



Sunday, June 01, 2003

To: Heads of State of G8

Freshwater is now recognized as a precious and finite resource that is central to sustainable development, economic growth, social stability and poverty alleviation. This is why water is one of the main topics of your G8 meeting in Evian this June. It is the role of the World Water Council and the World Water Forum to promote awareness of critical water issues at all levels, including the highest decision-making level and to encourage an effective and sustainable management of the world's water resources as a major contribution to the improvement of the quality of life.

The 3rd World Water Forum was held in Kyoto, Osaka and Shiga in Japan from 16-23 March, 2003. As co-organisers of this Forum, the World Water Council and the Secretariat of the 3rd World Water Forum would like to request your commitment and support for the actions needed to meet the water related goals set forth at the Millennium Summit of the United Nations in New York (2000), the International Freshwater Conference in Bonn (2001) and the World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg (2002). This is also the context of the declaration of water as a human right by the UN Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights in 2002.

Balancing increasing human requirements for adequate water supplies and improved health and sanitation with food production, transportation, energy and environmental needs will require in most countries more effective water governance, improved capacity and adequate financing. To this end, the World Water Council and the Secretariat of the 3rd World Water Forum, on behalf of those who participated in the 3rd World Water Forum, would like to call upon the governments of the G8 to promote, support and assist with the implementation of the following recommendations, which were amongst the most recurring themes at the Forum:

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- **Increase investments** for water development that is mainstreamed in all WEHAB (Water, Energy, Health, Agriculture and Bio-diversity) sector strategies. The donor community should commit an increased percentage of their funds for development and better management of water infrastructure. Countries that are establishing strategies to meet the Millennium Development Goals that implement laws and build administrative and management capacity for efficient public institutions in the water sector should receive strong support.
- Governments and international institutions should **deepen their understanding of and quantify** the benefits of water and good water management so that water becomes one of their priorities in their investment and budget plans. Where possible, they should develop with all stakeholders including private sectors and civil societies a range of public financial instruments, accessible to local water managers to provide water to the poor at an affordable cost and should take adequate measures to secure sustainability of water services.
- Governments and international institutions should **establish a global monitoring system** by creating linkages among existing monitoring systems and promoting and contributing to the development of new monitoring activities on global water resources, the activities in the water sector and progress towards the Millennium Development Goals (MDG).
- Support the development of a management capacity in transboundary water basins and the establishment of international water initiatives that help basin authorities, governments and other stakeholders to peacefully resolve potential and actual water related conflicts

We request you to support and promote these recommendations to enable future generations wherever on this globe to enjoy in peace the benefits of water.

Respectfully yours,

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