

PROPOSITIONS FROM
FRANCOPHONE YOUTH
FOR PARIS CLIMATE
AGREEMENT 2015



A PARIS FOR WATER



Paris for Water



Paris for Water

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*Secretary General
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A large mobilization is launched. It has already marked important meetings of 2015, from the World Water Forum of Daegu to the COP 21 on Climate Change in Paris.

The "Francophone Youth for Water" is primarily a great ambition, the ambition of billions of young people whose future is decided today.

Allowing the construction of a strong and sustainable network of young actors involved at all levels, this initiative is part of a genuine process of change, as dynamic networks and shared understanding are key aspects to the implementation of effective solutions. This will help change our world, where all people have their place and cooperate so there are fewer health disasters and less poverty.

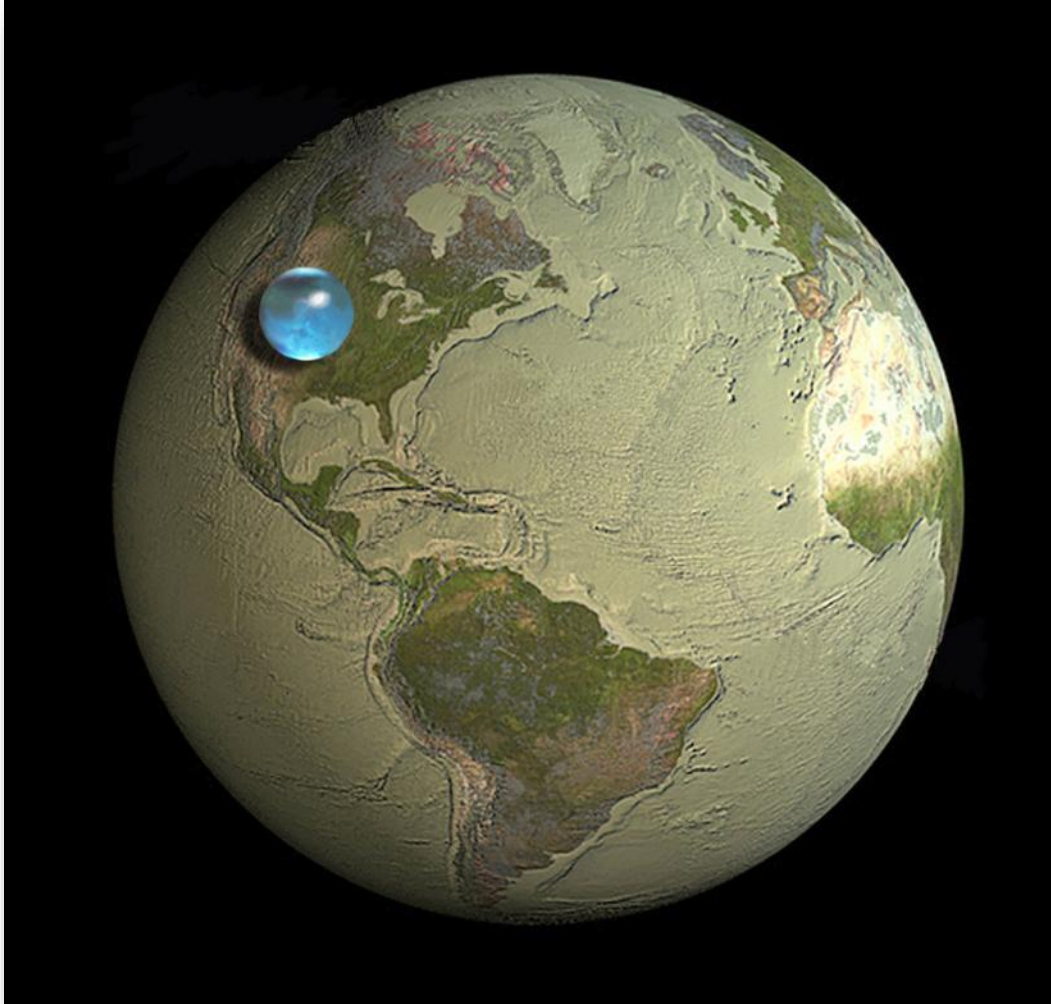
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Schaefer-
Preuss

*Chair of the Global
Water Partnership*

We are proud of the work done collectively and individually towards a growing and sustainable involvement of the youth in public policies of sustainable development.

