



1 October 2008

Madam/Sir,

On behalf of the Turkish Grand National Assembly, the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe and the World Water Council, it is our great pleasure to invite you or your representative to participate in the **Preparatory Conference of the Parliamentary Process of the 5th World Water Forum, "Parliaments for Water"**, which will be held in the Council of Europe (Room 5), **Strasbourg, France, on 6 November 2008**.

The World Water Forum is one of the largest multi-stakeholder water-related events; it aims to raise awareness on the criticality of water issues and to propose concrete solutions to address global challenges. It is organized every three years jointly by the Government of a host country and the World Water Council. More than a conference, it is an interactive process, with preparatory and follow-up phases that includes Thematic, Regional and Political Processes.

The Political Process of the 5th World Water Forum, which will be held in Istanbul on 16-22 March 2009, has three parallel components involving, respectively, National Governments, Parliamentarians and Local Authorities. These three components are rather independent but all revolve around one single theme "*Water Management Adaptation Strategies for Global Changes, including Climate Variability/Change*". Each political group is developing its own set of activities as explained in the attached leaflet and a general dialogue among the three political groups will be organized during the Forum event.

The Parliamentary Process of the World Water Forum is new, although a first meeting was organized in Mexico City during the 4th World Water Forum. It intends to give a greater voice to Parliamentarians in the global debate on water. Parliamentarians are expected to prepare contributions on a series of critical issues such as transboundary waters, adaptation to global changes, the human right to water and decentralization policies. The creation of a "Water Legislation Helpdesk" for the development of legal frameworks on water will also be discussed (see attached concept note). The main objective of the meeting in Strasbourg is to discuss these proposals as well as the general framework of the process and to initiate the preparation of the parliamentary contribution to the 5th World Water Forum Political Process.

Yours faithfully,

Mustafa Öztürk
Member of Turkish Grand National Assembly
Chairman – 5th World Water Forum Parliamentarian Process Committee

Loïc Fauchon
President
World Water Council

Alain Meale
Chairman
Committee on the Environment, Agriculture and Local and Regional Affairs
Parliamentary Assembly, Council of Europe

Enclosed:
Strasbourg Preparatory Conference draft programme
Parliamentarian Process Concept Note
Strasbourg Preparatory Meeting Registration Form