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Mario Soares: “Water is a basic human right”

The former prime minister of Portugal and current president of the Promoting Committee for a World Water Contract, Mario Soares, participated in the global conference on the right to water set within the dialogue “Water for Life and Security.”

Mario Soares, president of the promoting Committee for a World Water Contract referred to water as “a basic human right.” Along these lines, Soares explained that water is the source of one of the largest political battles of the 21st century and that “the Forum will promote a greater conscience about the water.”

Soares stated that the distribution of water “is no longer guaranteed by public services of States or Communities but rather is now controlled by private companies who are trying to profit with the privatization of water.” In this sense, Soares explained that the current neo-liberal model “views money as a supreme value, and the market will not solve our problems.”

Later on, he added that “this is a very serious question that affects us greatly today. For this reason, it is indispensable to mobilize all conscious citizens around this just and urgent cause in order to develop among them a culture of respect towards water as a human right.”

In relation to the role of the European Union, Soares stated that “we should define a stance in relation to water and its privatization as far as human rights and the interests of the people are concerned, refuting the economic argument of large multinational companies whose only goal is to make money.”

Likewise, he commented that the Forum will contribute to a large impulse towards raising people’s awareness of the problem of water as one of the serious problems that humanity should resolve collectively in the course of the next few years. “The problem of access to water along with poverty are problems that we should solve in the civilized and technological state in which humanity finds itself today.”

[More information about Water for life and security](#)

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