

**3<sup>rd</sup> Children's World Water Forum Declaration**  
**March 14<sup>th</sup>, 2009**  
**Made on the occasion of the 5<sup>th</sup> World Water Forum, Istanbul, TURKEY**

Participating children agreed on the following issues as priorities for future action.

**Protecting the quality and quantity of water resources**

- Water must be protected and used consciously. There are different phases about this. Firstly people should be educated.
- We can build filters to clean water.
- Industrial waste should not be thrown into water resources.
- The technology involved in the use of purifying and collecting water should be improved.
- Underground water should be researched more and its usage should be limited.
- Filtering the chemicals released from factories would save water. People should be kept aware of the situation.
- The infrastructure of old cities must be improved.

**Protecting the environment**

- The production of dams should be decreased.
- Deforestation can be stopped.
- Action should be taken in order to decrease global warming. For example; Drive less, use public transportation, recycle, reuse, decrease the usage of substances that cause greenhouse effect and focus on the other sources of energy such as wind and solar and increase the usage of substantial energy. Think about the future, not just the present.
- Wells cause damage in agricultural fields. The wells should be made more responsibly.

**Finding new sources of water**

- Systems should be created to collect rainwater. Use that in our toilets and we won't have to purify it and waste the rainwater.
- Without water recycling, plants and animals will be affected.
- Highways and the roads that each country has can contain drains and when rain falls the water will go to the drains and water can be distributed to the houses.
- Agricultural technologies must be developed and increased, for example drop system.

**Rights, solidarity and cooperation**

- Every individual must have the right to access to clean water.
- Some countries in the world should not keep the water to themselves totally and share it. There should be an international framework on the division of water.
- Funds relating to the subject should be increased so the technology can be improved and transferred within nations.
- Building of an international independent and non-governmental framework (for example U.N.) for water problems.

### **Children's role**

- We have to publicize that we don't have much water in the world and we should pay attention to children's projects. Advertise children's projects.
- We should hold national children forums.
- Children should be taken into consideration because children's ideas are not taken seriously. Children should be given authority to conduct projects. Government and local authorities keep their egos down. There may be international funds to support children's ideas and projects.

Like all the other points, the final point below about water prices was discussed amongst children who tried to reach a final consensus on this issue to include it in the declaration. This was not possible, so it was decided to portray it as a small discussion in the end when the children were reading their declaration out loud, to show that it is acceptable to have different opinions on a certain topic, and it is important to share it freely. The question is:

- Should water prices in developed countries be increased in order to supply water to non-developed countries?