



CALL FOR ACTION

We, the 110 children of the 2nd Children's World Water Forum, representing 29 countries, reaffirm the Children's Water Manifesto drafted by 109 children in Kyoto, Japan, in 2003. United, we call for action to support the participation of children in water, environment, sanitation and hygiene education, to meet the Millennium Development Goals. Sadly, the 2003 Children's Water Manifesto has seen little concrete follow up. Now, three years later, we renew our call to the adult world to involve children in local actions to overcome the critical global challenge facing our water and sanitation environment.

Today UNICEF says there are 400 million children worldwide without enough safe drinking water to live. This is wrong. This is killing our future. We call on you to act.

We ask all adult decision makers to:

- Fulfill the human right to sustainable, safe drinking water supplies and basic sanitation, through the provision of child-friendly facilities in all schools and communities, taking into account the needs of girls, very young children and children with disabilities.
- Encourage children to participate in water supply and sanitation programmes, give scholarships and project grants to those who are most active.
- Create a children's parliament in every country, which includes a committee on water, environment, sanitation and hygiene issues. Take these parliaments seriously in decision-making processes.
- Support networks of children at all levels, to exchange ideas and support one another in their local actions.
- Visit our communities, observe our local actions and respond to our requests for support face to face.
- Value us as partners and promote our actions through national radio and television programmes.
- Use direct language in plans and strategies, addressing what children need and want.
- Enforce laws to stop deforestation, because without trees the groundwater disappears and the soil destabilizes. For one tree cut we ask you to plant two more.
- Help us teach all children (without discrimination by age, race, gender, religion or economic status) how to make contaminated water fit for drinking and how to properly dispose of waste in emergency situations.
- Not allow water to become what oil is today: scarce and expensive. Big water (and other) companies should invest ten cents of every dollar of their profits to guarantee safe water for children wherever they are.
- Support peer-led water education, have clubs organized in our schools and communities.
- Guarantee an equal playing field for poor people and polluters.
- Fine those who dump human faeces into our water. Use money from the fines to build water treatment plants.
- Apply common sense in governance. Make rules that can be implemented. Enforce and implement laws for those who contaminate our waters so that there are consequences to be faced.
- Consider the cost of medical treatment and school days missed of children who fall sick because of polluted drinking water and lack of hygiene and sanitation.
- Make it possible for communities and children to participate in the management of the water supply and sanitation facilities to ensure that there is ownership of the facilities.



- Do not allow water to be privatized. Ensure that water is a resource available for all people.
- Do not divert rivers because this creates serious ecological damage to the watershed areas.
- Hold primary polluters responsible for poor water quality in developing countries.
- Ensure the participation of children in national agendas for poverty reduction, sustainable safe drinking water supply and basic sanitation, education and gender equality.

We, the children of the world, are ready to work with you. Are you ready to work with us?