



## MILAN DECLARATION

### RULES OF WATER, RULES FOR LIFE

We, taking part in the first edition of the "RULES OF WATER" Forum, held in Milan under the auspices of the Italian G7 Presidency 2017, and organized on the initiative of the MILAN CENTER FOR FOOD LAW AND POLICY with the scientific contribution of the OECD and of the WWAP Program (UNESCO), herewith declare:

1. Water and sanitation are human rights and fundamental elements of sustainable development, social inclusion and peace among peoples.
2. The recognition of the rights to water and sanitation is an indispensable objective for the protection of the future generations as well as a fair and equitable society. This requires the progressive definition of a legal framework and implementation inspired by a international collaboration.
3. Our governments have the political responsibility to guide sustainable development as a priority to the growth of inclusive and circular economies which safeguards, protects and values water resources in an inclusive, multilateral, multidisciplinary and cross-border governance model.
4. Access to water empowers women. Women are pivotal to the protection and management of water, which reaffirms the Dublin Principles, whose 25th Anniversary falls in 2017. Foremost we urge governments at all levels and non-state actors to make these principles come true in practice to enable women on their terms to act and ensure universal access to vital resources and responsible management of water.
5. We must reaffirm and strengthen the engagement of the signatories of the UN Sustainable Development Agenda and Goals, with particular regard to the strategic role played by the Cities in defending the rights of access to safe water and sanitation as a human right.
6. Civil societies, local authorities, regional and national governments as well as multilateral agencies must develop a shared equitable cross-sectoral and multidisciplinary approach that fosters various formats of public-private partnerships in environmental policies by closely linking water, agriculture and energy issues.
7. Activate social and cultural awareness of water uses to form responsible citizenship and various educational initiatives to train on new skills required for water protection and management.

Milan, September, 28, 2017