



## DIALOGUES

ON

## WATER for LIFE and SECURITY

Barcelona

May 31 - June 1, 2004

*Water is a natural resource for which we are all responsible.*

*Access to water is a universal human right.*

### Averting a Water Crisis

Over 1.2 billion people worldwide are without access to a safe drinking water supply, and almost 2.4 billion people lack basic sanitation services. More than 5 million people die every year from preventable water-related diseases.

Pollution from domestic, industrial and agricultural sources affects the quality of drinking water and functioning of ecosystems. Climate change and variability are having a profound impact on rainfall distribution and many regions of the world are experiencing unprecedented extreme droughts, floods and storms, with severe economic and social consequences.

The global water crisis is a threat to economic development, to the environment and to security. Rational management of water resources is key to sustainable development; solving water problems will lead to progress across the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development.

Conflicts over water, especially the hundreds of transboundary rivers and aquifers, may intensify as resources become increasingly scarce and contaminated in developed and developing countries alike.

Le secrétariat international de l'eau  
Au service du développement communautaire durable



El secretariado internacional del agua  
Al servicio del desarrollo comunitario sostenible

The International Secretariat for Water  
Serving sustainable community development



Water Supply & Sanitation Collaborative Council  
Putting people at the centre



## **Confirming the Goals**

The international community is committed to the Millennium Development Goals (2000) and Johannesburg World Summit targets (2002), to halve, by 2015, the proportion of people who do not have access to safe, affordable drinking water and basic sanitation, as a first step towards the ultimate goal of universal access.

## **Meeting the Goals**

To meet these goals, it is crucial that water issues be considered as a top priority on local, national and regional agendas.

Funding is a major challenge. The financial needs of the water sector are estimated at \$180 billion per year, compared to the \$80 billion per year currently being invested. It is therefore compulsory that financial solidarity and commitment become operational at local, national and international level.

It is urgent that the human right to water for life and health be guaranteed by international law and that all nations enforce its implementation.

## **The World Assembly of Water Wisdom**

In 2001, the International Secretariat for Water, Green Cross International, the Maghreb-Machreq Alliance for Water, and the Water Supply and Sanitation Collaborative Council launched a worldwide process of democratic debate and knowledge sharing about the global water crisis. The *World Assembly of Water Wisdom* initiative, originally inspired by the International Secretariat for Water, held its first meeting during the 3rd World Water Forum in Kyoto in 2003.

The Assembly is composed of 60 “Water Sages”, including elected officials, civil society, opinion leaders, youth, investors, representatives of local, national and regional governments, international organizations, and private, public and para-public sector service suppliers.

The *World Assembly of Water Wisdom* will meet for the second time in Barcelona during the Universal Forum of Cultures, May 31 – June 1, 2004, to discuss water issues and to adopt the Fundamental Principles of a *Global Convention on the Right to Water*, as proposed by the first Assembly of Water Wisdom.

## Outline Programme

### Day One - May 31

Morning Topic: **WATER and SOLIDARITY**

9.30 – 11.00 **Plenary:**

Water Parliament with Ambassadors and Special Guests

Welcome Address

11.30 – 13.30 **Parallel Symposiums**

<i>Symposium 1</i>	<i>Symposium 2</i>	<i>Symposium 3</i>
Integrated Management of Transboundary Waters: A Tool for Peace	Adapting to Climate Change and Variability	The Need for a New Culture of Water

Afternoon Topic: **WATER, HEALTH and ENVIRONMENT**

15:30 – 16:30 **Plenary:**

Water Parliament with Ambassadors and Special Guests

17.00 – 18.30 **Parallel Symposiums**

<i>Symposium 1</i>	<i>Symposium 2</i>
Access to Drinking Water and Basic Sanitation for All	Water and Nature

### Day Two - June 1

Morning Topic: **WATER USES and DEVELOPMENT**

9.30 – 10:30 **Plenary:** Water Parliament with Ambassadors and Special Guests

11.00 – 13.00 **Parallel Symposiums**

<i>Symposium 1</i>	<i>Symposium 2</i>
Water and Agriculture	Water and Other Uses (Tourism, Industry, Energy)

