



More than five hundred organizations present the Water Justice Manifesto to the UN General Assembly

NEW YORK March 24, 2023 — Water Justice Movements, Civil Society Organizations and Networks around the world have come together to launch a manifesto calling on UN Member States to put people and nature before profit at the UN 2023 Water Conference. Despite the Conference largely excluding their voices, water defenders and rights holders claimed their space in the High-Level segment in the General Assembly Plenary Hall on March 23rd to deliver this historic appeal.

The UN's attention to the very real global water crisis is long overdue. 2 billion people lack access to safely managed drinking water and nearly 4 billion to safely managed sanitation. Globally, water ecosystems are under threat from climate change and destructive economic development.

But rather than being a 'game changer', the Conference has doubled down on a business-as-usual agenda which seeks to put big polluters, banks and financiers at the centre of global efforts to realize Sustainable Development Goal 6—protect water resources and deliver water and sanitation for all. These are the very actors responsible for the historical and contemporary degradation of water resources and who seek to grow their profits off the backs of the most vulnerable.

The Manifesto demands that the global water agenda focus on Water for Life over water for profit. In stark contrast to the inchoate UN Water Action Agenda, it articulates a coherent action plan that demands direct investments in public and community water alternatives, informed by the experiences of frontline communities struggling for access to water and to protect water ecosystems. These are the alternatives upon which the world has historically relied and continues to rely to manage water resources and deliver water services.

More than 600 000 people and more than 500 grassroots, national and international organizations have signed the Manifesto as well as an Avaaz global call to world leaders to "protect freshwater ecosystems and guarantee water as a human right."

The People's Water Forum, Africa Water Justice Network, Blue Communities, Butterfly Effect, Coalition Eau, World Council of Churches - Ecumenical Water Network, End Water Poverty, European Water Movement, Freshwater Action Network Mexico, Plataforma de Acuerdos Públicos y Comunitarios de Las Américas, Public Services International, Redes del Agua Latinoamérica, RED VIDA, and Simavi are among the networks behind the Water Justice Manifesto which aims to put human rights at the centre of the international water agenda.

To see the full version of the Manifesto, [click here](#).

To see an abridged version of the Manifesto please [click here](#).

To see the full list of movements and organizations [click here](#).

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