AFRICAN Youth take action for water and sustainable development
The World Youth Parliament for Water mission is:
- To coordinate youth actions and advocacy for water, at a local, watershed and international level.
- To ensure youth recognition as a key stakeholder in the water sector.
- To raise youth awareness about water issues.
- To strengthen youth capacities to act for water.

In preparation for its next General Assembly which will be held in April 2015 in South Korea during the 7th World Water Forum, meetings are being organised by continent to identify and prepare the young people to be active representatives of their region.

The African meeting was organised in collaboration with the institute 2iE, in the context of the African regional preparation process for the 7th World Water Forum. Before and during the Africa Water 2014 forum, alongside the 500 other participants, the young people had the opportunity to present their messages and proposals through their declaration and action plan.

This youth delegation was made up of representatives from previous WYPW, students from 2iE and other young people from around the continent, selected following a call for applications.

A shared world and a shared commitment.
Youth take local action for a global impact.
A youth event coordinated by the International Secretariat for Water (in collaboration with 2iE: Institut International d’Ingénierie de l’Eau et de l’Environnement)

For the past 20 years, ISW has been raising young people’s awareness about integrated water management and the environment, encouraging them to get actively involved, teaching them about civic duty and democracy and bringing them into contact with other young people from around the world. This is the experience and expertise that ISW draws on to coordinate the WYPW.

Ilias, Koffi and Amadou: a commitment to youth participation

Since their participation in 2012 in the 6th World Water Forum in Marseille, Ilias, Koffi and Amadou, from Burkina Faso, Ivory Coast and Mali respectively have been working at home to set up local projects, whether it be rehabilitating a water pump at the Provincial High School in Yako, organising awareness-raising activities in schools or organising meetings with their local elected representatives. The three were present at this preparatory meeting to pass on the torch!
44 young participants from 14 countries brought together.
3 days of meetings between young people and experts and 3 jdays participating in the Africa Water 2014 Forum.
4 themes covered.
Knowledge and cross-cutting skills acquired.
14 local commitments to be implemented by the young people with the support of ISW.
1 declaration presented and officially adopted during Africa Water 2014.
3 recommendations made
10 new representatives identified to take the message to the WYPW General Assembly to be held at the 7th World Water Forum in 2015.
“Coule donc Djoliba, vénérable Niger, et va plus loin que toi-même à travers le monde entier étancher la soif des inassouvis, rassasier les insatiables et dicter, sans mot dire comme d’habitude, à l’Humanité, que le bienfait désintéressé est le seul qui vaille, le seul qui, absolument, signifie.”

La chanson du Djoliba - Fodeba KEITA

We, the young representatives from different African hydrological basins, having met in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso, from 09-11 June 2014, for the protection and better management of natural resources; particularly water.

We affirm our commitment to take action and mobilise our peers to find solutions to the challenges around water, hygiene and sanitation, energy, the protection of natural resources, as well as to change people’s behaviour, in order to improve the lives of everyone.

To subscribe all our actions in the abovementioned themes to international, regional, sub-regional and national politics, policies, laws and agreements.

We observe:

- Insufficient knowledge about good practices of hygiene, sanitation and the efficient use of water in communities prone to water-related diseases and limited access to potable water.
- Non-existence or inefficacy of certain water management committees which decreases the life span of the infrastructure for potable water points.
- Overexploitation of the natural resources through deforestation, agriculture and over-fishing which causes environmental degradation.
- Pollution of the soil and water by the use of pesticides and chemical fertilizers destroying the biodiversity.
- Abusive utilization of wood as source of heat in households contributing to climate change, especially in rural areas.
- Populations do not master the 3R principles (Reduce, Repair and Retrofit).

Young African for Water declaration
June 11 2014, Ouagadougou

The full statement is available on the website www.pmje-wypw.org
EXAMPLES OF PROJECTS TO BE IMPLEMENTED BY THE YOUNG

**Chad**
We, the young representatives from Chad, commit ourselves to setting up follow-up and monitoring committees in various communities to clear out gutters, to be carried out by the young people. Additionally, to fight against desertification, for reforestation and the upkeep of the green border.

**Gabon**
We, the young representatives of Gabon, will create an association for youth whose aim is the promotion of waste management by putting coloured sorting buckets into schools and inform local communities about recycling.

**South Africa**
As a member of the Young Water Professionals network, we build the capacities of young professionals and create opportunities for youth in the water sector.
GREETINGS

Participants of the African meeting

Partners and contributors

Experts
Lakhdar Boukerrou, Rosalie Bassolé, Maggloire Nana, Anderson Andrianisa, Jean Bosco Bazié, Michel Wilfried N’Guessan, Elodie Hanff, Lisa Barutel, Calvin Tiam, Douyiri Christophe Mandi et Kahitouo Hien

Members of the WYPW
Ilias Sawadogo, Koffi Mickael Yamaego, Amadou Mariko

ISW team / WYW Secretariat
Maggie White, Danielle Audet, Thomas Bertrand Owono Bissono, Laurie Fourneaux, Cathy Martinez, Benjamin Noury

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WYPW Secretariat: International Secretariat for Water
9623 rue Lajeunesse
Montréal, Québec
H2G 2P7 Canada
Tél: 1 514 849 4262
Fax: 1 514 849 2822

contact: Laurie Fourneaux
Youth program coordinator
lfourneaux@sie-isw.org
laurie.fourneaux@pmje-wypw.org

www.pmje-wypw.org
www.sie-isw.org