

# Water Assessment and Advisory Global Network WASA-GN

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 patt ern or 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 establis h 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 discip lines and proposes the stud y of the drivers of the present global water cris is and the formulation of water management models based on a systemic rationali ty. This leads to focusi ng 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 in strument 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.







Man is the guardian of water re sources, not its owner. His role should be to manage it fairly, not only among human beings and different us ers but also recognizing the environment as water's residence place and water's recycling mechanism and as su ch, 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 stat e 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 princi ples 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 independen t, 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.



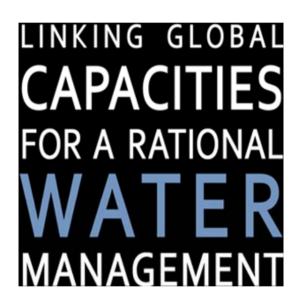
## Man, Responsible for Life

Life is a discontinuous pheno menon in the Universe but abundant on planet Earth. The nature of species and their interactions create competition among themselves, a competition which in the ab sence 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 symboli c value. Thus water for human consumption transcends the nature of an economic good and, in a br oader scope, constitutes a human right. Recognition of the human right to water implies obligations by go vernments and international organizations. These obligat ions 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 on'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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