

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES

2004 – LIBREVILLE

Water and energy rights: from vision to action

2005 – TANGIERS

Making the right to water a reality

2006 – MEXICO

Solutions beyond divergences
Side event for the World Water Forum

2007 – NIAMEY

Sanitation, the black sheep of the Millennium Goals

2008 – PARIS

Global changes: new challenges for access to water and sanitation
In partnership with the UNESCO

2009 – ISTANBUL

Endless dilemma: matching food security and access to water and sanitation
Side event for the World Water Forum

2010 – ANNECY

Water and health: water that kills
In partnership with the Mérieux foundation

2011 – ABU DHABI

Water and energy : a couple under stress
In partnership with EDF

2012 – MARSEILLE

What if developing cities were taking on water? Land security to ensure access to water in informal settlements
Side event for the World Water Forum

2012 – PARIS

The impact of urban development on poverty and the environment
Side event for the Convergences World Forum

2014 – PARIS

Affordable water in developing countries. What reality?
Which results?

2016 - TANGIERS

Urban growth and access to essential services

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In memory of Michel ROCARD and Guy CARCASSONNE,
members whose conviction and determination brought a valuable contribution to (Re)sources

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Access to
essential
services,
our priority
for the
development
of the emerging
world



(Re)sources, a think tank on the access to essential services in developing countries

AN EXCHANGE NETWORK CREATED OVER A DECADE AGO

The (Re)sources network was founded in 2004 at Libreville, at a founding colloquium on water and energy rights. Participants, operators in the water and energy sectors, created this think tank in order to attract the attention of decision-makers and the media to the problems related to accessing essential services in developing countries.

DEBATE, EXCHANGE AND PRODUCE

(Re)sources aims at creating a dialogue by organising regular debates in order to highlight local initiatives and boost solutions actively targeting economic progress and social inclusion. As a focal point for debating and proposals, (Re)sources' ambition is to use these meetings to propose solutions in the field of access to essential services – water, sanitation and electricity - for those living in underdeveloped areas, particularly by producing recommendations that are designed to be distributed to the water and energy community and international bodies. The network supports concepts which help to protect human rights and integrates the priorities of urban pressure and climate change in its positions.

SHARED CONVICTIONS WITHIN AN OPEN THINK TANK

(Re)sources unites around twenty members: development militants, academic staff, political VIPs, business operators and international institutions. Their combined input enriches debates on established points of consensus and can be used to apprehend water and energy problems from several different angles - regulatory, economical, social and even sanitary - however, the constant focus is to find hands-on long-lasting solutions.

Over and beyond the differences in their mindsets, commitments and activities, all (Re)sources members share the conviction that access to essential services represents an absolute priority for the economical, social, environmental and political development of the emerging world. The fulfilment of the Sustainable Development Goals, set out in 2015 by the international community, is the key to this development and is a major challenge for the years to come: although the advances recorded with the Millennium Development Goals are a great step forwards, more still needs to be done. The access to essential services remains deeply unequal.

(RE)SOURCES POSITIONS

Consider access to water and energy as a catalyst for human development

- Access to essential services represents a priority for the economic and social success of developing countries and a prerequisite for access to health, education and the independence of women.
- The implementation of solidarity procedures guarantees all poor populations connected to the network, affordable access to essential services.
- Urbanisation and the growing pressure in terms of the use of water and energy require a legal framework and adapted urban planning policies.

Promoting the right to access water, sanitation and energy

- While water rights, constantly called for by (Re)sources, were recognised by the United Nations in 2010, these yet need to be effectively implemented by governments.

- The right to sanitation must be defined and must benefit from a specific legislation in order for it to become a reality at the international level.
- The right to electricity is a prerequisite for sustainable access to drinking water. These two fluids must be effectively managed together and usage must be moderate to protect the environment.

Working towards reinforced governance

- The issue of the access to essential services must be integrated at the highest levels, particularly by the adoption of binding legislations.
- Current policies must integrate the aggravating effects of urban growth and global warming by implementing adaptation and attenuation plans.
- Multi-operator cooperation (public authorities, service operators, financial backers, civil society, etc.) is necessary to ensure tangible progress in the field.

KEY PRIORITIES

Integrating urban pressure

According to the United Nations, the most significant population increases will affect developing regions, climbing from 5.9 billion in 2013 to 8.2 billion in 2050. This demographic boom, combined with the migration of populations to towns, is exacerbating pressure on resources and making flux management (people, water, energy, transport, waste) increasingly complex. (Re)sources integrates growing urbanisation as an aggravating factor in the access to essential services, in its awareness programmes targeting decision-making audiences. Cities may deploy efficient management and urban planning tools through realistic strategies adapted to local specificities.

The impact of climate change

Climate change strongly compromises the economic development of some regions and increases inequalities in poor cities as regards the access to essential services as they are the least able to adapt. (Re)sources promotes the idea that the climatic risk in cities in developing countries can represent a management and growth opportunity for the urban services available within them. Technological and institutional innovations now provide concrete answers as regards planning, protection equipment and even population warning tools. These condition the resilience of cities faced with climate change.

ALMOST 800 MILLION
people do not benefit from access
to an improved water source and
ALMOST 1/3

of the world's population is drinking water
that is not safe for their health

2.5 BILLION PEOPLE
still have no access to toilets
or any other form of improved sanitation.

1.2 BILLION PEOPLE
defecate in the open air.

1.4 BILLION PEOPLE
do not have access to electricity.

Demographic figures in developing countries
are exploding with an annual urban growth of
3.6 %