

CASABLANCA INTERNATIONAL DAYS

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الأيام الدولية - الدار البيضاء

٤ - ٦ سبتمبر ١٩٩٣

*Water, Citizen,
Traditions and Culture:
What is the Place of the Civil Society?*

Casablanca International Days

September 4 - 6, 1993

*Eau, citoyen,
traditions et culture:
Quelle place pour la Société Civile ?*

Journées internationales de Casablanca

4 - 6 septembre 1993



ROYAUME DU
MAROC



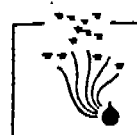
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PROCEEDINGS OF THE CASABLANCA CONFERENCE

**WATER, CITIZENS, TRADITIONS AND CULTURE:
What is the Role of Civil Society?**

Casablanca Conference
September 4-6, 1993

Organized by:

The Société Marocaine pour le Droit
de l'Environnement (Casablanca)
The International Secretariat For Water (Montréal)
The Comité Catholique contre la Faim et pour
le Développement (Paris)

In cooperation with:

The Canadian, French and Moroccan Governments
UNDP
The Programme Solidarité Eau (Paris)
The Environment Liaison Centre (Nairobi)
The Association Eau Vive (Paris)
The Office International de l'Eau (Paris)
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We wish to express our gratitude to the participants whose presence contributed directly to the successful outcome of this meeting.

We also wish to thank the Moroccan authorities who have showed a great interest in the Casablanca conference by being available throughout the preparations leading to the event.

INTRODUCTION AND METHODOLOGY

The Société Marocaine pour le Droit de l'Environnement [Somade] (Casablanca), the International Secretariat for Water [ISW] (Montréal), and the Comité Catholique contre la Faim et pour le Développement [CCFD] (Paris) organized an international conference entitled "Water, Citizens, Traditions and Culture: What is the role of civil society?" The conference was held at the Fondation du Roi Abdul Aziz Al Saoud in Casablanca from September 4 to 6, 1993.

This event preceded the international meeting of the Conseil de Concertation pour l'Approvisionnement en Eau et l'Assainissement held in Rabat from September 7 to 10, the theme of which was "Optimizing our Means." The purpose of our conference was to represent the point of view of civil society in general, and in the Arab world in particular, and to discuss its role in developing cooperation.

The Casablanca conference was chaired by Houria Tazi Sadeq (Somade) and Magdi Sidhom (CRS). The following people were on the organizing committee:

| | |
|-------------------------|---|
| Houria Tazi Sadeq | Somade (Morocco) |
| Magdi Sidhom | CRS (Egypt) |
| Raymond Jost | International Secretariat for Water (Montréal) |
| Pierre Marie Grondin | Programme Solidarité Eau (Paris) |
| Laurent Chabert d'Hiers | Association Eau Vive (Paris) |
| Claude Caillere | Comité Catholique contre la Faim et pour le Développement (Paris) |

The conference participants were from the following sectors:

- nongovernmental organizations (NGOs), community representatives, researchers and public-sector representatives from most of the Maghreb and Machrek
- international NGOs
- experts from international organizations.

The working languages of the conference were Arabic, French and English.

It was suggested that participants reflect on the following topics in preparation for the conference:

- traditional technologies
- local knowledge and skills
- mobilizing civil society
- water and social, cultural and religious considerations
- taking charge of the water portfolio
- recognizing the role of women in the management of water resources

- integrating an approach to water and the environment into the educational system
- the water cycle
- water and landownership
- the legislative and institutional framework
- water and safety
- water and poverty
- water management
- water and means of consumption
- scenarios for international solidarity (Arab, South-South, North-South).

The format chosen for the Casablanca conference was a combination of plenary sessions and four workshops. The workshop themes were as follows:

1. Water Management
2. Local Involvement
3. Training, Education and Outreach
4. Water, Solidarity, Peace and Conflict

Each workshop was intended to focus on the legal and institutional aspects of the theme selected.

The plenary sessions focused on the following imperatives:

- That guidelines be established, through legislation, for the use and sharing of water in accordance with the principles of resource protection and equitable access to water.
- That a means of providing systematic public information on rights to water use and particularly on users' rights and responsibilities be established.
- That water-management initiatives
 - o include the systematic explanation of local knowledge and practices
 - o take into account the results of so-called modern techniques.
- That solutions be negotiated between local groups and specialists in order to discuss various practices.
- That NGOs and community organizations form pressure groups in order to restore the role of water in government development programs. Action would be specifically aimed at creating the conditions needed for setting concrete objectives with respect to the rural exodus (population stabilization), regional development, local employment, etc.

