THE WOMEN FOR WATER PARTNERSHIP REPORT ON

WORLD WATER FORUM 6

TIME FOR SOLUTIONS
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WOMEN FOR WATER PARTNERSHIP (WfWP)
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1. INTRODUCTION

The 6th World Water Forum had the ambition to involve all (local) stakeholders in the sound and sustainable use of water resources. The Forum organizers have sought – through the grassroots and citizens commission – to articulate the specific role of civil society in this process.

Women for Water Partnership (WfWP), as the leading global women civil society network on water and sanitation, has responded to the invitation to organize the women’s initiative for the Forum. Within the limitations of the budget approximately 100 representatives from 41 countries were brought to Marseille to exchange and discuss their priority issues and to jointly prepare for the Forum itself.

The Women’s Initiative was a collective effort of the WfWP member organizations (appendix 1), Green Cross International and Peace Women Across the Globe with support of the City of Marseille, the IFC (Forum Secretariat) and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of France. It consisted of five main activities:
- The 2-days Women’s Preconference to World Water Forum 6 on March 10 and 11 (chapter 2);
- The Forum’s High Level Special Women’s Session on March 14 (chapter 3);
- The Women, Water and Peace Exhibition (chapter 4);
- Participation in the Butterfly Effect, NGO initiative of the 6th World Water Forum (chapter 5);
- Input on behalf of the Major Group Women in the political process (chapter 6).

In addition, the WfWP steering committee and member organizations have had a role in a number of panels and side events throughout the Forum (chapter 7).

This report summarizes the outputs and outcomes of the combined efforts of the Women for Water Partnership and its partner organizations participating in the Women’s Initiative. More detailed information is available in the appendices.

The report is dedicated to the volunteers that have given thousands of hours to make the Women’s Initiative to World Water Forum a success and to show the substance of women’s contribution worldwide to the provision of affordable, clean water and adequate sanitation for all.

A special word of appreciation goes to the Soroptimist Club of Marseille; without their relentless in situ support WfWP would not have managed.

The Women for Water Partnership is indebted to the numerous organizations and individuals that have contributed in kind to the Women’s Initiative. Their contributions amount to a multiple of the budget.
2. WOMEN’S PRECONFERENCE TO WORLD WATER FORUM 6

2.1 GENERAL

Women’s organizations are very diverse, ranging from grassroots-, rural- or professional women’s groups (lawyers, water professionals, business sector, scientists) to gender activists and various face and interest groups (peace and security, environment, sustainable development etc.). While individual women’s organizations input their specific interests, experiences and views in thematic dialogues and regional preparatory processes of the World Water Fora, there is also a need for an overall and combined perspective on water governance from the large segment in society that all these women’s groups jointly represent. Since the 4th World Water Forum in Mexico in 2006, it is becoming a tradition for the Women for Water Partnership to organize a women’s preconference immediately preceding the Forum itself. Through dialogue and exchange the diversity of experiences and opinions of the participating organizations is structured along common denominators that reflect the women’s perspective on IWRM and related topics.

On the eve of the 6th World Water Forum (March 10th and 11th 2012), approximately 100 women and an occasional man gathered in Marseille as representatives of their organizations, for the women’s preparatory conference to World Water Forum 6. The theme of the women’s preconference was ‘Women Leadership in Water and Sanitation’. The conference intended to bring to the fore the role of women and their organizations in providing tailor-made solutions for the day to day challenges in their communities, both in rural and (semi)urban settings.

The Women’s preconference concentrated on 3 main themes: women’s role in water and food security, community water management, and water, peace and security from a woman’s perspective. Representatives from an array of women’s civil society organizations, governments, academia, the water sector and professional NGOs dealing with gender and women’s empowerment presented their reality cases and lively interacted with each other to jointly determine the way forward and develop a road map to implement agreed principles and policies. The programme, background paper and participants list of the preconference are attached (appendix 2, 3 and 4).

2.2 LOGISTICS

Logistics has presented a major challenge. Preconference participants reached Marseille through interesting itineraries and massive detours - with NVB-Suriname holding the record of 36 hours from Paramaribo to Marseille and AWHHE-Armenia winning the challenge cup for airplane-train-bus hopping. We also found out the hard way that Marseille is not used to conferencing on a Sunday and that public transport almost comes to a standstill, making the hotels virtually unreachable for civil society representatives that are not granted per diems.
WfWP Treasurer, Lesha Witmer was awarded the ‘Innovative Travel Agent Trophy’ for her inventive persistence and creative solutions to match travel and hotel vouchers with more or less the right people. Simone Nicollof of Soroptimists Marseille established the Aubergne-Marseille-Aubergne express and was unanimously proclaimed Fearless Female Forum Driver.

In the end all but 6 persons have miraculously managed to reach the venue, albeit not always in time for their scheduled contributions. The conference co-chairs and moderators showed themselves worthy of their task by juggling with schedules and creatively improvising to make sure that all cases and themes were adequately presented and addressed. An apogee of the second day was the ‘ladies in waiting ceremony’ for arrival of Hon. Dinesh Gunawardena, Minister of Water and Drainage of Sri Lanka. We look forward to his manual on ‘How to sightsee Marseille by taxi in 2,5 hours while on your way from your hotel to the nearby conference venue’. We are appreciative to the Honorable Minister for his gracious endurance and meaningful contribution to the debate.

2.3 OPENING SESSION

The Vice-Mayor of Marseille, Martine Vassal welcomed the participants to her city and to the Forum. In her opening speech (appendix 5), she highlighted the importance of civil society involvement in obtaining water and food security on the long term. In response to that important role, the Forum organization installed a new commission next to the traditional commissions on thematic, regional and political processes: The grassroots and citizen commission was to ensure the full participation of women, youth, NGOs and indigenous people, and to ensure the mainstreaming of their inputs in the Forum deliberations, she explained. As Chair of this commission, Martine Vassal commended and congratulated the Women for Water Partnership for their outstanding performance in organizing the Women’s Major Group and their preconference to the 6th World Water Forum.

Keynote speaker, Hon. Maria Mutagamba was unfortunately delayed because of pressing issues in her home country. She conveyed her regrets to the Conference and ensured the participants that she would be in time for the High Level Special Women’s Session during the Forum itself.

WfWP President Alice Bouman-Dentener in her opening address, reconfirmed the commitment of the Women for Water Partnership to accelerate the internationally agreed development goals by furthering women’s empowerment and giving women’s
civil society organizations the means to execute their ‘central role in the provision, management and safeguarding of water’ as outlined in the Dublin/Rio Principles in 1992. She expressed her agreement with Mrs. Vassal’s call for involving the grassroots in the process. “When moving from vision to action, from policies to implementation, the principal actors change” she said. "The role of the Civil society segment has long been under par” Mrs. Bouman-Dentener continued. “In the running up to Rio+20, we are making sure that women take centre stage and show their leadership in achieving water and food security for all. We are happy to cooperate in this with UN-Water and other strategic partners and we are most appreciative for the support granted by the US Ambassador at Large for Global Women’s Issues, Mrs. Melanne Verveer” – who sent a personal video message.

After the musical intermezzo of the women’s choir of Marseille Maîtrise Gabriel Fauré Conference co-chair Mariet Verhoef-Cohen explained the agenda (appendix 2) and invited the approximately 100 participants to start their work on the three themes of the conference.

2.4 THEMATIC INTRODUCTORY SESSIONS

The three themes of the pre-conference were addressed through 12 reality cases from the different parts of the world (appendix 6: background on the reality cases), and complemented with presentation from specialists in the field. The presentations of Emma Anakhasian (AWHHE, Armenia) and Rehema Bavuma (KATOSI Women’s Development Trust, Uganda) were postponed to day 2 because of travel delays.

