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# COP22, MARRAKECH (7-18 NOVEMBER 2016)

## COALITION EAU REVIEW

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### REVIEW OF COP22, THE 'COP OF ACTION': ...DELAYED ACTION!

#### A successful COP for the water sector:

- For the first time in the history of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) Conference of the Parties (COP), water was seriously addressed during the event. A specific 'water action' day was held in the Blue Zone on 9 November as one of the Global Climate Action Agenda (GCAA) events ([http://unfccc.int/paris\\_agreement/items/10038.php](http://unfccc.int/paris_agreement/items/10038.php)), and a half-day side-event on water also took place in the Green Zone on 8 November.
- A large number of water-related side-events were held in both the Blue and Green Zones.
- The "ClimateIsWater" slogan was displayed in both zones, providing the water sector with a high level of visibility.
- The official thematic day on water held in the Blue Zone on 9 November (*see the review of this event below*) was used to:
  - Highlight water and climate issues specific to Africa and launch the 'Water for Africa' initiative;
  - Launch new water and climate initiatives (International Network of Parliamentarians for Water, the Delta Coalition and the Global Clean Water Desalination Alliance);
  - Review those water and climate initiatives currently in progress (river basins, businesses, megacities, #ClimateIsWater);
  - Discuss key sector issues.

A report on the outcomes from this official water action day is available [online](#) on the UNFCCC website.

- The outcomes from the official water action day were also discussed at the high level event, Accelerating Climate Action, which was held on 17 November and chaired by the climate action champions.  
During his presentation, Loïc Fauchon, Honorary President of the World Water Council and representative of the 'water' community, highlighted the following points:
  - Water was placed at the forefront of this COP22 agenda;
  - Water and energy (ensuring access to and safeguarding these resources) should be jointly addressed;
  - River basins are the appropriate scale for water resource management;
  - An interdisciplinary approach is required that encompasses water, energy, food, health and education ( the "five fingers alliance" concept);

- Funding, knowledge and governance are essential pillars for ensuring efficient and sustainable access to water;
  - Several initiatives have been launched, including Water for Africa and the International Network of Parliamentarians for Water.
- These key water-related events were somewhat sullied by the World Water Council's attempts to position themselves as the key non-state water and climate stakeholder and to take over coordination of the multi-stakeholder Water and Climate discussion platform due to be created to maintain the high profile of the water sector between the COP events and to organise future 'Water Action Days'.
- ➡ See our article entitled: ['The World Water Council's hijacking of the official Water Action Day ...'](#)
- COP22 also gave rise to a number of other significant water sector-related developments:
- Four official GCAA alliances (river basins, megacities, businesses and desalination) signed a [Joint Declaration](#), pledging to mobilise their partners, identify and communicate good practices and support the development of new projects by field practitioners working to promote climate change adaptation and resilience within the water sector.
  - Seven French institutions (AFD, CNES, OIEau, CNR, IRD, Irstea, and BRLI) signed a joint agreement under the patronage, and in the presence of, the French Ministry of the Environment, Energy and the Sea. These institutions have joined forces to work on new approaches for monitoring water resources that make use of spatial data. More information on this can be found [here](#).

### **Focus on the thematic Water Action Day held in the Blue Zone on 9 November:**

COP22 can be considered as marking a turning point for the water sector as, whereas COP21 allocated only half-a-day to water as part of 'Resilience' Day, COP22 dedicated an entire day to this theme (9 November 2016) within the official conference area as part of the Global Climate Action Agenda (GCAA). Its aim was to highlight the intrinsic link between water and the climate and raise the profile of water within climate change negotiations.

#### **Press Conference:**

Water Action Day opened with a press conference, the speakers at which notably included: the Moroccan Minister of the Environment, Hakima El Haite; Morocco's Minister Delegate for Water, Charafat Afailal; the Vice-President of the World Water Council, Dogan Altinbilek; the representative for the French Ministry of the Environment, Energy and the Sea, Sylvie Lemmet; and the President of the International Network of Basin Organisations (INBO), Lupericio Zirolto Antonio.

