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## **Making the voice of water heard...**

Marseilles, 29 January 2007 – While 90% of all natural disasters are water-related and the lack of water and sanitation is killing 25,000 people a day—half of whom are children—the World Water Council has been working for 10 years to make the voice of water heard by national and international decision-makers. It aims to place water at the centre of debates and at the top of financing priorities.

In this perspective, **Loïc Fauchon, President of the World Water Council and Chairman of the Water Supply Company of Marseilles**, will attend the international conference called for by the French President and devoted to the establishment of a “UN Environment Organisation”, on February 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> in Paris. *“It is important that global environmental awareness is being supported by all those, including scientists, company directors, political leaders and, NGOs, who are ready and willing to refuse the status quo and to encourage ecological change”*, writes President Jacques Chirac.

By personal invitation from the Head of the State and *“taking into account the eminent role of the World Water Council on the international scene”*, **Loïc Fauchon will, thus, chair one of the six conference workshops** at the Elysée. Entitled **“Making Water a Shared Issue”**, it will evoke the actions to be undertaken in order to adapt water management to climate change, in particular with regard to the Millennium Development Goals, which aim to halve the proportion of the world's population without sustainable access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation by 2015.

With the Kenyan Nobel Peace Prize recipient, Wangari Maathai, the climatologist Jean Jouzel, the TV presenter Nicolas Hulot and the photographer Yann Arthus-Bertrand, the attendance of the Chairman of Apple, Steve Jobs, the explorer Jean-Louis Etienne and the navigator Catherine Chabaud, is expected, in addition to the General Secretary of the OECD, Angel Gurría, and the President of the European Commission, José-Emmanuel Barroso, as well as over 150 high-ranking officials and global experts.

**“Water is our common future”**, recalls Loïc Fauchon. *Our duty is to bring to the poorest and the most disadvantaged hope for a life where searching for clean and abundant water is no longer a constant obsession.”*

For more information: [www.citoyensdelaterre.fr](http://www.citoyensdelaterre.fr) – [www.worldwatercouncil.org](http://www.worldwatercouncil.org)