



Summary proposal for FSM - Tunis

1. Why promote a World Water Authority

Some important events that marked the year 2012 have confirmed the policy guidelines with which the international community is to address one of the most important social challenges of the twenty-first century: that of access to water by counteracting its rarefaction.

These guidelines, already anticipated by the World water Forum in Istanbul, have emerged strongly from the World Water Forum in Marseille in March 2012 and from the World Summit on Development "Rio +20" held in Rio de Janeiro in June 2012. The EU proposed as well some guidelines with the presentation of the Blueprint and the new plan to protect Europe's water resources, at the end of November 2012.

The main idea that emerges from these documents is to propose the monetization of water and nature, from the natural cycle of water resources to promote the new phase of global growth according to the "new" paradigm imposed by dominant groups to the international community: that of green economy, the 'green growth'.

According to the proponents of the monetization of nature, this approach is necessary in order to better manage and use the resources of the planet because it would allow to know the "real" value of any natural "good" and therefore of water, and then consider them in financial terms aiming at promoting the raising of awareness of good management and uses of water.

Though, the path of the Alternative Social Forum and the Alternative World Water Forum that have so far struggled to counter the commodification of water, has pushed in July 2010 to recognize the right to water and sanitation by the United Nations General Assembly and to achieve important successes in different areas in terms of fighting the privatization processes.

Although the realization of the law by the Member is a commitment still far from being guaranteed, and that requires an increase in the mobilization, the new challenge that the water movements must face today is to counteract this new approach, promoted by the major private multinational companies and the main stakeholders. The idea is indeed to facilitate the monetization of water and the water cycle, as a precondition to the creation of financial speculation and new water markets within 2015.

The statement of this principle associated with the exploitative policies of other common goods - land / food, health, energy - already controlled by market forces and global finance, are the new threats to the future of our planet and to local communities in the coming decades.

According to this new challenge, there is a lack of guidance from international institutions, Multilateral and national State. At the same time the lobbying activities put in place by the multinational companies seem to affect more and more the proposals and plans of the United Nations agencies.

The prevailing attitude of the international institutions is to delegate to global private companies and groups the task to plan the future of the world, limiting them only with some examples of regulatory and legal frameworks.

Water movements cannot accept that the future of the commons and water in particular, is entrusted to the market and multinational companies through the revival of the public-private partnership for environmental management and productive uses. This, due to unreliable and negative effects of projects of privatization already practiced for several years in various parts of the world.

The preconditions for the mobilization of citizens and institutions that leads to the establishment of a World Water Authority, are therefore:

- the need to redefine a new governance that is able to oppose the projects of financialization of nature and common goods, avoiding the monopoly of private companies;
- the need to encourage the mandatory recognition and inclusion of the UN Resolution of July 2011, within the State law and to identify ways that enable multilateral institutions (such as tribunals or authority etc) to sanction States and companies, which are responsible for violations of the UN Resolution.



2. What type of World Water Authority Main characteristics

- The Authority should be under the aegis of the United Nations and as an autonomous entity should have both powers of addressing and issuing policies (as governing body) and powers of sanctions of possible violations on the principles of the UN water resolution on the right to water and on other national laws that protects water resources of the Planet.
 - The Authority should **not be seen as a new International Committee or a new agency** under the auspices of the Secretary General (as Board Advisor for Water, etc.), but as an independent body.
 - The establishment of the Authority may enter the debate on UN reform and constitute a first step towards the transformation of the UN Security Council in "Security Council of the Commons."

The main responsibilities of the Authority

Among the main functions carried out by the WWA we should include:

- the governance of water as a common good and of water ecosystem protection in relation to the use of water resources of the planet.
- the management of international protocols for the implementation of the right to water and the use of water resources, in particular focusing on river basins and ecosystem protection from the climate changes effects.
- the power to "sanction" in order to defense water as a common good, from violations of the right to water at the level of compensation to restore the integrity of waters and ecosystems that have been destroyed by abuses, in order to ensure economic and environmental justice for all.
- the access to water resources of every human being as a human right in accordance with the UN resolution of 2010.
- the enhancing of water resources for agriculture in order to ensure the right to food, soils, forests, ecosystems protection.
- the development of participatory methodologies of water management based on a shared and sustainable use of available resources, ensuring security of supply, preventing and resolving conflicts.