#### **Water Showcases:**

The morning session was given over to Water Showcases, the aims of which were to:

- Highlight the water and climate challenges facing Africa, present the outcomes of the Rabat International Conference on Water and Climate: "Water Security for Climate Justice", which have been collated in a [Blue Book on Water and the Climate](#), and present the [Water for Africa](#) initiative.
- Present new water and climate initiatives launched at COP22:
  - The [International Network of Parliamentarians for Water](#), whose objective is to facilitate the exchange of "legislative best practice" on water and to promote the organisation of water policy-related debates and knowledge-sharing;
  - The [Delta Coalition](#), which is the world's first international coalition of governments from 12 countries that have come together to ensure sustainable delta development that addresses climate change;

- The Desalination Alliance.
- Review the progress made on ongoing water and climate-related initiatives:
  - The [Paris Pact on water and adaptation to climate change in the basins of rivers, lakes and aquifers](#), which aims to promote the resilience of basins to climate change through capacity-building, adapting planning and basin management to climate change and ensuring adequate funding;
  - The [Business Alliance for Water and Climate Change](#), launched to ensure companies commit to measuring and reducing their water footprint and to promote the role of the private sector in climate change adaptation activities;
  - The [Megacities Alliance for Water and Climate](#), which aims to promote the role of cities and megacities in adapting to climate change through the adoption of integrated urban water management measures;
  - The [#ClimatelsWater initiative](#), an international campaign that aims to ensure water is made a priority in international climate change negotiations.

Discussions mainly focused on Africa (which is highly vulnerable to climate change), the links between water and other sectors, water as a driver of human development, the need to integrate the water and climate agendas, the importance of integrated river basin management, the water-energy nexus, access to funding, capacity-building and taking collective action.

In this morning session, we particularly appreciated Morocco's Minister Delegate for Water, Charafat Afaïl's passionate and powerful speech, during which he stressed the urgency of the situation, the social impacts of water scarcity and the need to implement economically AND socially cost-effective projects. Unfortunately, however, there was no high level representative from the French government in attendance, little priority afforded to the African Ministers of Water present and a tendency towards self-promotion among certain organisations, most notably the World Water Council and UNESCO.

### **Water Dialogue:**

The afternoon session was given over to a Water Dialogue, a high level debate on key water and climate policy issues.

Discussions covered four topics:

- Water and sustainable development;
- Water and socio-economic development;
- Financing mechanisms to increase adaptation and mitigation ambitions within the water sector;
- Improving knowledge, cooperation and capacity-building.

Although there were few representatives from African NGOs/CSOs on the roundtable panels, Coalition Eau had campaigned to ensure that Jean-Bosco Bazié, Eau Vive Managing Director, and Roukiattou Ouedraogo, Advocacy and Communications Officer for SPONG (platform of NGOs in Burkina Faso) were provided with an opportunity to speak. Coalition Eau was also actively represented by Kristel Malègue, Coalition Eau Coordinator. During the discussions, Coalition Eau and our partners delivered the following messages:

- There is a need to ensure the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) are effectively implemented, with a focus on water, and that they are applied to the local level. To this end, countries need to focus on integrating their water and climate policies.
- In addition to Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM), priority needs to be given to providing access to basic services in order to meet the needs of the most vulnerable communities.
- Financial commitments must be upheld and the goal of raising \$100 billion each year by 2020 to help developing countries cope with climate change needs to be rapidly achieved, with climate change adaptation funding specifically targeting the most vulnerable populations. This funding must be additional to Official Development Assistance and mechanisms should be put in place to facilitate access to finance for developing countries and ensure funding filters through to the ground.

- There is a need to improve local knowledge (and also to build on traditional community knowledge) of the impacts of climate change on water resources and build the capacities of local elected officials and communities to improve their understanding of the water/climate nexus.
- The general public needs to be involved and included in water and climate-related strategies in order to improve governance.

