



“Heads of State and Government: Make commitments for the Right to Water”

Monday, June 18, in Rio, Loïc Fauchon and Benedito Braga, together with Nobel Prize Winner Muhammad Yunus, were part of the 10 civil society personalities invited by the Brazilian government to speak at the panel on water during the Sustainable Development Dialogues organised as part of the Rio+20 Conference.

At the end of the panel, which highlights the participatory process initiated through the online platform - Riodialogues.org - three final recommendations were selected.

The first, brought forward by the World Water Council, concerns the implementation of the Right to Water and Sanitation, acknowledged in 2010 by the United Nations General Assembly. The panellists unanimously called upon the Heads of State to include this right in their Constitutions and to implement the necessary arrangements and regulations so as to make that a reality and an enforceable right for everyone.

The second recommendation focuses on the importance of planning and the integrated management of water, energy, and land use.

The third, which proved to be very popular by the end of the public vote on the online platform, focuses on securing water resources to preserve biodiversity and ecosystems.

All recommendations revolve around the concept of water security, which is now one of the strategic challenges of tomorrow's world along with nuclear, food and maritime safety. This safeguard of water depends first and foremost on the ability to guarantee a decent everyday life to everyone by providing dual security in terms of both food and health. Secondly it depends on economic and social security to produce the goods and services needed for development and the improvement of living standards. Finally it delivers ecological security to restore to nature the water that is essential to the preservation of biodiversity and maintenance of ecosystems.

President Fauchon, rapporteur of the panel on water, will bring the three final recommendations to the Heads of State round table to be held on the afternoon of Wednesday 20 June. He emphasised the immense responsibility of political leaders, reminding them that "the time for incantations is over. The planet expects to see commitments and as many solutions. The Heads of State and the entire international community cannot miss the opportunity which is being offered to humanity. This is a global emergency."