For the purpose of the conference held by the Forum for the 21st Century on the 29th November 2011 on the Global water issues

Notes:

- From a pure scientific approach water was one of the basic elements for creating life on planet Earth, among appropriate heat and different chemical substances. Without this source evolution would not have been possible. This theory is mainly based on the knowledge that planets need excessive quantities of water to create life, which is why we are the only planet with visible life on it in the entire solar system.

- Water makes 70% of the weight of the human body. Our muscles contain 75% of water, our brains consist of 70% to 85% of water, it makes more than a half of our entire blood pool, and even bones consist of 25% water. From this data it has to be clear, that life without water could not even possible. The recommended reference daily intake (RDI) for water is 3.7 litres per day (l/day) for human males older than 18, and 2.7 l/day for human females older than 18 including water contained in food, beverages, and drinking water. The amount of water varies with the individual, as it depends on the condition of the subject, the amount of physical exercise, and on the environmental temperature and humidity. An individual's thirst provides a better guide for how much water they require rather than a specific, fixed quantity.

- Water covers 70.9% of the Earth's surface, and is vital for all known forms of life. On Earth, it is found mostly in oceans and other large water bodies, with 1.6% of water below ground in aquifers and 0.001% in the air as vapor, clouds (formed by solid and liquid water particles suspended in air), and precipitation. Oceans hold 97% of surface water, leaving fresh surface water 3%, of which 2,4% is kept in glaciers and polar ice, and 0,6 in rivers, lakes and ponds .A very small amount of the Earth's water is contained within biological bodies and manufactured products.

- Most Africans residing in rural areas use, on average, only 30 to 40 liters of water per day for domestic consumption, the United Nations estimates. In comparison, the average U.S. consumer uses approximately 700 liters of water per day.

- The UN estimates that by 2025, forty-eight nations, with combined population of 2.8 billion, will face freshwater “stress” or “scarcity”

- 1.1 billion people do not have access to safe drinking water. They lack public distribution systems that could provide tap water for they homes, protected wells and springs, public stand posted or rain water collectors.

- 2.6 billion people lack access to basic sanitation. This number represents mainly 42% of the world population and is represented by third world countries mainly in South-East Asia and a significant part of Africa. Due to lack of sanitation illnesses and other diseases spread much easier, causing many epidemics and deaths each year.

- 1.3 million people die of malaria each year, of which 90% are children under the age of 5 years. A better and cleaner source of drinkable water can also reduce the transmission this disease and also many other vector-born diseases

- 2.1 million children die of diarrhea every year due to impure water they drink which creates an estimate of a child dying every 15 seconds.

- Because of poor water treatment legislation in the Third world countries and because of the insignificant power of local authorities, wastewater treatment practically does not exist. Therefore many international corporations outsource their production lines to these parts of the world in hope of reducing their costs by using the local cheap labor force and low environmental taxes and treatment costs.

- The most efficient way to transport and deliver potable water is through pipes. Plumbing can require significant capital investment. Some systems suffer high operating costs. The cost to replace the deteriorating water and sanitation infrastructure of industrialized countries may be as high as $200 billion a year. Leakage of untreated and treated water from pipes reduces access to water. Leakage rates of 50% are not uncommon in urban systems.Because of the high initial investments, many less wealthy nations cannot afford to develop or sustain appropriate infrastructure, and as a consequence people in these areas may spend a correspondingly higher fraction of their income on water. 2003 statistics from El Salvador, for example, indicate that the poorest 20% of households spend more than 10% of their total income on water. In the United Kingdom authorities define spending of more than 3% of one's income on water as a hardship.

Proposes

Forum for 21st Century proposes creating a worldwide committee that would be dealing with global issues and would be an effective tool in enforcing the results that would come out of the negotiations.

- **Name**

  Forum for 21st Century proposes creating a name for this new organization. The entitled name is proposed to be World Water Committee. This name has been chosen due to its environmental agenda and its concerns in the topic water.

- **Funding**

  For the purpose of creating a functional enforcing body a certain amount of finances is going to be needed. The Forum proposes a shared input from the World Bank, that has environmental protection in its agenda, state governments and last but not least the private sector represented by the largest trans-national corporations that also take part in water pollution. 1.5% of the GDP shall be directed to the funds created by the committee by each signing member country. Furthermore a 2% of the net income by each signing TNC shall be directed to the funds created by the committee. Last but not least the World Bank will participate in 5% from its annual budget.

  The financial resources will be allocated to the Water Fund as a means of financial support of the WWC. The structure of the payments will be divided into the two parts. 40% of the resources form each member state or TNC will be mandatory. The rest 60% will be deductable in member states through projects done by local governmental agencies or other means for dealing with water concerns. In the case of transnational corporations it can be deducted if the company has invested in new technologies or better wastewater management. The 60% are a form of motivation to encourage member states in participation in environmental programs and companies to have more environmental friendly projects.

The budget of each year will be created the year before no later then middle of November. By this time all questions and dealings must be closed and the budget approved. The budget will consist of three parts; of the amount of financial resources diverted to projects, for the inner function of the committee. The last part will function as a reserve in case of a water related crises (oil spills, draughts, contaminated water, lack of clean sources of water after natural disasters)

- **Structure**

General Assembly

The General Assembly will consist of representatives, heads of agencies in the member states which will be appointed to carry out crucial decision for the correct running of WWC. Each member state will have one seat at the General assembly. The TNC will fill additional 2 seats. The number of seats filled by the TNC will be revised after the acceptance of new members so the ration will be preserved.

