



6th World Water Forum

Message from Local and Regional Authorities

Marseilles, 15 March 2012

- 1) During the 5th World Water Forum, local and regional elected officials, their representative associations and the World Water Council joined efforts in order to mobilize more than 250 elected officials worldwide and convince them to adopt the Istanbul Water Consensus. We are pleased that more than 1000 cities and regions from 56 countries have committed themselves to implement integrated approaches in water management to cope with global changes and thus have put the issue of water and sanitation at the heart of their strategies.
- 2) The actions advocated by this Istanbul Water Consensus have since been supported by:
 - United Nations General Assembly Resolution 64/292 voted in July 2010 recognizing the right to access safe and clean drinking water and sanitation as a human right;
 - The call made at the MDG+10 Summit in September 2010 to redouble its efforts to achieve the Millennium Development Goal 7C;
 - International Guidelines on Decentralization and Access to Basic Services for All, adopted by the UN-Habitat Governing Council in April 2009.
- 3) We welcome the Ministerial Declaration of the 6th World Water Forum which emphasizes “the particular role of local and regional authorities in the principle of subsidiarity” and affirms the need to strengthen their capacity to fulfill their responsibilities.
- 4) We are proclaiming a better definition of the roles and responsibilities of organizing authorities and of their operators.
- 5) We commit ourselves to pursue and intensify our actions within the framework of the Istanbul Water Consensus in cooperation with States and other political levels, to involve users and citizens, and to mobilize other elected officials, in particular through their international organizations, to achieve practical visible results about all main challenges: access to water and sanitation, protection of resources, management of storm water.
- 6) We commit ourselves to enhance the Istanbul Water Consensus to cope with new challenges and to meet the expectations from the different territorial levels.

- 7) Indeed, growing process of decentralization implies that international and national politics work better in relation to territorial strategies for development. It's through this multilevel governance that public authorities will be able to enhance integration and efficiency of their water politics.
- 8) We, Local and Regional Authorities, wish especially to develop policies for international, national, regional and local solidarity, in particular through decentralized cooperation projects. We encourage the development of innovative solidarity financing helping to mobilize the financial resources necessary for the implementation of universal access to water and sanitation and of the protection of resource. We call on States to take useful steps to this end.
- 9) We call upon the States to facilitate the involvement of Local and Regional Authorities in the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development. We wish the issue of water and sanitation to be at the heart of proposals for "Rio+20": green economy in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication", and the definition of "the institutional framework for sustainable development". We are asking for making the issue of water and sanitation a Sustainable Development Goal in its own right.
- 10) We agree with the direction of the Ministerial Declaration, which calls to develop tools and indicators to strengthen monitoring and evaluation for these policies. Beyond the 6th World Water Forum, we call upon the international organizations of local and regional authorities, with the support of the World Water Council, to ensure the monitoring of commitments made by local and regional governments, to report on progress and to promote them among international organizations and to the general public.