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## Report of the Butterfly Effect information and mobilization workshop "CSOs and the World Water Forum 2022".

14h00-16h00 GMT  
January 7, 2021- Zoom

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### OPENING WORDS

*By Vladimir Arana, International Secretariat for Water*

The World Water Forum, which was to be held in Dakar in March 2021, has been postponed to March 2022.

The WWForum has always been a privileged moment for the Butterfly Effect to play a catalytic role and ensure representation of international water CSOs, both in the preparatory processes and during the WWForum itself.

This information workshop brings together some 60 civil society organizations from Europe, Africa, Asia and the Americas. It is organized by the International Secretariat for Water and the Coalition Eau /Water Coalition, on the initiative of the Butterfly Effect Steering Committee, an international movement of NGOs/CSOs in the water and sanitation sector mobilized during the World Water Forums. The objective of the workshop is to inform NGO members of the Butterfly Effect and other Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) about the 9th World Water Forum, as well as the different opportunities for CSO participation.

The presentation consists of 3 parts: Overview and presentation of the WWForum (I), Presentation of the involvement of CSOs in the WWForum (II) and finally an open discussion (III)

## I OVERVIEW AND PRESENTATION OF THE WWFORUM

### 1. GENERAL INFORMATION

*Presentation by Anne-Catherine Mercuri, International Secretariat for Water*

#### 1.1. The WWForum in brief

The World Water Forum (WWForum) is organized every 3 years since 1997 by the World Water Council, a multi-stakeholder platform outside the UN system, and a host country.

The objective of the Forum is to bring together all stakeholders to debate water issues, formulate proposals, promote action and generate political commitment for water. The 9th WWForum will take place in Dakar, from 21 to 26 March 2022.

## 1.2. Preparatory process

### 1.2.1. The action groups

As part of the WWForum preparatory process, 23 action groups were set up in March 2020 following a call for applications. Their role is to submit ideas for actions on the various sub-themes of the 4 thematic priorities, which represent the objectives that the Forum will strive to achieve. Projects are associated with these actions.

→ *There is a possibility for NGOs/CSOs to participate in the consultations that will be organized on each action from January 15 to March 15, 2021 (see next point).*

### 1.2.2. The consultative process

Consultative groups bring together a broader community of practice. CSOs/NGOs can take part in the consultative process, which will take place on the DISSO collaborative platform by registering via the application form: <https://tinyurl.com/y776an9q>

At the end of the consultation process, the action groups will carefully review the contributions and select those they consider most relevant and consistent with the actions. Finalized proposals will be submitted to the pilot groups for validation at the end of the consultative process.

### 1.2.3. Calendar

The updated forum's calendar is available on this link: <https://www.worldwaterforum.org/en/node/418>

## 1.3. The Heads of States summit

The summit of Heads of State is of particular importance because it is an initiative of the Senegalese President Macky Sall. Its objective is to facilitate an exceptional political mobilization to reduce the backlog in the implementation of the SDGs and more particularly SDG 6.

A task force dedicated to the summit was set up in February 2020 but there is still a lot of uncertainty about the holding of this event because of the Covid pandemic.

New information should be available in the coming weeks/months.

## 1.4. Label Dakar 2021

Labeling was launched on January 16, 2019. It aims to collect, support and showcase projects from around the world that have a real economic, social and environmental impact. The labeled projects will benefit from international exposure during the forum. There is no possibility of direct co-financing of projects.

→ *It is possible for NGOs/CSOs to submit projects via the open application procedure:*  
<http://worldwaterforum.org/en/form/initiative-dakar-2021>

## 2. WHAT ARE THE STRATEGIC INTEREST OF THE WWFORUM ?

*Presentation by Sandra Métayer, Coalition Eau – Water Coalition*

### 2.1. Which opportunities?

A space for multi-stakeholder exchanges and meetings, useful for:

- Keeping up to date with the reflections and debates that animate the sector
- Promoting its action to the international water community
- Meeting partners (networking)

An opportunity to strengthen national advocacy and dynamics before the event and to organize social mobilizations.

