

**LOCAL & REGIONAL AUTHORITIES' DECLARATION
ON "WATER FOR SHARED PROSPERITY"
OUTCOME OF THE 10th WORLD WATER FORUM
BALI, INDONESIA, 22 MAY 2024**

Water plays an increasingly important role in human society. As the world is evolving, threats to this natural resource are particularly worrying. The erratic evolution of the planet's climate is not the only cause. Demographic growth, urban overcrowding, tourist concentrations, rising living standards, waste of all kinds and excessive consumption are all weighing increasingly heavily on the security of water resources.

However, front of such aggression, water is a common good for all mankind. It is a fundamental right, insufficiently proclaimed, unequally respected and inequitably implemented. Water is one of the essential public services which, beyond the needs of daily life, is a primary element of human dignity.

Local, provincial and regional authorities play a decisive role in the organization of territories. And this role is growing, not only in cities and metropolises, but also in rural areas, sometimes desertified, sometimes being repopulated. They have a growing responsibility to provide access to water and sanitation, and to prevent water-related disasters such as floods and droughts. This is a responsibility they intend to assume, with the necessary legal, financial and technical resources at their disposal.

Humanity's survival depends on the harmonious sharing of water for humans and water for nature. Respect for biodiversity and the life of ecosystems call for a new commitment to protecting the water cycle. Only this careful protection will enable us to secure the quantity and quality of water resources. The progressive control of domestic, industrial and agricultural pollution promises is a determining factor in preserving a living planet.

We are committed to:

- Promote an effective right to water and sanitation in the texts and regulations governing their areas of responsibility. Local Authorities will also support the move towards a right to water enforceable to third parties (as it's the case for town planning). They will take concrete action to promote this right on a daily basis, to make access to water and sanitation available to all.
- Give priority to securing resources, in close coordination with the national and basin levels. And to ensure that the necessary infrastructure is ready to deliver drinking water and treat wastewater, while adopting strategies for sobriety and efficiency for all uses, such as optimizing irrigation systems or repairing leaks, in order to reduce the water footprint without interfering political interest.
- To implement Nature-based Solutions that protect local aquatic ecosystems, in particular rivers, lakes and wetlands, to preserve and restore sustainable biodiversity.
- Implement Flood control policies through law enforcement of local spatial planning regulations to hinder the increasing water runoff as the result of land development, such as the Zero Delta Q policy as applicable in Indonesia.



- Promote all forms of inter-municipal, national, and international cooperation, including decentralized cooperation, to exchange and share know-how, best practices and experiences in support of emerging city hydro-diplomacy in line with the expectations of local populations.
- Encourage the exploration and creation of innovative financing mechanisms, such as public-private partnerships, mixed financing and climate-led development funds, all designed to guarantee transparency, equity and long-term financial sustainability.
- Integrate capacity building to enable local authorities to efficiently maintain water treatment and distribution. And to provide ongoing financial support for staff training and access to qualified advice.
- Encourage community involvement and citizen participation, enabling local populations to contribute to decision-making and effective implementation of projects. And implement without delay awareness-raising lessons on water in nature, since preschool due to jurisdiction.

We call on all Local and Regional Authorities and their institutional, economic and associative partners to join the Bali Water Initiative and contribute to the creation of a Global Network for local, equitable and sustainable water management.

Adopted at the 10th World Water Forum, Bali, Indonesia.