

LINKING GLOBAL
CAPACITIES
FOR A RATIONAL
WATER
MANAGEMENT

Water is essential for life, fundamental to overcome poverty and hunger and indispensable for human health and well-being. However, the world's present relationship with water is set within a pattern of irrationality evidenced by the high number of people with no access to drinking water and sanitation, the unsustainable use of water resources and a global water crisis that affects one third of the world's population.

WASA-GN is an international non-profit organization independent of political or religious beliefs, whose aim is to establish global synergies to favour a rational management of water resources worldwide. In order to achieve this objective WASA-GN has created a global network of institutions and specialists in water issues and related disciplines and proposes the study of the drivers of the present global water crisis and the formulation of water management models based on a systemic rationality. This leads to focusing on the problem from its inception: the urgency to reformulate existing paradigms and current growth and development models and the need to clearly define the concept of Water Governance as a proactive instrument that will enable global society to find new ways and solutions.

Civil society has limited knowledge of the gravity of water-related issues, which are seldom the object of global communication. In order to attain greater involvement by governments it is essential that the population become aware of the vital economic, social, cultural and environmental importance of water and that it be given information on the origin and consequences of the water crisis. To ensure an international commitment on water-related issues it is imperative to develop the capacity to analyze and promote reflection and communication on these issues at all levels. This is the challenge taken on by WASA-GN.

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Man, Guardian of Water

Man is the guardian of water resources, not its owner. His role should be to manage it fairly, not only among human beings and different users but also recognizing the environment as water's residence place and water's recycling mechanism and as such, with the right to use and preserve a significant proportion of available water resources.

Rationality in Water Management

Water cuts across all human activities and is contained in everything that man does and produces. In the same way, water management must consider that it is not an isolated sector, that the state of water resources is a direct indicator of the of social, economic and health conditions of a society and must incorporate the vision of all systems that superimpose and interact with water resources and where usually are the roots of water problems. This demands a holistic approach and a management based on the principles of the Systems Theory.

Opening Up of Information

Information in the field of water is highly conditioned by political or financial principles that sustain production of this information. We must champion water-related information that is independent, open, free of personal interests and understandable by the largest number of persons, so that they are able to make an interpretation of their reality and participate in decisions concerning water issues that affect them.

Man, Responsible for Life

Life is a discontinuous phenomenon in the Universe but abundant on planet Earth. The nature of species and their interactions create competition among themselves, a competition which in the absence of great environmental changes results in states of sustainability and balance. The human race has developed the capacity to alter this balance, both against itself as against the environment and the remaining species, and is responsible, therefore, for the preservation of environmental resources and the survival of other species.

Water, a Human Right

Water is a unique resource, irreplaceable as life sustenance. For human beings water has an added spiritual, social and symbolic value. Thus water for human consumption transcends the nature of an economic good and, in a broader scope, constitutes a human right. Recognition of the human right to water implies obligations by governments and international organizations. These obligations should go beyond the mere discourse and translate to concrete actions that involve mobilization of financial resources, revision of legal frameworks that regulate water as a merchandise, follow-up of the population's living conditions and the requirement of compliance with the human right to water in the same manner as with other human rights.

Basic principles of the WASA-GN philosophy

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For further information about WASA-GN, please contact:

Angélica Obes de Lussich | Communications a.obes.lussich@wasa-gn.net
Luciana Coutinho | Network Co-ordinator l.coutinho@wasa-gn.net
Fernando Díaz Alpuente | Connectivity Co-ordinator f.diaz.alpuente@wasa-gn.net