

March 24 2023– Water Conference – NGO Intervention for Dialogue 5
ButterflyEffect / Redes del agua Latin america / Cántaro Azul
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Excellencies,

I am Mónica Olvera from Cántaro Azul Mexican NGO and speaks on behalf of the Butterfly Effect coalition of more than 100 NGOS and CSO and Redes del agua Latinoamérica an advocacy network with Latinamerican perspective.

Most interventions of member States referred to a Water Crisis, this crisis is due to a huge lack of global governance on water. The proof is that 50 years passed to have a second water conference and that more than one hundred countries are very far to achieve the SDG 6.

The first action Member states have to do before leaving this conference is to Recognize the Global water crisis (in the same way as the climate crisis). Member States need to implement institutional national mechanisms to increase political attention to water, monitor actions and strengthen water governance within the UN.

National budgets must increase to strengthen public services and support community water management to address the discrimination and high inequality gap in rural and peri urban areas. Their opinion or experience must be taken into consideration when planning national programs, and International cooperation must prioritize and listen to these groups when developing public policies and allocating funds to ensure sustainability in time. In that line we fully support Colombia and Bolivia proposals to support community organizations and community water management.

We need to recognize the huge challenges but also the enormous capacities that local communities have, to overcome this crisis together. Where water becomes the reason for a global agreement, a long term agreement for present and future generations.

We need to join forces to obtain a UN General Assembly Resolution establishing regular intergovernmental meetings on water and sanitation within the UN to address all targets of SDG 6 and water related issues including the acceleration of implementation of the human rights to water and sanitation.

Without monitoring and enforcement of commitments, the inertia will continue, the UN Secretary General must appoint a UN Special Envoy for Water with a political mandate to strengthen international water governance and that representatives of major groups be among its advisors.

The UN has to develop an institutional structure to overcome the Crisis of Water, with higher political mandate, with data for making decisions, with participation and inclusiveness, with implementation, with real intergovernmental agreements, with public money investment and above all ensure the human rights of water and sanitation.

Thank you