

CSD 13 NEGOTIATIONS LACK AN ETHICAL FRAMEWORK FOR THE CULTURAL MANIFESTATIONS OF WATER

Water is Life: the recognition, as a guiding principle, that “water connects and regulates planet earth as the sacred mat of life” by nourishing the land and all living organisms, including human beings.

An ethical framework based upon respect for life-giving water and its cultural manifestations is of critical importance for water, sanitation and human settlement policy. Humanity must declare all water sources as sacred sites.

Underlying the global water crisis is not just a governance crisis, but also a cultural crisis. Water is a vital resource, having economic, ecological, social and spiritual functions. Relations between peoples and their environment are embedded in culture. Water is life, physical, emotional and spiritual. It should not be considered merely as an economic resource.

Sharing water is an ethical imperative and expression of human solidarity. The intimate relationship between water and peoples should be explicitly taken into account in all decision-making processes.

Cultural diversity, developed during the millennia by human societies, constitutes a treasure of sustainable practices and innovative approaches. Indigenous knowledge holders should be full partners with scientists to find solutions for water-related and human settlement issues.

Education is necessary to learn about the sacredness of water as well as the inclusion of indigenous and traditional laws are needed to “protect water for future generations of all plants and animals.”

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