

## **8TH WORLD WATER FORUM**

Brasilia, 18-23 March 2018

### **“Sharing Water”**

*This briefing aims at informing UCLG members on key background elements prior to the 8th World Water Forum due to take place in Brasilia, Brazil, from 18th to 23rd March 2018*

#### **Background of the Forum and our stance on the matter:**

The World Water Forum is the greatest water-related event in the world. It gathers around 25,000 participants, from national governments, to local and regional governments, to all actors involved on the water and sanitation management at all levels. The mission of this year's edition is "to promote awareness, build political commitment and trigger action on critical water issues at all levels especially considering the implementation of SDG6".

**The main theme** of WWF8 will be *sharing water*.

UCLG has worked towards achieving these goals ever since our foundation. The **Final Declaration of the UCLG Founding Congress** stated: "Access to sufficient, good quality water at a reasonable price must be a right for all, and requires both legislative and social measures to protect the least advantaged communities."

#### **Final Document of the Daegu WWF (2015):**

LRGs urged national governments to **strengthen decentralisation** & institutional capacities of local authorities.

#### **Legacy and conclusions of WWF7:**

- Moving from solutions to implementation;
- Bridging the platform of science & technology to water issues;
- Contributing to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

#### **What is at stake for the network?**

Many municipalities face tremendous challenges regarding water management, water scarcity, and the impact of climate change on water resources as well as in providing clean water and sanitation services to all citizens, leaving no one behind.

The Forum comes at a crucial moment for local and regional authorities and the mobilisation of around 15 local and regional elected officials to the Forum should aim to demonstrate that water and sanitation remain burning issues at local level, and that solutions cannot be properly implemented without the involvement of local and regional authorities.

#### **Where can our voice be heard?**

UCLG is member of the Steering Committee of the Local and Regional Authorities Political Process of the Forum and therefore one of the main organisers of the International Conference of Local and Regional Authorities.

- International Conference of Local and Regional Authorities.
- Co-organized by UCLG (with ICLEI, GWOPA, World Water Council and Brazilian partners), it takes place from the 20-21 of March
- Aim: To highlight the importance of integrated and sustainable water management led by LRGs.
- Brasilia Local and Regional Governments Call for Action on Water
- Draws 10 recommendations. Themes: Promoting urban water resilience, capacity building in water governance

People without access to safe water live predominantly in **rural areas, and urban areas' (especially informal settlements) difficulties in accessing clean water and sanitation** have increased over the last 20 years.

**□ Principle of subsidiarity, decentralization and a clear institutional framework are prerequisites for good water management**

The Human Right to Water and Sanitation (HRWS) was **recognized as a human right by the United Nations (UN) General Assembly** on 28 July 2010. Local and Regional Governments are building on this right recognized by the UN. Often times, it is thought that water is a non-issue that will eventually get solved once countries get wealthier. The reality is that countries with similar per-capita incomes can differ greatly when it comes to water provision. Governance (especially) becomes a key factor in explaining why provision is different between countries.

Local and regional authorities are the central actors regarding management of water and sanitation. The issue of **municipalisation** of water and sanitation services should be put on the table and have a central role in the discussion. In order to ensure that the needs of the communities are met, Local and regional governments should have a stronger role regarding **decisions on water management**.

Our target is ensuring the **systematic and real involvement** of local governments in strategic decision-making on water management matters and their role in the achievement the Millennium Development Goals.

**□ Support for decentralized cooperation and innovative financing**

Decentralized cooperation increases the capacity of local authorities at technical, human and financial levels, especially in developing countries, by promoting the dissemination of good practices and the exchange of experiences, building on the UCLG network.

National and local governments and international institutions should promote decentralized cooperation between local governments as well partnerships between all levels of governments. International and regional support should be provided to training centres and programmes to strengthen capacities of local governments

and service providers and improve provision on water and sanitation.

**□ Multistakeholder mechanisms for SDG6 and other related development agendas**

**Climate change** will have an impact on the entire water cycle and on the citizens of our communities: it will make water scarcer, increase the risk of extreme natural events such as floods and droughts, limit the renewal of groundwater reserves, cause rising sea levels and temperatures and make rainfall patterns and the regimes of rivers more unpredictable.

It is necessary to include in the implementation of SDG6 the support to **international cooperation** between local and regional authorities, in particular through the financing of partnerships between local and regional governments in developed and developing countries.



**For further information:**

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