



Brasília, 1st July 2009

Dear friends of GWP,

During the past seven years I had been working with GWP. At first, as a member of SAMTAC, and after this, as GWP Brazil Chair, taking part of GWP South America Steering Committee, and been Chair of GWP South America, during the last year, until 1st June 2009.

During this time I had the privilege to participate of the GWP transformation - from the RTACS to an open and inclusiveness forum and I do collaborated with the new strategy - from advocacy to outcomes - what and who we want to change with Integrated Water Resources Management promotion.

I had the pleasure, as well, to meet and work with so many interesting people, dedicated to the cause, working *pro bono*, like us, in various sectors and institutions over the world. I do believe in this network because we had many good experiences in changing minds and governments. Here I want to emphasize two excellent outcomes we had: The Declaration of Lima and The Lusophone Water Partnership, an important south-south initiative.

The Declaration was made at the "Seminar on National IWRM Plans in the Ibero-American context" held in Peru, on 2008, and was adopted to support IWRM planning and implementation, including the establishment of a legal and institutional framework, and to strengthen their water financing capacity.

As a response to the commitments expressed in the Declaration, the ground was prepared for joint action between GWP and the EUWI Finance Working Group, to carry out two Water Financing Workshops in Central and South America.

In addition to the regional impact, the Lima Declaration has been important for Peru to creation of the National Water Authority and the National System of Water Resources, both in 2008.

The Lusophone Water Partnership, a joint initiative, launched in 2006 by GWP in cooperation with Cap-Net Brazil, advanced, in the last three years, with many training and knowledge-sharing events. I do believe this south-south cooperation is critical to an integrated approach, taking into account historical, social,

environmental and cultural contexts, making participation processes more meaningful and rooted in on-the-ground reality. Moreover, this initiative is strengthening the inter-regional work of African RWPs where Portuguese is spoken.

Beside these initiatives we had a lot of IWRM seminars, training events and meetings in Argentina, Brazil, Venezuela, Peru, Chile, Colombia, Uruguay and Paraguay, spreading the GWP message and gathering more people involved - in our region we increment, in this period, 15% of our membership; now, we have about 10% for all GWP members in the world!

Our agenda in 2009 is very interesting as well - we will have, in Brazil, the First Seminar on Transboundary IWRM in South America. This event will have high political impact due to the important sponsorship of the Environmental Ministry, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Legislature and Judiciary Powers and Legal Academics. We will also have, in Colombia, the South American Seminar on Water Financing. Regarding to the Lusophone Water Partnership, will have this month the Water Resources Cape Vert Association launched in Cape Vert and the Climate Change Seminar, held in Mozambique.

I want to express in this opportunity all my happiness with this work and to take part of this family.

On a personal level, my gratitude to my South American SC colleagues: Santiago Ruiz, from Argentina, our new SC President, Nicole Bernex, from Peru, and Diego Días, from Venezuela; to GWPO support, especially to Gabriela Grau and Catharina Sahlin-Tegnander, always present to help us; on GWP Brazil level, my deeply thanks to Ninon Machado and Aídes Telles Oliveira - without both I could not reach our goals. I'm sure that Letitia Obeng, Ania Grobicki and Martin Walshe, with their energy and commitment, will continue provide GWP a alive network, a very strong role.

From now on I'll continue serving GWP as an ordinary member - as representative of The Brazilian National Water Agency, taking part in the GWP Brazil SC.

With my best wishes,



Gisela Forattini