In the workshops, the primary topics of discussion were the following:

- involvement of local populations
- the legal, institution and financial roles of NGOs and their involvement in civil society
- local traditions: importance and respect

- solidarity within the Arab world
- the role of the media and communications in general in international development.

INTRODUCTORY PRESENTATIONS

- *Water, Citizens, Traditions and Culture: What is the Role of Civil Society?*, by M. A. Sinaceur

- *Sustainable Development, Local Communities and Integrated Water Management*, by Houria Tazi Sadeq

- 1) *Water, Citizens, Traditions and Culture: What is the Role of Civil Society?*

Opening Speech by M. A. Sinaceur
Minister of Cultural Affairs

Deprive your world of water--rain, snow, fog, gentle mists, moisture from flowers and clouds, water from springs and storms, water that flows through trees in the springtime, and suddenly so many things that inspire poets will disappear--flowers and fog-horns, earthly oases, true or unseen, fountains and springs--not to mention muses, ships and sirens, and faces, facades and monuments erected as eternal offerings that float in memories of sleeping waters. Putting an end to water is putting an end to life and to the vitality of humankind, which, despite its omnipresence, is but a fragment of an eternal emanation. The word--the vehicle of human communication and sister to water, fabric of the realm that frosts our lips in mid-winter--will cease to be.

Water sustains life, as it does the poet. It is the mother, the comforter, the traveler, the instigator, the destroyer that leads to the shores of death when her ire overflows, or when she disappears, leaves desolation in her wake.

How can the powerful and magnanimous presence of water not affect the creatures and things of this world? How can it not influence the cultures and traditions of humankind when it molds the very essence of faith and civilization? These two elements are indeed intricately linked in our society, in which water plays a central role.

In the Holy Koran, God states that "His throne stands on water":

" و كان عرشه على الماء "

Water, the most basic element of life, has great power. The Koran declares truths about the role of water and its cycles. Verse 30 of the Surah of the Prophets (*Al-anbiyā*) says that God invested water with decisive powers when he tore asunder the solid mass that was once the universe, and made every living thing from water. These actions thus gave rise to the formation and specification of living beings, as well as to the configuration and consolidation of the heavens.

The interaction of water with other energy resources thus constitutes the essential component of life on earth. Verse 28 of the Surah of the Moon (*Al-qamar*) formally decrees the irrefutable principle of the inalienability of water. Muslim jurisconsults (*Al-fukāha*) have explored the ins and outs of the issue in the chapters on the status of water.

Law, which is an expression of society, yet is eminently cultural, draws upon a fundamental component that regulates life in society and influences the relationship between water and landownership, servitudes, collective use, State intervention, to the extent of regulating water distribution.

Anthropology, ethnology and other social sciences have given us valuable information on the customs and practices of ancient and contemporary societies, and on the role of water in the rituals and customs that pertain to life and death.

Watering places dot our countryside, like indelible tattoos, and are reflected in our place names: Aïn, Tit, Bir... Settlements have grown up around these watering places to become villages, then towns, as confederacies and various alliances have been based on water and grazing rights. These oases have also inspired poets invoking peace or fanning the fires of war.

We also know that social structures, complex phenomena based on lineage, constitute intricate relationships that date back many centuries. They are determined by settlement claims and by territoriality, where water is a key factor in the settlement and movement of human groups in search of pastures and new conditions.

Modes of organization based on nomadism or sedentation, whether in their pure form or not, are wholly dependent on water and its availability for production and other activities.

Thus, customs, traditions and beliefs are all codes by which human beings commune with their universe. Water and the material resources of a society are a vital concern and have always been the main priority of governments.

The dilemma, which is a major cause for concern, consists in the increasingly widespread and widely recognized scarcity of water, and in the precariousness that threatens the future of human society. We must never forget the harsh images that dominated the media of parched lands, cracked soils, burnt trees and corpses lying in hellish fields, where lines of children, old people, mere shadows, weak and deprived, fleeing towards uncertain destinies.

We all know the consequences, and especially in certain countries, the dramatic situations that have resulted, when water

has disappeared, leaving a legacy of silence. These are of course extreme cases, but nonetheless, they must be contemplated.