Madame Cristine Dagain, President Elect Soroptimist International of France opened on ‘Food security and the provision of water, Tunisia’. Her presentation made visible that the funding mechanisms that women’s organizations have to work with – or actually the lack of funding continuity – results in different elements of IWRM being implemented in succession rather than in a holistic, coordinated manner. Projects are divided in parts and executed according to funding availability (mostly provided by the Soroptimists themselves).

Conclusion/lessons learned: considerable progress/acceleration in implementation could be achieved if we, as Major Group Women, would be in a position to execute our entire projects and programmes and not be halted each time by lack of funds. Much human capital and resources is wasted on restarting. Long-term funding for processes and institution building is essential.

Robin Wahaj of FAO addressed the audience on ‘Mainstreaming gender in irrigation modernization planning’. She introduced their MASSMUS program that provides data on the importance of engendering the irrigation sector. FAO concentrates on educating managers on (lack of) land rights for women.

Conclusion/lessons learned: Sensitization of managers in irrigation is only 1 aspect of making land rights for women a reality. Cooperation of FAO with women’s organizations
could help to accelerate effectiveness of their program. Teaming up with the Women’s Major Group would ensure that real changes will happen on the ground.

**Ganna Svetkova** of MAMA86, Ukraine informed the conference on ‘Ecosan for water and food safety in Ukraine’. She showed the multiplier effect of supporting a women’s organization. MAMA86 has been at work for 10 years now and has moved from a small group of dedicated women to the highly professional network in 17 regions in Ukraine which is acknowledged by the government, has contributed to legislation and is forging practical watsan solutions for the people on the ground. Remaining rooted in society/ having women membership on the ground and working with governments and authorities at the various levels, as appropriate, has made MAMA86 a strong and effective tool for up-scaling and sustainability. Unfortunately, financial resources for multiplying these successful initiatives are still not forthcoming.

**Conclusion/lessons learned:** Women’s organization, however successful in their work and outcomes, keep struggling when it comes to attention of policy makers and donors.

**Badra Kamaladasa**, NetWwater presented on ‘RainWater Harvesting to improve hygienic condition in district hospitals in Sri Lanka’. Because sufficient water is now available, hospitals stay open all year round; this and hygiene improvement has an enormous positive impact on health of the population. This highly successful project started with initial network (WfWP) support; due to this essential (financial support) this network of academics and water professionals was enabled to operate to its full potential. The other success factor of this remarkable up-scaling is that NetWwater has built functional partnerships at the lowest appropriate level: the district/provincial level for implementation, the national level for governance issues, advocacy and financing; and the international level for financing and outreach.

**Conclusion/lessons learned:** Investing in the empowerment process of local women’s organizations creates a solid base for sustainable development. With all the partnerships in place, up-scaling is now reality with a large accelerating effect and positive impact on other spheres of life.

**Asha Abdulrahman**, Soroptimist International of Kenya gave an overview of their involvement with ‘Sustainable water supply at community level in Kenya’. The forest rehabilitation project for instance, provides an outstanding example of an integrated approach and translating this into realistic and manageable project. Key success factors:
- there is local ownership (facilitated by national Soroptimist networks, local women have been enabled to take ownership);
- there is a vision AND connection to the
government process;
- roles and responsibilities are clearly defined (e.g. once a forest is rehabilitated, it goes back to government for maintenance and management);
- water & sanitation project results in income generating activities.

**Conclusion/lessons learned:** Poor financial support remains the bottleneck to expand the successful and integrated approach of the SIK. The combination of tree-planting and water management seems to be a powerful action that appeals to women and local authorities and is implementable at local level; good examples from Kenya, Brazil and other countries.

*Mrs. Guoying Qin, Secretary General of the All-China Women’s Federation* shared with the participants their long-term project ‘Water Cellars for Mothers, in China’. All-China Women’s Federation has developed the 1+5 model for poverty alleviation: after a water cellar is provided, the other aspects of development are addressed. Local participants in the project are provided with a hygienic toilet, a solar cooker, a fold of poultry and livestock, a tidy courtyard and 1 mu (666m²) of trees or vegetables. The projects rely on a women’s organization (80.000 women in a 5-layered network). The women’s organization is adequately funded (through a social corporate responsibility funding scheme of business).

**Conclusion/lessons learned:** While at a totally different scale (1.6 billion dollars in 20 years), the principle remains the same: the project makes use of women’s organizations infrastructure to reach the women on the ground; it starts with providing water and empowering women; water provision is not the end but the start of an integrated development scheme for self-reliance. Sufficient and continuous funding is a key factor to success.

*Emine Erdem, Soroptimist International of Turkey,* contemplated on women’s role in Turkish society. She memorized the 5th World Water Forum in Istanbul when SI Turkey had a leading role in organizing the Women’s Preconference. This has given women’s involvement in water issues a serious boost. Soroptimist International of Turkey focuses on raising awareness and educating women and children to be water-conscious citizens and sustainable users in the future. Between 2008-2010 with ‘The Blue World: Water is Life’-project, SI-Turkey educated 48.101 people (39.624 students and 8.477 adults) on awareness on water which was followed by the implementation of educational activities around the country. The auxiliary project called ‘Tears of Water’ with the collaboration of various Universities reached another 74.000 people. She concluded that women provide a countervailing power to restore the balance in water management in her country. Their central role in food production and family care as well as increasing participation in economic development provides an entry point for integrated water resources management that will sustain our livelihoods and planet into the future.
Marie Laure Vercambre, Green Cross International, spoke about transboundary water issues, reiterating that 60% of the transboundary waters is not covered by any kind of international agreement at the moment. She stressed the importance of ratification of legal instruments like the UN water Courses Convention for various reasons:
- it supports good water governance;
- it leads to harmonization of water policies and equitable use;
- it is a mechanism for compensation for damages, moving etcetera for the local population;
- it creates stakeholder involvement which is essential in good governance;
- it assists with keeping water quality in good condition and thus is also instrumental for reaching the MDG’s.

According to Mrs. Vercambre it is all important for women to get more involved in these water management, transboundary issues. As good examples she mentioned the work of the Nile Basin Discourse and the Women Platform within – later further illustrated by Abby Onencan, regional coordinator of the NBD - and e.g. the work of Black Sea Women in the EECCA region.

Dr. Jayati Chourey of SACIwaters presented on capacity building initiatives for women water professionals (WWPs) in South Asia. Her presentation focused on various interventions at SaciWATERs and SaciWATERs-CapNet Network (SCaN) to promote WWPs through understanding the scenario in the region, gender sensitization, imparting necessary skills to women and supporting WWPs. Apart from sharing information on various initiatives of Crossing Boundaries (CB) Project and SCaN’s Gender trainings, she presented findings of ‘Situational Analysis of WWPs in South Asia’. While discussing the reasons for the much lesser number of women professionals in the water sector, the situational analysis report also proposed the way forward. This included formulating a gender policy for the sector; promoting more and more women to enter the sector as more numbers can make a difference; ensuring basic amenities and benefits at the work place; capacity building; and promoting women networks. At the end she also shared some inspiring cases from other organizations in the region.

Conclusion/lessons learned: Given the current status of women water professionals in South Asia there is a need for training a core group of women who could connect with conservative societies. The ‘Crossing boundaries’ program conducted by Wageningen university and SaciWATERs in South Asia is a case in point. This led to a core group of younger women water professionals who are familiar with community interactions and water management. She emphasized the need to create special opportunities for women water professionals.

Dr. Inga Jacobs of the Water Research Commission gave a comprehensive overview on ‘Menstrual Hygiene Management in South Africa’. It is a cross-cutting issue which is not factored into current policy development in South Africa. Awareness raising is a prime necessity, among policy makers as well as stakeholders, including schools and the women’s movement. A holistic approach is needed on Menstrual Hygiene Management that addresses education, culture, water, health, sustainability aspects etcetera, she concluded.