In Paris at the end of November 2015, the working week was intense, friendly and encouraging for all the youth whose ideas are both ambitious and realistic, in a particularly difficult period that reminds us how exchanges and the knowledge of the other are fundamental.

All the Water on Earth



Water is scarce and precious

If we gathered all of the water spread on the surface of Earth, it would fit in this blue bubble. All the water of the oceans, ice sheets, rivers, glaciers, lakes, covering 70% of the planet would fit in this sphere of 1400 km of diameter.

Summary

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Introduction

Nobody hesitated. They all came to Paris at the end of November 2015. They accommodated gracefully to the pickiest controls on access to the venue. It must be said that they valued this meeting with the decision makers at the great climate conference.

They are fifty, from the ages of 17 to 35. They come from 17 different countries. And they want to make their voices heard, influence negotiations, assert their ideas and defend their beliefs. They are young but experienced, both by their experiences at international summits and by their daily lives, and enriched by the reflections and exchanges that began well before their arrival.

They chose four themes around water: agriculture, health, water sharing and climate hazards, being aware that these subjects are interlinked and all linked to global warming and changes caused by human activity.

Some will tell you that they grew up in countries where it takes hours every day to find something to drink and wash, and others would say that they are worried about the effects of endocrine disruptors.

Read their stories and discover that they all share a very deep mastery of their subject.



The Sources that Matter

We think with water: 77% of the brain is composed of water.

Lack of drinking water kills over 8 million people every year.

95% of French rivers are polluted by pesticides.

70% of water withdrawals are for agricultural purposes.

It takes 15 000 liters of water to make one kilogram of beef.

It takes 140 liters of water to make one cup of coffee.

1.8 billion people use water access points contaminated with fecal waste.

The water in our body renews itself completely every 7 weeks.

Water covers 70% of the surface of Earth but represents only 0.023% of its mass.

80% of sewage in developing countries is discharged without treatment.

Energy production accounts for 15% of water withdrawals.

For drinking, washing and cooking, a human being needs about 50 liters of water per day.

Diarrhea kills about 760 000 children each year.

40% of the world population lives without basic sanitation services.

In France, 2 million people do not receive tap water that meets sanitary regulations.

1.7 billion people, a quarter of the world's population, live in areas where underground water supplies are overexploited.

The sea level will have risen by 30 to 90 cm by 2100.

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Laureline
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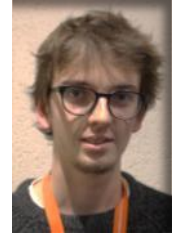
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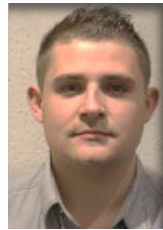
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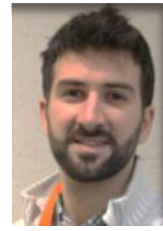
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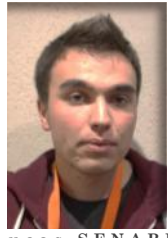
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Water and Agriculture



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Our stories...

« In a village, we surprised a cow eating sand. For several years, it was not raining. Many people died of hunger and thirst. We saw animal bones on the ground. I wonder: what can we do to prevent this in the future? »

« Around me, farmers irrigate crops destined to the production of agro-fuel in northern countries when we ourselves lack of water and food. »

« When I was little, 5 people from a neighboring family died after consuming *voandzou* grown with pesticides. Since then I no longer consume *voandzou* (a vegetable) because I fear that if I eat it, I will die. »

« I have given birth in the Brazilian state of Mato Grosso. According to my government, my child will benefit from much better socio-economic conditions due to the rapid expansion of soybean cultivation in the region. Yet my doctor has detected dangerously high levels of pesticides in my milk. »

« I am a farmer from Tarn. The water retained by the Sivens dam was supposed to allow me to irrigate my corn plots. But the project failed. Nonetheless, it seems to me that the reuse of treated wastewater from the town of Gaillac was the alternative. »

