

# Proposals emerging from “Parliaments for Water”

19 March 2009 - Istanbul, Turkey

1. Right to water and sanitation should be recognized as a human right.
2. Call on Parliamentarians to request their Parliaments to develop legislation that would recognize the right to water and sanitation as a human right. Furthermore, call on Parliamentarians to develop legal mechanisms to facilitate the implementation of the right to water and sanitation, to work to ensure that the control of water stays in the hands of the public sector.
3. Call on Parliamentarians to ask their governments not to target water resources and infrastructures in times of conflict.
4. Promote and develop the idea of the World Water Parliament.
5. Call for the establishment of a fund within the national water budget of developed countries to provide 1% of that budget to developing and under-developing countries to be focused on water programs in the framework of the MDGs and ensuring accountability. Based on the specific desires of the nation, they could also establish program where these exchanges are not only financial in nature, but can include technical assistance as well. That the countries that receive those will have complete sovereignty in the establishment and implementation of these programs. If a country wants to receive aid, it has to create a legal framework to correctly utilize the aid. Aid must be linked to capacity-building.
6. Call on Parliamentarians to:
  - i. Promote public and/or private investment for sustainable water projects and infrastructure
  - ii. Allocate adequate budget resources to water and water-related issues
7. Encourage decentralization of the water sector to empower local and regional authorities.
8. All developed countries emit carbon dioxide and should reduce the emissions. Establish a link with water issues and the Conference of the Parties (COP) process, especially before Copenhagen in December 2009.
9. Call on the protection of the environment and the reduction of pollution in the framework of sustainable development, especially in the case of waste.
10. Call on Parliamentarians to work on the issues of transboundary waters to avoid any conflict by establishing rules and guidelines that will help countries utilizing water resources in a sustainable manner.

11. Encourage the transfer of technology to those countries where the needs are most, especially in the case of desalination and wastewater re-use technology
12. Increase the role of women and civil society in the decision-making of water resources management. Increase transparency and accountability through improved governance.
13. Call on the United Nations and other international organizations to help educate all citizens on water.