Zeba Rahman, Bangladesh Water Partnership addressed the issue of 'Water, Peace and Security from a Women’s Perspective’. She looked at water as a potential source of conflict in Asia. She illustrated women’s skills for organizing, lobbying and protesting in
order to bring about changes in water management that benefit their communities as a whole. This motivation and self-organization is a vital community resource in Water Security and Peace building.

Abby Waldorf, managing director of the wH2O magazine of Pennsylvania University provided an overview on the space for academic work on women and water. She pointed out the lack of scientific research to support the commendable work on women and water of the organizations present at this conference. The University of Pennsylvania has set out to bridge this gap. The wH2O Journal provides a medium to make interdisciplinary research on the topic readily accessible to researchers and practitioners alike. She expressed the hope that wH2O will catalyze the integration of women and water in university curricula.

Francesca Greco, UN WWAP reported on the gender mainstreaming initiative carried out for the World Water Development Report 4, by the UNESCO World Water Assessment program (WWAP). WWAP set up a Gender Advisory group which coordinated the activity and in which the Women for Water Partnership participated. Apart from a separate chapter on gender and water, each chapter includes a section on gender. She emphasized UNESCO’s intention to focus on desegregated data with a preliminary launch of the debate over indicators and sex-disaggregated exploration working towards a more efficient analysis of gender disparity in the water sector. She also proposed a ‘women in water management’ indicator of power-relationships and decision making in the water-world.

2.5 Wrap-up of the first day

Lesha Witmer, Representative of the Women Major Group in the Political Process of the 6th World Water Forum summarized the conclusions and lessons learned into concrete recommendations for the political process. She informed the conference participants of her inputs during the political process preparations and summed up the issues that she would bring (again) to the attention of the ministerial deliberations and parliamentarians on 12 and 13 March during the Forum itself.

Decision-making, policy and legislation:

☑ From policies to implementation, the principal actors change: gender question and women presence have to be taken into consideration in each step
☑ Move from consultation to participation: put women’s civil society groups at the centre of needs-assessment process
☑ Include gender-specific data in the monitoring systems/ criteria (and e.g. follow the advice of the expert panel from 2008)
☑ Empower women to play central role in the provision, management and safeguarding of water (Dublin principle 3)
Sustainability of watsan provision and management is a social issue, not a technical issue: organize local community involvement and use existing civil society mechanism as networking

“Involve us” as opportunities for rapid change: give women direct access to knowledge and resources to make informed decisions and be leaders in their own communities development

Recognise the right to water and sanitation

Ratify and implement international treaties, such as the UN water courses convention

Finances:

Donors have to re-evaluate the criteria for financial support, making longer-term financial support and support for capacity development processes possible (short-term project funding does not lead to sustainable solutions)

Fund locally-owned successful projects that have a potential of up-scaling to ensure sustainability

Paying for ecosystem services and services to the ecosystem – e.g. by local women’s groups – ensures sustainability and contributes to poverty elevation

Capacity development:

Capacity development activities also need to be demand-based and offered to the right group (not only to the group that ‘fits’ the perceived roles) — enabling women also to play non-traditional roles

Include community and gender issues in water curriculum at all levels

Watsan issues:

Promote 5R strategies: re-design, reduce, recycle, reuse, reallocate

Promote and enable multiple usage of water

De-mystify that rainwater harvesting would not be a good solution: it is do-able, cost effective (and usually not contaminated)

Integrated approaches like IWRM need coordination between stakeholders and ‘horizontally’ between sectors and ‘silos’

2.6 HIGH-LEVEL SEGMENT ON WOMEN LEADERSHIP IN WATER

The second day opened with the Women’s Empowerment and Leadership message of Mrs. Melanne Verveer, US Ambassador at Large for Global Women’s Issues. Ambassador Verveer highlighted the central role of women to advance the 3 pillars of sustainable development. She emphasized the importance of women’s empowerment and of fostering women leadership. “Women leadership is crucial, and a vast human potential” she said. Linking water
and sanitation to sustainable development, Mrs. Verveer continued by saying that "water is key; and women hold the key to developing localized and global solutions to ensure clean water for all."

She furthermore commended the women’s civil society organizations present for their outstanding work and the Women for Water Partnership for facilitating and empowering women's organizations all over the world through ownership of water and sanitation provision in their communities. Mrs. Verveer expressed her continued support to the work of the Major Group Women: "I look forward to working with you in the coming months to ensure that women’s issues are front and centre at every place where important decisions are being made."


While awaiting the arrival of the Minister for Water and Irrigation of Sri Lanka, **WfWP President Alice Bouman-Dentener** led the conference participants into an **interactive strategy session**. A lively recap of the first day resulted in a number of key denominators for addressing poverty and sustainable development in a holistic way through demand-driven water and sanitation provision. These conclusions were underpinned by concrete examples from the participating organizations depicting their different realities back home that have nevertheless much in common in terms of underlying process.

In conclusion, a **roadmap** should observe a number of underlying principles:

- ✔ Development is a process; it therefore requires a long-term vision and medium-term approach;
- ✔ Legal frameworks and institutional mechanisms at international and national level are by now sufficiently in place; they are however, not matched by an equally developed bottom-up mechanism (civil society and local authorities infrastructure);
- ✔ Now that we move from vision to action, to implementing agreed principles, it is high time to restore the balance so that bottom-up and top-down meet;
- ✔ Functional Partnerships at the appropriate level are key to make the process work; partnerships should comprise all relevant stakeholders and actors as appropriate, including civil society organizations. This is of particular importance in rural and semi-urban settings where centralized systems are not an option;
- ✔ Women’s organizations are CIVIL SOCIETY, not NGOs; the difference between civil society groups (social structures of mostly volunteers belonging to a specific Major Group) and NGOs (professionals working in the non-governmental sector on a specific social or environmental theme) is not clear to most decision makers, causing a lack of acknowledgement and support for the civil society groups;
- ✔ Adequate support for civil society groups will result in awareness and commitment at local level; it creates community ownership and will hence accelerate the implementation of the Internationally Agreed Development Goals;
- ✔ Women’s empowerment is indispensable to strengthen civil society and to create a strong bottom-up movement for development;
- ✔ Involving women and their organizations in water and sanitation provision is a strong empowerment tool;
- ✔ Locally owned and women-driven projects have a high rate of success and are sustainable;
Supporting women’s organizations yields a high return on investment.

The remainder of the morning session was dedicated to Community Water Supply in Sri Lanka. The Hon. Dinesh Gunawardena, Minister of Water Supply and Drainage was interviewed by Indian journalist Meenakshi Shedde. Mr. Gunawardena informed the conference of their very successful decentralized water management through community based organizations (CBOs) in Sri Lanka. “There are currently 3,600 CBOs for water and sanitation that reach 2.7 million people. The success of these CBOs lies largely in the partnership created between the government and communities”, he explained. “The government has recognized that with the proper resources, communities are much more effective at providing and implementing solutions than the government. Therefore, the government provides 70% of the funding for water supply services and the community provides 30%. Women play an important role in the CBOs as leaders and implementers of projects. The government also completed a nationwide sanitation program to install 2 latrines in each of 10,000 schools with help from UNICEF.”

When asked what he considered the most exciting part of this project, he responded: “The creation of the largest community based trust in Asia called the National Water Community Trust of Sri Lanka. Every CBO has membership in this community trust. It is managed by the board of trustees, which consists of one-third government members, one-third community based organization representatives, and one-third technicians. This provides an incredible example of a working relationship between the government and communities. The CBOs have been quite successful at providing water and sanitation in communities and the government is pleased with the balance of responsibility between the CBOs and supplemental government support.”

