

6<sup>th</sup> Triennial

# World Water Forum

“Time for Solutions”

March 12 – 17, 2012

Marseille, France



## Report from Washington State Senator Karen Fraser

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*Comments and conversation about this Report are cordially welcomed.*

# Important Documents

[www.worldwaterforum6.org](http://www.worldwaterforum6.org)

World Water Forum Website

[www.cnrep.org](http://www.cnrep.org)

(Click on the LINK: “6<sup>th</sup> World Water Forum”)

Contains the report entitled:

***“Water in the US American West: 150 Years of Adaptive Management,”***

Prepared specifically for this Forum, by the  
University of Montana’s “Center for Natural Resources and Environmental  
Policy”

# Special Thanks

**Dr. Jerry Delli Priscoli**

US Corps of Engineers

Member of World Water Forum Board of Governors

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Washington, DC

**Senator Jim Peterson, Montana**

Forum participant

**World Water Forum Board of Governors and staff**

**Volunteers from around the world**

**Participants from around the world.**

# The World Water Crisis

## *Water is life*

It is fundamental to humanity.

Water both *gives* life and *takes* life (the latter through pollution, scarcity, drought, flooding, etc.).

Water is necessary not only for the basics of life but also for a satisfying life.

## *Moral and economic dimensions of the crisis*

### **Moral**

Billions of people lack access to healthy drinking water and adequate sanitation. This leads to much human misery: illness, early death, malnourishment, economic deprivation, poverty, despair, geographic displacement, perpetuation of discrimination against women and girls, political and military tensions, and more.

### **Economic**

Poor economic conditions can lead to lack of water, and lack of water can lead to economic distress and hinder economic improvement.

# Factors Exacerbating the World Water Crisis

1. **The world's total supply of fresh water never increases.** It has always been a fixed *tiny* quantity of the earth's water since time immemorial.
2. **The world's population is growing rapidly,** generating increasing demands for more uses.

# The Impacts of this Crisis Are Worsened by These Factors

- Uneven distribution of both water and population around the world;
- Waste, inefficiency, and poor prioritization of uses;
- Tensions between adjacent nations which use a common water source;
- Rapid global urbanization;
- Discrimination against women and girls;
- Lack of comprehensive and balanced forethought in decision-making;
- Environmental degradation;
- Lack of financial resources and economic incentives;
- Climate variability and change; and, finally,
- Insufficient political will to adequately address this crisis.

# **Water and Sanitation: a “Human Right”**

**2011**

**United Nations resolution adopted  
Declaring water and sanitation to be a “human right.”**

**UN’s Millennium Goals  
and other partnering efforts  
Have enabled much progress to be made in improving access to  
safe drinking water.**

**Sadly, progress on sanitation goals lag far behind.**

# Wide-ranging “Solutions” Discussed at the Forum

- Various “nuts and bolts” of good water management;
- Water basin planning as an essential;
- Reformulating international relations to make water and sanitation a higher priority;
- Strengthening UN water and sanitation priorities;
- New global economic models;
- New national and international security models;
- Improving rights and opportunities for women and girls; and
- Improving urbanization and human development strategies.

Above all. . . . . A consensus. . . . .

***More “political will” is needed at all levels.***

# Some “Big Picture” Solutions Proposed

*Mr. Francois Fillon, Prime Minister of France*



*A World Environmental Organization* should be created, to be comparable to the World Trade Organization, to improve our ability to address global environmental priorities.

We are in the process of moving to a “*New Industrial Revolution*” to an economic development model that both preserves and sustains the environment AND achieves development.

## *Mr. Hwang-sik Kim, Prime Minister, Republic of Korea*



Advocates a **Blue-Green-Gold Growth Engine** to overcome the economic downturn more quickly.

This means addressing water and environment together with development

## *Mr. Ban Ki-Moon, Secretary-General, United Nations*



Reports that **partnerships are working**: the world recently met the UN target of lowering the number of people without access to safe drinking water.

The **UN system is an essential partner** in the quest for water for all. We must accelerate progress.

***Mr. Mikhail Gorbachev ,President, Green Cross  
Former President of the USSR.***



Water must move to the center of international issues, with the active help of civil society, because we cannot count on international politics to achieve this.

Needed is an environmental consensus on development, since 70% of ecological systems are damaged.

Should transition to a **new economic model**, consisting of a *combination of free markets with development that is socially responsible and ecologically minded*. The economic system should also promote health, education, social solidarity, and prevent/reduce/eliminate poverty.