« In Brittany, during summer, sometimes we can't go swimming in the sea. Water is covered with putrefying green algae. This is the result of pollution of rivers by human activities. »

« I am 25, I live in Tarapoto, a city of 150 000 inhabitants in the Peruvian Amazon. I remember that until I was 15, we had water 24 hours a day. Since then, agriculture has expanded visibly around our water sources. Today, water is expensive and we only have 6 hours of drinking water per day. »

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Observation

The increased use of chemical fertilizers and pesticides in agriculture depletes the soil and contaminate water resources.

Observation

Too few citizens are aware of their actual water consumption: domestic consumption, but also virtual water, i.e. the water required for the manufacture of consumer goods such as food and textiles.

Recommendations

That the policymakers rely on interdisciplinary committees composed of independent experts, supervised by civil society.

Developing alternative practices such as simplified cultural techniques, use of green fertilizers, permaculture and agroecology.

Organic agriculture should be seen as a means to restore and protect water resources.

Recommendations

Create awareness campaigns on the concept of virtual water, so that every consumer is aware of the impact of their purchases.

Have written on the labels of products from agriculture the amount of water used during the manufacture processes. The water footprint could be materialized by a color code.

Observation

Deforestation to access to agricultural lands degrades ecosystems, affecting water resources, both in quality and quantity.

Recommendations

Promote techniques that allow the recovery of water ecosystems services, such as agroforestry or the implementation of grass strips.

These actions should be developed over the scale of the watershed area.

Observation

Food security is directly linked to the availability of productive resources, including water. Their unequal accessibility continues to grow.

A carefully controlled irrigation improves the efficiency of agricultural production. Still, it is too often misused and poorly developed globally (20% of used agricultural areas)

Observation

Recommendations

Strengthen the regulatory framework by ensuring that companies respect the rights to water and food, and fulfill their responsibility in the supply of agricultural products.

Support shorter links between consumers and producers (local production and consumption) with a reduction of the length of distribution chains and taxation of intermediaries.

Establish participatory consultation mechanisms at the level of rural watersheds with the aim of involving users in decision process.

Develop the reuse of wastewater for irrigation purposes.

Use irrigation to secure agricultural production of adapted plants (geographical and socio-cultural dimensions).

Develop the management of storm water for irrigation.

Make meteorological data available to farmers through a rainfall monitoring network, so they can optimize water management on their lands.

Recommendations

Water and Health



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Our stories...

« At home in Burkina Faso, the first thing we offer a visitor is water to drink called « the foreigner's water ».

To decline it is a serious offense.

In a village, I saw a shepherd boy drinking brackish water in the same pond his animals were drinking from. It was the same water that was served to me later as « the foreigner's water ». I knew it was dangerous but I drank it anyway. »

« When I was a child in Tourraine, I remember a week in June when we had no drinking water at home. A chemical factory had been the victim of a fire. An entire tank of chemicals had spilled into a tributary of the Loire, making its water brown and depriving the city of drinking water for 8 days. »

« During my work with a rural community of Togo, I saw the women going to a pond to fetch water instead of using the pump in the village. After asking them, the women told me they went there because the long walking distance separating the village from the pond allowed them to talk longer! »

« Cindy and Kevin are the proud new parents of little Emma they desired for years. In the umbilical cord of the baby, there are over 250 potentially toxic chemicals. They come from food packaging, clothing, cookware coatings, cosmetics and pesticides, as well as the water Cindy drank during her pregnancy. »

« During a fieldtrip in Burkina Faso, we came across an unusual empty space. A young boy was wondering about what was in it. The eldest of the group said that this space was a water reservoir. The young boy then asked why the water was gone. The elder, feeling guilty, would not admit the failure of current generations to preserve water for future generations. He did not respond. »

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Observation

Our hormonal system is disturbed by drug residues, cosmetics, industrial logging and pesticides. Sperm quality has fallen by 50% in the last 50 years.

Recommendations

A moratorium on the use of chemicals disrupting the hormonal system in the manufacturing processes.

