

Marseille calls for an Alternative World Water Forum in March 2012.

The sixth World Water Forum will take place in Marseille, France, in March 19-24 2012. The Mediterranean city will host more than 20,000 participants from all over the world under the aegis of the World Water Council*¹.

This private organisation claims to promote universal access to water and advocates the collaboration of private and public institutions. However, this kind of organisation has always proved to be a failure and never guaranteed fair access to water everywhere. This Council considers water - indispensable for our survival - as a commercial good, called "blue gold" and the World Water Forum as its marketplace.

Billions of people across the planet are deprived of water. Faced with the failure of the international community to prevent water-related conflicts throughout the world and ensuing major disasters in the near future, we maintain that:

- Water is a universally shared resource and not a commercial commodity and must not be used to make profit. Water is a common property to be managed by the public sector.
- Water is essential for all living beings and should be accessible to all. This fundamental and universal right should take effect now.
- Water must be preserved. Water is essential to the survival of humanity and the planet's biodiversity

Therefore, we call all other associations, NGOs, labour unions, political groups, elected representatives and citizens of the world, to mobilise all together for the **Alternative World Water Forum in Marseille** in March 2012, organised at the same time as the sixth annual World Water Forum.

At this occasion, we will express our refusal to consider water as a commercial commodity. We will submit urgent democratic, social and ecological measures to face the worldwide water crisis.

We promise to support and to promote alternative initiatives, which will guarantee democratic management of this vital resource throughout the world.

Signed by : Local, national and international coordination committees for the Alternative World Water Forum in March 2012.

¹ * The World Water Council is a private organization including governments, international institutions, local government and representatives of civil society, and private water companies. Loïc Fauchon is the president of the Council and of the *Société des eaux de Marseille*, a subsidiary of a transnational French Véolia, the principal world water company.