

**Dialogue for Water and Cities**  
**WORLD URBAN FORUM VII - “Urban Equity for Development – Cities for Life”**  
**Medellín, Colombia, 8 April 2014**

**Moving forward with the Istanbul Water Consensus**

-Local and Regional Authorities commitments to water and sanitation in the face of global changes-

**Marseille-Barcelona-Medellín, 3 April, 2014** - Cities and their suburbs are continuously growing, pollution is increasing, and the impact of climate change is being felt. All these factors are putting pressure on water resources, threatening human, economic and environmental security, and of course upon cities, which play a vital role in ensuring clean water and adequate sanitation for their citizens.

Today, water service provision is increasingly decentralized. Managing water equitably, efficiently and sustainably requires cities to coordinate action and find solutions at a local level.

Local and regional leaders raised a common voice for water and called on national governments to create more effective partnerships concerning water and sanitation on the occasion of the 4<sup>th</sup> World Water Forum in Mexico, in 2006 (Local Government Declaration on Water). A Water Consensus for Local and Regional Authorities was adopted in Istanbul in 2009 at the 5<sup>th</sup> World Water Forum.

The World Water Council and the organizations of local and regional governments such as United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG) and ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability are committed to assisting cities, towns and regions in developing their capabilities to respond to water and sanitation challenges. The Istanbul Water Consensus (IWC) is a unique initiative that recognizes that local and regional authorities are at the center of water management. By providing support and opportunities to exchange, promote and learn, the consensus helps and challenges local decision makers to improve their water management strategies and services in the face of global changes.

The Consensus acknowledges the need for concerted efforts in urban water management, and commits its signatories to taking action. To date, more than 1100 signatories worldwide have adopted the Consensus, partly due to the continuous promotion of the IWC in partnership with membership organizations such as UCLG and ICLEI. In order to encourage others to follow their example and join the Consensus, the World Water Council and key partners have developed the IWC website: [www.istanbulwaterconsensus.org](http://www.istanbulwaterconsensus.org). Not only does the site provide information on the Consensus, its goals and its commitments, but it also aims to showcase innovative and efficient solutions, actions and policies implemented worldwide by signatory Champion cities, such as in Bordeaux (France), Brisbane (Australia), Buenos Aires (Argentina), Incheon (Korea), León (Mexico), Osaka (Japan), State of São Paulo (Brazil)...

This Dialogue for Water and Cities is the Kick Off Meeting of the Local and Regional Authorities Process leading up through the 7<sup>th</sup> World Water Forum, and beyond to Habitat III, which will collectively support implementation on the Istanbul Water Consensus. The ‘Water and Cities’ theme and the Consensus will have further exposure during the year, at events such as the Istanbul International Water Forum from the 27<sup>th</sup> to 29<sup>th</sup> of May 2014.

At the World Urban Forum, on April 8<sup>th</sup>, the World Water Council, UCLG, ICLEI, UN-Habitat and GWOPA will promote the IWC and the ‘Water and Cities’ topic and encourage you to learn more about the Consensus at the “Dialogue for Water and Cities”:

**Program of the Dialogue for Water and Cities, Argora Room, April 8<sup>th</sup>, 2:00-3:45pm:**

<b>Time</b>	<b>Agenda Item</b>	<b>Speaker</b>
5 minutes	Opening and introduction	Bert Diphooon Director, Donor Relations and Resource Mobilization Service (DRRMS) / Chair, GWOPA Steering Committee, UN-Habitat
10 minutes (5 minutes/ each)	Welcome remarks	Aníbal Gaviria Correa Mayor of Medellin (tbc)
		Jacqueline Moustache-Belle, Co president of UCLG / Mayor of Victoria, Seychelles
30 minutes	Keynote addresses	Joan Clos Executive Director, UN-Habitat (tbc)
		Newton Azevedo World Water Council Governor / Vice president of Associação Brasileira da Infraestrutura e Indústrias de Base
40 minutes	Panel 'Local Actors for Global Matters' by Mayors and water and sanitation utilities  Facilitator: Mary Jane Cristano Ortega Vice President, ICLEI	Mohamed Seffiani, Mayor of Chefchaouen, Morocco
		Musa Mbhele, Head of Planning, Durban, South Africa
		Manuel Sande e Castro Salgado, Councilor of Lisbon, Portugal (tbc)
		Bas Verkerk, Mayor of Delft, Netherlands
		Yong Hoan Jhin, Director General Bureau of World Water Forum Support of Daegu Metropolitan City
		ANEAS, Mexico (tbc)
		EPM Medellin, Colombia (water and sanitation utility) (tbc)
SEDAPAL, Peru (water and sanitation utility) (tbc)		
10 minutes	Invitation to the 7 <sup>th</sup> World Water Forum	Yun Eon Hwang, Director of the Planning & Operation Division, National Committee for the 7th World Water Forum
10 minutes	Wrap up and way forward	Faraj El-Awar, Program Manager, GWOPA Secretariat, UN-Habitat

**About the World Water Council**

The World Water Council is an international organization that aims at promoting awareness, building political commitment and triggering action on critical water issues by bringing people together, through active hydro-politics, and serving as linkage between stakeholders and decision-makers.

