



10th World Water Forum, Bali, Indonesia

Water for people and nature Synthesis session, Friday 24 May 2024

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



“Whether we are fighting infectious diseases or addressing environmental degradation, a joint Health and Water approach provides a framework for action that relies on collaboration between different actors, disciplines, and sectors.”



Dear colleagues, dear friends of water,

Dear Andrea,

Your dedication to the topic and your expertise enriches our discussions and inspires our audience. We are grateful for your participation and for your commitment at the Bureau of the World Water Council. Thank you, Andrea, for your valuable contribution.

We are now coming to the end of the 11th World Water Forum.

Many valuable discussions have enabled us to better understand the issues, the benefits and the objectives to be achieved.

I am delighted to welcome this synthesis session, which brings together the core of all our discussions and enables us to design the architecture of the post-Forum.

Water is the very source of life, an essential element that sustains both nature and humanity. Aquatic ecosystems, ranging from rivers to oceans, are home to rich and varied biodiversity. It provides nutrients and crucial habitats for a multitude of animal and plant species.

Water is also fundamental to human health, serving essential roles in drinking, agriculture, industry, and hygiene.

By preserving the quality and availability of water, we not only protect aquatic ecosystems and the services they provide. But also guarantee access to a vital resource for human communities around the world.

Thus, recognizing the importance of water for nature and water for humankind is essential to ensure a sustainable future for all forms of life on Earth.

In other words, “Water for Nature and Humans” is also about recognizing the close interdependence between human, animal, and environmental health.

Dear Andrea, I agree with you, the main issue is about connecting healthy ecosystems to human health, that are tightly connected. Because the degradation of one will impact the other.



To go beyond this, I encourage participants to prepare themselves with practical strategies and enhanced knowledge on the crucial role of wastewater surveillance in public health leading to advance disease detection capabilities and strengthen global health security in a new partnership with the water sector.

Whether we are fighting infectious diseases or addressing environmental degradation, a joint Health and Water approach provides a framework for action that relies on collaboration between different actors, disciplines, and sectors.

By implementing comprehensive solutions that promote water, health, and nature conservation, we can create more resilient communities and more robust ecosystems.

Water is a vital resource for the resilience of ecosystems and human communities.

Inspiration and renewed efforts are needed to materialize our understanding of the existing resilience mechanisms.

Sustainable irrigation systems and water management practices can strengthen farmers' resilience to climate evolution, floods, and drought, while preserving the health of soils and aquatic ecosystems.

Let us trust and make the best of the solutions that already exist in nature:

For example, inspire us of wetlands, like swamps or mangroves, which are natural sponges, absorbing and filtering water, protecting ecosystems from floods and droughts.

The 10th World Water Forum confirmed that the business case for nature-based solutions to address accelerating water security challenges is strong and successful implementation is happening around the world.

I place hope in emerging investment funds and technical facilities like the Asian Development Bank's Nature Solutions Finance Hub for Asia and the Pacific, and The Nature Conservancy's Nature for Water Facility and Ground Outcomes Fund, to overcome barriers in project development and jump start financing.



Ladies and gentlemen, the evidence is clear. Investing in nature is good business.

So, in order to unlock these keys to sustainability, we need to share our capacities, whether in terms of monitoring, research or services. We can amplify our impact and achieve better health outcomes for all.