The minister engaged in a lively discussion with the participants who shared their experiences and views. He summed up the main challenges they faced as: 1) Gaining the trust of existing national water management structures, 2) mastering community participation, 3) ensuring sustainability (which was addressed by fostering women community leadership and training), and 4) empowerment of CBOs which is key to success. “Most important”, Mr. Gunawardena stressed in conclusion, “is the level of trust between the government and communities. In order for this partnership to be successful, the government recognized that communities can provide water and sanitation services..."
more effectively and efficiently than the government. This is a critical realization for successful government and community partnerships.”

Badra Kalamadassa, who went on to be the first female Head of Irrigation Department in Sri Lanka added that CBOs are a new emerging form of management. They are semi-governmental and in that sense comparable to farmer organizations in the irrigation sector. “But the agricultural system is still predominantly a male domain” she added, “although after the war, the number of female farmers increased significantly, farmer organizations are still predominantly male. Currently, a good 20% of the irrigation engineers are women.”

Session Chair Emine Erdem, Turkey thanked the Hon. Minister and all participants for the meaningful exchange and Meenakshi Shedde for making this interaction lively and structured.

2.7 Messages and Solutions to take to the Forum

Session Chair Milan Adikary, Nepal, welcomed the late arrivals Rehema Bavuma from Katosi Women Development Trust, Uganda and Emma Anakhasyan from Armenian Women for Health and a Healthy Environment and invited them to present their reality case.

Emma Anakhasyan on behalf of Armenian Women for Health and Healthy Environment (AWHHE) introduced the implemented projects of the organization aimed at promoting integrated water resources management as a long-term contributor to food security. Projects on providing villagers with clean irrigative water, sustainable sanitation and use of ecosan produce as a fertilizer were presented. AWHHE established Active Women’s Groups in villages to implement and promote the sustainable agriculture and water use (e.g. Integrated Pest Management approach, biohumus production and composting, solar food drying, ecological sanitation, water safety and saving, etcetera).

Conclusion/lessons learned: Women play an important role in water management, making multiple and maximum use of water sources. Active women have leadership and networking opportunities and they use their capacities effectively being part of Active Women’s Groups.

Rehema Bavuma, KWDT Uganda, told the success story of the Katosi Women Development Trust who had won the Kyoto Water Prize which was to be awarded to them at the closure of this Forum. Starting in 1996 with 4 women, KWDT has now 365 women in 16 women’s groups. They started with access to water and adequate sanitation for the local poor. Now 180 women households have rainwater harvesting tanks and latrines. They now have something to be proud of. After access to water, women automatically venture into income generating activities. Resources are put into a revolving funds so that gradually the whole community can be served. Their successful approach can easily be replicated in other areas.

Conclusion/lessons learned: Governance of water is more effective in a system that enables broad community participation. That is why the role of women is so important: they enable local ownership and real community participation.
The better part of the afternoon was devoted to crafting deliverable solutions for the High Level session for women and water on Wednesday during the World Water Forum and for the Rio+20 Conference in June. The participants divided into 7 discussion groups to further develop practical solutions that take into account the reality on the ground. A guideline was provided for the discussion group chairs and rapporteurs (appendix 7). A summary of main additional recommendations is given below. (For the full reports of the working groups, see appendix 8.)

1. China/Asia working group:
   - Have an annual ministerial gender session to integrate gender into their (water) portfolio’s;
   - Transboundary agreements: should not only be between governments; build cross-boundary networks of the different Major Groups.

2. Water & Food working group 1: What women need:
   - Supplementary irrigation; create a databank of best practices;
   - Including water for income generating activities (once the basic needs are covered);
   - Access to knowledge and resources for Rainwater harvesting and local water supply.

3. Water & Food security group 2:
   - Recycling of agricultural water is a must;
   - Involve women in decision making;
   - Start a chain reaction so that more and more women become involved.

4. Water & Food security group 3:
   - Transform traditional irrigation practices (use water-efficient irrigation methods);
   - Invest in appropriate technology and transfer thereof;
   - Ensure capacity development of women for appropriate and affordable technology.

5. Community Water Supply group 1:
   - Link women and youth (who are both civil society); together they should identify and define the needs per region according to their different circumstances.

6. Community Water Supply group 2:
   - There is a variety of solutions, not 1 solution fits all → emphasize the diversity of solutions; and educate people, especially women to look for tailor-made solutions; enable women to make informed choices;
   - There is a shared responsibility; only if different parties share their responsibilities can bottom-up meet top-down.

7. Water, Peace and Conflict Resolution working group:
   - Legal agreements should be ratified; they are binding for states to protect the right to water;
   - Post conflict situations are opportunities for rapid change.

WiWP President Alice Bouman-Dentener thanked all participants for their valuable contributions. She presented her wrap-up conclusions to move from agreed principles to accelerated implementation:

✔ Needs-based approach is the only way that implemented solutions will be sustainable;
✔ Water & Sanitation are women’s priority needs and an effective entry point for their empowerment and development;
If properly empowered through watsan provision – and thereby having a place AT the table – women will continue to be engaged and practice integrated community development. This has been demonstrated in all reality cases: China (1+5 approach); Kenya (restoring catchment areas); Ukraine (health-related issues); Uganda (RWH and sanitation) etcetera;

Define the different and complementary roles of governments, the water sector, civil society... and join them in functional partnerships (Sri Lanka CBO example);

Trust, acknowledgement of civil society and cooperation are key to making partnerships work (Hon. Minister Gunawardena);

Support the role of civil society; because eventually they have to make it happen in their respective communities and homes;

Realize that development is a long term process;

Do not stop at output level (finalize equipment; install CBOs and what have you); but ensure continuity (maintenance...) for the future;

Identify what is the appropriate level to coordinate a solution.

In conclusion: identify the various steps in the process, the actors involved, and ensure that the enabling environment is in place for all to work in partnership.

In the discussion that followed some extra points were added:

- Gender disaggregated data are a necessity. Access to water and adequate sanitation is however, not measured in inches or meters. → Develop innovative criteria and data collection methods that capture local delivery and social return on investment
- We, women know the WHAT from our daily reality; involve us in the HOW to ensure effective water governance.

The solutions session was wrapped up with a speech from Kenza Kaouakib Robinson, Secretary of UN Water. She emphasized the importance of involving women in the decision making projects from the beginning phases for water and sanitation development. The fact that UN Women has now joined UN Water which will strengthen the women and water cause.

Mrs. Kaouakib Robinson referred to Water & Food Security, the theme of World Water Day 2012 and cited that 90% of the crops for the poor are produced by women and thus we must ensure that women have cost-effective technology to continue producing and to diversify production. Additionally, women must gain access to land ownership because without the right to land, women will have difficulty gaining rights to water. We must also encourage the use of grey-water in agriculture to reduce the amount of drinking water that goes into irrigation. She stressed the importance of 2013, the International Year of Water Cooperation and the upcoming rio+20 summit. “This Women’s preconference is an important stepping stone towards concise, coherent and concrete messages to feed into Rio” she said. From the perspective of UNDESA she urged participants to make sure that every recommendation has a timeline and a framework for implementation.

Listening to the summaries of the working groups, Ms. Robinson emphasized that using the Major Group Women skills and approaches systematically will accelerate the implementation of the internationally agreed development goals and that the central position of water and sanitation in this process was clearly demonstrated by all the examples in this conference. She concluded her speech noting that the current
Millennium Development Goals do not respond to the criteria of universal access to water for all, which were recently passed by the UN. Rio+20 will be a space in which these criteria can be included.