The World Water Council, which has its headquarters in Marseille, France, brings together around 300 organizations from more than 50 different countries. [www.worldwatercouncil.org](http://www.worldwatercouncil.org) / [facebook.com/worldwatercouncil](https://facebook.com/worldwatercouncil) / [twitter.com/watercouncil](https://twitter.com/watercouncil)

Every three years, the World Water Council organizes the World Water Forum in close collaboration with the authorities of the host country. It is the largest international event which seeks to advance the cause of water. Serving as a stepping-stone towards global collaboration on water challenges, the Forum is a unique platform where the water community and the policy and decision makers from all regions of the world can work together to create joint solutions. Stakeholders from more than 140 countries attended the latest edition. The Council catalyzes collective action in between each World Water Forum and guarantees continuity and success from one edition to another. [www.worldwaterforum7.org/en](http://www.worldwaterforum7.org/en)

The Istanbul Water Consensus (IWC) is a product of the World Water Council, a unique initiative that recognizes that Local and Regional Authorities are at the center of water management. By providing support and opportunities to exchange, promote and learn, the consensus helps and challenges local decision makers to improve their water management strategies and services in the face of global changes. To date, the WWC has gathered more than 1100 signatories around the IWC.

[www.worldwatercouncil.org](http://www.worldwatercouncil.org) or [www.istanbulwaterconsensus.org](http://www.istanbulwaterconsensus.org)



#### About UCLG

United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG) represents and defends the interests of local governments on the world stage, regardless of the size of the communities they serve. Headquartered in Barcelona, the organization's stated mission is to be the united voice and world advocate of democratic local self-government, promoting its values, objectives and interests, through cooperation between local governments, and within the wider international community.

UCLG supports international cooperation between cities and their associations, and facilitates programs, networks and partnerships to build the capacities of local governments while. The organization promotes the role of women in local decision-making, and is a gateway to relevant information on local government across the world.

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



#### About ICLEI– Local Governments for Sustainability

ICLEI is the world's leading association of cities and local governments dedicated to sustainable development. ICLEI is a powerful movement of 12 mega-cities, 100 super-cities and urban regions, 450 large cities as well as 450 medium-sized cities and towns in 86 countries.

ICLEI promotes local action for global sustainability and supports cities to become sustainable, resilient, resource-efficient, biodiverse, low-carbon; to build a smart infrastructure; and to develop an inclusive, green urban economy with the ultimate aim to achieve healthy and happy communities.

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



#### About UN-Habitat

The United Nations Human Settlements Program, UN-Habitat, is the United Nations agency for urbanization and urban challenges. It is mandated by the UN General Assembly to promote socially and environmentally sustainable towns and cities with the goal of providing adequate shelter for all. The agency has four core functions assigned by world governments - monitoring and research, policy development, capacity building and financing for housing and urban development.

UN-Habitat's programs are designed to help policy-makers and local communities get to grips with the human settlements and urban issues and find workable, lasting solutions. UN-Habitat's work is directly related to the United Nations Millennium Declaration, particularly the goals of member States to improve the lives of millions of slum dwellers and reduce by half the number of people without sustainable access to safe drinking water.

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



#### About GWOPA

GWOPA is an alliance of partners working towards the common goal of making Water Operators' Partnerships (WOPs) happen more often and with greater impact. GWOPA counts amongst its supporters utility associations on all continents representing thousands of water utilities, regional development banks, international financial institutions, labor unions, civil society organizations, development partners, and learning institutes.

GWOPA's direct goal is to promote and enable impactful WOPs. It does this by creating awareness about WOPs, producing and sharing knowledge and tools, and rallying the funds and political backing to enable effective WOPs practice. GWOPA is ultimately contributing to the Millennium Development Goals of halving the proportion of the world's population that remains unserved by adequate water and sanitation services. WOPs make the greatest contribution through capacity enhancement, while helping to catalyze the change required to increase access to the poor.

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

#### Press Contacts:

##### World Water Council

Carole Schaal Cornillet

[c.schaal@worldwatercouncil.org](mailto:c.schaal@worldwatercouncil.org)

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

##### Grayling

Bertrand Paul / Daniel Da Costa

Tel. 00 33 1 55 30 70 75 / 70 90

[worldwatercouncil@grayling.com](mailto:worldwatercouncil@grayling.com)