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BUT THE SITUATION REMAINS URGENT!

Record temperatures, rising sea levels, flooding, droughts... the projected impacts of global warming are regularly being revised upwards, yet the National Contributions currently suggest a future global temperature increase of between 2.7 and 3.5°C. Despite the efforts made to ensure the Paris Agreement’s rapid entry into force, the lack of political will for real transition and the complexity of the UN system are resulting in delays...

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THE PARIS AGREEMENT V. THE CLIMATE EMERGENCY

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WATER: A KEY ELEMENT FOR TACKLING AND ADAPTING TO CLIMATE CHANGE

It is through water that climate change will most notably impact on both people and the environment. Climate change affects the whole water cycle. It has an adverse impact on the quantity and quality of water resources, including the water available for human use; it increases the pressure on these resources, heightens the risk of natural disasters and can result in conflicts over the sharing of water...

But water, an element that cuts across all other sectors, also provides a solution to climate change. Providing access to water for human consumption and farming helps improve the living conditions of the most vulnerable population groups and strengthens their resilience. Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) is one of the pillars of climate change adaptation. Furthermore, many low-carbon energy solutions also require water.

TIME TO RESOLVE THE CLIMATE EMERGENCY THROUGH WATER!

In order to ensure that COP22 really is the “COP of Action”, Coalition Eau calls on the international community and governments to:

➔ Ensure that the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda (Sustainable Development Goals), the Paris Climate Agreement and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction complement each other and are consistent.

➔ Transcribe the commitments made under the Paris Agreement into their national policies and implement their national action plans to tackle global warming and adapt to its effects.

➔ Demonstrate strong political will and raise their ambitions with a view to revising their National Contributions between now and 2018.

➔ Include water as a key element of their national and local policies and action plans, particularly as water was listed as a priority by 93% of countries that have an Adaptation component within their National Contributions (French Water Partnership / Coalition Eau, June 2016). Focus should be placed on: providing sustainable, universal and equitable access to drinking water, sanitation and water for irrigation; improving implementation of Integrated Water Resources Management; restoring and preserving the local water cycle; preventing, preparing for and responding to water-related humanitarian crises, as well as planning for post-crisis rehabilitation.

➔ Facilitate the integration of adaptation policies into water-related sector policy by building the capacities of local stakeholders and improving local knowledge of the impacts of climate change on water resources.

➔ Rapidly raise the annual 100 billion dollars pledged to developing countries at COP21 to help them tackle climate change, particularly focusing on adaptation measures for the most vulnerable population groups.

➔ Involve civil society in climate and water management-related negotiations and policy discussions, ensuring this is carried out effectively, and provide them with the relevant capacity-building.

➔ Improve the Global Climate Action Agenda that provides a platform for non-state initiatives, focusing on the initiatives’ selection process, governance, transparency, participation and monitoring & evaluation.