## 2.2. What are the limits?

The legitimacy of the WWForum is contested because it is organized by the World Water Council, which is not a UN institution (and is perceived by some organizations as being close to multinationals). In addition, its financial cost is very high (several million euros).

On the other hand, the Forum has a weak political impact (ministerial declarations) within the context of a very fragmented international water sector.

## 2.3. What strategic interest?

The Forum is for the first time an "African" forum. Moreover, with the Heads of State Summit, there is a real desire to give a political dimension to the forum.

However, uncertainties remain regarding financing and organization.

## 2.4. What can an NGO/CSO do during the WWForum?

- Get involved in preparatory processes: action groups, advisory groups, preparation of sessions, etc;
- To be a speaker in one or more session(s);
- Participate and facilitate the participation of partners (local authorities or CSOs, citizen representatives, etc.);
- Hold a stand in the exhibition space or be present on a collective stand;
- To have one or more field projects labeled;
- Share its expertise, productions, etc. on the stands or during animations/sessions ;
- Organize other mobilizations (events, demonstrations, exhibitions, etc.) ;
- Conduct political advocacy (Summit of Heads of State, national advocacy).

## 2.5. Possible Supports for CSO Participation

For previous Forums:

- A more or less well-organized sponsorship process

For this Forum:

- No information on the sponsorship process
- Seek support from cooperation partners: multilateral (ADB) or bilateral donors (AFD, USAID, etc.).

If you are interested in participating, please let us know at: [butterflyeffectcoalition@gmail.com](mailto:butterflyeffectcoalition@gmail.com)

## 3. THE ALTERNATIVE WWFORUM

The Alternative WWForum takes place in parallel to the WWForum

### 3.1. Objectives

- To denounce the non-legitimacy of the World Water Council and its links with large water corporations,
- To denounce the World Water Forum as a mercantile space for multinational water companies.
- Challenging the solutions put forward at the World Water Forum involving the private sector
- Defending a vision of water as a common good
- To denounce national issues (for example, in Senegal: awarding the water distribution affermage contract to SUEZ); pollution of groundwater and runoff water in mining areas; conflicts in the Niayes area between producers ; market gardeners and mining companies ; water shortage in Dakar...)

### 3.2. Organization and participants

A first consultation meeting involving various associations was held in June 2019. The participants in the alternative forum are mainly associations and citizen movements, academics and activists who organize marches, demonstrations and thematic sessions where they bring initiatives and alternatives.

The Water Coalition and ISW have, to date, little information on the organization of the Alternative World Water Forum.

## II PRESENTATION OF CSOs' IMPLICATION

### 1. THE BUTTERFLY EFFECT'S IMPLICATION

*Presentation by Anne-Catherine Mercuri, International Secretariat for Water*

The Butterfly Effect Steering Committee has developed an action plan with 2 objectives for the World Water Forum:

- Ensuring CSOs participation in the World Water Forum
- Making the voice of CSOs heard at the Heads of State Summit

To do so, the Butterfly Effect has planned its agenda for the forum:

#### Before the Forum:

- Coordinate the participation of the Butterfly Effect in the thematic preparation process of the WWForum
- Facilitate the development of common messages and political influence
- Inform members, share information within the network.
- Build bridges and facilitate the participation of other CSO movements and organizations

#### During the Forum:

- Participate in WWForum activities and disseminate BE's messages.
- Provide visibility to BE members during WWForum.
- Advocate for a more inclusive WWForum
- Make the voices of CSOs heard at the High Level Political Summit (Heads of State Summit)

#### After the Forum:

- Disseminate the results of the WWForum
- Follow-up of the concrete implementation of the decisions resulting from the high level political summit
- Coordinate concrete advocacy actions at the local level, through its members.