Economic analyses focus on deterioration in terms of balance. The balance of an economy is often disturbed by the unrestrained exploitation of nature, but especially by demographic factors that engender unpleasant situations, which, according to forecasts, only seem to be worsening. Prospects for the year 2000 seem extremely serious indeed:

- an alarming birth rate (69 births per hour) and a production rate reaching 2.7
- the age pyramid indicating
 - o a younger population (52% of world population), along with all the resources that implies
 - o an drop in aging by 3.2%
- geographic distribution of the population:
 - o an urbanization rate reaching 58% (with weak and strong urbanization trends)
 - o rural milieux on the decline, at 42%.

Major deficits could result in all sectors of activity if governments were not aware of the problems. But the State is taking concrete action with the aim of reabsorbing the deficits by mobilizing available resources and advocating increasing rationalization of resource use.

The combining of efforts for the benefit of this mobilization of resources extends to the international authorities. We all agree that the interdependence of problems is becoming more and more a global phenomenon. We must arrive at solutions together. This holds true for all areas, but it is even more crucial when the issue of water is concerned. More concerted international cooperation is needed to guarantee this vital commodity.

Can the principle of the inalienability of water, as established in the Holy Koran, not be extended to the international community? It is closely linked to the principle of solidarity.

As regards our national development, the leading experts assert that Morocco has the land, water and human resources necessary to increase the country's grain production, and assure self-sufficiency on three conditions, all relating to the use of water:

1. Irrigate the part of the grain-producing region that has a semi-arid climate as much as locally available water allows.
2. Identify the part of the grain-producing region where rainfall is sufficient (with a 90% probability) to assure high-yield production, and employ all necessary measures.
3. Stop wasting irrigation water in regions served by dams, and increase the surface area of irrigated grain-producing regions.

Under these conditions, cumulative knowledge and skill on the part of the population is all-important. Irrigation is an ancient technique in Morocco, an indisputable cultural heritage that must be promoted, especially in higher mountain villages and semi-arid zones. Efficient irrigation will give rise to better distribution of surface water, and to the exploration and use of underground water.

The waste that is often referred to may be due to the type of activities that are being carried out, but may also result from attitudes and behavior relating to the techniques and activities. The sociocultural element is very strong in this respect. The availability of water and the excessive use of it in urban areas is often a source of disdain for the equity that its scarcity calls for in rural milieux.

Any mobilization projects must make aim to sensitize and educate the populations concerned, especially farm laborers, who use water in agriculture, and women, who use water for domestic purposes..

It is therefore obvious that the importance of the role of water in our traditional way of life, as mentioned earlier, is not a mere technical matter that is the responsibility of the State. Communities, as well as individuals, and even associations, have a key role to play as spokespersons and guarantors of water resources.

Mobilization of resources does not involve material potential alone, but rather includes the will of each individual. A genuine ethic with respect to water, promoted by the codes of conduct derived from local cultural practices, must be the principal factor in defining water as a resource, as well as in the exploration of new sources of water and its conservation, supply and use.

Decentralization, which has been successfully adopted in our country and which has put us in contact with age-old traditions, offers a legal and cultural framework in which communities can administer local affairs.

Water is a major issue in the matters of local interest that the State determines for the entire nation.

As a fundamental resource, water is a priority in decentralized administration, but it is closely linked to the culture of which it is the vehicle, insofar as the human activities it serves and the individual and collective behavior it determines are concerned.

Thus, associations working together for the well-being of communities, and operating in various sectors, in particular nature and ecological conservation, are cultural activities par

excellence. The notion of culture can have no lesser meaning, for culture is the expression of life, and life is dependent on water. the Holy Koran states:

" وجعلنا من الماء كل شيء حي "

Such monotheistic religious inspiration is a suitable means of reinforcing popular education about the preservation of this rare, yet vital, resource, a source of nourishment and inspiration: water.

2) Sustainable Development, Local Communities and Integrated Water Management

Presentation by Houria Tazi Sadeq
(Somade)

Water is essential not only to human life, but to ecosystems as well, and is a strategic resource throughout the development process.

The idea of common management of water resources, which has been put forth because of their interconnectedness, requires a redefinition of water resources, which, for our purposes, comprise groundwater, inland waters, coastal waters, open sea, and moisture contained in the atmosphere. In redefining these resources, the qualitative and quantitative aspects must not be dissociated.

Water is at the center of a great number of concerns that are closely interrelated, such as food security, agriculture, biodiversity, desertification, deforestation, and urbanization. The issues involved cannot be clearly defined without a global, integrated, multidisciplinary approach.

Water has always been a key issue in resource-management policies. It has become a determining factor that nations are examining in order to set their current and future geopolitical objectives. Nevertheless, there are a number of problems connected with the issue of water: shortage of rainfall, pollution, competition, and conflict, foreshadowing conditions at the turn of the century.