Conference co-chair Kusum Athukorala, Sri Lanka, underpinned the importance of Rio+20. “Twenty years ago in 1992 at the first Sustainable Development Conference in Rio, women were officially recognized as important actors in leading the management of water resources. At the Rio+20 conference this summer, leadership from women will be important to show both the progress that has been made since Rio in ’92 and to prove the importance of continued support for women in increasing access to water and sanitation.” She recognized that current women water professionals are in their first generation. “In order to support the development of women water professional leaders in high-level positions, we must provide leadership and management training for women. We also must remember to learn from the communities that we are targeting – they have been dealing with poor water supply and sanitation and a changing climate for centuries, and thus we have a lot to learn from them.”

2.8 REPORT AND MESSAGES FROM THE YOUTH PARLIAMENT

The Women’s Preconference had the pleasure of having in our midst 2 representatives of the Youth: Sherifatu Yussif, representing Green Cross North Ghana presented the outcomes of the Youth Parliament activities and events, while Raleigh Davis, University of Pennsylvania, USA gave her perspective and invited Women to work together with Youth to bring this about. Their presence served to underscore the need for developing opportunities in the water sector for young women water professionals through gender cognizant initiatives.

2.9 FORUM INFORMATION AND CLOSURE

Luna Liu of the Forum Secretariat who has given indispensable support to WfWP for the last 1,5 months, introduced the 6th World Water Forum eloquently to the preconference participants and answered their questions. She left people with a sense of direction and purpose for the forum — to work on integrating women into water management at all levels of the decision making tree.

She congratulated the participants with the success of the preconference and stated that we could count on her continued support throughout the Forum itself. The participants applauded her and thanked her for all she had done to make this event happen.

The preconference participants agreed on concerted action to make access to water for food, domestic use and income generating activities a reality for the Bottom Billion on our Planet who lack such basic needs. They entrusted the co-chairs and WfWP steering committee to transform the outcome of the preconference into concrete messages for the Women’s High Level Session on Wednesday 14th of March.
3. High Level Special Women’s Session

3.1 Opening

The auditorium was packed on the early Wednesday morning of March 14th for the High Level Special Women’s Session of World Water Forum 6 entitled ‘On the Catwalk – Women Leadership in Water; presenting new thinking, new challenges’. With people standing along the walls and more interested persons trying to force their way in, a new challenge presented itself: preventing security from stopping the event before it had even started. Their help in addressing the overcrowdedness is highly appreciated. With a slight delay, the event could start. For the session programme, see appendix 9.

WfWP President Alice Bouman-Dentener cordially welcomed all participants to the session. She issued a special word of welcome to the members of the High-level Panel: the Hon. Maria Mutagamba – Minister for environment and water of Uganda, the Hon. Rejoyce Mabudafhasi – Deputy Minister of Water and Environmental Affairs of South Africa, Queen Mother Madame Célestine Ketcha Courtès – Secretary General of the Network of Female Mayors of Cameroon and Ambassador of the Mayors of Francophone African countries to the European Union, Mrs. Famke Janssen – Ambassador of Green Cross International, Mrs. Odile Gauthier – Director Water and Biodiversity of the French Ministry of Ecology, Mrs. Lee Hae Keyong – Director Korea Women Development Forum and Board Member of the Korea Water Forum, and Mr. Donald Steinberg – Deputy Administrator of USAID. She expressed her regrets that Hon. Dinesh Gunawardena – Minister of Water and Drainage of Sri Lanka had to return to Sri Lanka that morning and hoped that the important aspect of women leadership in community water supply and the successful approach in Sri Lanka would nevertheless get the attention it deserves. Her thankful appreciation went to Kenza Kaouakib Robinson, Secretary of UN Water, not only for moderating this important session, but also for all her groundbreaking work and never faltering commitment to water and gender. Mrs. Bouman-Dentener apologized to those who were denied access because of the overwhelming interest in the women’s session.

After briefly dwelling on the Women’s preconference and commending all participants for their valuable contributions in preparation for and during the conference itself, the WfWP President handed over to the Women’s Preconference co-chairs Kusum Athukorala and Mariet Verhoef-Cohen for presenting the catwalk.
3.2 On the Catwalk

Nine women and two men from WfWP member and partner organisation (appendix 11) went on stage to show the messages and solutions from the women’s preconference (appendix 12).

Message 1: The time has come to move from talking to action!
After two decades of dialoguing since the UNCED in Rio in 1992, we have sufficient agreements in place to move forward. Now we want action to match the talk. The Women’s Preconference to World Water Forum 6 proposes Millennium Development Goal # 9 – Half by the year 2015, all water and development related conferences. Put all the money that is saved herewith into a Women and Water Development Fund dedicated to Women’s priorities in water and sanitation and to be managed by the Women’s Major Group herself.

We women know the what, involve us in the how! Move from consultation to participation. Put women’s civil society groups at the centre of the needs assessment process. They will involve their communities and ensure that projects are sustainable.

Message 3: Empower women to play central role in the provision, management and safeguarding of water!
The Women’s Preconference calls for the speedy implementation of Dublin Principle 3: enable women to play their central role in the provision, management and safeguarding of water. This will not only result in increased access for communities; when women are empowered through water and sanitation, they will continue the development process in their communities.
Message 4: The provision and sustainable management of water and sanitation is a social issue, not a technical issue!
The Women’s Preconference addressed the underlying principles of effective water governance: practicing a participatory approach and delegating responsibilities to the relevant level. The participants recommend to: organize local community involvement and use existing civil society networks (including the Major Group Women) as a mechanism for community participation.

Message 5: Involve us as opportunities for rapid change! Promote women’s leadership!
There was agreement that the potential of women to contribute to development in general and to Integrated Water Resources Management in particular is undervalued. Women should be given access to knowledge and resources to make informed decisions and be leaders in their own communities’ development.

Message 6: Dare to let go and delegate responsibility to local level!
A recurrent theme during the women’s preconference was the ‘appropriate’ level at which water provision and management should be addressed. The importance of community level in decentralized systems came to the for. Women hold the keys to their communities’ development. Support their organizations and decentralized water governance will take effect was a key message from the participants.

Message 7: In times of crisis, put your money where your mouth is!
We need action to match the talk; and find ways to rapidly engage local people in realizing water and food security in their countries, taking into account the consequences of climate change. There are plenty of best practices, from many local projects around the globe; but there is insufficient possibility for those successful projects to advance beyond pilot level.
The participants of the women’s preconference wish to bring to the attention of policy and decision makers that investing in the up-scaling of locally owned successful projects provides a huge potential for accelerated implementation and will ensure sustainability and good governance of the water and sanitation utilities. It will contribute to self sustenance of developing countries.
**Message 8: From policies to implementation, the principal actors change!**

A recurrent statement is that we have come to a new phase. Preconference participants urge governments to move from vision into action, from policies to practice, as stated in the WFWP communiqué to the Women’s Preconference (appendix 18). We urge governments and the water sector to take the Women’s Major Group on board to accelerate and meet the water related internationally agreed development goals. The International Year of Water Cooperation – 2013 - is good moment to start.

**Message 9: Create a gender sensitive cadre of young water professionals!**

The Youth of today are the leaders of tomorrow. A strong plea to partner with youth was made by the Youth Parliament during the Women’s Preconference, and seconded by all participants. We have much to learn from each other and are complementary in approaches and skills. In this context, it was also recommended to include community and gender issues in water curricula at all levels.

