

Convention

NEW STRATEGIES FOR OBTAINING THE RIGHT TO WATER

The Convention is promoted by the 'Italian Committee of the World Water Contract' within the cooperative European Campaign "WATER : *Water Access Through Empowerment of Rights*" for recognition by the international community of the right to water for all and to guarantee water access to people who are victims of poverty.

What strategies to adopt to obtain recognition of the right to water?

Today, despite two decades for water promoted by the United Nations, the right to water is not recognized, water is not considered a common good, nor is its protection a priority.

The battle for the recognition of the human and social right to water in sufficient quantity and of sufficient quality for a decent human life is a central commitment of the 'militant' mobilization promoted by the World Water Contract, by local Movements and by the Alternative Water Forums, which are moving together to obtain declarations of intent in this direction from the United Nations and from national Parliaments during World Water Forums.

For the occasion of the 60th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (United Nations, December 10th 1948), in response to requests from the Movements and from the AMECE (World Assembly of elected representatives and Citizens for Water) in March 2007, some governments (including the German, Swiss, Italian and Bolivian...) had started proceedings in the UN Human Rights Council to re-launch the proposal for UN recognition of Water as a Human Right, in a specific declaration which would be an addition to the 1948 Declaration.

Our hopes were dashed on March 20th last: following a U.S. veto, supported by Canada and other States, the VI Session of the Human Rights Council decided not to take any special initiative for the 60th anniversary of the Universal Declaration which will be celebrated on December 10th next. The decision taken was to nominate a new special rapporteur charged with presenting a report on water in three years' time. Formal recognition of the right to water has thus been postponed to 2011 and consequently an important objective for the celebration of the 60th anniversary has been cancelled.

In the face of this refusal, the Convention intends to ask: What strategies are practicable in support of the 'right to water for all' over the coming years? What kind of mobilization can citizens, Movements and the so-called civil society undertake to try again to obtain the recognition of the 'right to water for all' by their own governments and the International Community?

This event, sponsored by the Italian Committee for the World Water Contract and by the NGOs which support the campaign 'WATER – Water Access Through Empowerment of Rights', aims to take stock of the current situation, disseminate knowledge of the proposals from the Networks and various Movements working on different continents, examine the routes and the proposals (Conventions, Protocols, Declarations) through which Institutions and organized components of civil society can re-launch their campaigns for the recognition of the Right to Water during the forthcoming World Water Forum in Istanbul in March 2009.

The Milan Convention, which was deliberately scheduled before the 10th of December as a preparatory event for a 'critical' commemoration of Human Rights Day on its 60th anniversary, is the first in a series of events which the Water Movements are organizing to identify 'new strategies for the right to water', according to the calendar of world events scheduled in 2009.

Secretariat (organization)

Comitato italiano contratto mondiale sull'acqua -Onlus v. Rembrandt 9 Mi- tel. 02.48703730 –
to register: info@contrattoacqua.it



WATER
WATER
ACCESS
THROUGH
EMPOWERMENT
OF RIGHTS

Campagna promossa da:

CEVI - CICMA - CIPSI - COSPE - LEGAMBIENTE
CERAI (SPAGNA) - FRANCE LIBERTÉS (FRANCIA)
GREEN BELGIUM (BELGIO) - KESSA DIMITRA (GRECIA)
HUMANITAS (SLOVENIA) - TNI (OLANDA)

In collaborazione con:



Pace
Cooperazione Internazionale
Partecipazione
Politiche Giovanili

Realizzato con:



Il sostegno dell'Unione Europea
nell'ambito della Campagna
"WATER - Accesso all'acqua
attraverso la promozione
dei diritti".

60° Anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights
Draft Program "New strategies for the right to water"
Milan, 28 - 29th November 2008

Friday 28 November 2008

- 9.00 Registration of Participants
9.30 Opening remarks
- *Irma Dioli* - Council Office peace, cooperation, participation , Provincia di Milano
 - *Emilio Molinari* -President Italian Committee for the World Water Contract (Cicma)

Recognition of the right to water: institutional routes

Introduction: *Riccardo Petrella* - *Secretary International Committee for the World Water Contract*

- **The UN route for recognition of the right to water**
Maude Barlow - *Senior Advisor on water issues General Assembly of the United Nations**
 - **Declarations of the European Parliament**
Roberto Musacchio - *Vice-Chair of the new .E.P. Temporary Committee on Climate Change*
 - **The position of the European Commission on Water and the Environment**
Stavros Dimas – *EU Commissioner for the Environment**
 - **The Latin American route for including the right to water in the Constitution**
Renè Orellana -*Water Minister,, Bolivia **
 - **The Italian government's proposals**
Giorgio Sfara, *Minister Plenipotentiary, Coordinator for Environmental Affairs, General Direction for Development Cooperation*
- 13.00 - Lunch Break

New Mobilization strategies for the right to water: the Movements' routes (15.00- 18.30 pm)

Introduction: *Rosario Lembo* - *Secretary Italian Committee for the World Water Contract*

- **European Water Campaign** - *Marco Job* - (*CEVI*)
 - **The Italian Movement for Water as a Common Good** – *Renato Di Nicola* (*Italian Forum*)
 - **The European Water Network** - *Martin Pigeon* (*CEO Netherlands*)
 - **The African Platform of the Water Network** - *Sekou Diarrà* (*Mali*)
 - **The Movements for the defence of water resources** - *Dennis Garcia*, *Ecuador*
 - **Water and the Mediterranean** - *Ahmet Ertak* (*Mayor of Sirkak, Turkey*)
 - **The Uruguayan experience to constitutionalizing the water right** -*Marta Cunetti* (*Red Vida*)
 - **The North American Network for Water** – *Amil Naidoo* (*Blue-Planet –Canada*)
 - Further discussion
- 18,30 - Closing remarks

Saturday 29th November 2008

Towards the Istanbul Forum: what strategies to obtain the right to water for all ? (9.00-13.00 a.m)

Introduction *Tommaso Fattori* – *Comitato italiano contratto acqua, Forum Italiano dei movimenti*

The proposals of Institutional and Movements

- *Christian Legros* (*Belacqua*) - Group of companies “ *Aquapubblica Europea*”
- *Steve Bloomfield* - (*EPSU European Public Services Union*)-
- MEPs and Mayors for Public Water
- *Danielle Mitterrand* - President *Fondation France Libertes* (*French Freedom Foundation*)
- *Emilio Molinari* - President *Italian Committee for the World Water Contract*
- *Spokesperson* - Platform “*No to the commodification of water in Turkey*”
- *Spokesperson* - Campaign “*another Water Management is Possible*”
- *Riccardo Petrella* - President *European Institute for Research on Water Policies(IERPE)*

12.30 - Final summing up

13.00 - Closing remarks

* awaiting confirmation

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