The unprecedented drought that has beset the countries in our region, the shortage of rainfall, and the problem of evaporation--I will refrain from speaking about global warming until there is some agreement among specialists--have fueled the current economic and

financial crisis. Though we have, of course, tried to overcome the crisis by implementing structural adjustment policies, the effects have been far from those intended, especially on the social level.

A number of national, regional and international events have attested the international community's awareness of and growing interest in water, a natural treasure. Let me cite a few examples:

- the United Nations Water Conference held in Mar del Plata (1977)
- the International Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation Decade declared by the U.N. in 1981--an outgrowth of the Mar del Plata Action Plan on Water Development and Administration
- the International Conference on Water and the Environment (Dublin, January 1992)
- the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED), more commonly known as the Earth Summit (Rio de Janeiro, June 1992), and
- the Commission on Sustainable Development, which, at its first meeting in June 1993, selected the theme of water for its 1994 session.

Nevertheless, solutions have been sought and scientific knowledge has been furthered without taking into account many refined and ingenious cultures--a true legacy, in which humanity has striven to maintain a symbiosis with nature and in which modern technology, which is at times disruptive, has created psychological and social problems.

We certainly lack specific short-term studies in the social sciences, as well as field studies, in order to better understand and conceptualize the relationship between the users of water and the resource itself. Experience has shown, however, that communities and citizens' groups constitute a framework that is among the most conducive to expressing individual concerns and taking socially relevant action in the area of environmental protection in general.

If development strategies have failed in our countries, it is because we have marginalized populations that, in the interest of survival, use unacceptable practices to exploit the natural resources at their disposal. As we all know, environmentalists draw a connection between poverty and the need for environmental protection.

In this respect, section 18 of Agenda 21 and the alternative treaties that came out of the Earth Summit highlight the active role that nongovernmental organizations (NGOs), community groups, and local groups must play. The same passage underscores the importance of promoting the role of women.

At various times, we've all witnessed the efforts of ad hoc groups,

which have had various degrees of success according to their specific environments.

However, in attempts to encourage popular participation, not all of the state's initiatives are successful or well received. Nevertheless, some users of resources simply want to put the total burden on the state, as they consider water and other resources renewable.

The question is, What type of participatory approach should be taken towards divestiture in the case of governments that have opted for liberal policies? Where no appropriate legislative framework exists, one should be developed, and an approach determined accordingly. Where a suitable legislative framework does exist, it is important that it be applied. Moreover, in our nations, to what extent can the legal structures designed to protect water resources harmoniously recognize and deal with the coexistence of traditional standards, both Islamic and modern, establish suitable institutions, and successfully face the challenges at hand:

- first of all, taking measures that are not looked upon enthusiastically in the current economic context, since we are in a period of liberalization, privatization--a period of looking beyond our borders, and
- secondly, ensuring rational and integrated management of water resources while taking economic, social and cultural considerations into account.

For reasons of efficiency and effectiveness, and not equity alone, recognition of the role of civil society--men, women and children--is a matter of general interest.

Furthermore, when broaching the issue of water on the local or national level, we must bear in mind that because of the considerations involved, water must be viewed from a regional and even an international perspective.

The issue must, of course, be approached with the necessary caution and subtlety. However, the time has come to discuss it beyond the confines of the political realm.

What are our options? Either conflict or solidarity.

Disagreements over water undoubtedly create geopolitical problems; however, because of the complexity of the issue and the intense problems it raises, water could be a motive for solidarity among civil societies--not the type of ephemeral solidarity that turns into conflict, but solidarity that is constantly reinforced because it would involve the following:

- considering water resources as a shared legacy
- learning from the past and recognizing the value of traditional methods, as well as local skills and knowledge,

- with respect for sociocultural and religious realities
- dealing with inequality in a world in which resources are overexploited, both in general and in the realm of science and technology in particular
 - spreading information with integrity--not as a means of reinforcing specific claims of points of view
 - sharing resources.

Such an approach would inevitably involve democracy on both the local and international levels and the promotion of human rights, without losing sight of the importance of indigenous methods that correspond to local priorities and realities.

From the perspective of solidarity, to what extent could this conference be a link in a chain that we will have to imagine, form, and turn into reality as we share our experiences?

PROCEEDINGS OF WORKSHOPS

WORKSHOP #1: WATER MANAGEMENT

ISSUE

Water resources have always been a shared economic commodity and a factor in development.

