



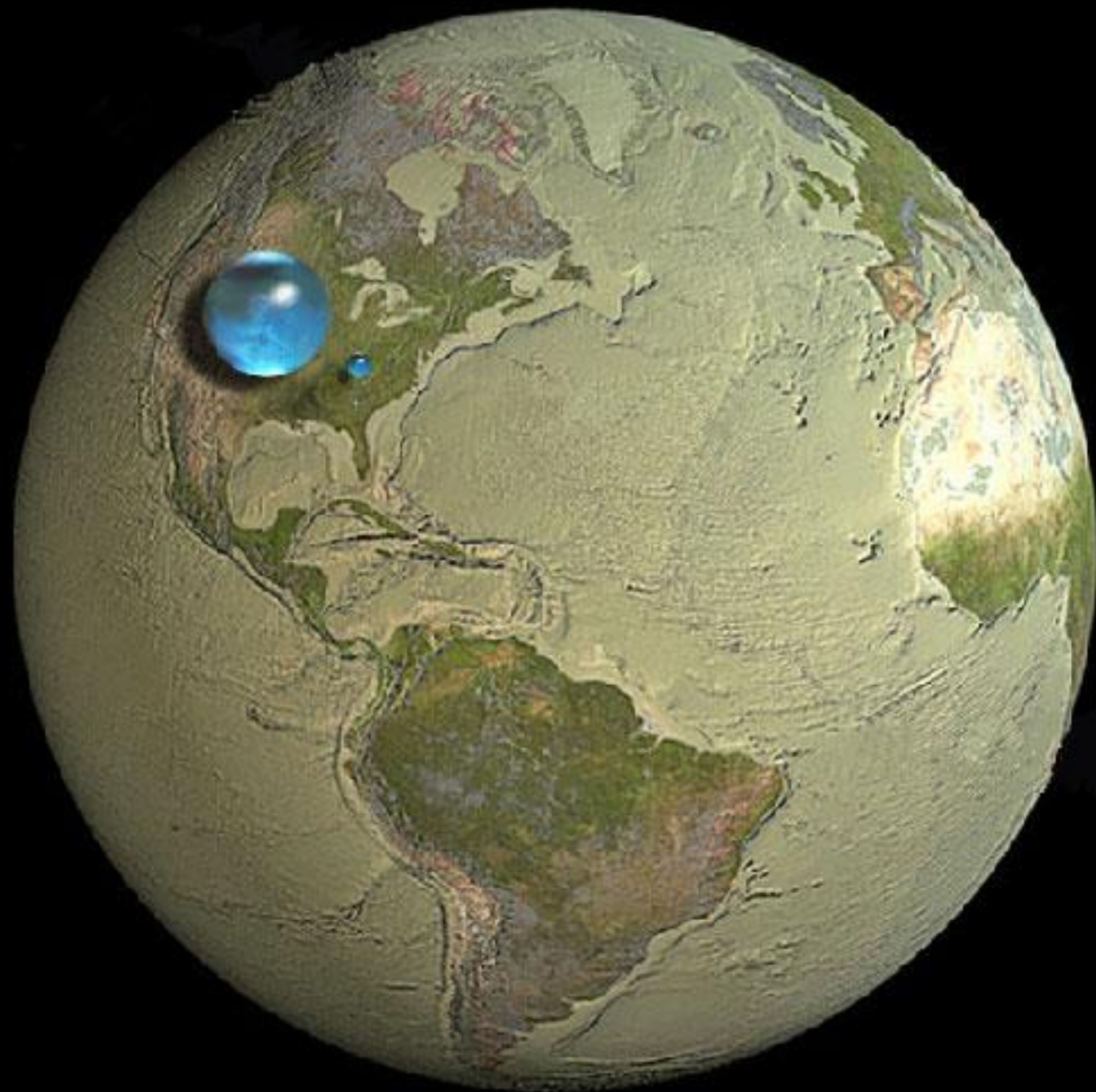
Ecumenical Water Network An Ecumenical Initiative of the World Council of Churches

Presented to the WCC Eco School-2017

Dinesh Suna
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Water facts

- Water is vital for life
- Earth is unique because of water
- $\frac{2}{3}^{\text{rd}}$ of earth is covered with water.
- Of which the ocean holds 97% of the water
- Remaining 3% is freshwater, found in rivers and lakes, below the ground and in the glaciers & icecaps . The break up given below:
 - Glaciers and Icecaps : 69% of Fresh water:
 - Ground water : 30%
 - Rivers and Lakes : 0.3%
 - Other : 0.7%
- Much More water in lakes than rivers. About 200 times more



