

COP21 President supports the call for action on the Paris Pact on Water and Climate Change Adaptation.

Ségolène Royal, COP21 President, supports the call for action on the Paris Pact on Water and Climate Change Adaptation during the 10th General Assembly International INBO, 1- 4 June, in Merida, Mexico.

Water: A problem at the heart of adaptation to climate change and sustainable development.

Climate change is mainly reflected in a change in the water cycle: floods and more numerous and devastating droughts, erratic rainfall, melting glaciers and rising oceans have resulted in the salinization of coastal groundwater. 90% of natural disasters are water-related.

Furthermore, global warming and low water (ground and surface) levels respectively induce alterations to aquatic biodiversity and greater pollutant concentrations.

COP21: reinforcement lever for recognizing the importance of water-related problems.

2015 allowed putting water as the heart of the sustainable development agenda. Water is indeed the center of adaptation problems: 75% of the INDCs are linked to water, emphasizing the importance that States have given to this problem. Within the ODS 6 and several associated targets, water is at the core of the Sustainable Development Goals.

The urge to unprecedented mobilization of COP21 water stakeholders, especially those of the Resilience focus of the Action Agenda (Lima-Paris Action Agenda), has enabled to launch the "**Paris Pact on Water and Climate Change Adaptation in the basins of rivers, lakes and aquifers**".

Over 340 basin organizations, ministries, national and local authorities, companies, donors, civil society organizations, and international organizations from 87 countries gathered driven forward by the International Network of Basin Organizations (INBO) in collaboration with the UN Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) and supported by the French and Peruvian Environment Ministries. This provides a framework for concrete action to promote adaptation actions, particularly through improved transboundary water resources management.

The joint action in favor of water is the action towards the future.

COP President reiterated her support to this initiative. She has summoned on donors and operators to heed a new call to action launched by the Paris Pact, which will allow the identification of new pilot projects, with a sound transformational impact on water and adaptation. The projects will be measured in value terms over the COP22, which will focus on adaptation to climate change and concrete action.

This call to action addresses in particular the projects working on putting into action the appropriate decision tools. Projects on Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) at the basin level are the objectives of the Paris Pact. But it also seems to be essential to develop our knowledge tools on the status of our water resources and how they are affected by climate change. **Water Information Systems (WIS)** are a key element of optimal water resources management and the implementation of appropriate adaptation policies. This year, WIS will be a priority as prerequisite to decision-making.

By acting today we facilitate the right decisions and access to water of tomorrow. We also protect vulnerable communities from climate risks and protect water, a common good of humanity.