



## MESSAGES OF THE BUTTERFLY EFFECT FOR COP24

Record temperatures, rising water levels, floods, drought... Although the threats posed by climate change grow increasingly more severe, political will is on the wane.

The extreme weather events of 2018 have highlighted the urgent need to speed up the efforts being made!

The addition of the country's commitments places the planet on a warming trajectory of + 3 ° C to + 3.2 ° C by the end of the 21st century. However, the IPCC reminds us in its special report published in October 2018, that the transition from 1.5 ° C to 2 ° C would already seriously aggravate the risks associated with heavy rainfall, extreme events, droughts and rising sea level levels.

- Limiting global warming to 1.5 ° C rather than 2 ° C could reduce the proportion of the global population exposed to water stress by 50% (IPCC, 2018)
- The scarcity of water, exacerbated by climate change, could cost up to 6% of the GDP of some regions (World Bank, 2016)
- About 143 million people, or 2.8% of the population of Sub-Saharan Africa, South Asia, Latin America could be forced to move within their own country to escape the impacts of climate change (World Bank, 2018)

Water is at the heart of climate change and it is through water that climate change will most notably impact on our societies and ecosystems.

It is essential that the ambitious goals of the 2015 Paris Agreement are achieved in order to mitigate climate change. However, to ensure more is done globally to protect our resources, [there needs to be greater recognition](#) that the impact of climate change is mainly felt through “water” and on the changes in the hydrological cycle. This also means that mitigation and adaptation measures in water management can be the most effective. Nationally Determined Contributions so far do encompass water-related measures; however, they need to be more explicit and with more ambitious timelines.

## MAIN MESSAGES

In the run-up to COP24, the Butterfly Effect, concerned about the slow progress being made in implementing the Paris Agreement and taking the necessary steps to contain rising climate risks, is calling on the international community to:

- **Take a proactive stance on implementing the Paris Agreement:** immediately start to translate the commitments made under the Paris Agreement into inclusive national action plans and policies to tackle global warming; and expand the ambition of the Nationally Determined

Contributions from 2019 onwards (with more explicit actions, more ambitious timelines, transparent monitoring and revision mechanisms).

- **Make water a central feature of local and national policy and action plans:** focus should be placed on: ensuring sustainable, universal and fair access to water, sanitation and agricultural water; stepping up the implementation of Integrated Water Resources Management; restoring and preserving the local water cycle; preventing, preparing for and responding to water-related humanitarian disasters and preparing for post-disaster rehabilitation work in such a way that it does not repeat the “errors” of the past but is ready for the future.
- **Manage our natural environments, including aquatic environments in a more equitable way:** if we are to successfully address climate change, population growth and development-related pressures, we need to find more intelligent and respectful ways of managing our limited water resources, which are so essential for our needs and human rights and the survival of our societies and ecosystems.
- **Facilitate the integration of adaption policies into water-related sector policy** by building local stakeholders’ capacities and improving local knowledge about impacts of climate change on water resources and possible solutions. Incorporate Nature-based and traditional solutions in NDC’s.
- **Identify the regions most vulnerable to a rise in temperatures of over 2 degrees and make these priority targets for international assistance,** particularly those at risk of rising waters (flooding, typhoons resulting in rising sea and river levels) or increased droughts.
- **Mobilize adapted financing, up to the challenges:** financial commitments of USD 100 billion / year for developing countries by 2020, reiterated at COP21, must be respected. In adaptation-related financing, water must be a high priority, with least developed countries (LDCs) as a priority area. This funding will have to take into account the needs in terms of capacity building of actors, improvement of knowledge, monitoring and evaluation of water management policies.
- **Involve civil society, including water sector stakeholders,** in decision-making on both climate change and water management issues. Civil society should be included at all stages of the decision-making process, from development through to implementation and monitoring & evaluation.
- **Ensure access for non-state actors to the deliberations and negotiations as observers** and allocate meaningful time for interventions in the formal process.

#### **About the Butterfly Effect**

The Butterfly Effect is a network of international and local civil society organisations, which advocates for effective local solutions that have a sustainable impact on improving access to water and sanitation and water resources management. The Butterfly Effect is made up of over 90 civil society organisations, NGOs, networks, youth and women’s organisations representing 4 different regions in the world (Africa, Americas, Asia, Europe).

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## BACKGROUND DOCUMENT

### Detailed messages

#### Water and energy

The energy sector is the second largest water user: most energy production methods require large amounts of water directly (bioenergy crops and hydropower) or indirectly (cooling for thermal energy) (IPCC, 2014).

The water sector can contribute to the mitigation of greenhouse gas emissions through better energy management linked to its various uses, for example the optimization of the treatment and transport of drinking water, wastewater and agricultural water. Water can also be a sustainable means of energy production and recovery (valorization of biogas sludge, use of hydrothermal energy, etc.).