STRATEGY

To optimize water management and ensure an equitable distribution between urban and rural areas, an appeal is being made to public authorities to:

- * consider water as a part of national heritage, and thus encourage the involvement of communities in its management--resources shared by neighbouring nations should be considered from a perspective of solidarity and cooperation
- * recognize the right of every citizen to clean water
- * encourage the consultation and involvement of citizens in decision-making on the issue of water resources
- * give priority to collecting, storing and using rain water before resorting to mining groundwater, and establish a task force to study this question
- * create widespread concern over the concept of water conservation by protecting it against pollution and waste through the user-pay principle
- * give first priority to meeting the needs of communities located at water-resource sites before allocation of resources, and then to meeting the less urgent needs of riverside communities near water-supply installations (e.g., the regional water supply project in the Oued Ziz valley in Morocco, the Associations d'Intérêt Collectif (AIC) project in Tunisia, etc.)
- * allocate funds to encourage NGOs dedicated to projects to supply drinking water to small villages in rural areas
- * encourage community participation, and give priority to establishing intermediate structures representative of the local population at the time of taking charge of the management of water (notably of surface water), and, in cooperation with NGOs, encourage the organization of these

intermediate structures so as to improve public health

* promote an integrated and active use of water resources, and make drinking water a priority

* encourage the involvement of women in all decisions pertaining to the management, protection and supply of water

* support NGOs, with the help of International Water Day festivities held every year on March 22, in planning information and public awareness campaigns

* encourage the role of NGOs in raising public awareness and ensuring positive attitudes towards the concept of reusing water through community control

* promote and facilitate the sharing of knowledge, skills and experience on water management between the different communities in the Southern Hemisphere

* promote the implementation of adequate technologies and the use of less-expensive local material, which can be managed and maintained by local communities, particularly women.

WORKSHOP #2: LOCAL INVOLVEMENT

ISSUE

The role of NGOs in finding solutions to problems concerning clean water is becoming more and more important in numerous countries. The nature and the number of their activities attests how they have become major players, and they must be acknowledged for their merits.

The discussions in this workshop focused on issues that need to be given top priority. Two main observations gave rise to a discussion on the following issues.

The first observation is that our NGOs carry out their activities in cooperation with individuals or local groups, with states and with international development agencies. Considering this strategic position, the consolidation of civil society in the area of water management is particularly dependent on the role played by our NGOs.

The second observation is that, for psycho-sociological, economic and technical reasons, it is important to apply the very concept of involvement judiciously. Depending on the context in

which it is (or has been) applied and the reasoning behind it, involvement is in fact a concept of exclusion rather than inclusion of citizens.

In light of these two observations, it is important to try to answer the following question:

How can we strengthen our NGOs so that their work may encourage real participation of communities in solving problems related to clean water?

STRATEGY

In reality, the approach of NGOs must be to observe, analyze and act accordingly.

1/ In relation to populations

Even when our NGOs adopt a more dynamic approach than that of involvement (independent development, participation, appropriating resources, taking charge of water resources, development monitoring, self-promotion, etc...), they may encounter real problems in their relations with local populations when establishing and maintaining their own autonomous local group. These problems include:

- * inexperience, and
- * lack of confidence.

In concrete terms, even when populations are capable of organizing themselves, certain obstacles can still turn their experience into failure. Generally, failure results from problems related to:

- * rallying people together
- * inadequate standards and structures
- * institutional coordination.

Therefore, our NGOs must be careful at all times not to cut themselves off from the communities in question:

- * by respecting their needs
- * by acknowledging and adapting their traditions and cultures to new needs.

2/ In relation to the state

Our NGOs must be careful not to:

- * become either an instrument of power or an instrument of the authorities
- * filter the claims of the communities in question against the government
- * contribute to the exoneration of states that are neglecting to meet the needs of the most underprivileged sectors of populations which have no access to decision-making bodies and government services.

In relation to both the people and the state, and within the framework of agreements based on mutual and equitable rights, our NGOs must act as:

- * facilitators
- * supporters of local energies that are conducive to progress.

How to strengthen local NGOs?

- By legitimizing their role in the eyes of local populations.
- By establishing working relations and communication structures among themselves (e.g., networks), as dictated by their actual needs and motivations.
- By being competitive and credible in terms of finances, techniques and ethics with respect to:

- * populations
- * public authorities, who must acknowledge their importance and confer them with a legal status that does not impede their existence and development
- * international development agencies (governmental and nongovernmental).
 - These agencies are expected to be attentive and more receptive to the needs of local populations and NGOs with which they must work directly.
 - In a spirit of solidarity, and in an effort to become more effective, international NGOs are expected to act as pressure groups representing local NGOs before other international bodies, and offer their support to local NGOs so as to ensure their survival.

