



MANIFESTO #YOUTH4WASH



This manifesto highlights the commitments of the "Youth Voices" session of the 9th World Water Forum, held in Dakar, Senegal, in March 2022, on the most pressing issues related to youth participation in water and sanitation. It outlines the actions that the water and sanitation sector must take, for young people and for the planet, if we are to have a future.









- Water is more than life, water is the solution. It is the solution for the resilience of communities in the face of major climate challenges, it is the solution for alleviating the suffering of peoples and especially women, and its security guarantees well-being beyond life. Water is life and sanitation is dignity
- We believe that partnering with young people is key to achieving Goal 6 to ensure 100% water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) coverage by 2030
- There is a water and sanitation crisis for 771 million of people around the world. Young people are an important player in solving this crisis. They are the most affected by the water crisis and must be able to have a more crucial role in the governance of the WASH sector
- We believe that engaging and inspiring young people can be a great way to ensure that messages about water, sanitation and hygiene are widely disseminated
- Young people must be able to ask questions and exercise their rights to water. They have innovative solutions and they can harness the power of digital to strengthen their community's access to information

- We as signatories of this manifesto call for the WASH sector to see the same urgent and ambitious resource mobilisation that we have seen recently around the world to fight the COVID-19 pandemic
- We recognise that today's youth are the generation most threatened by water scarcity and climate change. But young people continue to be under-represented in consultation and implementation processes and conversations on water and sanitation issues are often dominated by water technical experts and specialised civil society organisations. Girls and young women are particularly excluded from participation and leadership, despite being the most affected by the lack of water and sanitation services, and they have many solutions to offer.







Therefore, as participants in the "Youth voices" session of the 9th World Water Forum, we call on decision-makers, governments, NGOs and partners gathered at the 9th Forum to:

- Listen to the voices of youth, indigenous peoples, girls and young women, communities living in poverty and other marginalized people who are most a ffected by the impacts of water accessibility, and support them to provide direction to decision makers
- Encourage, support and celebrate the role of young people in demanding action and accountability from those in power, so that water services can be expanded, protected and improved for everyone, prioritising the most vulnerable
- Contribute to forging a new generation of world leaders with in-depth knowledge by strengthening the capacities of young people with a focus on strengthening local WASH knowledge and setting up platforms for intergenerational exchanges
- Provide young people with quality and skilled job opportunities and economic stability so that young people can explore their potential
- Ensure the engagement of young people over time, focusing on concrete initiatives and solutions that can accelerate the effective governance of the WASH sector and building more responsibility and reciprocal relationships
- Engage young people more in water governance, accountability and national climate change mitigation and adaptation efforts by ensuring that they have access to information, capacity building and are systematically included as key stakeholders in consultation and decision-making processes
- Demonstrate political will and involve young people from all sectors in the design and implementation of public policy.

We are publicly and firmly committed to speaking with one voice. Synergy is our strength to ensure that everyone has access to safe drinking water and that WASH is a priority for financial partners.





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Signatories:





