

Loic Fauchon's Speech for NATURE HUB at the UN Water Conference 2023 Transcript of oral speech (Engl).

New-York, 22 March 2023

We are in front of an important need of water resources. I would like to underline two other main problems we are facing. One is coming from demography and from climate, and at the other from the increase of all kinds of pollution. Air pollution, water pollution, soil pollution, ocean pollution. The “plasticizing” of oceans. And if you have some time tonight or tomorrow you should take a look at the survey published in the Lancet with a very important group of scientists, something like the GIEC, concerning pollution.

The conclusion is that today we have from eight to nine million people dying each year from different kinds of pollutions, which represents the same amount as two silent covid per year!!

We need to exactly understand what happened and it's part of the fight we are trying to organize against the relation between mankind and nature.

The second important issue I would like to underline is water for food. We have a huge problem in front of us, look for example just at the case of Africa. Africa has today 1,2 billion inhabitants, and in the middle of the century around 2050, will have 2,5 billion of habitants say the experts, and at the end of this century around 3 to 4 billion people. And we have to deliver water and try to find water for food. This is just the example of Africa. There is the same kind of problem in South America and some parts of Asia.

This is why the World Water Council, with his 300 organizations and 70 governments are trying to deliver solutions and the World Water Forum is one momentum to do that. I will say a few words just after.

So Nature Based Solutions are one of the answers which are very important to try to decrease these different threats, because the nature-based solutions provide natural barriers, nature-based solutions stimulate sustainable agriculture, nature based solutions help cities becoming low carbon and more resilient.

The story is that in September 2021 we were participating to the IUCN CONGRESS in Marseille in France. The World Water Council and also the International Network of Basins Organizations which is chaired by Mr Eric Tardieu. We have decided to launch a declaration called “No water security without ecological security” and “No ecological security without water security”.

And today, after the 9th World Water Forum was held in Dakar and further to different big events, I think we have more than one hundred important organizations which have signed the declaration, and we want to move forward. This declaration, if you accept to sign it with your organization, is now a commitment that we need to convert into a three-years action plan that we will disseminate during the next days; Nature-based solutions are one of the contents of this action plan.

We need your enthusiasm first, we need your expertise, your involvement and the involvement of the new generation concerning nature-based solutions for water.