

*From local  
to global*



## OUR CALL

# FOR URGENT ACTION AGAINST WEAPONIZATION OF WATER

As a new year begins, and we reflect on the events that have marked the world, we express our profound solidarity with communities facing tragic situations as a result of conflicts.

The Butterfly Effect NGOs coalition strongly prohibits and condemns the use of water as a weapon of war, an act that exacerbates the suffering of populations already affected by conflicts.

We express our deepest concern about the increasing use of water weaponization, and recall that access to safe drinking water and sanitation is recognized by the United Nations as “a Human Right that is essential for the full enjoyment of life and all human rights” (A/RES/64/292) – a Right that is non-negotiable and must be guaranteed to everyone, everywhere and at all times, including during armed conflicts.

It is critical to limit the use of water as a weapon, which is exacerbated by climate change and aggravated by geopolitical conflicts in some of the world's most dry and vulnerable locations. Political actors have three main ways to weaponize water: lowering water quality (pollution), providing excessive amounts of water (flooding), or limiting access to water (constriction).

Cutting off or denying people access to safe water violates international humanitarian law and the Geneva conventions, constituting a war crime.

As water increasingly becomes a weapon of war, we must focus on cooperation and peace. Record increase in water-related violence – in Eastern Europe, in the Middle East, Asia and Africa – shows how urgently we need to reduce these tensions between countries.

We shall tirelessly pursue our mobilization to defend the worldwide Right to Water, without which no dignified living or enduring peace is possible. We will remain driven by an abiding belief in the power of water as a unique vector of peace, discussion, and solidarity.

## The Butterfly Effect Steering Committee

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