Several NGOs/CSOs of the Butterfly Effect are members of the World Water Forum action groups: *see the mapping in slide 22 of the PPT presentation.*

### 2. SENEGALESE CSO IN THE WWFORUM

*Presentation by Ndongo Mané, project manager for the POSCEAS (Water and sanitation CSOs national platform)*

#### **Presentation of the POSCEAS**

The POSCEAS is a platform, created in July 2018, bringing together Senegalese CSOs active in the water and sanitation sector

The creation of POSCEAS is part of a context of challenges around access to water in sub-Saharan Africa.

See the list of POSCEAS members on slide 27.

### **POSCEAS' expectations of the World Water Forum**

Several expectations:

- Mobilization of decision-makers (States, institutions, local authorities) and of development actors
- Creation of advocacy opportunities at the international/regional/national level
- Make the voice of all Senegalese actors in the WASH sector heard
- Awareness raising, mobilization of populations on the issues of the World Water Forum;
- Setting up of a civil society stand.

### **Positioning and actions of POSCEAS**

The POSCEAS participated in the preparatory committee for the implementation of the Senegal Sanitation Stakeholders Consultation Framework under the aegis of the Sanitation Directorate.

In addition, the POSCEAS integrated in January 2019 the World Water Forum organizing committee and participated in the various exchanges and initiatives related to the forum.

Other actions carried out in connection with the World Water Forum :

- Participation in exchanges and discussions on the concept of the "Dakar 2021" initiative (fostering practical commitments for labeled projects) under the aegis of the Preparatory Committee of the 9th World Water Forum.
- Participation in the Launch of the 9th World Water Forum (kick off meeting) in June 2019
- Co-organization of Workshop 8 for experience sharing and strengthening African civil society groups in the water and sanitation sector (Water Coalition, SWA, Congad, SPONG): "On the Road to Dakar 2021: Mobilizing NGOs/CSOs in Water and Sanitation in the Sub-region to Achieve MDG 6" (June 2019).
- Mobilization of the POSCEAS members to register for the 9th World Water Forum Action Groups

Other activities at the national level have been carried out by POSCEAS (see slides 29 to 32).

## **3. YOUTH ORGANISATIONS IN THE WWFORUM**

*Presentation by Fatimatou Sall, Youth Representative in the SAI International Steering Committee of the 9th World Water Forum, President of the Association of Young Professionals in Water and Sanitation of Senegal (AJPEAS)*

Youth organizations are involved in the preparatory process of the World Water Forum. They are present in the different working groups (pilot groups, action groups and consultative groups) to ensure that their concerns are taken into account and they participate in the development of several preparatory activities to ensure an efficient contribution to the forum. Youth-led projects are also being submitted to get labelled under the Dakar 2021 initiative. Youth will also be mobilized in the implementation of the recommendations that will result from the Forum.

At the kick-off meeting of the 9th World Forum, the youth organized a side event called Kick off of the youth which identified the following areas of intervention:

- Promotion of science and youth-led initiatives
- Promoting youth leadership
- Communication and social mobilization on the road to Dakar 2022.

### **Current initiatives are :**

Organization of satellite events in collaboration with youth delegates to :

- Identify the priorities and recommendations of the youth on their way to Dakar
- Sharing best practices and youth projects in the field of water and sanitation that can contribute to the Dakar 2021 initiative.
- Learn from good practices from past events

- Strengthen collaboration and exchanges between young people

Preparation of a youth mobilization strategy with the Executive Secretariat of the 9th World Water Forum which aims to :

- Ensure a diverse representation of the world's youth
- Work for intergenerational dialogue
- Strengthen the scientific, technical, entrepreneurial, managerial and leadership capacities of young people
- Supporting and valuing youth initiatives to improve water security around the world.
- Initiate a youth ambassador program in the implementation and follow-up of the forum's orientations.
- To carry the legacy of the Forum by committed young ambassadors playing their full role in innovative approaches to improve access to water and sanitation etc.