WORKSHOP #3: TRAINING, EDUCATION AND OUTREACH

ISSUE

The issues related to the use of water (scarcity, pollution, uneven distribution) are becoming major problems for our societies, particularly Arab societies. However, we observe that the majority of users are not aware of the scarcity of this resource and of the necessity of respecting the practices regarding its use.

From now on, it is essential that educational and training programs on this question be developed.

For these programs to be effective, they must be made available in and by civil society. Because of their integration in society and their excellent knowledge of various national experiences, NGOs are in a prominent position to contribute to these activities. To achieve this goal, a certain number of rules guaranteeing their status and their operation must be adopted.

STRATEGY

Training, education and outreach

Participants at the Casablanca conference have recognized NGOs as important players in the search for alternative approaches to existing problems of water management, and have identified a number of methods to facilitate the training of development workers, the education of the public, as well as the popularization and dissemination of information. These methods are outlined below.

* Training of development agents

1/ Develop training programs that enable people from different sectors (public, private, NGO, community) to acquire and/or share knowledge concerning water-management issues.

2/ Put training, awareness and information programs on the social management of water at the disposal of government and private institutions. These programs will be tailored for executives and development agents.

3/ Start up a training program for members of NGOs in the Arab world to help improve their ability to act in the area of water management.

4/ Strengthen training activities among local groups involved in water management.

5/ Build a data base of experiences in the area of social

management of water, and make it available to the parties concerned.

* Education and Outreach

1/ Prepare information for the mass-media and other means of communication. Particular attention must be brought to traditional means of communication (e.g., oral communication).

2/ Start up educational and awareness activities in schools in cooperation with local authorities.

3/ Contribute to the popularization and distribution of research work conducted by different sectors.

* Organization

1/ Encourage the creation and maintain the operation of inter-NGO networks on water management in the Arab world.

2/ Encourage South-South and North-South exchanges concerning the appropriation of water resources.

WORKSHOP #4 : WATER, SOLIDARITY, PEACE AND CONFLICT

ISSUE

1/ * There are nations where NGOs do not exist!

* In other nations, NGOs:

- are operated by the state
- exist only on paper (i.e., "shadow" NGOs)
- are independently operated and active.

* In other regions, NGOs are officially recognized and cooperate as partners with the state.

2/ Governments have supported or recognized NGOs because of:

- the international recognition of NGOs and of their role in the area of development
- the firm stand taken by international-aid authorities "insisting" that governments draw up development plans integrating the activities of NGOs
- a local event sponsored by international organizations (e.g., the actions of Asian NGOs on behalf of the Japanese government).

3/ The legal and institutional recognition of NGOs varies from one nation to the next:

- Some have laws governing the administrative and financial operations of NGOs which do not take into consideration their actual activities so long as they do not compromise the "security" of the state.
- While in others, NGOs are given the same status as associations without any specification as to their legal framework.

4/ On the issue of water in the Arab world:

- It seems that very few NGOs consider the issue of water to be a priority.
- It also appears that NGOs have limited technical knowledge and skills in this area.
- NGOs need to refer to local consultants so as to develop an approach adapted to the problem of water.

Conflicts:

- * Rigid government structures and the global nature of state programs could be incompatible with the flexible structure of NGOs and the specific and local nature of their programs.
- * Regional NGOs have to face certain limitations:
 - poverty levels
 - illiteracy, and
 - village size.
- * Not only is the term NGO being disputed, but the democratic nature of these organizations is a particular source of mistrust on the part of governments.
- * On the issue of water, the NGO alternative can run counter to government and even regional plans.

STRATEGY

1/ Assemble NGOs under one banner: Water and the Arab World.

- * Lobby pressure groups.
- * Disseminate information concerning high risk situations.
- * Consult experts to study these cases.

2/ Establish a flexible and "informal" solidarity "network."

3/ Media/NGOs relations: communications.

- * NGOs must have their own means of communication.
- * Remain watchful of how the media cover sensitive issues and provide media support through a media consultant.
- * The media arouse public awareness in order to prevent them from becoming dependent.
- * Use the media to promote the role of NGOs in the area of development.

