



**Report on the attendance the  
SECOND INTERNATIONAL FORUM OF NGOs IN OFFICIAL  
PARTNERSHIP WITH UNESCO  
*With the support of THE GOVERNMENT OF CÔTE D'IVOIRE***

***“Access to Water for All in Africa”  
“A fundamental human right Women and Youth  
at the root of this objective”***

**presented by IFHE Liaison Egypt  
Associate Prof. Mona Sharaf ABDEL GALIL  
Alexandria University**

It was though “the first international NGOs in partnership with UNESCO forum to be held outside Headquarters”. It was conceived as a place for listening and exchange, a useful site where effective proposals may be developed for solutions to the essential survival of millions of human beings.

The forum object was the access to safe drinking water for all in Africa: a human and economic urgency in context of the Post-2015 Development Goals by its impact on poverty, illiteracy, health.

The objectives were to bring to light the progress and obstacles to this necessity. Identify the major obstacle and its causes so that civil society can effectively weigh its decisions. Taking Africa as a basis, is rich in water, in particular thanks to its 660,000 cubic kilometers of under-used subterranean water resources. Furthermore, the international legal bases can provide a framework to make this fundamental “human right” a reality.

The forum was held on two days 30<sup>th</sup> - 31<sup>st</sup> July 2014. An opening ceremony took place under the presidency of the Prime Minister of Cote d'Ivoire with the participation of Minister of National Education and Technical Education of Cote d'Ivoire Mrs Kandia CAMARA, UNESCO Assistant Director-General for external relations and public information M. Eric FALT and Chairperson of the international Conference of NGO, NGO-UNESCO Liaison Committee Mr Patrick GALLAUD, besides, a video message of Mrs Irina BOKOVA Director-General of UNESCO. The event has been divided into sessions each of which was under the honor of different Ministers in Cote d'Ivoire and ending with a session by the Head of UNESCO Office in Abidjan.

Our IFHE Representative Dr. Mona Sharaf ABDEL GALIL, Egypt liaison and IFHE Representative at UNESCO has given a three minutes intervention in the session on the second day: “Water for peace: for potential conflict to cooperation potential (PCCP) in Africa”.

The forum outcomes were a follow-up to the proposals and decision adopted by the NGOs in cooperation with the UNESCO Secretariat, particularly the Africa Department, through the Liaison committee, reinforced by field experience. A manifesto intended for political and economic decision-makers could be adopted by the participants.

In final , to allow the voices of African women and men to be heard, youth in particular, to make possible that which is necessary in solidarity with the other continents.

### **Intervention for 3 minutes by Mona Sharaf ABDEL GALIL**

On behalf of the International Federation for Home Economics (IFHE) I present their greetings and wishes to fruitful forum. I'm so pleased to have the opportunity to exchange and share experience with representatives worldwide specially from Africa on water Access issues, and to discuss the directions and goals of one of the socioeconomic rights which is the right to safe water and good sanitation as a fundamental right to individuals and families.

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to participate as a liaison for the International Federation for Home Economics (IFHE), to exchange and share experience with representatives worldwide specially from Africa on water Access issues, and to discuss the directions and goals of one of the socioeconomic rights which is the right to safe water and good sanitation as a fundamental right to individuals and families.

First of all

The International Federation for Home Economics (IFHE) is the only worldwide organisation concerned with Home Economics and Consumer Studies. It was founded in 1908 to serve as a platform for international exchanges in the field of Home Economics.

Since it's founding the mission of Home Economics is to contribute to the construction of the Social Peace in the family, to reduce poverty, to develop social sustainability, and promote the good dialogue in the family. The Home Economics education is one of the main activities of the IFHE to achieve these objectives.

The members of the IFHE are drawn from academia, community based occupations and corporate consumer services, hospitality and service-based organisations. The professionals associated with the IFHE focus on the fundamental needs and practical concerns of individuals and family in everyday life and their importance both at the individual and at community levels.

It is also concerned with the issues impacting individuals and families at the societal and global levels so that their wellbeing can be enhanced in an ever changing and ever challenging environment.

The ultimate goal of the Federation is to improve the quality of life of individuals, families and households through the management of their resources.

I believe that “The Role of Home Economics and household management has become indispensable as a “transmission belt” between the institutions, scientific research, and families.”

Access to clean water services and sanitation in various parts of the world is a fundamental individuals and families’ right, it is one of the challenges faced by children of the current generation and their children.

Locally, the per capita share of water in Egypt is decreasing every year from 1832 cubic meters in 1959, to 687 cubic meters per capita in 2008 and 2013, and most people especially in rural region can not have access to clean water and adequate sanitation, which contradicts with the guarantee of human dignity.

Rural communities are particularly affected by the lack of internal health services and that the most vulnerable are women and children, the elderly, and the disabled.

In a survey to observe the behavior of women’s consumption of water in rural and urban areas in Alexandria - Egypt there were some families who lack access to water in their households, they sometimes keep their children from going to school to help getting water for daily use.

At the social level; some conflicts arise between the family members due to lack of water.

On the level of safety, the system of storing or reserving drinking water was usually in used containers of chemicals cleaning products and in aluminum pots; due to the frequent interruption of water in households.

Women keep the water in the bathtub for daily use.

Economically, the private companies that sell water five to ten times the price of water supplied by the government in other areas outside the city - and the water is delivered in unsanitary containers.

According to their monthly family income (budget) water in bottles cannot be afford.

In conclusion; educating socioeconomic rights through Home Economics program in schools can contribute to their social role, as a fundamental right.

The human rights is a mandatory course for undergraduates students in Alexandria university. On the other hand, the human right to water and the right to knowledge is not on the agenda or educational program. Also an educational program is lacking a direct studying in the primary and middle school on the water and its value, hygiene and ration use. Training programs on socio-economic rights are needed for the teachers themselves.

Mona Sharaf ABDELGALIL met Representatives of other international NGOs.



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