

10th World Water Forum: The Butterfly Effect reminds the international community of its commitments - Report

From the 9th World Water Forum 2022 to the United Nations Water Conference 2023, the international civil society water coalition "Butterfly Effect" - led by the International Secretariat for Water (ISW) and with over 150 CSO members - was fully mobilized to influence the 10th World Water Forum held in Bali, Indonesia from May 18 to 24, 2024.

1 The Forum at a glance

- **May 18-24**, 2024, Bali, Indonesia
- Co-organized by the **World Water Council** and the **Government of the Republic of Indonesia**
- Large turnout, with some **64,000** participants from **160** countries
- Political presence of **5 heads of state** (Indonesia, Fiji, Sri Lanka, Morocco, Tajikistan); **2** deputy prime ministers (Malaysia and Papua New Guinea), **51** ministers, **57** deputy ministers
- **27** representatives of international organizations
- **200** parliamentarians from **49** countries
- **150** representatives of regional and local authorities from **23** countries
- **Political process**
 - **1 Ministerial Declaration**
 - **21** sessions: **1** meeting of Heads of State, **5** meetings of ministers, **5** meetings of parliamentarians, **5** meetings of regional and local authorities, **5** meetings of basin authorities
- **Regional process**
 - **35** sessions
- **Thematic process**
 - **6** themes, each composed of 5 sub-themes
 - **125** sessions in total
 - **20** High Level Panel



2 Giving civil society a voice at the WWForum

The urgent need to resolve the global water crisis has never been more evident. Despite ongoing advocacy and calls for action, the main demands of the Butterfly Effect remain unanswered, even as the crisis worsens. Through its [policy position paper](#), the **coalition reiterates five political demands** addressed to governments and the international community, highlighting the **essential role of civil society** in public debate and calling for **urgent action** by the international community, all the more necessary as crises and conflicts multiply and the effects of climate change on water resources are increasingly felt.

These messages were presented in **two of the Forum's thematic sessions**, T2D1 "Enabling and improving sanitation and hygiene services" and T2C2 "Achieving SDG 6 in fragile and humanitarian contexts" respectively, recalling the lack of political will and adequate funding in the sector to improve this access, as well as the importance of including all stakeholders - including civil society and marginalized people - in dedicated policy-making processes.

The Butterfly Effect also **coordinated two sessions**, one on the **role of marginalized people in water policy-making** and their proposals, and one on **strengthening international water governance**, from Dakar to NY and Bali and beyond, taking stock of lessons learned from previous Forums and the recent UN Water Conference, and the objectives and expectations for the next UN Water Conferences in 2026 and 2028.



3 Mobilizing and facilitating civil society participation

Ensuring inclusive participation, particularly from civil society, is essential to effectively implement the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals and guarantee equitable access to WASH services.

Civil society plays a crucial role in these discussions, defending marginalized communities and promoting social cohesion and participatory democracy.

Nevertheless, in recent years we have witnessed a narrowing of civic space and an increase in authoritarian regimes, and we denounce the **insufficient support** given by the organizers of the 10th World Water Forum to civil society participation, **despite our numerous requests** (a dozen letters sent by the secretariat asking for the establishment of a financial support mechanism for the poorest organizations, a reduction in registration fees, etc.).

We also **condemn the repression** of the World Alternative Forum organized by the People's Water Forum, which constitutes a serious breach of the right to academic freedom and freedom of association.

Despite the lack of support from the organizers, the Butterfly Effect nevertheless managed to finance part of the participation costs of **3 coalition members**.

More generally, the presence in Bali of **more than 12 Butterfly Effect member organizations** will have enabled us to strengthen existing links and partnerships, as well as explore potential new collaborations, while ensuring that the voice of civil society is heard at the event.



4 The Butterfly Effect at the 10th World Water Forum in brief

- **12 members** mobilized in Bali
- **1 Policy Paper** containing the demands of civil society
- **A dozen letters** sent to the organizers to facilitate the inclusion of civil society.
- Organization of a **meeting** with the members present and reflections on the coalition's **strategy** for the coming years.
- **Strengthening synergies** with youth - an integral part of civil society
- **Organization of two official sessions** during the WWForum
- Participation and presentation of coalition messages in **two thematic sessions** of the Forum



- Participation in **two preparatory meetings** of the political segment at UNESCO headquarters in Paris in January and March 2024
- Participation in the **second stakeholder meeting** in Bali in October 2023
- Organization of an **online information workshop** and a **two-day in person workshop** in Jakarta
- **Regular information sharing** (newsletter and publications on social networks)
- **Regular dialogue** with various stakeholders (member states, private sector, civil society organizations)
- **Reinforced synergies** with delegations from numerous international players in favor of strengthening international water governance.

5 Overview and outlook

The Butterfly Effect's participation in the 10th World Water Forum **consolidated its role as an advocate for civil society in the water sector**, effectively voicing the concerns of marginalized groups on the international stage. From Dakar to NY to Bali, the Butterfly Effect has also **positioned itself as a key player in global water advocacy**. However, the impact of such events, which often result in non-binding ministerial declarations with no follow-up, needs to be carefully examined.

With the next UN water conferences in 2026 and 2028, the forum's political influence is reduced, serving more as a platform for sharing best practice. The lack of alignment with UN processes and the significant obstacles faced by civil society, including the unprecedented ban on the Alternative Forum, highlight the shrinking civic spaces and human rights challenges.

In anticipation of the next Forum in Saudi Arabia, it is essential to guarantee adequate space for civil society and to enter into discussions with the organizers to secure their support. An internal strategy for the Butterfly Effect coalition needs to be developed to redefine objectives, target events and activities for the coming years in order to maximize its potential and impact.



There is still a great deal of work to be done to achieve concrete commitments and strengthen international water governance. **The global water crisis can only be solved through actions and decisions shared at all levels.**

The Butterfly Effect will therefore continue to mobilize its members and develop its advocacy in line with upcoming international events such as the United Nations Water Conferences of 2026 and 2028 and their regional preparatory events.

Useful resources

- ▶ [Report of the second stakeholder meeting](#)
- ▶ [Online workshop summary article](#)
- ▶ [Summary of the Jakarta workshop](#)
- ▶ [Statement by the Secretariat at the first PrepCom at UNESCO](#)
- ▶ [Policy Paper](#)
- ▶ [People's Water Forum press release](#)
- ▶ [Ministerial Declaration](#)
- ▶ [Butterfly Effect's member participation - mapping](#)
- ▶ [Mapping members' activities](#)
- ▶ [Coalition Eau's report \(in french\)](#)
- ▶ [Article Défis Humanitaires - interview with Marie-Laure Vercambre of the French Water Partnership \(in French\)](#)
- ▶ [Analysis of the Ministerial Declaration by Jean Lapegue of Action Contre la Faim \(ACF\) in The Water Diplomat](#)
- ▶ [End Water Poverty - What's next for the World Water Forum - Nathalie Seguin](#)

Join and follow us

 butterflyeffectcoalition@gmail.com



www.effetpapillon.org

 [@ButterflyEffectNgoCoalition](https://www.facebook.com/ButterflyEffectNgoCoalition)



[@BEEffectCoal](https://twitter.com/BEEffectCoal)

[Subscribe to our newsletter](#)

Coordinated by: With the support of:



Kingdom of the Netherlands

Supported by the



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
Confédération suisse
Confederazione Svizzera
Confederaziun svizra

Swiss Agency for Development
and Cooperation SDC



Liberté
Égalité
Fraternité

The points of view presented do not in any way represent the official point of view of the organizations providing financial support