

**COP 22, Marrakech 17 November 2016**  
High Level Event on Actions for Climate

## **Opening session speech**

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**Speech by Mr Loïc Fauchon**  
**Honorary President of the World Water Council**

Ministers, Ladies and Gentlemen

Ambassadors, Ladies and Gentlemen

Excellencies,

Dear Colleagues,

Today is a milestone for WATER.

For the first time in the history of the COPs, Water was at the heart of discussions thanks to the water days.

On behalf of the international Water Community, I would like to express my thanks and the token of our appreciation to the organizers of the COP and especially to Morocco, its High Authorities, its Ministers and teams. Thanks for the work done by everybody here today, definitely, « Water is Climate, and « Climate is Water ».

Thanks to all of you, the cause of access to water and sanitation has made progress and this raises great hopes for the most underprivileged.

The conclusions of the Water Community reached after broad consultations are published in the outcome document of the water action day.

Several actions and proposals are brought forward and can be summed up as follows:

Firstly, secured access to Water and Energy must be dealt with jointly. Water calls for a growing quantity of energy, whether conventional or alternative. Energy needs water for dams, desalination and waste water reuse.

Secondly, River Basins will constitute more than ever the relevant scale to secure water resources, clean up rivers and implement efficient water policies.

Thirdly, at the same time, a multi-sectorial approach imposes itself for the future. We are developing a « Five Fingers Alliance», which closely and sustainably ties together water, energy, food, health and education. It is essential to jointly make progress on these five topics to guaranty the required balance between human development and nature conservation in the context of climate change and demographic growth.

Fourthly, financing, knowledge and governance now form the three PILLARS for a sustainable, transparent and efficient access to water. To build and hold together these three pillars, the conditions must be met to build the house of water in a sustainable way.

Several initiatives for the short and medium terms are proposed in the Outcome Document. I would like to highlight two among the most significant:

The first, Water for Africa, to help this continent show resilience with a view to climate change and guaranty sustainable development. This is a major initiative introduced at the Rabat PreCop last July.

In particular, a water & energy hub, as requested by the most underprivileged countries of Africa, will help propose eligible and bankable projects to the different climate funds.

The second initiative consists in creating an international network of parliamentarians for water so as to raise the awareness of parliamentarians on the evolution of the climate, the preparation of Laws, budgets and treaties in favour of access to water and sanitation.

Ladies and Gentlemen, we see it everywhere, the time of easily available water is definitively behind us.

Solutions exist and they are at hands reach.

The time has come for action. And furthermore, allow me to believe that the time has come for ACTORS, UNITED TO PUT A STOP TO THE SUFFERING CAUSED BY WATER.

Thank you