



Global Water
Partnership

Water Cooperation

Steven Downey
World Water Day 2013



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U.N.'s Water Agenda at Risk of Being Hijacked by Big Business

By Thalif Deen

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UNITED NATIONS, Feb 11 2013 (IPS) - Amidst growing new threats of potential conflicts over fast-dwindling water resources in the world's arid regions, the United Nations will commemorate 2013 as the International Year of Water Cooperation (IYWC).

But Maude Barlow, chairperson, Council of Canadians and a former senior advisor on water to the president of the U.N. General Assembly in 2008-2009, warns the U.N.'s water agenda is in danger of being hijacked by big business and water conglomerates.

"We don't need the United Nations to promote private sector participation under the guise of greater 'cooperation' when these same companies force their way into communities and make huge profits from the basic right to water and sanitation," Barlow told IPS.

At this time of scarcity and financial crisis, she said, "We need the United Nations to ensure that governments are fulfilling their



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South Americans Face Upheaval in Deadly Water Battles

By Michael Smith - Feb 13, 2013 6:00 AM GMT+0100
Bloomberg Markets Magazine

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People streamed into the central square in Celendin, a small city in the Peruvian Andes, the morning of July 3, 2012. They were protesting the government's support for [Newmont Mining Corp. \(NEM\)](#)'s plan to take control of four lakes to make way for a new gold and copper mine. By midday, there were 3,000.

Some hurled rocks at police and brandished clubs. Then assailants shot two officers and an Army soldier in the leg.

Enlarge image



This lake in the Peruvian Andes, once the water supply for farms and villagers, is drying up after Newmont's Yanacocha mine drained its water. Photographer: Gabriel Rinaldi/Bloomberg Markets

Blocks away, construction worker Paulino Garcia left home on foot to buy groceries. As he approached the central square, he encountered chaos. People ran for cover as federal troops fired their weapons, Bloomberg Markets magazine will report in its March issue.

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Water: Catalyst for Cooperation in the Ocoña River Basin



Water: Catalyst for Cooperation

- **Multistakeholder participation:**
 - who is missing from the table?
- **Technical expertise:**
 - applying science to policy
- **Neutral platform:**
 - honest broker among stakeholders
- **Integrated approach:**
 - managing water across sectors/levels
- **Capacity building:**
 - investing in people and institutions

The Water Cooperation Creed

We believe in sustainable development

without which our world has no future (or a very unpleasant one).

We believe that the integrated management of water resources is foundational to sustainable development.

We believe that water cooperation is of 'one essence' with the integrated approach and we pledge ourselves to working together across the multi-stakeholder trinity of civil society, government, and the private sector.

We believe in the efficacy of science-based technical knowledge and we pledge to allow that knowledge to inform policy.

We believe in building the capacity of individuals and institutions and we pledge not to allow short-term wins to replace long-term governance solutions.

We believe that behaviour change will result in real change to the way the world's water resources are managed and we pledge to take action so that social equity, economic efficiency, and ecosystem sustainability is achieved.