It will be a matter for the youth to implement the recommendations made, not only during the 9th World Water Forum but also during other major events such as the African Water Week. It will also be a question of taking into account the problems identified during the youth kick off meeting on inequalities of access, capacity building of young people, their better involvement in the governance of the sector...

### III OPEN DISCUSSION

***Q: Could the postponement of the World Water Forum to 2022 open the door to a better involvement of American (and especially Latin American) CSOs in the forum?***

*A: It is true that in the action groups, Latin American CSOs are not mobilized, but other types of actors are. We are entering a new phase of the preparatory process with the consultation: new guidelines will soon be sent out by the World Water Forum. New door of opportunity for Latin American CSOs to participate in the programming.*

***Q: What do you think of the idea of setting up a common civil society stand?***

*A: Good idea, this stand would provide a space where members of the Butterfly Effect could meet and would give everyone a place to position themselves in the forum and promote Butterfly Effect messages (to be discussed in the Butterfly Effect Steering Committee).*

***Q: We need to present a united front at the Forum. Is there an opportunity to organize a global CSO event at the Open Forum in Dakar?***

*A: Including a CSO event prior to the Forum may be interesting to make presentations on important issues or to make a civil society declaration (to be discussed in the Butterfly Effect steering committee).*

***Q: Are there any common advocacy issues that will be taken up by the Butterfly Effect movement at the World Water Forum?***

*A: At the level of the Steering Committee of the Butterfly Effect, we think that a Position Paper (with demands and expectations) for the summit of Heads of State is relevant. Including a common advocacy work before the Summit. It may also be interesting to do another online workshop to prepare these positioning messages, the participants will be informed.*

***Q: What link can there be between the involved in the regular Forum and those that are engaged at the level of the global alternative forum?***

*A: Depends on the alternative forum and the willingness of the organizers to build bridges or not. In previous forums, there have been interesting connections, such as the one in Marseille in 2012, where the "Water, Planet and People" meetings brought together CSOs mobilized in the two spaces around a common declaration.*

**Q: Are there organizations in Southern Africa that are members of the Butterfly Effect?**

*A: There are no South-African organizations active in the Butterfly Effect, but there is an opportunity to play a stronger role if you wish. ANEW, the regional platform, can help mobilize CSOs from across Africa towards the WWForum.*

**Q: How can we ensure that the issues discussed at the Dakar event are properly addressed and not an end in themselves and how can we ensure that a certain level of legitimacy is given to the next World Water Forum?**

*A: This is a real question that is asked at every forum. The idea is not to mobilize for an event but to hope that real decisions are made. CSOs then have a role to play in following up on these commitments.*

**Q: Considering the pandemic, is the World Water Forum Secretariat considering a virtual forum?**

*A: The idea is to organize the Forum in person if the health situation allows it. May this not be the case, the possibility of doing it virtually will be considered (Mohammed Diatta, Secretariat of the WWForum).*

End of the meeting

## **ANEXES AND OTHER USEFUL RESOURCES**

- **Power point de la réunion (en PJ)**
- **Call for applications for the consultative groups:**  
<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeybrz2LlxFLv4A4iubTumEoJ0roluJJ5rGoWmbA6C09led6g/viewform>
- **Information note on the consultative process:**  
<https://www.worldwaterforum.org/fr/plateforme-collaborative/processus-consultatif>
- **Actions plans submitted by the action groups:**  
<https://www.worldwaterforum.org/en/collaborative-platform/action-plans>
- **Updated calendar of the WWForum :**  
[https://www.worldwaterforum.org/sites/default/files/docs-kickoff/9th\\_Forum\\_updated\\_calendar.pdf](https://www.worldwaterforum.org/sites/default/files/docs-kickoff/9th_Forum_updated_calendar.pdf)
- **Initiative Dakar 2021:** <http://worldwaterforum.org/en/form/initiative-dakar-2021>