

## **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*

#### **UCLG and the issue of Water**

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.”*

Although overall improvements in citizens’ access to water and sanitation services can be noted on a global scale, there are still inadequacies in many urban areas, especially in informal settlements. This is especially the case regarding access to piped water, which could be seen as a minimum living standard for urban areas. Between 1990 and 2010, the number of urban-dwellers without access to piped water grew by nearly 300 million.

UCLG has played a key role **in mobilizing its members and defending the interests** of local and regional governments at various World Water Forums (Mexico 2006, Istanbul 2009 and Marseille 2012, Daegu 2015).

During the 7<sup>th</sup> World Water Forum in Daegu in 2015, the Final Document showed the commitment and strategy of local and regional authorities, urged national governments to strengthen decentralisation and the institutional capacities of local authorities, and supported decentralised co-operation through innovative financial instruments.

The previous editions also recognised the role of local and regional authorities in delivering basic services related to drinking water and wastewater treatment.

#### **“Sharing Water”**

The 8th World Water Forum will be held from 18-23 March 2018 in Brasilia and is being organised by the Government of Brazil and the World Water Council. Its main theme will be **“Sharing Water”**.

The aim of the Forum is to draw on local actions in order to improve water management in order to fulfil SDG6: Clean Water and Sanitation.

The World Water Forum is the **world’s biggest water-related event** and is organized by the World Water Council, an international organization that brings together all those interested in the theme of water.

It is crucial for UCLG to have a presence at this major meeting in order to promote the local government position on the local management of water resources. UCLG’s participation will make it possible to initiate a debate with national governments, corporate partners and leading international organisations on the

#### **Deadlines**

##### **Registration to the Forum:**

- 10th January 2018 (first deadline)
- 28th February 2018 (second deadline)

##### **Sponsorship expression of interest:**

- 30th January 2018

##### **Share case studies:**

- 22nd December 2017

##### **To contribute to Brasilia Call for Action:**

- 30h January 2018

importance of local action to achieve the SDGs, and especially SDG6.

#### **The Structure of the Forum**

The Forum’s contents and structure are defined and implemented by five distinct commissions responsible, respectively, for:

- The **Thematic Process**, which discusses which themes the Forum will address;
- The **Political Process**, which involves local, regional, national governing bodies and parliamentarians, as well juridical and judge representatives, has resulted in memoranda of understandings, cooperation treaties and agreements for the integrated water resource management;

- The **Regional Process**, which discusses various problems and guidelines for cooperation and integrated water management on each continent or geographic region;
- The **Sustainability Focus Group**, which discusses the adherence of public policies and actions to the principals of sustainable (economic, social and environmental) development in a cross-cutting perspective, participating in all the other processes; and
- The **Citizens' Forum**, which stimulates the participation of organized civil society in the discussions, exchanges of experience and all the Forum's other activities

## The International Conference of Local and Regional Authorities

United Cities and Local Governments is co-organizer of the International Conference of Local and Regional Authorities, together with ICLEI, GWOPA (the Global Water Operators' Partnerships Alliance), the World Water Council and the Brazilian partners, that will take place on **20-21 March 2018**.

The aim of the International Conference is for local and regional governments to share their experiences and solutions on water and sanitation.

The fifth edition will aim to highlight the importance of **integrated and sustainable water management** led by local governments in the context of the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), as well as multi-level governance for water and sanitation, and better financing for services.

The Conference will include 2 plenaries, 8 breakout sessions and 1 showcase experience session.

## The Brasilia Local and Regional Governments Call for Action on Water

The International Conference of Local and Regional Authorities will commit globally by agreeing on a "Brasilia Local and Regional Governments Call for Action on Water", encouraging actors to apply 10 recommendations resulting in experiences and lessons learned.

The 10 recommendations include, among others, the promotion of urban water resilience, capacity building in water governance, and equity access to balancing quality and quantity for marginalised population.

UCLG welcomes any addition to the draft Call for Action enclosed, before 30<sup>th</sup> January 2018 by writing to [m.boussraoui@uclg.org](mailto:m.boussraoui@uclg.org); [jb.buffer@uclg.org](mailto:jb.buffer@uclg.org)

## Sponsorship procedure

Please note that there will be a limited amount of resources available to **sponsor the participation of local elected officials from Least Developed Countries**, as far as the registration fee, the airticket and the hotel is concerned.

We would like to encourage local elected officials that wish to contribute and attend the World Forum to send an expression of interest to [m.boussraoui@uclg.org](mailto:m.boussraoui@uclg.org); [jb.buffer@uclg.org](mailto:jb.buffer@uclg.org) **before 30<sup>th</sup> January**.

Please note that due to limited amount of resources available, UCLG may not be in capacity to accommodate all requests.

## How to get involved?

### 1. Themes to be discussed

The UCLG World Secretariat will co-ordinate the participation of local authorities in the 8<sup>th</sup> World Water Forum. Towns, cities and national local government associations are invited to **advise the World Secretariat of the themes they would like to be discussed in Brasilia**.

### 2. Case studies to be shared

The World Secretariat also welcomes **case studies from your local government** on all practical experience linked to water and sanitation: i.e. on water planning, legislation, financing, resilience of infrastructure, water governance.

## How to register?

Please follow the instructions on <http://www.worldwaterforum8.org/en/register>

Please note that sponsored delegates will be fee-waved to the Forum.

## For further information:

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