The World Bank will nominate a candidate to the General Assembly for the office of General Director, who will be appointed for a period of 6 years. During this time he will perform the tasks necessary for the well running fo the committee.

Advisory Body of experts

The Advisory Body of the World Water Committee will consist of the Head and Deputy Head of five different fields of expertise. The members will be elected by the general assembly for a term of 6 years. Candidates can also be picked from third countries, and will have to be respected people in their own field of expertise, with the highest education and the most possible experience. The departments of the body are the following:

Legal department- Lawyers will secure the legal flow of the activities of the WWC. They will play a significant advisory role in the implementation of the legislation improvements set by the Committee. This way, each project could have a correct legislative background that would not break any other bilateral or multilateral agreement.

Economic department- This department will play the main advisory role in the budgeting process. It will evaluate the sustainability of each project, and will present their financial requirements. It will also be responsible for the documentation of the projects, in order to provide the Control Board with transparent information.

Water research- The two main experts will decide, which innovation could increase the efficiency of the solution process the most. They will provide the Economic department with data, information, inputs and outputs, in order to set the common budget more easily and get a share for their research and development program.

Technical department- Engineering experts will comment each proposed project, set the required length of implementation and evaluate, if the given goal is achievable and economical with current technologies. The future environmental sustainability and maintenance planning of each project will be among the concerns of this department

Project planning department- The fifth department will take into consideration the results of the other departments and set an implementation plan for each project. It will complete the process of the advisory body, by setting the final recommendations for the General Assembly, so it can begin its negotiation processes.

The Control Board

Independent members will be elected by the General Assembly for a term of 6 years. Candidates can be picked from non-contracted countries as well. The main activity of the control board will be to promote the transparency of the funding and the entire process of the decision making. The Control Board will supervise the World Water Fund, and assure that it is used for the correct purpose. 40% of each share will be put to use in the Common Fund, and 60% of the share of each country will be available for Domestic Aid for Water Solutions within the country. Annually the control board will monitor the domestic use of the 60% share, and will relocate the unused amount into the Common Fund. This will motivate each country to reach a higher level of environmental cautiousness and willingness to solve the water crisis in a more efficient way.

- **Agenda**

Last but not least is the question of the work of the committee. The main idea is that this body will undertake the leading role in dealing with global issues concerning water pollution and support in water protection:

The main role is to support various NGOs and the projects they carry out. For illustration the African region is in a serious drought problem which is visible mainly in Somalia and Sudan (both Republic of Sudan and South Sudan). This crisis can be also solved by creating new wells with safe drinkable water. One well is estimated to be from 6 500 dollars to 30 000 dollars depending on the amount of people in the area, the terrain and many other factor.

Pipelines are considered to be an important issue in water distribution. Even though well create a source from which water can be obtained pipelines are a means of transportation of this source to areas where water cannot be brought by wells and are dealing with serious water issues. The main goal is to build new pipelines and fund the reconstruction and modernization of the existing ones.

Desalination is a means of obtaing water in regions where underground sources of water are insufficient and the only source is salt water. The construction of new facilities can prevent water problems in many regions.

Wastewater management is an issue mainly concerning large urban areas in poor counties where any form of wastewater treatment is too expensive. The committees role is to financial and also technically support such projects. Another concern is wastewater from productions. The role of the committee is to positively support such productions and help in reducing the amount of waste due to their production.

Many NGOs such as Wells for life, Water Aid, The African Water Page, Water Advocates, Water for People, Water Life Foundation and many more, have been created for the perposes the committee will be established. Therefore we see the potential in supporting such

organizations in financial and material forms. These organizations have created a system in which they function effectively. These systems can be developed in participation with the WWC. The various NGOs will be considered and the most effective will be granted funds for their work.

WWC will consist of experts in the field of environmental law. Its agenda will be to create legislation that will support environmental protection in member states. It will also create a force to prevent a water crisis. In countries where the legislation is weak and also the authority it will act as a negotiator with large producers of waste and try to come to a consensus. This agenda will be mainly carried out in LDCs which do not have a sufficient legislation power. The committee will however act only under the authority of the country which asked for support. Otherwise it will be considered as a breach of sovereignty.

The committee will also carry out the decisions which regions will be considered as priorities to other due to the situation in the region (which counties are in more need of assistance then other regions). LDCs are the primary target of this committee. The GDP of such countries is dramatically low. That is why environmental protection cannot be carried out through their personal fund. Also as previously mentioned the weak legislation in wastewater management is insufficient or non-existing in many cases.

The WWC will also support research and development. Various institutions will have the possibility of applying for a non-repayable financial grant, which will support research in various areas concerning water issues such as:

- Desalination (a project in increasing the effectiveness of the method of desalination of salt water for industrial and as a source of drinking water)
- Wastewater treatment plant (a project increasing the effectiveness of wastewater management so the increase of wastewater processing in large cities is handled in the following years. The second concern is the research in the field of reducing prices for constructing such facilities)

The last concern is to create a digital library in which all the materials needed for research, personal use, media, for the general public will be kept under one institution concerning water and its role in the world. The fact that over the years much information about water has been gathered but the availability is very low. That is why the concentration on all available documents will be a great benefit mainly for research, but also a great influence for education of the general public.