Afternoon Topic: **GLOBAL CONVENTION on the RIGHT to WATER**

15.00 – 18.00 **Plenary:** 2<sup>nd</sup> World Assembly of Water Wisdom

Adoption of the Fundamental Principles of the *Global Convention on the Right to Water*

**INVITED WATER AMBASSADORS:**

Mikhail Gorbachev, Chair, Green Cross International

Shimon Peres, former Prime Minister, Israel

Mario Soares, former President, Portugal

Jean-Michel Cousteau, President, Ocean Futures Society

Rita Levi-Montalcini, Nobel Prize laureate for Medicine

Graça Machel, President, Foundation for Community Development, Mozambique; Chancellor of the UN University of Peace

Anna Kajumulo Tibaijuka, Executive Director, UN Habitat

Klaus Töpfer, Executive Director, UNEP

Aminata Traoré, former Minister for Culture, Mali

Roberto Lenton, Chair, Technical Expertise Group, Global Water Partnership; Coordinator, Secretary General's MDG Water Task Force

Andras Szöllösi-Nagy, Director-General for Natural Sciences, UNESCO

**INVITED SPECIAL GUESTS:**

Mohamed Elyazghi, Minister for Water and Land Management, Morocco

Ronnie Kasrils, Minister for Water, South Africa

Federico Mayor, President, Foundation for a Culture of Peace

Michael Moore, Author and Film Maker

Vandana Shiva, Director, Research Foundation for Science, Technology and Natural Resource Policy

Daniel Zimmer, Executive Director, World Water Council

Hideaki Oda, Secretary General, 3rd World Water Forum

## **Green Cross International: network of 28 national organizations worldwide**

Mikhail Gorbachev founded Green Cross International in 1993. The mission of Green Cross is to help ensure a just, sustainable and secure future for all by fostering value changes and cultivating a new sense of global interdependence and shared responsibility regarding humanity's relationship with nature.

Website: [www.greencrossinternational.net](http://www.greencrossinternational.net)

## **Universal Forum of Cultures, Barcelona 2004**

FORUM 2004 is a world event that aims to encourage dialogue between all the cultures that make up humanity, with the objective of demonstrating that the differences between nations should not be a source of conflict, but rather, quite the opposite, they are the origin of creative richness.

## **For more information about the Dialogues on Water for Life and Security**

### **Green Cross International**

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E-mail: [water-dialogues2004@gci.ch](mailto:water-dialogues2004@gci.ch)

Web: [www.barcelona2004.org](http://www.barcelona2004.org)

## **For more information about the World Assembly of Water Wisdom**

### **International Secretariat for Water (ISW)**

54, rue Le Royer Ouest

Montréal, Québec

Canada H2Y 1W7

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Fax: +1 514 849 2822

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Web: [www.i-s-w.org](http://www.i-s-w.org)

## **Associate Partners**

Water Supply and Sanitation Collaborative  
Council (WSSCC)

Chemin des Anémones 9

1219 Châtelaine, Geneva

Switzerland

[www.wsscc.org](http://www.wsscc.org)

Maghreb-Machreq Alliance for Water  
(ALMAE)

53 Rond Point Mers- Sultan

Casablanca

Morocco

[www.almaeau.org](http://www.almaeau.org)

## **Dialogues Programme Committee**

Pedro Arrojo - Fundación Nueva Cultura del Agua

Bertrand Charrier - Green Cross International

Bill Cosgrove - World Water Council

Bert Diphorn – African Development Bank

Raymond Jost - Secretariat International de l'Eau

Fernando Martinez Salcedo - Green Cross España

Àngels Mataro - Asociación para las Naciones Unidas, España (ANUE)

Narcís Prats - Universitat de Barcelona

Albert Sasson - Special advisor- Forum Barcelona 2004

David Smith - United Nations Environmental Program (UNEP)

Andras Szöllögy-Nagy - UNESCO-IHP

Houria Tazi Sadeq - Alliance du Magreb pour l'Eau

Pedro Ralda - Dialogues-Forum Barcelona 2004

