



To the attention of
H.E Ir. Joko Widodo, President of the Republic of Indonesia
H. E Mr. Luhut Binsar Pandjaitan, chairman of the National Organizing Committee
H. E Mr. Basuki Hadimuljono, chief operating officer of the National Organizing Committee
Mr. Loïc Fauchon, President of the World Water Council

January 10th, 2024

Subject: Civil society participation at the 10th World Water Forum

Co-chairmen of the 10th World Water Forum,

We, the undersigned organizations, representing thousands of citizens, including women's, indigenous, and youth water groups, wish to request your assistance in ensuring the fair and equitable inclusion of civil society organizations in the 10th World Water Forum.

Considered as the largest international event and place for debate and exchange on the issues of water and sanitation for all, the World Water Forum is a unique opportunity to connect and exchange with a diversity of stakeholders from the water sector, position water-related issues on the international agenda and contribute to an inclusive implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

As the main multi-sectoral discussion platform, a World Water Forum without civil society organizations participation would become an impenetrable bureaucratic process. As the inclusion of all stakeholders is at the very heart of the World Water Forum's identity, we cannot imagine that a procedure to facilitate the participation of civil society would not be put in place. Although we expressed our concerns back in July and reiterated them at the second stakeholder meeting in Bali in October, we have yet to receive any feedback or information.

The success of such an international process can only be guaranteed if it involves all stakeholders, including civil society, to ensure that people's voices are heard, including those in vulnerable situations, for their access to equitable, inclusive, and affordable WASH services and to be a driving force.

Concerned about the issues facing our sector, and keen to participate in joint work, many CSOs are willing to make significant efforts to contribute to the Forum which is shaping up to be a key momentum for advancing the water issue at both global and sub-regional levels.

However, at this stage of the preparations for the 10th World Water Forum, we are concerned about the following issues:

1. Forum registration fees

Registration fees are very high and are steadily increasing: 900 euros for participants from OECD countries and 650 euros for other countries. These fees will be prohibitive for many NGOs and CSOs.

We do, however, welcome the efforts made in favor of young people and students (with rates of 300 and 75 euros respectively), and we call for a similar effort to be made for NGOs/CSOs, particularly those from developing countries and fragile states and volunteer organizations in general.

2. No sponsorship mechanism

The inclusive and balanced participation of civil society at the Forum will only be possible if funds are guaranteed for this purpose. To date, no specific provision has been made to facilitate the attendance of our organizations in May 2024. We are seeking a prompt, adequate and transparent budget allocation within an acceptable time frame- considering the challenges of visa issuance - to fund the participation of NGO/CSO representatives and local stakeholders, as has been done at previous Forums and for the UN Water Conference last March. Financial support should cover travel, accommodation, visas, and insurance. The participation of a representative and balanced civil society at the Bali Forum will only be ensured if sufficient funds are secured. The lack of



information on a possible financial support mechanism is distracting NGOs/CSOs from the Forum and its preparatory process, as they do not expect to be able to attend Bali.

We therefore also call on all theme and sub-theme coordinators, to encourage members of thematic coordination groups and other participants in a position to do so, to financially support the attendance of some of their members and partners.

3. Civil society participation in Forum sessions

We emphasize the need to make sessions interactive, with the possibility of intervention by all stakeholder's groups in all processes, as well as balanced international representation. We recommend following the guidelines that were used for the Brasilia and the Dakar World Water Forum on the participation, as panelists, of NGOs, women, youth, indigenous peoples etc. A balanced, multi-stakeholder international representation should be ensured.

We are currently working to ensure that the voices of civil society are heard at the Forum, ensuring that information is shared and that contributions can be made, as in the case of the call for contributions to the regional and thematic processes, which we widely publicized and for which we organized an online information workshop bringing together over 80 participants from some 15 different countries. We therefore expect you to do everything in your power to ensure the inclusion of civil society representatives around the globe at this Forum.

We want to explore the possibilities of setting up a collective civil society stand and organizing an event around our common messages. However, the voice of CSOs must not be limited to CSO spaces but must be considered in official sessions and processes. We stress the importance of fully transparent, inclusive, and participatory processes leading up to and during the Bali Forum.

4. Civil society participation in the political process

As with previous Forums, we wish to be contributors to the political process. We welcome the announcement of a political process - including a ministerial declaration - to strengthen the impact of the Forum. As for the previous World Water Forum, we are seeking your support in attributing observer seats to civil society during the upcoming political segment session scheduled for March 28th at UNESCO Paris HQ and the following one in Indonesia.

5. Follow-up on commitments made at previous Forums

Finally, we recall that the WWForum includes a 2 year or 3-year preparation phase, a week-long event, a presentation of results and a follow-up process that links to the next forum and subsequent implementation. We emphasize the importance of robust, transparent monitoring and evaluation of all Forum commitments, including implementation roadmaps. We recognize that with the postponement of the Dakar Forum due to the COVID pandemic, Indonesia has less time to prepare for this Forum, and we support its efforts. Nevertheless, links between the different processes should be encouraged: from the regional process to the thematic and political process.

We underline the work done at the Dakar World Forum, resulting in the Dakar Declaration, which we support, and hope to see continuity between the commitments made in Dakar and those to be made in Bali.

We are sending you our recommendations in a spirit of cooperation, so as to contribute to the quality of the Forum. This is also the purpose of the mobilization of several of our members, who are already involved in the preparatory work on a voluntary basis.

We look forward to receiving your favorable response to our requests and remain at your disposal to discuss the stakes of mobilizing civil society during a meeting if you would agree.

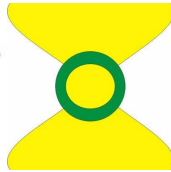
With kindest regards,

The undersigned organizations*



ANNEX1: List of signatories (undergoing)





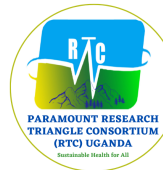
Chad Youth
Parliament
for Water



JEJARING AMPLI
Air Minum dan Penyehatan Lingkungan



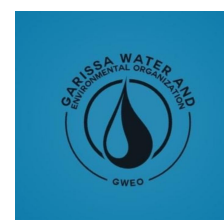
Sorooptimist
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Tanzania Youth
Parliament
for Water