RESULTS AND FOLLOW-UP

- MAIN RESULTS

The Casablanca conference has made it possible to:

- Determine the importance of cultural environment (traditions, heritage, local knowledge and skills) for water management, especially in the Arab world.
- Learn from the past, and assess the differences in the experiences of participants in matters pertaining to community participation in decision-making--for example, relations between the various parties involved (local and national administrations, landowners, experts, universities, aide bodies, NGOs and community groups...).
- Agree on a common position regarding the role of civil society and of citizens with respect to water management, and present it at the meeting of the Conseil de Concertation held in Rabat from September 7 to 10, 1993. The presentation was made by Sanjit Bunker Roy (SWRC, India).
- Facilitate the participation of a dozen people who attended the Casablanca conference in the work of the Conseil de Concertation held in Rabat from September 7 to 10, 1993. In this way, the discussions at the Casablanca conference may contribute to planning sustainable-development strategies by showing the merits of the NGO alternative.

- FOLLOW-UP: PARTICIPANTS

Each conference participant has made a commitment to:

- distribute the report of the Casablanca conference
- publicize the event
- to make an inventory of NGOs, in his or her own country, operating in the area of water purification, including networks that may exist.

Moreover, we have invited all participants to give a summary of their own concrete activities, and to list ideas and projects to which they would give priority at the local and the national level.

- FOLLOW-UP: MOROCCO

- Official creation of a steering committee for the NGO/ community-group structure. The mandate of this committee would be two-fold: on the one hand, map out a plan of activities extending over a two-year period to strengthen the institutional structure (organizational support, transfer of responsibilities, adequate training) of Moroccan NGOs, and, on the other hand, establish a meaningful dialogue and strengthen the partnership between all parties involved in the area of sustainable development.

- In cooperation with UNDP, ONEP and ISW, draw up a proposal for a public awareness and information campaign using the Drop of Hope hot air balloon.

- Develop a multisector fund-raising strategy to support existing or future projects.

- Participate in and contribute to the establishment and operation of the Inter-Arabe network.

- Organize a training seminar within the next four months, as the first formal activity of the Moroccan coalition.

- FOLLOW-UP OF THE INTER-ARABE NETWORK OR THE "ALLIANCE INTER-ARABE POUR L'EAU ET LE DÉVELOPPEMENT"

1) Confirm the dual structure of the network, co-chaired by Houria Tazi-Sadeq in Casablanca, and Magdi Sidhom in Cairo.

2) Prepare the first meeting of the provisional steering committee which will meet at the end of February 1994. The following is a list of current members: Houria Tazi-Sadeq (Morocco), Magdi Sidhom (Egypt), Denise Harrison (Mauritania), Raymond Jost (ISW), Hammoum Djamel-Eddine (Algeria), Pierre-Marie Grondin (France; Programme Solidarité Eau), Arancibia Carlos (Tunisia; OXFAM-Québec/OCSO) and Benoit Berger (France; CCFD).

3) Identify representatives of NGOs and local groups from Arab countries who were not present at the Casablanca conference.

4) Map out a strategy extending over the next two years.

5) Raise funds for the partnership and ensure its development.

6) Organize two or three regional training workshops within the next six months; the first will be held in Tunis in mid-December, 1993. These workshops--an initiative of the provisional steering committee--are prepared in cooperation with the participants at the Casablanca conference. These workshops will be aimed at NGOs and community organizations working in the area of water and will provide an opportunity to strengthen the Alliance Inter-Arabe. Symbolically, they will be held in three different locations in the Arab world and will be organized with the help of bodies from other parts of the world (the Southern and the Northern Hemispheres).

APPENDIXES

APPENDIX I : PROGRAM

Saturday, September 4: Chaired by: Magdi Sidhom

9:00 a.m.: Official Opening

- Welcome Address by Houria Tazi Sadeq (Somade)
- Speech by Mohamed Allal Sinaceur
Minister of Cultural Affairs
- Presentation by Abdou El Filali El Ansari
Director of the Fondation du Roi Abdul Aziz Al Saoud

10:00 a.m.: Break

10:30 a.m.: Plenary: What is at Stake at the Casablanca Conference?

