



INTERNATIONAL SUMMIT OF THE GREAT RIVERS OF THE WORLD: "TAKING ACTION FOR WATER AND CLIMATE"

23-25 October 2017
Rome, ITALY

The Italian Ministry for Environment, Land and Sea will hold the International Summit **"Water and Climate: Meeting of the Great Rivers of the World"** from the 23rd to the 25th of October 2017 in Rome, ITALY.

The managers and representatives of the most important river basins of the world, coming from all continents, will meet, for the first time in Italy, in order to inspire a meaningful dialogue aiming at facing the future of water, threatened by more and more frequent and violent climate change and its dramatic consequences in terms of floods, drought and degradation of ecosystems.

Demographic, economic and ecological impact of climate change is getting very serious and require a global mobilization. Effective adaptation programs need to be put in place shortly, since they are indispensable to cope with climate-related risks and, in particular, with their negative impact on water resources, that are already threatened in most areas of the world.

There is a urgent need to promptly react, before it gets too late, by making an appeal for participation and sense of solidarity.

In several countries water is insufficient, badly distributed and characterised by inadequate quality. Exacerbated by the lack of political attention, this problem is causing inequalities, forced migrations, widespread diseases, deaths, and therefore it represents a major threat to sustainable development. The future of water is seriously undermined, mainly due to the human action. Climate change, deforestation, inappropriate interventions on river banks, soil exploitation, floods, are increasingly responsible for disasters and human tragedies. In most cases, the worst consequences are paid by vulnerable communities in poor countries.

We need more effective and participatory approaches for water governance. According to our common experience, the **river basins are the most convenient frameworks for testing and demonstrating that wider participation**, involving all relevant actors, stimulate cultural development and lead to better management, able to combine the local interests and the factors that support life, development, harmony between man and nature, in the context of a new perspective of sustainable river management.

In most recent years, within the river basins, a renewed awareness has been raised about the need to bring the river and its basin at the forefront and experimenting good practices of management, in which the “**Basin Community**”, composed by citizens, farmers, fishermen, institutions, local administrators, associations and businessmen, share actions and instruments, aiming, on one hand, to protect water resources and, on the other hand, to guarantee access to good quality water for all, food security, energy and industrial development, preserving aquatic ecosystems and biodiversity at the same time.

The UN Climate Change Conferences held in Paris in 2015 (Cop21) and in Marrakech in 2016 (Cop22) introduced a new element in the international debate on climate change, by recognising the need to urgently promote a better water management worldwide, in accordance with the **United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)**. Further efforts are therefore needed to ensure that water becomes a top priority issue in future climate negotiations.

There is also the need to foster dialogue and experience sharing among the basin organizations of the great rivers, focusing on adaptation to climate change’s effects on water, in order to reinforce the cooperation platform, to advance the results already achieved, to improve governance, to ensure more efficient use of financial resources and to enhance exchange of information and know how.

For these reasons Italy has decided to take the lead and gather, for the first time in Rome, the great rivers of the world, so to stimulate a dialogue involving all relevant actors, in the name of solidarity and willingness to share experience and knowledge on the protection and rational management of this vital resource.

The meeting of the world great rivers will also aim at the endorsement of a common vision, in preparation of two crucial upcoming events: **COP 23 (Bonn, November 2017) and the World Water Forum (Brasilia, March 2018)**, wishing that they will be the occasion to recognize the key role of water in the international debate on climate change and in the decisions taken by Governments on the future of our Planet.

The Summit is organized in collaboration with **the UNECE (United Nations Economic Commission for Europe), the International Network of Basin Organizations (INBO), the Global Alliances for Water and Climate (GAWC) and Aquamadre.**

It will be held in the historic and prestigious **Campidoglio** of Rome.

The Italian Prime Minister, H.E. Paolo Gentiloni, as well as other high representatives of the Italian, European and International institutions, will open the Summit in the morning of **Monday 23rd of October.**

The following issues will be discussed during the working sessions:

- *Knowledge for adaptation to climate change: creation and strengthening of monitoring networks and Water Information Systems;*
- *Financial mechanisms for adaptation to climate change in basins;*
- *Public participation and involvement of the private sector for adaptation to climate change in basins;*
- *Green infrastructures and other nature-based solutions: no-regret measures for adaptation to climate change.*

For further information and registration:

<http://www.minambiente.it/water-and-climate-summit>

Venue of the Summit

Sala della Protomoteca, Piazza del Campidoglio, Rome.



Piazza del Campidoglio, designed by Michelangelo, is located on top of the historic Capitol Hill of Rome, facing the Ancient Roman Forum. Nowadays it is headquarter of the Government of Rome and hosts the well-known Capitoline Museums.

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