



**3<sup>rd</sup> ANNUAL EMPOWERING SUSTAINABILITY CONFERENCE  
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**WATER, a human right and a public good**

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**Costa Rica path towards Constitutional Water Reform**

Project created by ANDA (National Alliance for the Defense of Water) to protect water and the human right of equal access to it.

**-Constitutional Reform of Water**

Declares access to water in quantity and quality is a human right and water is a public good. Can't be privatized.

**-Bill for Integrated Water Resources Management**

Proposed by citizenship mechanism of popular initiative.

Offers mechanisms for state entities and social organizations to **manage water in a comprehensive, participatory, sustainable and equitable way:**

- Water is an element in interaction with multiple factors, ecological, social, cultural and economic.

- It provides mechanisms for the involvement of all citizens in the management and protection of water.

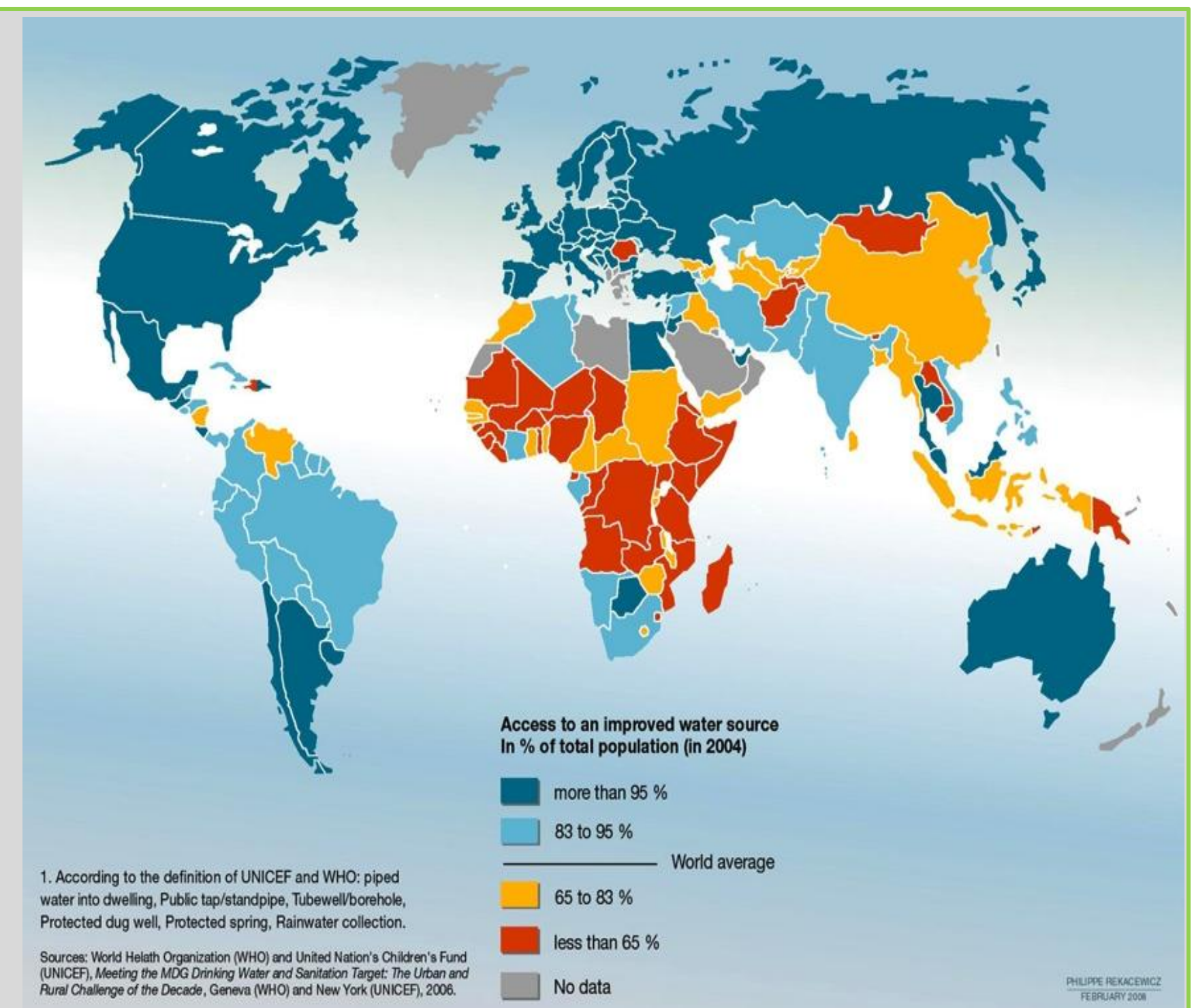
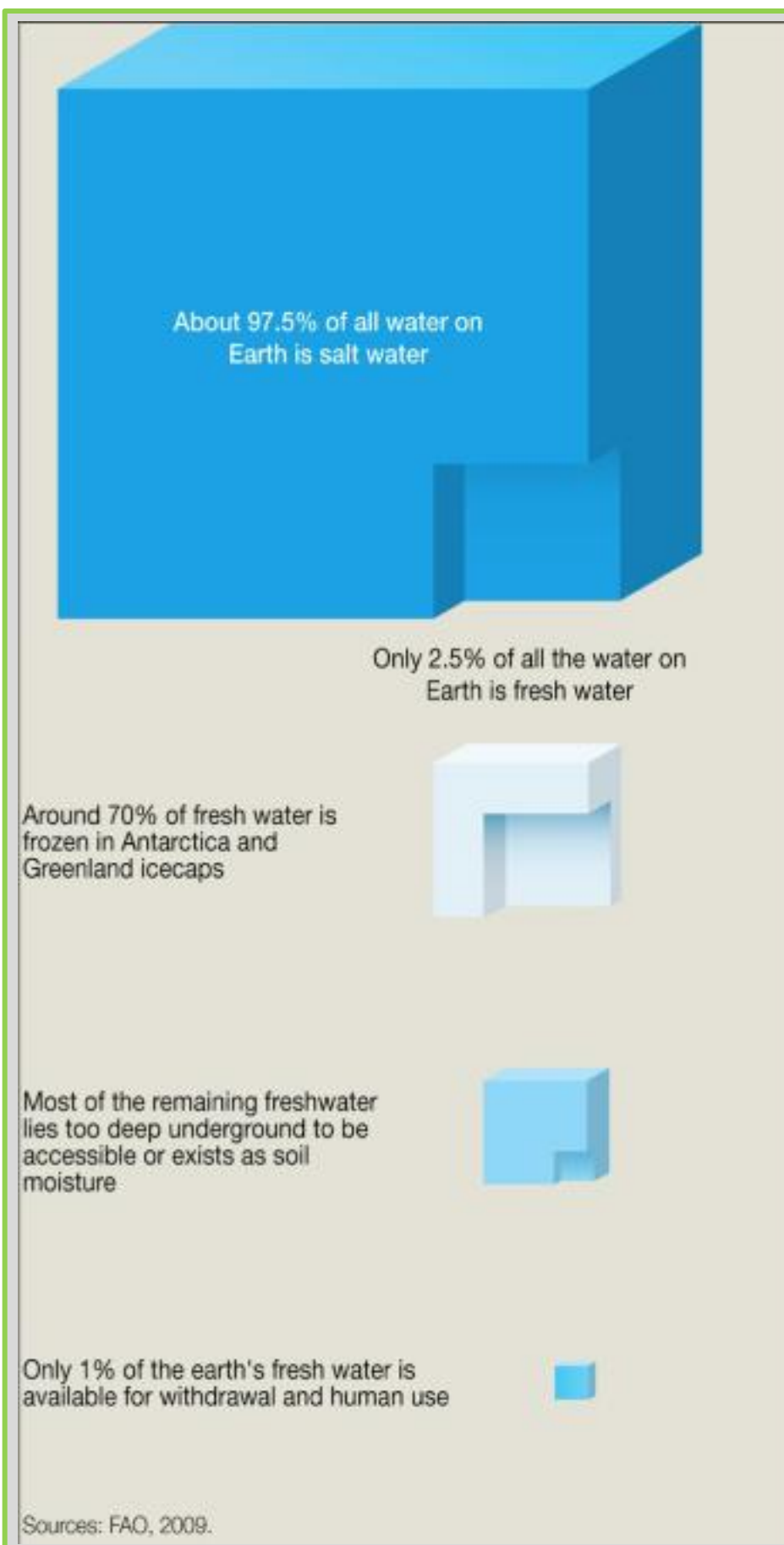
- It involves taking responsibility for environmental protection considering that not only humans need water to live, but also other living beings and ecosystems.

