



RESEAU INTERNATIONAL DES ORGANISMES DE BASSIN
INTERNATIONAL NETWORK OF BASIN ORGANIZATIONS
RED INTERNACIONAL DE ORGANISMOS DE CUENCA

ALL TOGETHER FOR DEVELOPING INTEGRATED
WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT WORLDWIDE

"TEN COMMANDMENTS" FOR BETTER GOVERNANCE



- I - Freshwater is a common good.
- II - Integrated Water Resource Management should aim at meeting, in a sustainable and inter-sectoral manner, all essential and legitimate needs, at protecting against risk and at preserving and rehabilitating ecosystems,
- III - **The basins of rivers, lakes and aquifers are the territories suited for organizing the integrated management of water resources and ecosystems.**
- IV - In each country, a clear legal framework must specify the rights and obligations, institutional responsibilities, the processes and means needed for good water governance.
- V - **The representatives of populations, local Authorities**, water users and of organizations representing collective interest, should participate in this management, especially in **Basin Councils or Committees**.
- VI - Information, awareness and education of populations and of their representatives are required.
- VII - **Master plans or basin management plans should be prepared, through dialogue and transparency, to set the objectives to be achieved on the medium term.**

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- VII - Reliable, representative, harmonized and easily accessible **integrated information and monitoring systems** and specific research programs should be set up in each basin.**
- IX - The establishment of financing systems, based on the consumers and polluters' contribution and common cause, is required in each basin to ensure the implementation of successive priority action plans and the smooth operation of community utilities.**

These contributions, defined by consensus in Basin Committees, should be managed at the level of the basin by a specialized, technical and financial "Agency".

- X - As regards large transboundary rivers, lakes or aquifers, cooperation agreements should be signed by riparian countries and the Management Plans designed at the level of the basins, especially in **international or transboundary Basin Commissions, Authorities or Organizations.****

**We must support the creation and strengthening
of Basin Organizations all over the world!**

***Come and meet us in Kyoto on 18, 19, 20 and 21 March 2003.
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