



UN  
2023 WATER  
CONFERENCE

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## UN 2023 Water Conference Side Event

### *Citizens and Local elected representatives involved in North-South Solidarity based on resources from water bill*

21 March 2023, from 2:00 to 3:30 pm,  
French Institute Alliance Française (FIAF) New York

Organized by: [pS-Eau](#), [the French Water Agencies](#), [UCLG-Africa](#) and  
[GWOPA](#)

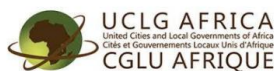
#### **Background on the event (one paragraph)**

In order to implement the objectives of the Water Decade and of SDG 6, actions need to be taken at national and local levels. Complementing the role of multilateral and bilateral organisation, which are mainly focused on national level, local authorities in relation to their partners also have a crucial role to play at the local level. In this context, partnerships have already existed for many years between local authorities from North and South, involving other local stakeholders from on both sides, to develop and improve water and sanitation services. Each country has its own institutional framework and can develop an appropriated approach. For example, some European countries have developed solidarity approach, whereby 1% of the resources of water and sanitation services can be used to support international solidarity actions: France since 2005, through an approach based on the local authorities responsible of the water and sanitation services, and water basin agencies; Netherland, through their Water Company and Switzerland have also developed such approach.

#### **Water Action Agenda**

**Promote cooperation between Northern and Southern local authorities, in particular through decentralized cooperation, and South/South cooperation to develop access to water and sanitation and achieve SDG6 (#SDGAction50594)**

The funding and partnerships of French local authorities have been steadily increasing since 2005, supported by the funding of agencies (440 million USD mobilized since 2005, half of which by local authorities and the other half by the water agencies). In 2021 alone, more than 200 French local authorities have supported actions in favor of partnerships in Southern



countries. These projects have also resulted in the development of territorial partnerships in France, as well as in the countries of the South.

### Speakers:

- André Viola, local elected official and member of the Adour-Garonne Water Basin Committee (France)
- Jean-Pierre Elong Mbassi, Secretary general of Cities and Local Government – Africa
- Julie Marechal Perkins, GWOPA (Global Water Operator Partnership Alliance)
- Saleck Moulaye (Nouakchott Region, Mauritania) and Dorothee Spühler (EAWAG/Sandec Switzerland and the Swiss Solidarit'Eau mechanism)

### Key Issues discussed

- The mechanisms allowing local authorities and water utilities to mobilize financial means (1% of their resources) to support international solidarity actions in the field of water and sanitation.
- The interest for the citizens using a water service to understand the importance of such solidarity to which they contribute via their water bill
- The interest of the direct collaboration between local authorities and water and sanitation services mobilizing their own competences but also associating the other stakeholders of their respective territories
- The impact of the water basin agencies in supporting such international solidarity in the field of water and sanitation
- The leverage effect of other funds for these solidarity actions carried out by local authorities
- The benefits of these partnerships for the recipient communities.
- Solidarity to be implemented also between towns and cities in the South

### Key recommendations for action

- Increase the mobilisation in solidarity for water and sanitation services of local authorities and utilities from any countries
- Associate the mobilization of 1% of the water and sanitation budgets mobilised by partner local authorities with the allocation of 1% of their water and sanitation budget by the beneficiary local authorities
- Encourage the 1% approach also between territories in Africa
- Mobilize the diasporas, which are often the source of community mobilization for international solidarity
- Articulate international solidarity actions in response to strategies and action plans defined by local actors (local authorities, users, formal and informal service operators, and other stakeholders in the territory under consideration)
- Strengthen peer-to-peer collaborations between North/South and South/South water utilities
- Learn from and share the lessons of the solidarity practices and peer-to-peer collaborations implemented

