



FOR AN ALTERNATIVE WORLD WATER FORUM 2021 IN MARSEILLES

AWWF 2021 CHARTER

The World Water Forum (WWF) plans to hold its 9th edition in March 2021 in Dakar, the capital of Senegal. The cost of this event is estimated to reach 20 million euros, a large part of which will be borne by the host country.

A reminder: this institution is not a United Nations organ, it was initiated by water multinationals which are the real stakeholders. They target Africa to develop the commoditization of water in a continent that struggles to develop, where water is scarce. An African consumes 30 litres a day on average, compared to 200 litres for a European and 700 litres for a North American.

Véolia and Suez-Lyonnaise will stage their WWF in Dakar over a weekend in order to chat about the leasing of water distribution in crisis-ridden countries, where a large section of the population has no access to drinking water.

Many of us are outraged by the organization of an event which is exclusive to the real needs of the people, which will not only bring nothing positive to the Senegalese but will cost them! This is the context in which we propose to hold an Alternative World Water Forum (AWWF).

Will associations for the right to water, non-governmental organizations, activists for alternative forms of development adopt the same shameful positioning and follow the same neo-colonialist policy?

Eau Bien Commun PACA (EBC PACA) [Water as Common Good PACA], Mouvement National de Lutte pour l'Environnement (MNLE) [National Movement for the Environment] and Réseau Homme et Nature [Man and Nature Network] have no intention to add cynicism to WWF's contempt. They propose to work together starting in March 2021 in Marseilles and online, as we did in 2012 when the AWWF shook up the multinationals' accommodations. They invite all those who do not consider water as a commodity to set an agenda which will take into account the evolution of the environmental situation.

1. ORGANIZATION OF THE ALTERNATIVE FORUM

The Forum will start in March 2021 in Marseilles. The exact dates have yet to be determined. However the Forum is intended to become a perennial structure, established in Marseilles, whose purpose is to enable continued online exchanges as well as the organization of concrete actions locally and internationally.

It will be possible to take part in the Forum physically and, given the health circumstances, through videoconferencing for the many. Considering the inherent constraints of the technical support for videoconferencing, participation in any one workshop will be limited to 250 persons.

3 Commissions will be set up, each containing representatives of AWWF founding members (MNLE, Réseau Homme et Nature, EBC PACA, EBC France) as well as one representative of each organization joining the present Charter:

- the organizing Commission, which will review the various propositions for workshops and adopt the programme by the end of January 2021;
- the logistics Commission;
- the validating Commission for workshops and outcome documents.

2. FINANCIAL MATTERS

2.1. Financing

Each founding member and each organization joining the present Charter shall self-finance its own activities in connection with the AWWF.

2.2. Participation in the videoconferences

An access code shall be necessary to participate in videoconferencing workshops. It shall be provided by MNLE on request, subject to availability. The access codes shall be personal.

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The fee for obtaining access codes has been established as follows:

- 20 € for an individual person;
- 60 € for a legal entity. Legal entities shall be provided with 4 personal access codes.

2.3. Financial control

A dedicated account shall be opened for the Marseilles 2021 AWWF.

A transparency Commission shall be set up, whose purpose shall be the monitoring of income and expenditure relating to the holding of the Forum.

Membership of the Commission:

- Michel PERRIN (Réseau Homme et Nature, trade unionist), Treasurer, who shall have signing authority on the AWWF account;
- Perrine PRIGENT (member of the Marseilles City Council, in charge of enhancing the cultural heritage and improving public spaces);
- Pierre LEMERY-PEISSIK (environmental activist, member of the Aix-Marseille-Provence Metropolitan Council);
- Jean PONCET (MNLE);
- one representative of EBC France;
- one representative of EBC PACA.

3. DISCUSSION TOPICS

So as to remove **water as a common good** from the hands of multinational corporations, discussion topics shall be decided on. It is hoped that they will result in concrete proposals. A non-exhaustive list of potential topics is provided below.

3.1. At international level

- access to drinking water;
- water shortage;
- exploitation of groundwater resources, sustainability and quality of underground aquifers;
- water pollutions;
- melting of polar sea-ice and glaciers.

3.2. In France

- monopolizing of resources by the private sector;
- aging water distribution and sewage systems;
- access to the first vital cubic metres for all;
- reform of Water Supply Agencies;
- drinking water fountains, public toilets and showers in cities;
- swimming pool filling.