement into their national policies** and implement their national action plans to tackle global warming and adapt to its effects.
- **Demonstrate strong political will** and raise their ambitions with a view to revising their National Contributions between now and 2018.
- **Include water as a key element of their national and local policies and action plans**, particularly as water was listed as a priority by 93% of countries that have an Adaptation component within their National Contributions *(French Water Partnership / Coalition Eau, June 2016)*. Focus should be placed on: providing sustainable, universal and equitable access to drinking water, sanitation and water for irrigation; improving implementation of Integrated Water Resources Management; restoring and preserving the local water cycle; preventing, preparing for and responding to water-related humanitarian crises, as well as planning for post-crisis rehabilitation.
- **Facilitate the integration of adaptation policies into water-related sector policy** by building the capacities of local stakeholders and improving local knowledge of the impacts of climate change on water resources.
- **Rapidly raise the annual 100 billion dollars pledged to developing countries at COP21** to help them tackle climate change, particularly focusing on adaptation measures for the most vulnerable population groups.
- **Involve civil society in climate and water management-related negotiations and policy discussions**, ensuring this is carried out effectively, and provide them with the relevant capacity-building.
- **Improve the Global Climate Action Agenda** that provides a platform for non-state initiatives, focusing on the initiatives' selection process, governance, transparency, participation and monitoring & evaluation.

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.

**COALITION EAU MEMBERS INCLUDE:** ACAD, Action contre la Faim, ADEDE, AVSF, BlueEnergy, Coopération Atlantique Guinée 44, CORAIL, CRID, 4D, East, Eau et Vie, Eau Sans Frontières International, Eau Vive, GRDR, Green Cross International, GRET, Hydraulique Sans Frontières, IDO, Intersolidar, Ingénieurs Sans Frontières, Initiative Développement, Kynarou, Morija, Réseau Foi et Justice Afrique Europe, Secours Catholique – Caritas France, Secours Islamique France, Solidarité Eau Europe, Solidarités International, Toilettes du Monde, WECF.