**Mr. Joan Clos**  
*UN Habitat Program*



We need a **new model of development**, *one that is sustainable for all.*

Nothing can be achieved without water, such as agriculture, food, food security, energy production.

**New UN Report** says there is a “**silent revolution**” going on.

- Overdrafts will be multiplied by three.
- Growth of use will outpace supply, because of population growth.
- Multiplication of droughts and floods are increasing uncertainty and risk.

**Women** are key leaders for sustainability and should be assisted to better manage water, to improve local living conditions.

**40% of the world population** is dependent on **transboundary water**.

We must be sure it does not lead to conflict.

***Ms. Irina Bokova***  
***Executive Director, UNESCO***



Countries should adopt “**national urban policies**” that

1. Seriously recognize that cities’ populations will double.
2. Appreciate that 80% of the world’s wealth is in cities.
3. Assure a coordinated, integrated approach to components of urban life, such as housing, transportation, infrastructure, public spaces, etc.
4. Assure intergovernmental coordination.
5. Assist cities with sustainable financial capacity, and support for infrastructure costs.

# US Participation in the Forum

## US Corps of Engineers

*Under the leadership of Dr. Jerry Delli Prescoli*

Serves on the governing board of the Forum.

Organized participation of other US agencies

Sponsored informative exhibits

**Organized a panel** on Water in the American West, and

**Published an accompanying written report** on Water

in the American West

# **“Water in the US American West: 150 Years of Adaptive Management”**

*Panelists* included Senator Karen Fraser (Washington)  
And Senator Jim Peterson (Montana)

## ***Published Report***

CSG-West participated in reviewing drafts.

Report preparation partners included: CSG-West, University of Montana (Dr. Matt McKinney), Western Water Council, and many others.

Published report available online at [www.cnrep.org](http://www.cnrep.org)  
(Click on “6<sup>th</sup> World Water Forum”)

# Panel

## “Water in the American West”

### History of water in the American West:

- “Westward expansion” of the 1800s.
- Transformation of the West through major water projects.
- Successes for flood control, power generation, and water supply.
- The Prior Appropriation Doctrine as a water allocation method.
- Environmental and tribal issues associated with major water projects.
- Successful cooperation across state and international boundaries.
- Efforts to mitigate many unplanned-for environmental and tribal impacts of these projects.



### Examples of successful strategies:

- Montana Compact Commission
- US-Mexico Border Commission
- Columbia River Treaty.

# Interesting questions posed by audience members

Are Western Water Law principles too rigid, and therefore impede the flexibility needed to adapt to changing times?

Does the state-based structure of Western Water Law generate problems when a water basin is shared by one or more states?

# The Americas Trialogue

Panelists from North, Central, and South America  
USA, Mexico, Honduras, Brazil, Ecuador

***Common themes  
among panelists:***

Water is fundamental to all aspects of life, particularly health and a sustainable, growing economy. Water should be a “human right” and central to global policies.



(Senator Karen Fraser served as a panelist from the American West)

# Specific Problems and Solutions

## Identified by Speakers

- Lack of access to healthy water and sanitation by billions of people
- Rapid world population growth increasing demand for water uses
- Women and girls particularly at personal risk due to lack of access to water
- Rapid urbanization accompanying rapid population growth
- Environmental deterioration due to bad water policy
- Climate variability and climate change – the new reality
- Insufficient information sharing about developments in science and technology
- Improved water governance to better balance between competing water needs
- Transboundary cooperation
- Waste of water - many types
- Water used in energy generation
- Need to increase wastewater reuse
- Financing water and sanitation infrastructure
- Good data on which to base decisions
- Lack of citizen preparation for levee failure
- “Water grabbing”

# Forum's End Ceremony – Transition to the Next

**Award.** Kyoto, Japan Soroptimist Club presents financial award to Katosi Women's Development Trust in Uganda --- for creative successful approaches to water and sanitation.

## **Handover of Forum flag from France to Korea**

Korea will host the 2015 Forum.

2015 Theme: "Time for Achievements."



## ***The World Water Forum is addressing the World Water Crisis sequentially.***

- 5<sup>th</sup> Forum (2009 - Turkey) focused on "***Problems***" and developed the "***Istanbul Consensus***" document for governments and organizations to endorse.
- 6<sup>th</sup> Forum (2012 - France) focused on "***Solutions.***"
- 7<sup>th</sup> Forum (2015 - Korea) will focus on "***Achievements.***"

***Rio + 20 Conference*** (June 2012 – Brazil) received the extensive lists of "Solutions" identified by this conference's over 400 panels and speakers.