### 3.3 High Level Panel

The High Level Panel was expertly moderated by **Kenza Kaouakib Robinson, Secretary of UN Water**. She stressed the importance of women leadership in water and sanitation, especially when it comes to universal access for all. She commended the Women for Water Partnership for its longstanding commitment to women leadership in water and sanitation and congratulated the member organisations, steering committee and secretariat with their impressive results. She welcomed and introduced the members of the High Level Panel (for short bios, see appendix 10) and invited them to deliver their statements.
Hon. Mrs. Maria Mutagamba, Minister for Environment and Water, Uganda opened by applauding the Women’s Preconference for their excellent work and by reconfirming her commitment to Women Leadership in water and in sustainable development in general. She recalled the Dublin Principles of UNCED that assign central role to women in the provision, management and safeguarding of water: “Acceptance and implementation of this principle requires positive policies to address women’s specific needs and to equip and empower women to participate at all levels in water resources programmes, including decision-making and implementation, in ways defined by them”. She continued by saying that access to water and sanitation is crucial for Africa and that climate change will have a huge impact on women. Mrs. Mutagamba furthermore referred to her former Presidency of the African Ministers Conference on Water during which she spearheaded the development of the AMCOW gender mainstreaming strategy for the water sector in Africa. She recommended that in implementing this strategy, due consideration be given to the role of women, not only as individuals, but also as active and influential civil society group. “In my own country Uganda, it is time for gender mainstreaming ” she added. “Water user committees are required to have women as part of them; the treasurer of the committees must be a woman.” She continued by saying that African Union members recognize the essential role of women. She welcomed the initiative of the Women for Water members in Africa to embark upon a Women and Water Decade to developed women leadership at all levels and which will grant full support to women’s initiatives to provide water and sanitation for all. “I grant you my full support and cooperation” she said in conclusion.

Hon. Rejoyce Mabudafhasi, Deputy Minister of Water and Environmental Affairs, South Africa stated the high importance her government gives to women leadership in water. She gave some concrete examples including the price that her ministry issues for women’s water projects. She praised women as custodians of the environment in which water plays a central role. “We must empower women to play central role in the decision making process” she said.

Queen Mother Celestine Ketcha Courtès, Mayor of Bangante, Cameroon addressed the role of local authorities which to her is of critical importance for the implementation of policies and national action plans. In her opinion, the availability of water, not necessarily the cost, is the huge issue. Mrs. Ketcha gave her own town, Bangante with 200,000 inhabitants, as an example of how to facilitate the involvement of women. In every village of Bangante a Water Board was created with at least 50% of the representatives being women.
Green Cross Ambassador, Famke Janssen recalled the words of Mihael Gobachov during the opening of the 6th World Water Forum: “He believes in the power of all people, particularly women, to make change come about, change aimed at protecting the environment from global warming, to stopping conflicts over control of natural resources – like water – and to ensure all people can live free of poverty and insecurity, and enjoy a world that conserves – not exploits – its environment and its many natural wonders, including its rivers, oceans and poles.” Ms. Janssen continued by giving examples of women’s plight in water provision in Africa and making a case for empowerment of women as agents of change in their communities. “The world’s water crisis cannot be solved without women, and nobody should have any doubts that women are devoted to solving it” she concluded.

Mrs. Odile Gauthier, Director Water and Biodiversity of the Ministry of Ecology, France, looked at women leadership in water from her perspective as a woman in a lead position in the environment and water sector. She stressed the importance of role models and spoke of women’s inclination to give importance to sustainable development and taking into account long-term perspectives and the importance of nature and a healthy environment. She also indicated that women in those positions should show solidarity with grassroots women because they are in a position to forge changes.

Dr. Haekyung Lee, board-member of Korea Water Forum and President of Atopy Association of Korea spoke in representation of Dr. Eunkyung Park President of Korea Water Forum. She focused on the action plan of the Korea Water Forum for the next World Water Forum that Korea will be hosting in 2015. She announced the establishment of a sub-committee of Korea Water Forum entitled ‘Water and Women’, which will unite all similar kinds of
organizations in Korea. She expressed their commitment to bring international organizations, countries and grassroots organization together. “Korea Water Forum can be a catalyst and bridge to these organizations for the future international solidarity for Women and Water” she indicated.

Mrs. Lee pointed out that 2015 coincides with the closure of the Millennium Development Goals. She mentioned the huge difference between rural (1 billion dollars) and urban investment (6 billion dollars). “To fast-track towards the MDGs Korea looks for affordable technologies and decentralized systems such as rainwater harvesting. We encourage young engineers to become active in this field”, she said. The idea is to create smart combinations and turn them into business cases, and to encourage leadership in small/medium enterprises.

Last but not least, Donald Steinberg, Deputy Administrator of USAID gave his view on the role of women in world water issues. “Projects will not be successful unless they draw on contributions from women” he said. Mr. Steinberg named the three priorities of the US foreign aid policy: 1) improve health and nutrition (through water and sanitation), 2) food security (through water efficiency), and 3) strengthen resilience to stressors (water and climate change). “If women - and all minorities - are not involved in these 3 priorities, our efforts will be futile.”

He also briefly touched upon the new US gender policy. Gender is priority for them and all project proposals for USAID must have a gender component in the impact statement. There is a new national action plan for women and security and the US is working to measure women's input in agriculture, management of assets, time and workload. At the global level USAID strives to bring in partners to look at women and water.

3.4 BOTTOM-UP MEETS TOP-DOWN

The audience responded to the catwalk with additional examples from the field ranging from decentralized community water supply to the international dimension in water management, for instance of transboundary river management. Mrs. Wang Yongchen from PeaceWomen Across the Globe raised the issue of Yangtze River in China. “Please save the few natural and ecological rivers for our descendants and for ourselves” she urged.

Kenza Robinson apologized to the audience for having to break off the lively interaction because of coming to the end of the allotted session time. She gave the High Level Panel a chance for a 1 sentence redirect. Mrs. Rejoyce Mabudafahsi looked forward to future cooperation and indicated that she would continue to make a case for women leadership in water at the Rio+20 Summit. Mrs. Ketcha Courtes seconded that and reconfirmed her commitment. Dr. Lee stated that while formerly did not focus so much on women and water, they now most certainly will! Donald Steinberg stated: “Nothing about them,
without them”. This according to the moderator, was a most suitable way of concluding the High Level panel. She handed back to the women’s preconference co-chairs for the closure of the session.

3.5 COMMITMENTS FROM THE WOMEN’S HIGH LEVEL SESSION

Taking into consideration all the specific issues and themes that have been addressed during the Women’s Preconference and the High Level Women’s Session of the 6th World Water Forum, the Women for Water Partnership, the participants of the Women’s Preconference to the 6th World Water Forum, and the members of the High Level Panel committed themselves to be partners in achieving water and food security for all and to implement the messages and solutions as presented and discussed during the session.

To that effect together we will:

- Empower women as agents of change;
- Strengthen women’s organizations and their role in community development;
- Develop and strengthen gender sensitization of governments and water professionals;
- Strengthen intergenerational equity;
- Work towards the establishment of an International Women and Water Day;
- Monitor progress and report to global fora.

Mrs. Kusum Athukorala, Chair NetWwater, Sri Lanka was appointed spokesperson for the Solution and Commitments Session at the Forum on behalf of the women’s initiative. Her address is included in appendix 13.
4. WOMEN WATER AND PEACE EXHIBITION: ‘SAFE WATER WITH WOMEN!’

4.1 INTRODUCTION

PeaceWomen Across the Globe (PWAG) was the lead party in this activity under the Women’s Initiative of the 6th World Water Forum. The partners for this activity were Green Cross International (GCI) and UNESCO-IHP. WfWP acted as coordinator and fundraiser.

The exhibition articulates the human right to water & sanitation and the role of water in peace and security. The exhibition consisted of twelve posters (appendix 14), ten of which featured individual (peace) women from around the globe. The exhibition concentrated on women water experts who have created regional strategies for the preservation and sustainable use of water, thus contributing for social justice and peace in their communities. The posters contain statements and examples of their projects in English and French.