Conversely, water resources can be threatened by the implementation of certain mitigation measures. In some regions, the increasing scarcity or availability of water resources as a result of climate change affects the reliability of energy production and will impose more and more additional costs (IEA, 2012). In addition, energy demand is growing (especially outside the OECD), further increasing the pressure on the resource.

This is why it is necessary to strengthen the reflections on the potential impacts of negative emissions (e.g. bioenergy with storage and carbon capture) on freshwater, groundwater and coastal waters, and to avoid "poor mitigation". Deployed on a large scale, these measures - considered inevitable by scientists to maintain warming at 1.5 ° C - could have a very important footprint on land and water resources and compete with other uses of resources (agriculture etc.).

#### Water and disasters

Besides better water management, it is crucial to build resilience. Globally, water-related disasters already account for 90% of all natural disasters. Their frequency and intensity is generally rising due to climate change, causing enormous damage to life and property. Climate change is a factor in these trends. Damages attributed to water-related disasters can mount up to 15% of annual GDP for certain countries.

Population growth, poverty, land shortages, urbanization, the poor condition of flood protection and drainage infrastructure, and water storage facilities, especially in developing countries, have increased the vulnerability of people to flood hazards and droughts, and, inter alia, have multiplied impacts on public health associated with water-borne epidemics. The poor, women and girls are suffering the most.

To this end, it is necessary to incorporate recommendations of the High Level Panel of experts and leaders and water and disasters in the agreed measures to be taken:

- Water related disasters, such as floods, droughts, storm surges and tsunamis account for 90% of all disasters in terms of number of people affected. This number is still increasing. The poor, vulnerable groups, women and girls are suffering the most. Economic and environmental losses associated with water related hazards are rising in all regions.
- Disaster Risk Reduction, Water Resources Management and Climate Adaptation should no longer be treated as separate topics.

- More data and better tools for risk assessment are ready for use now and need to be more widely deployed to identify and prioritize actions. Better preparedness of citizens in terms of risk awareness and emergency planning are also essential.
- Risk reduction, preparation and prevention are sensible investments that pay off in terms of reduced loss of life, avoided damage, and long-term economic growth and stability. Further emphasis on the role of financial protection measures in Disaster Risk Management is needed.
- Risk prevention should be integrated with long-term planning. This allows communities and decision makers to identify and exploit opportunities for synergies with planned investments, including plans for adaptation to climate change.
- Uncertainties are no excuse for inaction: uncertainties are inherent in long-term planning and should be accounted for in a comprehensive, flexible and adaptive approach.
- Align the efforts under the major 2015 international policy frameworks to create synergy and to increase effectiveness.

#### **Water and climate finance:**

Our societies need to undergo a profound transformation in order to address and adapt to climate change. While these economic and societal transitions are necessary, they also have an associated cost. This cost is unfair and extremely difficult for developing countries which are already struggling to deal with urgent development challenges and realise fundamental human rights for their people, such as access to safe water and sanitation and sound management of freshwater ecosystems. The poorest and most vulnerable countries – which have contributed the least to climate change, and yet are already suffering the worst effects – must be prioritised in climate financing decisions.

The Butterfly Effect urges that action be taken to ensure that:

- The funding pledged eight years ago by industrialised countries to support climate action in developing nations (a joint mobilisation goal of US\$100 billion a year by 2020) is fulfilled and directed as a priority to activities that help the world's most vulnerable communities to adapt.
- Funding for climate change adaptation in the water sector is increased, with priority given to the Least Developed Countries (LDCs) through grant instruments.
- Access to funding is facilitated for the most disadvantaged countries, regions and communities, and for as long as is required to build in-country capacity, test innovative funding models (between 10 and 15 years), and sustain solutions over the long term. This demands funding windows and procedures that are adapted to local stakeholders and regions. This funding must be additional to development assistance.

#### **Mobilise civil society:**

Given the slow progress being made in implementing the Paris Agreement, and because governments and countries cannot engage efforts alone, it is important that initiatives undertaken by non-state stakeholders are encouraged and supported.

To this end, it is necessary to:

- Support and share the many initiatives being conducted by civil society stakeholders.

- Improve the Global Climate Action Agenda, and enhance its credibility and effectiveness, by clearly defining the initiative selection process and monitoring and evaluation rules, ensuring transparency and improving the participation and governance system.
- Enable grassroots movements including women, youth and indigenous peoples to take action to ensure the Paris Agreement is implemented and the Sustainable Development Goals achieved.
- Recognize local (existing) actions especially of CSOs in general and women organizations in particular, as contributing to climate change mitigation or adaptation - and (financially) supported to be scaled-up or multiplied.