- Ensures access to water quality and quantity in equity as a human right to life and health.

**United Nations General Assembly and Human Rights Council of UN declare in 2010 that**

- Water and sanitation is a fundamental human right.
- All countries should take measures for its effective implementation.

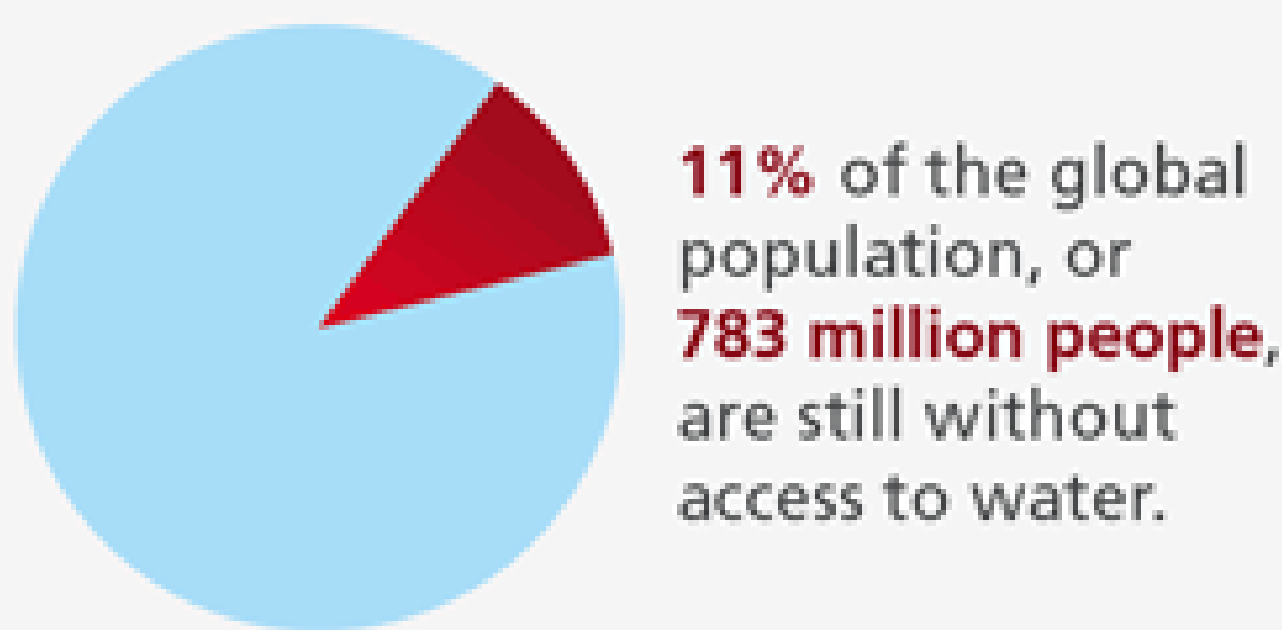
From this moment, any action or omission by companies, individuals or governments that affects or limits the access of people to water and sanitation may be a violation of fundamental human rights to life.



In 2025 nearly 2 billion people will live in countries or regions with absolutely water scarcity. People in developed countries consume 10 times more water daily than those in developing countries.