The main aim of the exhibition was:
- to show the connection between peace – (transboundary) water - women and concrete actions/solutions on the ground as examples of actions undertaken. As water is the daily concern for women, and being affected by the impact of climate change on livelihoods and justice, women have ideas and skills to safe water for a peaceful future for next generations. The aim is to make women's involvement and expertise on water visible.
- to interest other parties/ partners including local public for the theme and supporting the women’s organisations involved
- to make the connection between sound transboundary water management, international treaties and resolutions and their implementation
- get ideas and input for the international year of water cooperation 2013.

4.2 ACTIVITIES AND OUTCOME

The posters were displayed at the following venues:
- During the pre women’s conference at both locations
- In the stands of Women for Water, the World water Council and the Swiss development cooperation
- The posters have been posted on line on the websites of WfWP and Peacewomen.
Four of the Peace Women (Yin Yuzhen and Yongchen Wang from China, Samia Ibrahim from Sudan and Maria Eugenia Santana from Mexico) were present in Marseille and gave presentations, moderated by WfWP in the stands of the World Water Council and Switzerland. They were also interviewed several times by the Press.
A special issue of the newsletter of Peace Women was produced (appendix 15).

While less posters than intended could be produced because of limited funding, and finding exposition space has been quite a challenge, the posters themselves were well received and triggered interest and discussion. The Newsletter (in English, German, French and Spanish), report and posters can be accessed through the website(s):
http://www.womenforwater.org/openbaar/index.php (summary of the WWForum)

The cooperation to put together the Women, Water and Peace Exhibition has led to a number of (intended) follow-ups:
- an intended strategic partnership with UNESCO-IHP for activities during the Year of Water Cooperation (2013);
- the involvement of GCI in the High Level Session during the Forum in the person of GCI Water for Life and Peace Ambassador, Famke Janssen, (http://www.flickr.com/photos/greencrossinternational/sets/72157629618270305)
- intended cooperation with the Dutch organizers for the Year for Water Cooperation event 2013 in the Hague;
- an offer for a follow-up by being part of the exhibition in Geneva in September 2012 and 2013, organized by Green Cross (http://www.gcint.org/press-release/geneva-photo-exhibit-showcase-green-cross);
- Display of the posters during the Green Week in Brussels in May 2012;
5. WOMEN’S MAJOR GROUP INVOLVEMENT IN THE POLITICAL PROCESS

5.1 THE PROCESS AND PROCEDURES

Women for Water Partnership was asked to coordinate the input of the women major group into the political process of the Forum. There were three processes: ministerial, local authorities and parliamentary (http://www.worldwaterforum6.org/en/commissions/political/).

The ministerial process was very well-managed by the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Secretariat of the Forum. There was high ‘access’ for the Major Groups and thematic and regional coordinators. WfWP was approved spokesperson for the women major group during the prepcoms and worked closely with the three other NGO/CSO representatives and the Youth spokesperson. Involving other non-state/women’s organizations was hampered by the fact that no publication e.g. through websites was allowed, which limited possibilities to engage others through email traffic with known organizations and during meetings of the Butterfly Effect.

Both the co-chairs and the secretariat, but also different government representatives were supportive and accessible for non-state actors input.

All-in-all, during the ministerial process there was a fair amount of opportunities to engage and give written input before and in-between the prepcoms, oral interventions during the prepcoms either on the floor or during conversations with government delegations. This was not the case with the other two processes that were mainly managed by the Local authorities and Parliamentarians themselves, started very late and because of that presented very limited opportunities for non-state actors to get involved in the process.

5.2 OUTOMES

Women for Water undertook the following main actions:
- disseminated the documents within our network three times by email, resulting in input from 8 women’s organizations (WfWP members and Nile Basin Discourse);
- participated actively in the drawing up of the ‘messages’; (http://butterflyeffectwwf.blogspot.nl/p/key-messages.html) to the Forum – especially for the ministerial process – together with the other partners of the ‘Butterfly Effect NGO coalition’ -> this resulted in joined and coordinated messages
for the participating observers from the major groups to work with during the prepcoms and the Forum;
- sent input on behalf of the Women Major Group to the co-chairs and secretariat;
- was one of the coordinators and spokespersons for and during the two prepcoms, the NGO consultation and two of the ministerial roundtables (one of them being on the ‘water, food & energy nexus’ where we got speaking time).

Consensus has been reached and some interesting steps have been made e.g. with the implementation of the right to water & sanitation. Contrary to previous agreements, this time around it was the implementing ministries agreeing and committing. Stakeholder participation as such seems to have gained full(er) support all around. Paragraphs 3, 8, 13, 23 and 28 of the Outcome Document have direct relevance for women and (gender) equality. Some of our concerns have been addressed e.g. on food security.
The full formal reports and text of the declaration in different languages can be accessed through the website: http://www.worldwaterforum6.org/en/commissions/political/ministerial-process.

5.3 LESSONS LEARNED AND FOLLOW-UP

The input from the Women Major Group was well received. The outcomes of the political process/declarations have been officially forwarded to the bureau of the UNCSD/Rio+20 process by the French government.

The cooperation in the Butterfly Effect integrated the gender perspective and views of the Major Group women in the non-state actors inputs. It is recommended to continue to stay part of the Butterfly Effect NGO coalition to stay involved in this part of the process and to have an additional entry point.

The process should and can be made more interactive, engaging more women in the preparation and enabling them to give input. The main restricting factor has been the lack of adequate funding for WfWP to structure this process timely and adequately.
6. **The Butterfly Effect**

The Women for Water Partnership has actively participated in the coordination of the NGO process of the 6th World Water Forum by the Butterfly Effect since its inception in December 2010. Participation was at both steering committee and working group level.

The Butterfly Effect NGO coalition is an international coalition of NGOs, which advocates local solutions that have a sustainable impact on water and sanitation. This movement was created in December 2010 by Coalition Eau, ISW, WfWP and FAN. The Butterfly Effect is now made-up from over 90 civil society organisations, NGOs, networks and women’s organisations. Its messages and solutions are based on human rights principles and communities’ experiences. These solutions are essentially local, sustainable, innovative, adaptable, equitable, accountable and people-oriented.

The Butterfly Effect is overseen by a Steering Committee consisting of ANEW, Both ENDS, Coalition Eau, Eau Vive, FAN Global, FANCA, FAN Mex, FANSA, Green Cross International, International Secretariat for Water, LVIA, NetWater Sri Lanka, WaterLex, Women for Water Partnership. Activities are coordinated by the Executive Secretariat, composed of Coalition Eau, ISW, FAN and WfWP;

A budget of €131,710 was obtained from IFC (Grassroots and Citizenship Commission) to assist with setting-up this movement. This funding was used to cover the cost of the relevant hours worked by some of the member organisations, expenses incurred in organising international preparatory meetings (in Paris, London and Marseille) and communication tool development costs. Financial management was done by Coalition Eau.

Seven meetings were held as part of the Butterfly Effect coalition preparation process (details see report Butterfly Effect).

Nine key messages were developed on: 1) governance, 2) water and food security, 3) water, sanitation, hygiene and health, 4) water and climate change, 5) the human right to water and sanitation, 6) capacity development, 7) peace and trans-boundary cooperation, 8) finance, 9) water and emergencies: http://www.coalition-eau.org/IMG/pdf/120307-factsheet-EP_UK-web.pdf and over 150 solutions were uploaded onto the platform for solutions website.

The Butterfly Effect NGO-members were closely involved in the regional preparatory processes, particularly those in Central America, Latin America and Asia.

A regional preparatory consultation meeting, organised by WfWP-member NetWwater Sri Lanka, was held in Sri Lanka in February 2012. It was attended by the public authorities (Ministry of Water and delegation), water sector institutions, NGOs and grassroots organisations. This was the culmination of a series of national meetings held, with the Butterfly Effect’s support, in southern Asia (Nepal, Pakistan, India, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka, in partnership with FANSA), with the aim of reinforcing the regional consultation process in Asia leading up to the Forum.

