



SPEECH BY JEAN-FRANÇOIS DONZIER

General Secretary of the International Network of Basin Organizations

UN-Water's Sustainable Development Goal 6 Synthesis Report 2018 on Water and Sanitation, presented at the High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) on Sustainable Development, that took place in New York City last July, set the scene by concluding: **“The world is not on track to reach Sustainable Development Goal 6 (SDG 6) on Water and Sanitation by the deadline set for 2030”**. In the foreword of this report, the UN Secretary-General wrote: **“If we remain off track to deliver on SDG 6 then we jeopardize the entire 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”**.

Freshwater is a “time bomb” for all our societies! ... and above all, it is already and will be most clearly **“the first victim of climate change”** and we have no time to lose!

We should not "reinvent the wheel", as many successful experiments have already been made: We must therefore identify good practices and disseminate them: The problems are mainly not technical but institutional and financial

The importance of the delay in access to drinking water and sanitation is very legitimately a priority, but it should not hide the fundamental problems of resources management and protection, which are too often put in the background.

We must organize the management of surface and ground water resources and aquatic ecosystems at the level of local, national or transboundary basins or sub-basins of rivers, lakes and aquifers and it is now widely recognized that integrated basin management should be organized:

- 1) based on integrated information systems, providing knowledge on resources and their uses, polluting pressures, ecosystems and their functioning, the follow-up of their evolutions and risk assessment;
- 2), with the participation in decision-making of the concerned governmental administrations and local authorities, the representatives of different categories of users and associations for environmental protection or of public interest;
- 3) with medium and long-term goals expressing the shared vision of the stakeholders and translated into basin management plans or master plans to be implemented...;
- 4) through the development of successive multiyear programmes of measures and priority investments;
- 5) and finally, with the mobilization of specific financial resources, based on the “polluter-pays” principle and “user-pays” systems; by looking for geographical and inter-sectoral equalizations to gather the necessary amounts;

Legal and institutional frameworks should allow the application of these principles in each country and at the regional and transboundary level.

Mobilization and political will are essential for humanity to win the water battle and prepare the future!