Water in, on, and above the Earth

- Liquid fresh water
- Freshwater lakes and rivers

Howard Perlman, USGS
Jack Cook, Adam Nieman
Data: Igor Shiklomanov, 1993

- Even though water is such a scarce resource, the global water crisis is not only due to scarcity but because of **unequal distribution** of this precious resource. It is an issue of **justice and of rights**.
- Therefore, water issues are intrinsically related to realise a « Just and Inclusive communities »

Mission and Vision of EWN:

Since then the EWN has been engaged in its endeavour to carry out this mandate through various activities and programmes in a rights based approach based on its theological and ethical affirmation that **water is a gift of God, a public good and a fundamental human right.**

The Ecumenical Water Network and its participants work towards this vision and mission by:

- **Raising awareness** of the urgency and the ethical and human rights dimensions of the water crisis among churches, policy makers and the general public
- **Being a prophetic voice**, calling upon religious and **government leaders** around the world to defend the rights to water and sanitation of the poor and oppressed, the marginalised and excluded
- Engaging as an ecumenical community in the promotion of **fair and ecologically just responses to the global water crisis** in collaboration with other faith communities and social actors

Engagement with the Churches on awareness and capacity building on water justice campaign

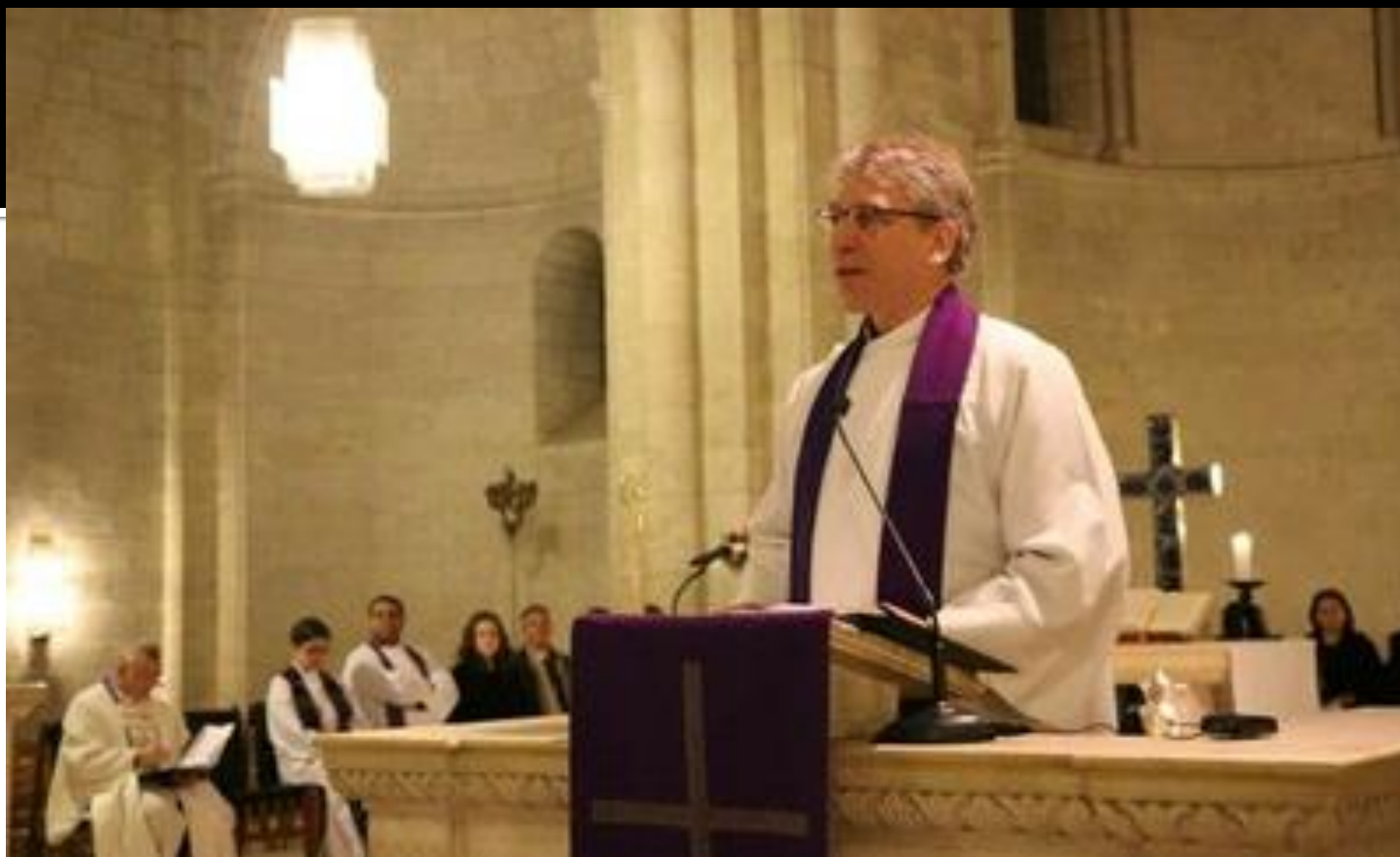
- water should be on the agenda of the churches
- **Regional Consultations & Eco School on Water Justice issues. In Africa**
- The **Seven Weeks for Water**, the network's annual Lent campaign. In this annual Lent initiative EWN publishes biblical reflections, liturgical materials, background resources – and also ideas for what churches, congregations, and individuals can do in their respective contexts, reaching 1000s of multipliers through the churches and faith based organizations.
- In 2016 WCC's Lenten campaign was on the **Pilgrimage of Justice and Peace**, with a regional focus on **Palestine**. The objective of the campaign was to highlight the plight of Palestinians's access to water and sanitation. Such was the power of the Lenten campaign that it rattled the Israeli government and the "zionist » groups from the USA and other parts of the world.
 - E.g.: Reactions from
 - The Foreign Affairs Ministry of Israel
 - Gate Stone Institute, Chairman: John R Bolton
 - World Jews Congress, CEO
- WCC communication played a very important role in effective advocacy communications.
- A case study on the above will be presented at the Central Committee meeting of WCC through the Communication Committee of WCC
- **WCC and EWN websites got a boost in visits and interactions.... Upto 2000%**
- This year **PJP focus in on Africa** – our Lenten campaign also had the theme on Africa and was be launched from Nigeria and Ethiopia.



