

UBERLÂNDIA'S MANIFESTO

Uberlândia's Manifesto was presented at the Closing Plenary Section of the VI Workshop of Planning and Sustainable Development of Hydrographic Basins, on the 14th of July 2017.

All stakeholders had the opportunity to propose changes, additions and exclusions to the text, whenever it was suitable.

The above mentioned suggestions were proposed during the Workshop, from the 11th to the 13th of July, in order to allow the Systematization Committee to organize the final text submitted to the Plenary on July 14. Suggestions were done directly on the proposed Text, allowing prompt recognition of the proposed modification. UBERLÂNDIA'S MANIFESTO in its final form is presented below:

The participants of the VI Workshop of Planning and Sustainable Development of Hydrographic Basins, convened at the Universidade Federal de Uberlândia, in Uberlândia, State of Minas Gerais, Brazil, express their concern about the ever more intense advancement and implementation by Latin American governments, with the association of international, national, and monopoly corporations, of policies directed to the mercantilization and privatization of water sources and services based on surface and subsurface water of hydrographic basins.

Clearly, such trends go against the Universal Rights for Water Declaration, issued in Rio de Janeiro in 1992, namely in the articles 1st, 5th, 6th, 9th and 10th, placing environmental sustainability, the rights of peoples and nations to a humankind asset and a fundamental human right consecrated by the United Nations in 2010 (Resolution n 64 – 292), at risk, culminating in a process of intense and extended social struggle.

The present management mode and usurpation of natural patrimony characterizes a reinforcement of extractivism, namely:

- the use of water resources and hydrographic basis beyond their support, reposition and resilience capacity;
- the unrestrained exploitation of nature for maximum profit to a reduced group of owners, disrespecting the collectivity;
- the control of monopolizing agents in the intent of controlling nature in a rampant manner, superimposing the natural organization of its components;

- stripping and distortion of integrated management assumptions and fundamentals, with participation of society in the management system, in the instances, in the application of policy and governance instruments of water resources;

- lack of discretionarity to assure the rights and duties of the diverse social and economic actors towards the sustainability of water resources, water social-environmental value and the Constitutional Democratic State.

The application of the neoliberal model in the management of water and hydrographic basins has caused numerous conflicts that reflect on social crises, such as happened with the attempted privatization of water in Bolivia, resulting in a popular uprising between January and April 2000, which reverted that process.

We see with interest the resistance processes against the neoliberal mercantilization privatizing of services of water supply and sanitation which are being brought about in numerous locations around the world, such as Atlanta, Indianapolis, Johannesburg, Dar-es-Salaam, Accra, Almaty, Kuala Lumpur etc. In Europe, the process of recuperation of public management ("back to the State") has gained special strength, in particular Paris, Berlin, Budapest, Montpellier, Tarrasa and Valladolid, where public management is understood as transparency, social participation and accountability.

The present advance of the neoliberal model on nature exploitation has been motivated by a reflux of conservative political positions, which are manifested by the establishment of right wing governments in Honduras, Paraguay, Argentina, Brazil, as well as by the neoliberal offensive in Equator, Bolivia and Venezuela and by worsening of the political crisis in Mexico, where civil society is mobilized to halt the advancement of neoliberal policies in the water sector, which are pressed forward by the national government.

There is a weakening of local communities that historically developed knowledge and traditional know-how, respecting the conditions of natural resources, with especial emphasis on the use of water resources. Moreover, an intense hurry from the United States imperialism is recognized with the intent of deepening and broadening of attacks against the Cuban socialism model and the alternative experiences of land and water resources uses that are seen in several parts of Planet Earth. In these countries and in others, the implementation of processes directed to a greater democratization and nationalization of natural resources through their rational use, based on environmental and territorial planning, as well on social management of nature, is urgent.

The process of inflexion to the right, characterized by increased concentration of income and land, as presently seen in Latin America, occurs through several manners and procedures. Among them, the following are pointed:

- the offensive through communication media;
- the production of lies and deceit about management of democratic governments;
- the intent of violating management of governments;
- including the occurrence of coups of judicial, legislative and mediatic, as seen in Brazil in 2016.

We are conscious of the existence of food, environment, climate, energy, political-cultural and socioeconomic crises of global character, their direct linkage with the question of water and hydric resources. We also know that access to water depends on how the distribution of other goods and resources is done, on how the land is appropriated, distributed and used, as societies.

We highlight the need to develop alternatives for such neoliberal policies, together with the diversity of actors fighting for the democratization of politics and for the management of water and essential services. Among other noteworthy examples that can be mentioned, there are several successful alternative processes, such as the struggle that led the European Parliament to ban the use cyanide within its borders in 2010. In contrast, enterprises continue to use cyanide and other toxic substances, practically with no government regulation, in Latin America.

A struggle again turned El Salvador into the first country to ban open pit mining in 2017, due to its detrimental effects on water and life. The processes of renationalization of sanitation enterprises happened in cities as Paris, Berlin, Atlanta, Buenos Aires, and in other cities in the Americas, Africa, Asia, and in Europe. This is a particularly important process in Spain and the United Kingdom, at the moment, and we want to express our support to the “unprivatizers” and “remunicipalitizers” that fight to revert the policies of privatization mercantilism.

Related to these questions, it is urgent to rethink our patterns of production and consume, which affect the water resources, since water consumerism has increased. Per capita demand in the United States is 38 times greater than that of Ethiopia and three times that of Brazil. The United Nations estimates that, by 2025, 2.7 billion people will suffer from water scarceness.

Therefore, from what has been exposed above, the participants of the VI Workshop of Planning and Sustainable Development of Hydrographic Basins express:

1) The intent of working in a daily basis on scientific and technical production and on the reinforcement of application models of Planning and Management of surface and subsurface Waters in hydrographic basins that are Democratic, Participative and Social, as a manner to stimulate the

democratization of nature use and exploration, thus assuring the protection of the multidimensional functions and values of the water, including the ecological, social, economic and cultural dimensions of water, guaranteeing its common and equitable usufruct to the present population and future generations, through the incorporation of sustainability in the development processes;

2) The disposition to condemn and to propose alternatives to the intents of conservative and hegemonic forces in the region of seizing the political power using defamatory, manipulative means, including state coups disguised by legality, to promote privatization of natural resources and the implementation of neoliberal models of exploitation of nature, which threaten life itself and democracy. The social use of water should be prioritized, as shown by several international and national studies presented and discussed in this VI International Workshop of Planning and Sustainable Development of Hydrographic Basins;

3) The urgent need to protect water, river and aquifer quality and take them into account as a fundamental strategy against climatic changes;

4) The resolute defense of the right to water and sanitizing services, as a fundamental measure in the implementation of the Objectives of Sustainable Development and on the improvement of population life and health, especially of the poor;

5) The rejection of the mercantilization and privatization processes, as attempts to liberalize and include water public services in free trade agreements.

**VI Workshop of Planning and Sustainable
Development of Hydrographic Basins**

Uberlândia, (UFU) July 11 - 15, 2017