In addition to the above messages, the following points were also highlighted during the Water Dialogue:

- Water can be used to track climate change.
- Water is a 'connector' (between sectors and between SDGs).
- The importance of anticipation and prevention.
- The importance of the triumvirate of 'knowledge-governance-finance' within projects.
- Need to focus on risk management.
- Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) implementation needs to be ramped up.
- Need to facilitate access to climate-related finance, particularly for countries most at risk, while not overlooking so-called 'traditional' funding approaches.
- Funding must not be reserved solely for large projects; allocate finance to those able to pool resources.
- The importance of knowledge-sharing, capacity-building, research and development, and skills transfer.
- Call on adaptation committee members to help deliver the water community's messages to the UNFCCC.

It was satisfying to note that the dialogue was more open than anticipated (whether intentional or not), enabling NGOs/CSOs to more extensively express their views; however, there was a regrettable lack of top level state and institutional representatives involved. Moreover, these key water-related events were somewhat sullied by the World Water Council's attempts to position themselves as the key non-state water and climate stakeholder and to take over coordination of the multi-stakeholder Water and Climate discussion platform ([see our article](#)).

The outcomes of the official Water Action Day are available [here](#). They were also presented at the high level Accelerating Climate Action event on 17 November, which was attended by two of the Climate Action Champions.

#### Key water-related priorities for COP23, as part of the GCAA:

- Ensure the official Water Action Day remains on the COP agenda.
- Create a multi-stakeholder discussion platform for the international water community to maintain visibility of the water sector between the COPs and to prepare future Water Action Days. Continue discussions on the governance of this platform, focusing on transparency, inclusion, consensus-seeking and the public interest.
- Continue to strengthen non-state stakeholders' involvement in water and climate-related action.
- Improve the initiative selection process, governance, transparency, participation and monitoring & evaluation of the Global Climate Action Agenda, which collates non-state climate initiatives, and conduct specific monitoring of water-related initiatives and alliances.
- Raise the profile of the water sector at the Bonn intersessional meetings and within UNFCCC bodies (Adaptation Committee, Loss and Damage Mechanism, Subsidiary Body for Implementation (SBI), Ad Hoc Working Group on the Paris Agreement (APA), Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement (CMA1)). Improve water-related discussions between the Parties and Non-Parties.
- Monitor climate-related funding, particularly to ensure this is allocated in addition to other assistance, as well as funds for adaptation and the water sector.

Coalition Eau will work to ensure these priorities are met, while continuing our advocacy campaigns on water and the climate (see [our messages](#)).

### Reviews of COP22 produced by French NGOs and platforms (available in French only):

- The French Water Partnership: [La COP22 : la COP de la préparation de l'action](#)
- CARE: [La COP de l'action ? Repassez au prochain tour](#)
- Oxfam France: [Financements climat : à la COP22, les pays riches font la sourde oreille](#)
- ACF-Secours catholique-CCFD: [COP22 : les populations vulnérables attendront !](#)

## REVIEW OF COALITION EAU'S PARTICIPATION

Coalition Eau was actively involved in COP22 and able to successfully communicate [our messages](#):

### Participation in and organisation of side-events:

Coalition Eau organised 2 side-events in the Green Zone, which were particularly well-received:

- **'Water and Climate: Return Water to the Earth to Restore the Climate'**, a 'People, Planet and Water' event organised in conjunction with France Libertés – Fondation Danielle Mitterrand and Coordination Eau Ile-de-France (8 November 2016) and which was attended by around fifty people.
  - **'From the Paris Agreement to Policy Implementation on the Ground: Focus on Water'** (11 November 2016), attended by over a hundred people.
- *Reports on these side-events are available [here](#) (available in French only).*
  - *Detailed minutes of the 'From the Paris Agreement to Policy Implementation on the Ground: Focus on Water' event can be found [here](#) (available in French only).*

