

Conclusion message Opening Plenary on Freshwater IUCN Congress 2021

4 September 2021 11:00

Dear friends of nature, dear friends of
water,

As we come to the conclusion of our event
dedicated to water, I would first like to
thank you and congratulate you for the
quality of your presentations and
discussions.

Today, water has gained its place in the
debate on biodiversity.

Yes dear friends, water is nature and
nature is water.

Because obviously the evolution of the
climate has an impact on water
resources. As, first of all, it increases the

intensity and frequency of natural disasters and water-related crises.

The urgent need for access to water is to take into account demographic pressure and the rapid growth of the world's population. With tensions and conflicts due to urbanization, to these megacities that are the monsters of the 21st century.

But also to urbanization on the shores of seas and oceans, rivers and lakes, and their attendant pollution and poisoning of water.

We must also take into account the tensions created by the rise in living standards, which consumes more and more fresh water.

But we must not stop at the simple observation.

Action is essential, and should be collective, sustainable but above all equitable. Action must be based on

values of solidarity and sharing. And on legitimate and credible objectives.

Let me say here on this day dedicated to water, at the heart of the World Conservation Congress, how much the World Water Council is attached to this balance between Water for Man and Water for Nature.

Allow me, on behalf of the World Water Council, to tell you a few proposals and commitments that should be part of our priorities.

1 - Increased priority to all forms of water security. Priority to all Nature-based Solutions to better manage infrastructures and networks. Priority to the fight against waste. In short, produce more and consume less.

2 - Joint priority to water for development and water for nature conservation. The

economy needs water. So do biodiversity and ecosystems. It is up to us to find the right balance.

3 - Priority to everything that will ensure the water of today but also the water of tomorrow. And winter water for summer water.

We must learn to conserve water, to create new forms of water retention that put an end to thirst.

4 - Priority to resilience within the context of climate evolution because urban growth is not inevitable.

5- Priority to the actors on the ground, as action will come both from parliamentarians who vote laws and budgets but also from local authorities, NGOs, public and private companies.

6- Priority to hydrodiplomacy to help dialogue and cooperation in transboundary basins.

I invite all friends of water and nature, present in Marseille or watching us now, to develop concrete responses that we will present at the 9th World Water Forum, in Dakar, in March 2022.

Here, dear friends, are some proposals to move forward.

In a word the world Water Council message is " Save Water for Humans and Nature"

Thank you