



## 10<sup>th</sup> World Water Forum, Bali, Indonesia

Basin Opening Ceremony, Wednesday 22 May 2024

Speech of Mr. Loïc Fauchon, President of the World Water Council



*“Basins must see their authorities strengthened between the competencies of the State and the responsibility of local communities. This applies to water security and the fight against massive pollution. To strengthen these competencies, a stronger link needs to be established between the Basin, innovation, governance and finance.”*



Excellence, Dear Minister Nizar Baraka, INBO President,

Distinguished Ministers,

Dear friends,

On behalf of the World Water Council, co-organizer with the Government of Indonesia of this 10th World Water Forum, I am deeply honored to welcome you here to Bali for the sessions of this Basin segment.

We would like to thank you all, especially Minister Baraka and Mr. Éric Tardieu, not for only agreeing to take part, but above all for having co-constructed it from the start.

The origin of the word “Basin”, the oldest I believe, comes from Latin with the term Baccinus or Baccinum, which means a small portable container.

Century after century, the word “Basin” has been used to define objects and geographical locations, as well as human behaviors and activities.

Today, the Basin is at the heart of everything, to the point of becoming an essential geostrategic element in our understanding of the world and its future.

And that, I believe, is the whole point of this Forum, and particularly of this Basin Day.

To reflect, share and propose water policies that can be applied at territorial scales which are adapted to both Humans and Nature.

Yes, dear friends, water is in short supply.

Or sometimes it overflows, causing droughts and floods. And in both cases, the earth is hungry, the earth is sick.

And we are rightly afraid of the future. And our young people even more than we are, because they know that we have failed to manage our natural resources. Nature has given credit to Human, and they have wasted and plundered water as much as air, land and sea.



Fortunately, awareness is now almost universal. We are hungry for development and thirsty for progress. We are hungry for prosperity and peace. And water, dear friends, must remain a blessing, for it brings us together, surrounds us and stimulates us.

So what are we going to do about it? We have been saying it and repeating it since this Monday, and long before too. We are implementing the means to gain more water resources and at the same time to regulate and control demand for all uses. In other words, to consume less and consume better.

And this is where we see the importance of hydrographic basins, whether on surface or underground.

Basins have become a cornerstone of water policies. And it's our responsibility to amplify their 'raison d'être' and their powers.

Basins must see their authorities strengthened between the competencies of the State and the responsibility of local communities. This applies in particular to water security and the fight against massive pollution.

To strengthen these competencies, a stronger link needs to be established between the Basin, innovation, governance and finance.

Governance should be accepted, not imposed.

Knowledge should be shared, not snatched away.

Finance should be accessible, not begged for.

Secondly, Basins need to take greater responsibility for 2 major challenges of the future.

The first is the right balance between Water for Humans and Water for Nature. The second is Water for Food and food self-sufficiency.

Finally, we are convinced of the need to strengthen the role of transboundary Basins in the preventive management of water-related disasters and the resolution of hydro-diplomatic tensions.

For all these reasons, the Basin scale makes sense.



Your reflections and our proposals, dear friends and colleagues, will be decisive during this World Water Forum in Bali, for the responses we must provide to further improve access to water for the most disadvantaged, and the affirmation of the right to water which is the basis of respect for human dignity.

Your contribution, dear participants, will show that the Basin, whether local or international, is a pledge of peace and prosperity for people and nature alike.

Thank you all, and I wish you every success in your work.