The Budapest Water Summit took place in Hungary from October 8 - 10, 2013. The Summit aimed to examine the role of water and sanitation in the Global Sustainable Development Agenda and to take stock of the latest developments, in and outside the UN system, in preparing water-related goals for the post Rio+20 development agenda. The Summit was organised by the Government of Hungary.

The Summit convened many high-level representatives of governments and international institutions. Specialised Forums were organized for Science, Business, Civil Society and Youth. The Summit was also the opportunity for two international entities, the United-Nations' Secretary-General's Advisory Board on Water (UNSGAB) and the World Water Council, to convene their respective Boards.

The Statement

Discussions were very constructive and resulted in an official Statement (pdf) that
- "recommends the development of a dedicated and comprehensive Sustainable Development Goal on Water, a “Water-Secure World” while clearly addressing the inter-linkages to other Sustainable Development Goals."
- "recommends "targets addressing the following main water-related issues:"
  - “Achieve universal access to safe drinking water and sanitation”
  - “Improve integrated and cross-sectoral approaches to water resources management”
  - “Reduce pollution and increase collection, treatment and re-use of water”
  - “Increase resilience against the water-related impacts of global changes” and “water-related disasters”

This Budapest Water Summit Statement synthetizes the consensus that is arising in the international community about the way water-related challenges should be positioned in the future post-2015 global goals and targets.

Participation of AquaFed

AquaFed participated directly or indirectly through some members to most of the events that took place in Budapest.

In particular, Gerard Payen, AquaFed President, was a panelist - in the high-level panel discussion on access to drinking water and sanitation on October 9. The IISD reporting service picked up its “concerns about water safety, underscoring the need to urgently build a global mechanism for monitoring water safety, operational by 2016”. He also declared that “universal access to safe water will never happen if water resources and man-made pollution are not properly managed.”

- in the closing panel discussion of the Business Leaders Forum where he advocated for the adoption of the water-related Targets that are contemplated in the Budapest Statement, explaining that they would contribute significantly to Goals on education, health, poverty alleviation, gender equality, etc. He also highlighted that achieving universal access to safe water is a Target that is distinct from improving water resources management since pushing more water in existing pipes do not bring a single drop to those who are not connected to water networks.

Important UN declarations

The needs for drinking water that is really safe were better recognized than in previous high-level meetings with the UN.

Ban Ki-moon, the UN Secretary-General, declared:
"Close to one-third of people drink water that endangers health” [Nota: one-third would make 2.1 billion]

Margaret Chan, World Health Organisation Executive Director, declared:
“Billions lack access to safe water, reliably and continuously delivered in sufficient quantities.”