

JOINT DECLARATION OF MOVEMENTS IN DEFENSE OF WATER

From the 14 to the 19 March, we, people with an integrated vision of life, activists from social movements, non-governmental organizations, networks that fight all over the world in defense of water, land and common property, have shared ideas, struggles, concerns and proposals. At the same time, we have realized how struggle experiences have changed the reality in all parts of the planet, stopping the process of the privatization of water. We are no longer on the defensive, we are able to promote concrete proposals that are already in march in every corner of the planet.

Arising from the spirit of Caracas, that brought together many organizations from around the world in the defense of water, we now have in our history and hearts, the fights of La Parota, La Laguna, Xoxocotla, Acuitlapilco and many others both in Mexico and the world. The humanity and commitment of those that organized this Forum is a success in the building of our movement.

For all this and in continuity with the meetings in previous years during the World Social Forums, the social movements that fight all over the planet for the right to water in an eco-systemic and integrated vision, and against its commercialization within all areas (domestic, agricultural and industrial), come together in a platform of common action that considers the problems in each place within a global strategy.

CONSIDERING THAT:

1. Water, in all its forms, is common property and access to it is a fundamental and inalienable human right. Water is the inheritance of all communities, people and humanity, principal force of life on our planet. Water is not a merchandise. For these reasons we reject all forms of privatization, including public-private partnerships that have shown their complete failure all over the planet.
2. Management and control should remain within the public, social, community, and participative sphere, with equality and being non-profit. It is the obligation of all local, national and international public institutions to guarantee these conditions, from the planning process to the final control.

3. Solidarity between present and future generations should be guaranteed. For this we reject the developing, neo-liberal and consumerist model that promotes the over-exploitation of mother nature.
4. Sustainable management of ecosystems and the preservation of water cycles through the ordering of land and the conservation of natural environments, is necessary. Hydraulic basins are basic integral units of public management, elements of identity and community joint, in which citizen and people's participation is effected. The defense of water implies the recuperation of the health of ecosystems from catchment sources to the treatment of residual water.
5. Given the previous conditions, we register our unyielding opposition to all the World Water Forums, gatherings of large multinational corporations, international financial institutions (World Bank IDB, EIB, etc.) and powerful governments of the world, for being exclusive and antidemocratic. We will not legitimize these organisms that ignore the real demands of the people and who, on the contrary, seek new ways to market water, and treating with disdain, the high human, social and environmental costs of this neo-liberal model.

WE CALL ON

Organizations, social movements, governments and parliaments to include these principles in the local, national and international legal frameworks.

All citizens of the planet to develop joint actions to unite and organize and concretize our proposals for change, articulating a world movement in matters of water.

WE DEMAND

The exclusion of the World Trade Organization and other international free trade and investment agreements, both bilateral and multilateral, regarding water.

Advances in the demands to government and corporations for the reparation of damage that they have caused to populations by contamination and lack of access to water.

The abolition of the International Center for Settlement of Investment Disputes (ICSID), considering the experiences of Cochabamba and other people that strive to regain sovereignty over common property by placing them in public hands.

Reclaim and promote public, social, community, participative and integrated management of water.

We demand that all human being have access to and the right to good quality water and in sufficient quantity for hygienic and feeding purposes and that, in areas with services that provide potable water, the necessary quantity is provided free, independently of cultural, religious, social, geographic, economic or gender situation. for this, we reject any type of double standard. No corporation, government and international institution can interrupt the service for causes related to payment failure for domestic consumption.

Industries and corporations responsible for contaminating actions repair the environmental, human and economic damages that they have caused.

WE REJECT

For being illegitimate, all demands for profit and indemnities for corporations and multinationals.

Any financing conditioned on the liberalization and privatization of water services, by the International Financial Institutions (IFIS).

National and regional legislation that opens the doors to the process of privatization and commercialization of water.

The predatory and unsustainable model of water through the undertaking of mega-projects, dams, building of ports, mine exploitation and bottling.

WE PROPOSE

The promotion of quality organisms of public management that function on a democratic basis through the exchange of shared experiences as well as technical knowledge, training, means and finance proposals for the consolidation of a public, social, community and participative model.

The promotion of education and community organization regarding the responsible and sustainable use and consumption of water.

The dissemination of experiences of the establishment of solidarity funds for the financing of models of public, participative, community and social management of water.

The creation of international and regional observatories as meeting points for social organizations, movements and international cooperation networks for the exercising of social control over the activities of multinationals and the IFIS that also involves parliaments, local governments and democratic institutions.

The strengthening of existing international tribunals and the promotion of their formation in the various regions of the world.

WE COMMIT OURSELVES TO

Promote a world action plan that will continue the process of building networks and mobilization regarding water.

Promote, from local struggles, a platform on a world level, based on solidarity that unites and strengthens us.

Value the contribution of women, native people, indigenous, young people and all those incorporated in the defense of their rights and building of models that show that an alternative form of water management is possible.

Continue this process, enriching it will all possible contributions in the next meetings that our movement will have in the world: the Creating Alternatives Meeting European Union-Latin America to be held in May in Vienna; the Meeting of the South American Community of Nations in Bolivia in September and the Citizens Water Assembly in Brussels in December.

Within this framework the world water movement commits to undertake three joint actions:

1. A global, common and simultaneous activity between September and October of 2006.
2. Adopt as a slogan for all activities "The right to water is possible with public and participative management".
3. Disseminate this declaration in press conferences in each locality on returning to their territories as a slogan of the world water movement.

**On the 19th day of the month of March
2006 in México, Tenochtitlan**

***More than 200 signatures of national
and international organizations.***