



## Appeal

The World Water Council, meeting in Kyoto at the time of the outbreak of the hostilities in Iraq, is concerned about the suffering that may be caused to innocent civilians by destruction of water supply and sanitation infrastructures. This concern is clearly also reflected as the intention of international law under the Geneva Convention.

We urge all combatants to abstain from attacking water sources, dams, water treatment plants and distribution systems and the staff engaged in repairing and maintaining them.

We urge all parties to take emergency measures as quickly as possible to restore services in areas where systems have been damaged and to ensure access to safe water for displaced persons.

The World Water Council intends at the earliest possible moment to send a team of experts to the affected areas to evaluate damages and recommend measures for emergency relief and rehabilitation of stricken systems.

The World Water Council reaffirms its recommendations for the creation of a Force For Water that would in time of emergency situations or armed conflicts ensure the continued provision of water services.

The World Water Council invites all organisations and individual stakeholders participating in the 3<sup>rd</sup> World Water Forum to support this appeal.

Kyoto, Japan  
March 20, 2003