Develop water treatment technologies which eliminate these substances from water.

Educate the younger generations to the practices enabling them to acquire good hygienic habits and to protect their health.

Observation

1.5 million people die from diarrhea each year because they drink unsafe water. The lack of clean water also plays a role in the transmission of cholera, hepatitis A, typhoid fever, polio, etc.

Recommendations

Establish urban plans and regulations (building codes) imposing the building of health systems and their strict enforcement by governments.

Popularize simple and inexpensive technologies to make water drinkable.

Monitor the quality of water systems and water sanitation.

Implement sustainable sanitation systems.

Construct improved latrines for the families in need.

Monitor secondary distribution and implementation of a regulatory framework.

Observation

The decrease in air humidification, caused particularly by droughts, promotes lung diseases (bronchitis, amplifies chronic lung diseases, influenza or flu).

Recommendation

Raise awareness of the effects of climate change and air quality and humidity on human health.

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Observation

Emergency situations cause outbreaks of water borne diseases such as cholera, hepatitis and chronic diarrhea. The most vulnerable populations are the poorest, those who have the smallest ecological footprints.

Observation

With climate change, dengue and malaria affecting previously unaffected areas. In 2080, it is estimated there will be between 260 and 320 million more cases.

In 2015, 89% of malaria cases and 91% of deaths from this disease occurred in Sub-Saharan Africa, which will be one of the most affected are by climate change.

Recommendations

Governments should develop water management plans in case of emergencies.

Rescue teams should have concerted responses and control transmission vectors in refugee camps.

Strengthen hygiene and good practices.

Strengthen of sanitation systems and water drainage.

Recommendations

Prevent malaria by measures against mosquitoes (mosquito nets, insecticides spraying, mosquito repellent).

Raise awareness to the symptoms of these tropical diseases, especially in the non-exposed countries where people have not developed immunity.

Observation

Half of the deaths of children under the age of 5 are due to undernutrition and poor water quality. Undernourished children gave developmental delays.

Recommendations

Develop a broad vaccination campaign against water borne diseases (oral vaccine for cholera).

Promote the use of a biological filters to reduce water contamination by bacteria and particles.

Raise awareness of compliance with hygiene conditions during food preparation with emphasis on washing hands even when water is scarce.

Raise awareness of the various uses of rainwater, gray water and black water.

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Water Sharing



Our stories

« In northern France, Grandma Emilienne always used water from the artesian well at the end of her garden. A spring water bottling plant was installed nearby. My dear grandmother's well has dried. She had to subscribe to the public water network to have access to the water her and her neighbors had always shared »

« Aïcha, Malian, 11, first of her class. In the middle of the family's yard there is a well, and nearby all the domestic wastes are stored. Pollution appears gradually and the source becomes unusable, forcing the family get water a few kilometers away. Aïcha is responsible for providing the water for her family every morning. She is often late to class. Quickly, she is not the first of her class. Finally, she gives up school. »

« My country is the scene of a geopolitical conflict over ideas of greatness and conquest. The population of an annexed area is deprived of drinkable water sources. Thus, my country has to supply water to this territory. Without dialogue between the two countries in conflict, finding a solution is difficult. »

« Two communities in conflict for a long time have benefited from a project for the construction of two wells to access to a source of drinking water. Only one of the two wells worked. A third drill was conducted. Past conflicts translation not finished... »

« At Moroni in the Comoros, we seek water fountains but water is scarce, such as the electricity to pump it. To manage the long lineups, one rule applies: two cans of twenty liters per family. Because it can take tens of hours to access the water, families must be satisfied with forty liters of water for several days, and in some cases, do without. »

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Observation

Rational sharing of a resource is impossible without upstream-downstream coordination and without appropriate governance instruments.

Recommendations

Young people must be part of decision making in the basin organizations (seats reserved for the youth as users of the resource).

Promote the creation of basin management organizations (rather than country), support their activities, their independence and their economic capacities.

Foster the exchange of experience between water management professionals on the issue of climate change (e.g., using decentralized cooperation mechanisms).

Observation

Initiatives related to the mobility of water resources often suffer from a lack of financial, human and technological means.