The objectives of this meeting were to:

- provide the participants with information on the 6th World Water Forum and its processes;
- support the participants’ involvement and participation in the Forum in Marseille;
- present the Butterfly Effect initiative and its messages and obtain feedback. (For more info on the Butterfly Effect activities – see attachment).

The Butterfly Effect members will carry the messages also to Rio+20 and will continue their collaboration.
7. **WfWP participation in Forum events**

7.1 **The Women’s stand in the Forum Exhibition**

As part of the women’s initiative a stand for the Major Group Women was implemented at the Forum Exhibition. The stand was a meeting point for women from all over the world and amply visited throughout the Forum. It was home to the Women, Water and Peace Exhibition which attracted much interest and evoked lively discussion and exchange. Women’s groups outside the Women’s Initiative were given room to display their materials as well.

The **Soroptimists** of host city Marseille have expertly implemented the exhibition and ensured that it was manned throughout the Forum. Without their support it would not have been possible to provide this meeting space. Many useful new contacts were reported by the organizations that have used the women’s stand as their anchor point.

7.2 **The Commitment Session**

*Kusum Athukorala, Chair of NetWater, Sri Lanka and member of the steering committee of the Women for Water Partnership* represented the women’s initiative at the commitment session of the Forum. She handed over the solutions, recommendations and commitments that were the outcome of the High Level Special Women’s Session (Chapter 3.5) and emphasized the three points below in her address.
1. We commit ourselves and urge all water stakeholders academic, agency, community, local authorities and civil society to support full implementation of the Dublin Rio Principle 3 in the lead up to Rio+20 and afterwards.

2. In order to further promote and consolidate gains made in empowering women in the water sector we commit ourselves to work towards the establishment of an International Women and Water day on a designated date between International women day on March 8th and International water day on March 22nd.

3. As women are the catalysts and active agents of change all international water agencies should contribute to setting up a Women and development fund which will support women at community level. This will support empower and liberate women in the water sector beyond 2015 in achieving the MDGs, consolidating gains thereof and enable them to move on to integrated community development.

7.3 KWDT Uganda winner of the Kyoto Water Prize

Katosis Women Development Trust (KWDT) from Uganda, member of Women for water, received ‘the 3rd Kyoto World Water Grand Prize’ at the closing ceremony of the 6th world water forum in Marseille, France on 17th March 2012.

They received the award for their active contribution to solve the serious water problems in the world and for the improvement of the lives of women and girls.

“What makes me so happy today is that; 365 women now organized in 16 groups, are already playing different roles to increase their access to water and sanitation, play a leading role to changing attitudes of people and engaging in decision making. Global problems need local solutions, and solutions lie in the local communities through engaging those who are most affected by the problem” said Margaret Nakato, Coordinator Katosis Women Development Trust. She also thanked Katosis’s partners, who always believed in what they are doing.

7.4 WfWP representation in other events of the Forum

Alice Bouman-Dentener, WfWP President was a speaker at the side event on Community Water Services – Challenges for Sustainability on March 13th 2012. The event was organized by the Ministry of Water Supply and Drainage of Sri Lanka and shared the key messages and strategy behind the successful approach to decentralized water supply and management in Sri Lanka. The WfWP President spoke on Gender and the Empowerment
through Community Water Supply projects. She described the CBOs in Sri Lanka as outstanding examples of effective water governance. As key success factors she pointed out that they are locally owned with women as the driving force.

She quoted Confucius: “Tell me and I will forget; Show me and I will remember; Involve me and I will understand.” The fact that NetWwater and the Sri Lanka government are collaborating through the elaborate process of creating involvement is in her opinion the factor that has most significantly contributed to success.

*Emma Anakhasyan, AWHHE, Armenia and Steering Committee member of WfWP,* participated on behalf of the Women for Water Partnership in the panel discussion on *The Sanitation Drive to 2015* and how it relates to the Water-Energy-Food Nexus: A Conversation.

The panel discussion was organized by the GIZ at the German Pavilion, World Water Forum 6, in Marseilles on the 14th of March, 2012. The main objective of the conversation was to contribute to a better understanding of interlinks between water, energy and food security. She introduced activities performed by member organizations of WfWP, health related outcomes of water contamination and inadequate sanitation, the necessity of involvement of NGOs in Nexus-related initiatives and separate core funding for NGOs active participation.

This discussion offered an opportunity to introduce the organization and its capacity at high level, to share the successes, as well the difficulties relating to financial challenges of Women’s organizations.

*Kusum Athukorala, SC member WfWP and co-chair gender advisory group,* participated in the presentation of the *World Water Development Report 4* of the UNESCO World Water Assessment Program. The WWAP had set up a Gender Expert group which oversaw not only a chapter on gender and water but also gender mainstreaming within the entire document. This initiative is a pioneering effort within the UN system and highlights the need for gender desegregated data bases.

*Champa M. Navaratne, NetWwater,* participated in the *Water and Energy Café* on behalf of WfWP. She examined the energy usage in Sri Lanka and emphasized the contribution of hydropower to a green economy. However, while dams are essential for hydropower development, environmental issues must be considered; women must be among the stakeholders consulted for such constructions. More R&D efforts should go in to pollution free bio mass usage by establishing low polluting wood stoves to preserve women’s health.

*Lesha Witmer* represented the Women for Water Partnership in the Ministerial Roundtable on the Food-Water-Energy nexus.
8. OUTREACH

The 6th World Water Forum and in particular the Women’s Initiative were extensively documented on the WfWP website. Also, the websites of WfWP member organizations gave ample publicity to this important event. For coverage on the website of the 6th World Water Forum we refer to http://www.worldwaterforum6.org/en/. WfWP participated in the Butterfly press conference on March 15th.

Two WfWP press releases (appendix 17) and a communiqué (appendix 18) were issued in both English and French. They were distributed among the WfWP member organisations for use in their own constituency in approximately 90 countries of the world. The women’s initiative was included in the 6th World Water Forum publication of the Netherlands Water Partnership.

During the Women’s Preconference, WfWP President Alice Bouman-Dentener and Mariet Verhoef-Cohen, co-chair Pre-conference WWF had an extensive interview with La Provence, the Marseille Newspaper. There was a focus on the role of women in achieving water for all as well as the importance of citizens taking responsibility for responsible water use in the context of growing water scarcity and climate change. The WfWP President was furthermore interviewed by an environmental magazine on Women Leadership in Water. In the prelude to RiO+20, WfWP had a feature in the Newsletter of partner Peace Women Across the Globe and another article by the WfWP President is foreseen for the US-Based wH2O magazine.

France 3, regional Provence-Alpes, and LCM (tv regional Marseille) conducted television interviews with Alice Bouman-Dentener (President WfWP) and Renée Dubout (President SI Club Marseille). It was broadcasted on the 6 o’clock local news.

WfWP member organizations have made comprehensive reports for their own constituency and published the Forum in their newsletters and magazines. An example is attached (appendix 19).

LIST OF APPENDICES

1. Factsheet / Membership list WfWP
2. Programme of the Preconference ‘Women Leadership in Water and Sanitation’
3. Women’s Preconference background paper
4. Women’s Preconference participants list
5. Welcome speech Martine Vassal
6. Background on reality cases
7. Guidelines Working Group Chairs
8. Reports of the Working Groups
9. Programme High Level Special Women’s Session of World Water Forum 6
10. Short bios of high level participants
11. Catwalk presenters
12. Powerpoint of solutions as presented during High Level Special Women’s Session
13. Message women’s initiative for solutions & commitment session of the Forum
15. PWAG Newsletter – 6th World Water Forum issue
16. Reports Butterfly Effect NGO coalition
17. WfWP press releases, English and French
18. WfWP communiqué on the occasion of World Water Forum 6
19. Examples of publications of member organisations