

“Leaving no one behind”

Main theme of the celebration of World Water Day

With the presence of its 34 member states and in a joint meeting of the Permanent Council and the Inter-American Council for Integral Development, the OAS celebrated the World Water Day.



Under the main theme of this year, "Leaving no one behind", the Secretary General of the organization underlined the important role of OAS in fulfilling the human right to water and sanitation, and the pertinent actions that must be taken in harmony with the compliance of the Sustainable Development Goal 6, which explicitly refers to guaranteeing water for all by the year 2030.

Secretary Almagro emphasized the fundamental commitment of OAS to this issue, where its guiding principles are human rights, inclusion, equality and equity, and what better element to act consistently than WATER.

He also recalled that this right clearly involves those who are especially disadvantaged and marginalized in terms of access to water, including women, children, refugees, indigenous populations, people with disabilities, among many others. From the inclusive OAS, we have to ensure that sex, gender, race, ethnicity, religion, birth condition, language, nationality, disability, age, health status, the possession of goods, the place of residence, and the economic and social situation, are not factors that impede the welfare of the inhabitants of the planet.



This session was attended by Mr. Danilo Türk, Ex-President of Slovenia and President of the Global High-Level Panel on Water and Peace; Mr. François Münger, General Director of the Geneva Water Hub, Secretariat of the High Level Panel on Water and Peace; Ms. Francesca Bernardini, Secretary of the Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Water Courses and of the International Lakes; and Mr. Marcos Regis da Silva, Executive Director of the Inter-American Institute for Global Change Research (IAI).



The speakers recognized the role of OAS in the promotion of water policies and their wide benefit for sustainable development, which, based on the best scientific knowledge, can guide better financial investments that serve to face the current and emerging challenges associated with sustainable development in the hemisphere.

Among these challenges is the implementation of the human right to water and sanitation; and as part of the commemoration of World Water Day, the OAS presented the publication *"Implementation of the Human Right to Water and Sanitation within the framework of the Inter-American Program for Sustainable Development (PIDS)"*, which is a contribution from the Secretariat to the matter. This was possible due to the contribution of the Government of Portugal, Latin American specialists and the participation of Mrs. Soledad Garcia Muñoz Special, Rapporteur on Economic, Social, Cultural Rights and Environmental (REDESCA) of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR).

During this celebration, the Secretary General of the OAS, Mr. Luis Almagro, also signed a Cooperation Agreement with the Inter-American Institute for Global Change Research (IAI), in order to continue building alliances with the academic and



research sectors in the Americas in favor of the design and formulation of fundamental political decisions.