

# **The Treaty Initiative by Blue Planet Project To Share And Protect The Global Water Commons**

## **Intro**

The following pledge is offered as a tool for a common call to protect water as something we all share. Increasingly we are realizing that economic globalization is at its heart a threat to the global commons, those things that we all depend on and share together: water, air, our own genetic code.

It is a solemn, undeniable commitment to recognize water as one of those common elements that are too precious to turn over to private greed and the faceless global marketplace. Going forward to Rio + 10 we must unite to enforce one simple demand that at its core protects the earth's common heritage. This demand is present in many of the Declarations that have appeared around the world. Some of them have been included in these materials in the Tools section.

This Pledge is a commitment for ourselves, our communities, and our representatives to pursue new and better solutions than those that threaten the earth and our fundamental human rights. The following treaty initiative was unanimously adopted by the conference participants on July 8, 2001.

## **THE TREATY INITIATIVE TO SHARE AND PROTECT THE GLOBAL WATER COMMONS**

We proclaim these truths to be universal and indivisible:

That the intrinsic value of the Earth's fresh water precedes its utility and commercial value, and therefore must be respected and safeguarded by all political, commercial and social institutions,

That the Earth's fresh water belongs to the earth and all species and therefore, must not be treated as a private commodity to be bought, sold and traded for profit,

That the global fresh water supply is a shared legacy, a public trust and a fundamental human right and, therefore, a collective responsibility,

And,

Whereas, the world's finite supply of available fresh water is being polluted, diverted and depleted so fast that millions of people and species are now deprived of water for life and,

Whereas governments around the world have failed to protect their precious fresh water legacies,

Therefore, the nations of the world declare the Earth's fresh water supply to be a global commons, to be protected and nurtured by all peoples, communities and governments of all levels and further declare that fresh water will not be allowed to be privatized, commodified, traded or exported for commercial purpose and must immediately be exempted from all existing and future international and bilateral trade and investment agreements.

The parties to this treaty - to include signatory nation states and Indigenous Peoples - further agree to administer the Earth's fresh water supply as a trust. The signatories acknowledge the sovereign right and responsibility of every nation and homeland to oversee the fresh water resources within their borders and determine how they are managed and shared. Governments all over the world must take immediate action to declare that the waters in their territories are a public good and enact strong regulatory structures to protect them. However, because the world's fresh water supply is a global commons, it cannot be sold by any institution, government, individual or corporation for profit.