

# 5th World Water Forum Political Process

5th WORLD WATER FORUM  
İSTANBUL 2009



BRIDGING  
DIVIDES  
FOR WATER

March 16-22, 2009

*“Water scarcity, water pollution and overuse of ground water resources are survival issues in many countries and regions, and many hold that this problem is even more critical than the threat of climate change” - Gro Harlem Brundtland, CSD-15 Address*

## Why is there a Political Process for the World Water Forum?

- Because water is political
- To increase political will
- To raise awareness among politicians about water issues in order for them to create an enabling environment to address those issues.

## An innovative process for the 5th Forum

- One theme:

**“Water Management Adaptation Strategies for Global Changes, including Climate Change/Variability”**

- Four political groups involved: a multi-stakeholder process

**Heads of State  
Parliamentarians**

**Ministers  
Local Authorities**

- Concrete results

- **Heads of State *Appeal for Action***
- **Ministerial *Agenda***
- **Summary Record of the Parliamentarians' Discussions**
- ***Istanbul Urban Water Consensus***



World Water Council  
World Water Forum



İSTANBUL  
**METROPOLITAN**  
MUNICIPALITY

# 5th World Water Forum

## Heads of State

A meeting with the participation of a limited number of Heads of State will headline the government segment of the political process. The outcome of this meeting will be a high-level appeal for action to governments around the world citing the importance of water and the role it plays in development and society. It will cover general principles and values, and point out how water actions are central to society and to adaptation measures for global changes.

## Ministers

The Ministerial Conference will involve Ministers in an intergovernmental process. The objective of the Ministerial segment of the 5th Forum is to prepare a Ministerial agenda for Water Adaptation Management Strategies for Global Changes including Climate Change/ Variability. To carry out this process, four Preparatory Committee Meetings (PrepComs) will be organised in Paris, Rome, Geneva and Istanbul to negotiate the Ministerial Agenda.

## Parliamentarians

The Parliamentarians portion of the 5th Forum will be a dynamic interaction among members of national assemblies from around the world. It is foreseen that there will be three aspects to this interaction:

- (1) a discussion about the definition of minimal national legislation for water and sanitation;
- (2) roundtables revolving around themes that are difficult for national governments to discuss, such as the human right to water, transboundary water issues and decentralization; and
- (3) the study of a “ Helpdesk ” for Parliamentarians to aid in the development of water-related legislation.

## Local Authorities

The Local Authorities’ process is aimed at promoting action on a local level across the world. The primary output will be the “Istanbul Urban Water Consensus”, a non-binding agreement among cities around the world to initiate action on urban water issues, in the face of global changes, including urbanization and climate change. This process was initiated on World Water Day 2008 by Istanbul’s Mayor Kadir Topbaş. The Consensus is intended to strengthen the commitment of Local authorities and to bring their problems to the attention of governments, legislators and the international community.



# Political Process Overview

## Political Group and Stakeholder Interaction

During Forum Week, dynamic interactions are planned whereby the various levels of government will be able to interact not only with one another, but with the Forum participants as well.

## Linkages with Other Processes

Two major components of the preparation of the 5th World Water Forum are the Regional and Thematic Processes. These are intricately linked to and drive the Political Process, feeding policy recommendations as substance to the discussions within and between the political groups.

There are other major ongoing processes that are taking place at a regional level that will also provide input into the 5th Forum Political Process. Major water summits are being convened around the world whose policy-oriented output will also be material used in formulation of the Political Process products.



All of these activities will contribute to the Preparatory Committee meetings (PrepCom), leading up to the Forum and culminating in the Ministerial Agenda at the 5th World Water Forum.

## PrepCom Agenda

- **PrepCom I: 11-12 Sept. 2008 (Paris - UNESCO)**
- **PrepCom II: 4-5 Dec. 2008 (Geneva, UNO)**
- **PrepCom III: 22-23 Jan. 2009 (Rome, FAO)**
- **PrepCom IV (if necessary): Feb. 2009 (Istanbul)**





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## How to Contribute to the Political Process

For National Governments:

- **Attend the PrepComs**
- **Participate in Regional Summits**

For Parliamentarians :

- **Attend the Parliamentarian Preparatory meeting in fall 2008**

For Local Authorities :

- **Review the Istanbul Urban Water Consensus at [www.worldwaterforum5.org](http://www.worldwaterforum5.org)**
- **Provide your comments and alternative suggestions at [consensus@worldwaterforum5.org](mailto:consensus@worldwaterforum5.org)**
- **Sign Consensus**

## And AFTER the 5th World Water Forum...

These Political Processes will not stop at the 5th World Water Forum. Their results will not only be used as a foundation for the 6th World Water Forum, but will also actively engage other international dialogues such as the G8, UN-CSD or UNFCCC. These meetings, and the results of the 5th World Water Forum, will raise the priority of water management strategies and actions on the international agenda.

**For more information:  
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**[www.worldwaterforum5.org](http://www.worldwaterforum5.org)**