Recommendations

Mobilize funding and encourage the protection of the resource by establishing royalties based on user pays and polluter pays principles.

Promote the use of Payments for Environmental Services as part of the fight against flooding (conservation of wetlands, dynamic retention areas, etc.).

Diversify the use of non-conventional sources (reuse of wastewater for agriculture, desalination of seawater for drinking water, collection of rain water for domestic uses).

Observation

Effective management of water-related infrastructures is impossible without training, educating and sensitizing all stakeholders.

Observation

For a balanced management, you first need to know the quantity and quality of water available.

Recommendations

Sustain existing networks of hydrological measuring and promote their development using the latest technology (such as satellite observation).

Establish groundwater monitoring programs.

Promote the sharing of data between administrative bodies with harmonized water information systems.

Recommendations

Train water infrastructure operators over the themes of service quality and durability of structures. For example, training for leakage detection is a performance increasing factor for drinking water systems (and conserves the resources).

Raise awareness and educate users at rationalizing the use of water. Integrate water-related issues and climate change in school curricula.

Promote the intergenerational transfer of knowledge in the field of resource management (sponsorship system).

Observation

Acting on the resource is not enough without a rationalization of uses based on needs.

Recommendation

Identify, quantify and establish a prioritization of uses based on the needs of populations, which would be integrated in long-term regional projects on the evolution of water demand and use.

Water and Climate Hazards



Our stories...

« My friend was at the Boa Vista island in Cape Verde when the hurricane of August 31, 2015 destroyed her home. No place to live, no road to the city, she, like the others, found refuge in a school until the State provided them with new homes. »

« My cousins lived for two years in Faute-sur-Mer. On February 28 2010, the storm Xynthia broke a dam and flooded the area. 29 inhabitants of the town were killed. After the disaster, it was determined that it was a flood-risk area. It was the fault of the mayor and the urban planning deputy, as well as the fault of the real estate agent who sold the lots in the area. »

«In May 2004, there was a terrible flood in Belle-Anse (Haiti). It's amazing to think that each goat, chicken and cow washed out by the flood shattered the dreams of entire families. The sale of livestock allowed them to pay for school, housing, transportation and food of the children sent to cities to receive an education of good quality »

«July is on its way, it's the rainy season in northern Togo, but not a drop falls from the sky. You have to live on reserves. We, women, have to get up at dawn to fetch water from a soon to be dry well. How long do we have wait? »

« October 2014, a storm of great violence swept the south of France. It's a red alert. We are with experts to target residential areas to evacuate first. The same night, a dam broke near a campsite: 4 deaths. »

« My friends are wondering if they will leave their cottage near the St. Lawrence River in Canada. After the latest floods, the city has implemented new regulations that require them to move away from the shore. Neighbors are worried: some are not covered by insurance and do not have access to credit. »

Observation

The Small Island Developing States (SIDS), highly exposed to climatic hazards, are too poor to protect themselves.

Recommendations

Develop warning systems adapted to local context and nature of the risk.

Integrate local populations in the development of evacuation plans.

Observation

The upsurge of climatic hazards increases the number of climate refugees.

Recommendations

Ensure the survival and security of local populations by planning strategic mobility for the most vulnerable and disadvantaged populations.

Establish and implement climate refugee status in international law.

Observation

Financing of climatic risk management related to water is rarely accompanied by an effective monitoring and evaluation of project results.

Recommendations

Train local experts to guide and mentor the people involved in the monitoring and evaluation.

Establish a co-decision mechanism between donors and local decision makers to choose the appropriate indicators of monitoring.

Observation

The issues of climatic hazards and water are transverse- I don't know what this means, but the chosen measures lack coordination.

Risk prevention is in conflict with economic interests.

We still build in flood zones with protective structures (dams, drainage systems) that are insufficient or ineffective.

Share best practices and facilitate the exchange of information on managing climate risk through an internet platform.

Sensitize decision makers to the cross-cutting and multisectoral issues related to climate hazards enabling them to identify their area of action.

Recommendations

Recommendation

The strict ban on building in known flood areas. The control must be strengthened and independent.

Observation

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Acknowledgements

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