

## Istanbul Water Consensus: Declaration of the Local and Regional Authorities Comments – Suggestions of the NAPM

### 1. – Following an analysis of the document *Istanbul Water Consensus: Declaration of the Local and Regional Authorities*, the National Association of Portuguese Municipalities notes that:

1.1 – This document is generically similar to other documents of global orientation already produced such as “The Limits to Growth” (Club of Rome, 1972), “Program 21” (Rio 92), and the “Johannesburg Declaration” (Johannesburg 2002).

1.2 – A large part of this document, compared to the previous one, the *Local Government Declaration on Water*, which resulted from the 4th World Water Forum (Mexico, 2006), is repetitive, again generically approaching the same issues, such as for example:

Local Government Declaration on Water - On the occasion of the Fourth World Water Forum	Istanbul Water Consensus Local and Regional Authorities Declaration
All human beings have the right to water in the quantity and the quality required to meet their essential needs, as well as to sanitation, a key factor in human health and the preservation of ecosystems;	Access to good quality water and sanitation is a basic right for all human beings and plays an essential role for the preservation of population health and the prevention of conflicts
Speed up the implementation of commitments made on access to water and sanitation and the fight against poverty, and increase the level of national and international public aid for development in order to achieve the objectives set out in the Johannesburg Plan of Action and the Millennium Development Goals (MDG)	To speed up the implementation of commitments made on access to water and sanitation and the fight against poverty, particularly in developing countries, in order to achieve the objectives set out in the Johannesburg Plan of Action and the Millennium Development Goals (MDG)
The equitable management of water resources requires an integrated approach and shared responsibilities between the different levels of governance, and should be founded on the principle of territorial management based on water basins	To establish effective mechanisms to involve Local and Regional Authorities to the watershed management process

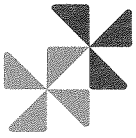
1.3 – Currently there is no way for us to check which national, regional or local authorities committed themselves to the *Local Government Declaration on Water (Mexico, 2006)*, especially with regard to attaining the targets proposed in the MDG. Such a situation invariably means that, with the passing of time, the commitments assumed evaporate.

1.4. – The point which proposes “*To include investment in the water sector in their debt reduction operations, such as exchange of debt against water investment*”. This proposal, besides being objective, is in line with the MDG and is pertinent.

1.5 - The question relating to the need to renew water supply and sanitation infrastructures which particularly the developed countries are currently starting to come up against, as well as problems in terms of financing this very renewal, is important.

### 2. – Taking the above points into account the NAPM proposes:

2.1 – That in parallel with the need to find new forms of financing the renewal of water supply and sanitation infrastructures, innovative and objective forms of resolving this same problem of financing should also be presented. It is not enough to produce the diagnosis, we must come up with proposals for concrete solutions to meet the MDG.



2.2 – That measures should be introduced relating to the effective monitoring, in all sectors, of the efficient use of water, specifically through the implementation of a digital platform in the UCLG which, besides enabling the exchange of experience and knowledge in this area, makes it possible to monitor the commitments assumed by national governments and by regional and local authorities. Measures need to be taken to hold national governments and regional and local authorities accountable for the commitments they assumed and which may assume, specifically regarding the MDG.

2.3 – The creation of lines of financial support which foment innovation and entrepreneurship in this sector, in line with the creation of mechanisms in the EU which foment cooperation with developing countries.

2.4 – That the proposal relating to the mobilization of funds, including on the water bill, for decentralised actions of cooperation and solidarity, which came from the Mexico Declaration in 2006, be clarified so that the financial amount intended for cooperation with developing countries may be tax deductible.

2.5 – That architects, planners, town planners and urban designers be invited to contribute towards the efficient use of water, throughout the whole of its cycle, namely through the adoption of measures, in the respective projects, which enable the good use of water.

**In conclusion:**

As we mentioned in point 1.3, the majority of national, regional and local authorities which committed themselves to the measures stated in the *Local Government Declaration on Water, of the 4th World Water Forum*, have to confirm the execution of these commitments, especially those related with the MDG. This question has to be evaluated in this Forum. We have to have the courage to catalogue and denounce these situations.

It is important that this Forum propose a number of objective and measurable steps, for which clear targets and deadlines are defined, so that monitoring is possible.

We consider that the implementation of the conclusions of the 4th World Water Forum, held in Mexico in 2006, produced poor results, that false expectations were created amongst those most in need, especially in developing countries, and that we will continue to do so unless there is a change in the paradigm underlying this type of events so as to make them consequential.