- Presentation of Participants
- Introductory Report: Houria Tazi Sadeq (Somade)
- Presentations and Debates on Suggested Themes

1:00 p.m.: Lunch Break

2:30 p.m.: Plenary: Continuation of Presentations and Debates

4:15 p.m.: Break

4:45 p.m.: Plenary: Continuation and Conclusion of Presentations and Debates

6:00 p.m.: Setting-up of Workshops

6:30 p.m.: End of Workshops

Sunday, September 5: Chaired by: Houria Tazi Sadeq

**Citizens and Water in the Arab World:
present role and future perspectives**

**9:00 a.m.: Introductory Report During Plenary: Magdi Sidhom (CRS)
Debate**

10:00 a.m.: Break

10:15 a.m.: Workshops

1:00 p.m.: Lunch Break

2:30 p.m.: Continuation of Workshops

5:00 p.m.: Break

5:30 p.m.: Plenary: What Types of Networks and Synergy?
- Presentation of Networks and Experiences: L. O. Ramos (Approtech Asia), A. Sendama Mulashi (RARE), P.-M. Grondin (Programme Solidarité Eau), L. Chabert D'Hieres (Eau Vive)

- Debate

6:30 p.m.: End of Working Sessions

8:30 p.m.: Moroccan Meal

Monday, September 6: Co-Chaired by: Houria Tazi Sadeq and Magdi Sidhom

Water, Civil Society: Who? What? How?

9:00 a.m.: Plenary: Presentation of Summary of Discussions of the Different Workshops

10:00 a.m.: Debate

10:45 a.m.: Break

11:15 a.m.: Summary Report / Common Position to be Presented to the Conseil de Concertation (Sanjit Bunker Roy - SWRC)
Creation of Follow-up Committee
Commitments

12:45 p.m.: Closing of the Casablanca Conference

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APPNDIX III : LIST OF PARTICIPANTS BY WORKSHOP

Workshop #1: MANAGEMENT OF WATER

Moderator : Denise Harrison
Report : Khadija Kaouakib Kadiri

| | | |
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| - Lahoussain Echihabi | ONEP | Rabat (Morocco) |
| - Mohamed Chaouni | DH | Rabat (Morocco) |
| - Bunker Roy | SWRC | Rajasthan (India) |
| - Ibrahima C. Diong | RADI | Dakar (Senegal) |
| - Denise Harrison | ONG Espoir | Nouakchott (Mauritania) |
| - Pierre-Marie Grondin | PS Eau | Paris (France) |
| - Khadija Kaouakib Kadiri | Somade | Rabat (Morocco) |
| - Mohamed Marouani | APEL | Tunis (Tunisia) |

Workshop #2: LOCAL INVOLVEMENT

Moderator : Ahmed Ghazali
Report : Leïla Tazi

| | | |
|----------------------------|---------------|----------------------|
| - Ahmed Ghazali | Fac. Droit | Rabat (Morocco) |
| - Leïla Tazi | AMRASH | Casablanca (Morocco) |
| - Driss Moumane | CRS | Rabat (Morocco) |
| - Zaghloul Ehab | CDS | Khartoum (Sudan) |
| - Antoine Sendama | RARE | Nairobi (Kenya) |
| - Michele Kasriel | ADRAR | Imilchil (Morocco) |
| - Laurent Chabert D'Hieres | Eau Vive | Paris (France) |
| - Françoise N. Bouchanine | INAU and ENDA | Rabat (Morocco) |

Workshop #3: TRAINING, EDUCATION AND OUTREACH

Moderator : Carlos Arancibia
Report : Nejib Bouderbala

| | | |
|-------------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|
| - Djamel Eddine Hammoun | ADRESS | Algiers (Algeria) |
| - Abdellah Jawad | MARA/EACCE | Casablanca (Morocco) |
| - Benoit Berger | CCFD | Paris (France) |
| - Mario Vasconez | CIUDAD | Quito (Ecuador) |
| - Magdi Mehanni | ACHE | Minia (Egypt) |
| - Nejib Bouderbala | IA Hassan II | Rabat (Morocco) |
| - Noufissa Sbai | AFJEM | Rabat (Morocco) |
| - Carlos Arancibia | OCSJ/ OXFAM Québec | Tunis (Tunisia) |

Workshop #4:

WATER, SOLIDARITY, PEACE AND CONFLICT

Moderator : Lekbir Ouhajjou
Report : Magdi Sidhom

| | | |
|---------------------|----------------|----------------------|
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| - Lilia O. Ramos | Approtech ASIA | Manila (Philippines) |
| - Antoune Dahdouh | ES | Cairo (Egypt) |
| - Lekbir Ouhajjou | Fac. Lettres | Agadir (Morocco) |
| - Magdi Sidhom | CRS | Cairo (Egypt) |
| - Houria Tazi Sadeq | Somade | Casablanca (Morocco) |
| - Ahmed Ifzarane | J. Al Khadra | |
| | Al Jadira | Tangier (Morocco) |