

*World Water Assembly
for Elected Representatives
and Citizens (AMECE)*

PRACTICAL INFORMATIONS:

Enclosed you will find the following information:

- General Introduction to the AMECE
- Temporary Programme
- Registration modalities
- Hotel bookings details
- Transport Information

You can also find all these documents on our website (www.amece.net).

For any further information:

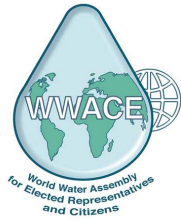
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World Water Assembly for Elected Representatives and Citizens (AMECE)

GENERAL INTRODUCTION TO THE AMECE

Struggles against the privatisation of water-related services and the merchandising of water have achieved significant successes during the last fifteen years, particularly in Latin America, Asia, Africa and several western European countries. These successes are indeed still insufficient; however they are signs of a new trend, such as in Bolivia, Uruguay, Venezuela, and even Italy (during the last weeks).

Other political institutions, such as the European Parliament, have taken a position in favour of the recognition of the right to water as a human right, and of water as a common good.

The global water movement has the responsibility to build its future strategies of action on the bases of these successes, towards the application of concrete measures as means to change the current situation, rather than to the recurrent description of the issues at the core of these situations and the proposition of alternative solutions.

The idea of a World Water Assembly for Elected representatives and Citizens finds its roots in the AWWF in Florence, in 2003, and was presented during the AWWF in Geneva in 2005. The resolutions adopted during the World Social Forums of Bamako and Caracas and during the fourth World Water Forum in Mexico, provided strong support to this project.

The AMECE must be a public space dedicated to the meeting of people and the sharing of information between the latter, where priority must be given to the application of concrete measures for change, in order to reinforce the works developed during the forums stated above. The main objective is to circumvent ideological struggles that occult the actual water-related issues: the right to live!

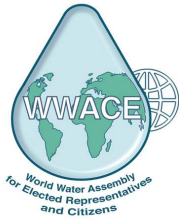
Objectives and expected results

It consists of the concretisation of the principles described in the resolutions of Bamako and Caracas, which were largely adopted by the European parliamentarians on the 15th of March 2006, in prevision of the fourth World Water Forum of in Mexico.

The main objective of the AMECE consists in several commitments that have to be taken by the participants before, during and after the AMECE itself. All participants who feel concerned about these issues, who embrace a culture favourable to a responsible and united citizenship for all, and who are in favour of the right to water for all, a public and collective management of water as a common good and a humankind heritage, should take these commitments into great consideration.

Therefore, the goal is that participants take common commitments in order to realise:

- › Access to clean water and sanitary services for all as a human right;
- › The promotion of water as a common good, a heritage of humankind;
- › The funding of activities and services referring to “water as life”, and “water as a condition for a secure collective existence” by the public sector.
- › The implementation of participatory and democratic structures inherent to a public government of water resources.



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Considering the objectives and the results of the Forums of Bamako, Caracas and Mexico, the AMECE invites:

- › Representatives of the civil society;
- › Elected representatives of all political and institutional levels (from the local to the international levels);
- › Representatives of local public institutions (municipalities, provinces, regions, etc.);
- › National and international trade unions of several sectors of activity;
- › Water-related public companies and organisations (local public services companies, etc.).

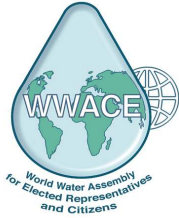
Each category of participants is supposed to have prepared and developed its own commitments for the AMECE session.

During the international meeting, a summary of all propositions will be developed, in order to pick up the main common trends of actions that have to be put into a concrete form.

Our strategy is to apply these concrete measures on the field, based on newly favourable local and national contexts. By 'concrete', we mean solutions that are applicable on the juridical, institutional, social, cultural, economical, financial and technological scales.

Through the AMECE session, we wish to:

- › Encourage the emergence of: new forms of decentralised cooperation; public-public partnerships; and solidarity movements for the right of access to drinkable water for all.
- › Bring together all social actors: NGOs, trade unions, water associations, elected representatives, etc., in order to decide of a common proposition towards the International Institutions. The long-term objective is to set up regular consultations under the aegis of the United Nations, while waiting for the creation of an international organisation for water rights.
- › Create a better communication with the citizens at all levels, in order to develop a global consciousness about the seriousness of water issues, such as the access to drinkable water, for instance. This would create a true participation of all water users to the management of the resource, which are necessary elements in order to improve the quality and the management of water.



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TEMPORARY PROGRAMME

Saturday 17 March 2007 Arriving date and reception of the participants.

Sunday 18 March 2007

9am to 1pm: General introduction: Plenary assembly.

- a) Foreword by the Belgian Minister for Cooperation and Development, and other Belgian and European authorities;
- b) Introduction by the organisation Committee;
- c) Two key reports (~ 45 minutes each)
- d) Speeches (~ 15 mn each) from a representative of each group (one mayor, one elected official, one union member, one person from the civil society, etc.)

2:30 pm to 5pm: Two **distinct** working sessions

- a) Achieving “access to water as a human right” (Introduced and chaired by a mayor).
- b) Financing public water (introduced and chaired by a representative of the unions of the public sector).

Monday 19 March 2007

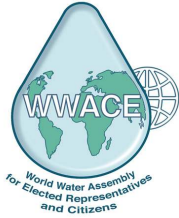
9am to 1pm: Two **distinct** working sessions

- a) Promoting water as a common good (Introduced and chaired by an elected official).
- b) The participation of citizens to water governance (Introduced and chaired by a representative of the civil society)

2:30 pm to 5pm: Two **distinct** working sessions

- a) Achieving “access to water as a human right” (Introduced and chaired by a mayor).
- b) Financing public water (introduced and chaired by a representative of the unions of the public sector).

This day is dedicated to four distinct sessions. However, there may be some opportunity to set up spaces for stands' animations, specific workshops, and other cultural/convivial demonstrations.



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Tuesday 20 March 2007

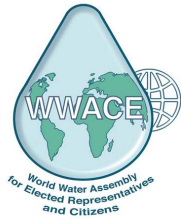
9am to 1pm: Two **distinct** working sessions

- a) Promoting water as a common good (Introduced and chaired by an elected representative).
- b) The participation of citizens to water governance (Introduced and chaired by a representative of the civil society).

2:30pm to 6pm: Plenary Assembly

- a) **Plenary Assembly**: Presentation of the results of each working session.
- b) **Plenary Assembly**: Presentation, examination and selection of the common commitments.
- c) **General Conclusion**

The definitive version of the programme will be outlined at the end of January, after the third meeting of the international committee, which will be held in Nairobi during the World Social Forum.



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REGISTRATION MODALITIES

Enclosed you will find the registration form to be completed and returned to one of the following addresses:

- › E-mail: secretariat@amece.net
- › Fax : +32(0)2 706 40 99
- › Mail: AMECE c/o Belgaqua
127-129 rue Colonel Bourg
1140 Bruxelles (Belgique)

The form is also available on our website: www.amece.net

DEADLINE FOR REGISTRATION

The deadline for all registrations is the **28th of February**, due administrative reasons with the European Parliament.

Attention : **FOR ALL PARTICIPANTS WHO NEED A VISA**: Please return the completed form **before the 14th of February**, in order to facilitate the administrative tasks for the deliberation of your visa with the Foreign Affairs Office of your country of origin.