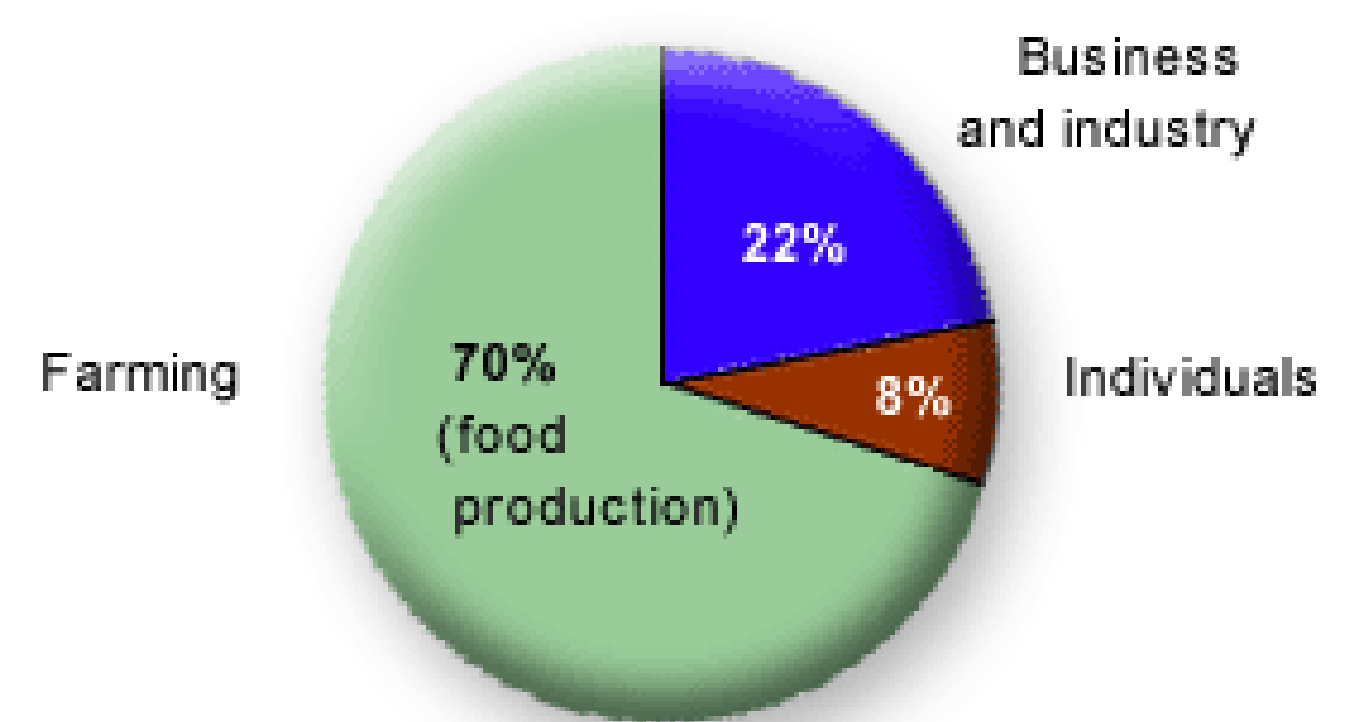
**Lack of access to water**



50% of world's illness could be prevented with water sanitation, 80% in developing countries. 30.000 people die every day because of unhealthy water consumption. 4 million people die every year because of water related diseases.

By 2025 agriculture is expected to increase its water requirements by 1.3 times, industry by 1.5 times and domestic consumption by 1.8 times.

**Water use around the world**



Has your country already implemented specific measures to guarantee the human right of access to water?

To care and streamline the water sources is also your responsibility.

Easy access to clean water must be a human right, not a luxury.

The Final Declaration of the Second Alternative Global Forum of Water in Geneva, Switzerland, March 2005, established the status of water as a common good, the access to water as a human right, collective financing of water access and democratic water management at all levels, and that **water must proscribe the commercial sphere and commercial standards** (trade international financial institutions)

**Public** to prevent any international treaty, industry or law, to risk the access to water, either because of irrational waste, contamination or appropriation.

**Fundamental human right** so water sources will be used primarily to supply all basic people needs in equity, before any other use it can be given.