3. Next steps

In order to start a path towards the design and creation of a World Water Authority, we suggest 2 strategies:

1. The first one is related to the discussion among water movements and other common goods networks

This proposal has been presented and accepted within the Italian forum of water movement and we have presented it also to the European water network.

The next step is to present it to the main world water networks in order to discuss it, starting from the WSF in Tunis, in the Water Justice Day on the 25th march 2013.

According to the level of agreement and consensus we propose some ways to continue the process:

- To create an international working group with experts provided by the different water Networks to study and analyze proposals at international law that can support the drafting of the WWA;
- To assess the level of consensus on the proposal within other national and regional water and common goods platforms and networks
- To identify the steps and methodology to share the proposal and the implementation strategies.

The aim is twofold:

1. *to promote and support the sharing of the proposal with the water movements and other networks,*
2. *to check the availability of the various -movements to trigger actions to push governments and institutions to comply in support of the submission of the proposal at the United Nations, reproducing the model of advocacy put in place in 2010 by the Bolivian government that led to the recognition of the right to water.*

The aim to build a coalition/platform that support the proposal of a WWA and its submission within the 2015.



2. The second one is to verify the level of commitment and support to the proposal by international institutions and national governments through lobbying activities of movements.

The mobilization of water movements at national level is very important in order to reach the goal of submitting a proposal approved by some governments, at the UN before the next World water forum of 2015.

Over the past several years many proposals of new models of governance for protection of water, common goods and environment, have been made in different institutional contexts.

In particular, proposals have been made by the Holy See (Encyclical *Caritas in Veritate* (2009) Pope Benedict XVI¹), some Foundations such as (ICEF International Court of the Environment Foundation²), the Council on Foreign Relations of the Obama administration³, the Ministry Italian Foreign Affairs Franco Frattini on (May 2010)⁴, and finally recently by former Italian prime minister Romano Prodi of a World water authority to be set in Milan due to the Expo 2015⁵.

Why it's important to act within 2015

The year 2015 is linked to several events and meetings related to water issues such as:

- the end of the first International Decade of Water "Water for Life" (Water for Life 2005-2015)
- the revision of the MDG's objectives of the UN which aims to verify and to discuss policies to fight poverty (halving the number of people without access to safe drinking water and sanitation) and development
- the end of the first five years from the UN Resolution (July 2010), which recognized the right to water and committed the international community to ensure the human right to water.
- the next World water forum
- the Expo 2015 in Europe , in Milan, which aims to address the challenges of food and energy and will be attended by important delegations of Governments and institutions.

We hope this proposal will be assumed as one of the main priorities of the water movements for the next years.

We know that the path could be hard and long, but as we succeeded in many other international and national fights, we think that it could be the next step to the implementation of the right to water.

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¹ The encyclical "*Caritas in Veritate*," the Holy Father Benedict XVI, published in Rome, June 29, 2009, contains in section 67 of Chapter V on the cooperation of the human family, and demanding a specific proposal for a "real" World Authority and proposes a structural reform ("architecture" of the economy and international finance, in the sense of new rules and organs capable of applying

² Proposal for "A new model of" world governance "to support encyclical" *Caritas in Veritate* "of His Holiness Pope Benedict XVI by Amedeo Postiglione, Honorary Deputy President Supreme Court Vice President Judges EU Forum for the Environment Director ICEF-International Court of the Environment Foundation

³ The Obama Administration has proposed to "use" the G-20 to verify the availability of the candidate members of the Security Council to take jurisdiction in defense of "global public goods

⁴ the Italian proposal for reform of the Security Council representative, accountable and more responsive to developments in the international community, with new non-permanent seats and a longer duration). All new members are elected by the General Assembly

⁵ Proposal made by Romano Prodi (former Italian prime minister) to the city of Milan as the headquarters of the World Water Authority at Expo2015