Coalition Eau was also involved in the following discussions and side-events organised by the French Water Partnership (FWP) in the Green Zone:

- **'French Water Sector Stakeholders' Solutions for Tackling Climate Change'**: a presentation of NGOs' climate change adaptation solutions (8 November 2016).
  - **A Presentation of Coalition Eau and the Butterfly Effect**, as well as their messages for COP22, which took place during the FWP cocktail event.
- *Find the reports on these events [here](#) (available in French only).*

There was also a large number of Coalition Eau members in attendance at COP22 (Action contre la Faim, Eau Vive, Green Cross International, GRET, Secours Islamique France, Solidarité Eau Europe, Solidarités International, WECF, 4D), who all took part in the various side-events and delivered their water-related messages.

### Influencing policy-makers

#### Involvement in Water Action Day, the Blue Zone, 9 November:

Coalition Eau and a number of our members took part in Water Action Day, which was held in the Blue Zone on November 9. Coalition Eau also worked to ensure 2 NGO/CSO representatives had the opportunity to express their views during the Water Dialogue and a representative from Coalition Eau itself also spoke at this event. The messages delivered are outlined above.

### Meeting with Ségolène Royal, the French Minister of the Environment, Energy and the Sea, 12 November:

During this meeting between the Minister and French NGOs on November 12, Rachid Lahlou, President of Secours Islamique France (a Coalition Eau member), stressed the importance of including water-related issues in negotiations and of implementing national climate change adaptation policies. The French Water Partnership also attended this meeting to highlight the importance of water.

### Meeting with François Hollande, the President of the French Republic, 16 November:

Rachid Lahlou, President of Secours Islamique France (a Coalition Eau member) and Vice-President of Coordination SUD, attended the meeting between NGOs and the French President, Francois Hollande, on 16 November to set out French NGOs' concerns about climate change negotiations. The French Water Partnership, of which Coalition Eau is a member, was also represented. Rachid Lahlou communicated Coalition Eau's messages on the importance of including water in climate change discussions and negotiations, the need to ramp up implementation of the Nationally Determined Contributions, including at the local level, and on ensuring that the basic services that help build the adaptation capacities of the most vulnerable are not overlooked. These discussions also focused on funding.

### Meeting between the Burkina Faso ministerial delegation and Fonds Vert Climat:

Coalition Eau and Eau Vive helped to set up a meeting between the Burkina Faso ministerial delegation and Fonds Vert Climat, which was held on 10 November. The aim of this meeting was to improve understanding of the Fonds Vert Climat mechanism and facilitate access to climate-related funding for countries in the global South. The French Agency for Development (AFD), currently in the process of launching a Facility to implement Nationally Determined Contributions, also attended the meeting with a view to identifying countries' climate change adaptation priorities, helping them to incorporate climate-related issues into public policy and then to prepare feasibility studies that can be used to inform applications for funding from Fonds Vert Climat. These discussions made it possible for Coalition Eau to communicate this information to other countries.

➡ *The minutes of this meeting are available [here](#) (available in French only).*

### Lobbying:

Extensive lobbying was carried out during COP22 by one of Eau Vive's board members, Maggie White, supported by Coalition Eau, in order to increase the visibility of water-related issues among policy-makers and endorse the messages of Coalition Eau's NGO members.

### Supporting the involvement of civil society from the global South

Coalition Eau provided financial support to enable 3 partners from the global South (2 NGOs/CSOs and 1 deputy mayor) from SPONG (Burkina Faso), Tenmiya (Mauritania) and Boghé (Mauritania) to attend COP22. These partners notably took part in the Coalition Eau side-events.

In addition, Coalition Eau worked to ensure two representatives from African CSOs/NGOs (Eau Vive and SPONG) were officially involved in the Water Action Day held in the Blue Zone on 9 November and were thus able to deliver their messages to high level stakeholders.