Children of Gaza fetching water...



Lenten campaign being launched by Bishop Younan, Archbishop of Sweden and others...



WCC General Secretary giving sermon at the Launching of Seven Weeks for Water

WCC Lenten campaign :Seven Weeks for Water 2017

A pilgrimage of water justice in Africa



H.H. Patriarch Abune Matthias I, Patriarch of Ethiopia
Inaugurating the Lenten campaign in Addis Ababa.



WCC General Secretary , Rev. Dr Olav Fykse Tveit at the
launching of Lenten campaign



Moderator of WCC: Dr Agnes Abuom at the launch of Lenten campaign



Imposition of Ashes on Ash Wednesday , 1 March 2017, Addis Ababa



Participants after the imposition of ashes

WCC Became a blue community

WCC became a blue community on 25 October

Dr Maude Barlow is giving away the Certificate of Blue Community to the General Secretary of WCC, Rev. Dr Olav Fykse Tveit



WCC Staff were distributed personalised bottles to drink tap water from dispensers





Paris becomes a blue community (Maude Barlow –right- giving the certificate to Deputy Mayor of Paris). Berlin and Munich on the way ..

Advocacy with the UN and governments on human right to water and sanitation

- UN Special Rapporteur on the rights to drinking water and sanitation, **Catarina de Albuquerque**, in 2012 published the work of EWN on good practices on right to water. Since end of 2014, EWN has been liaising with **Leo Heller**, the new UN SRWS.
- On behalf of its member churches, submissions were prepared and submitted to the OHCHR and the UN Human Rights Council. The collaborative efforts of the EWN Secretariat and its members have greatly helped to facilitate more targeted and effective advocacy in instances such as **the UN resolutions on the right to water at the UN General Assembly and the UN Human Rights Council in 2010.**

UN Special Rapporteur for HRWS Catarina de Albuquerque & Prof. Leo Heller



Advocacy with the UN and governments on human right to water and sanitation

- Even though the human right to water has been recognised by the UN in July 2010, the biggest challenge is the **implementation of these rights** by various countries. EWN is pushing for national implementation of the human right to water and sanitation.
- World Water Forum – every three years. **2018 March : Brazil**
- World Water Week – August every year in Stockholm
- World Water Day – March 22
- World Toilet Day- November 19
- Today **over 2.1 billion people** (JMP report 2017) (**others report 663 million**) people still lack access to safe drinking water and over **2.4 billion** people lack access to adequate sanitation facilities around the world.
- The **2030 Sustainable Development agenda of the UN**, a clear goal/target related to access to safe drinking water and adequate sanitation facilities, finds a place, **Goal # 6. »Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all «**
- In terms of drinking water and sanitation: 5 normative contents of human right needs to be reviewed: **Accessibility, Safety, Quality, affordability and acceptability.**
- To this end, the EWN seeks to continue its advocacy work along with other stakeholders in realising **“Universal access to water and sanitation by 2030”**

Interfaith efforts on water justice



World Water Week, August 2016, Stockholm. 3000 participants

Panel discussion on How can religion and faith communities contribute to achieving the United Nations (UN) Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly on goal #6 on water.

First ever interfaith event in World Water Week

Keynote Address: Cardinal Turkson

Christian Perspective: WCC (Dinesh Suna)

Organisers: SIWI

Church of Sweden

Global Water Partnership



2030 Sustainable development goals

EWN of WCC participated in the launching of the SDGs and in many ecumenical actions around SDGs...

Thank you...