

World Water Council

Membership guidelines



WORLD
WATER
COUNCIL

World Water Council

Membership Guidelines

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1 Introduction

1.1 Role of this document

This document presents the membership policy of the World Water Council, and establishes the principles of the membership as well as transparent procedures for the relationship between the World Water Council and its members.

This document is complementary to the By-Laws and Constitution of the Council. It is distributed to all Council members.

1.2 Missions of the Council / general principles

The World Water Council is an independent, international organization incorporated as a French not-for-profit association. It was created in 1996, in response to the need for integrated action among the many agencies and organisations involved in water resources management, and for a shared understanding of the problems and challenges of the water sector.

The World Water Council aims to act as a global leader that brings together principal actors and combines their creative force to shape global, regional and national strategies on water and development. The Council further aims to act as a catalyst for its members and partners who choose to undertake joint initiatives to improve the state of the world's waters and access to water services.

The strategic objectives of the Council as described in the 2010 – 2012 strategy are to:

1. Support political action to improve water and sanitation services and water management;
2. Deepen the involvement of major water users in solving global water challenges;
3. Strengthen regional co-operation to achieve water security and economic development;
4. Mobilize citizens and consumers to address the global water crisis.

To achieve these objectives, the World Water Council must remain democratic and independent, both ideologically and financially. This is possible in particular through its membership basis and the collection of the annual membership fees. The Council also needs to rely upon an extensive international network of members representing the great diversity of organisations involved in water issues in order to develop joint activities and relevant projects. The Council should seek to maintain a significant and balanced representation of each professional group as well as a strong representation in every geographical zone.

1.3 Membership core values

The World Water Council's members are expected to embrace a set of core values that will guide their work:

- Accept, endorse and support the missions and objectives of the Council as set out in its By-laws and Constitution;
- Support the recognition of access to water and sanitation as a fundamental human right
- Facilitate dialogue in an open manner, especially on controversial issues;
- Welcome dialogue with all stakeholders, recognizing the value of considering diverse points of view;
- Respect and endorse decisions which are taken in a democratic way;
- Behave ethically, treat individuals and differences with respect, honesty and integrity;
- Act with transparency in favour of the Council's interest.

2 Members

Members of the Council are institutions that are represented by individuals.

2.1 Active members

Active members are those member organisations, that are up to date with their annual membership fees and that commit themselves to working for the accomplishment of the Council's objectives. A member organisation has one full year to pay its membership fees. After one year of non-payment, they will no longer be considered as members.

The city that is host to the headquarters of the Council is a full member of the Council. It is not expected to pay any membership fees.

Members are classified in five colleges, defined by the 3rd General Assembly. Each college is represented on the Board of Governors by at least four member organisations. The following are the definitions of the colleges:

2.1.1 College 1: Intergovernmental institutions:

Those international organisations composed exclusively of Member States, which monitor, regulate and finance water and water-related projects, policies and cooperation.

Includes: UN agencies, intergovernmental organisations, international financial institutions, development banks, etc.

2.1.2 College 2: Governments and government authorities:

Those national or local institutions related to the State, which monitor, regulate and finance water resources and sanitation management at the national and local level, elaborate and implement water and water-related policies at the national or local level, and develop and implement national water and water-related international cooperation strategies.

Includes: State agencies, ministries, local authorities, municipalities, basin authorities, parliamentarian associations, national development agencies, etc. N.B: state-owned universities, research centres, state-owned companies, are not included in this college.

2.1.3 College 3: Enterprises and facilities:

Those companies and their associated networks that are either state-owned, private, public or run as a public-private partnership which provide goods and services related to water supply and sanitation, as well as those companies working in water-related fields such as energy supply, health care, environmental conservation and food production.

Includes: water supply and sanitation companies; consulting firms; law firms; infrastructure companies in charge of hydropower plants, dams, reservoirs, irrigation canals, energy supply; service providers; construction companies; industrial companies; etc.

2.1.4 College 4: Civil society organisations and water user associations;

Those national and international organisations and their associated networks that represent water and sanitation users, those organisations that advocate human rights and nature protection with regard to social, cultural, historical, and environmental aspects, those organisations working in humanitarian aid, as well as those organisations that provide information on water and water-related issues to the public at large.

Includes: foundations, consumer associations, farmer associations, trade unions and the media.

N.B: NGOs whose main activities are training and education should not be included in college 4, but college 5.

2.1.5 College 5: Professional associations and academic institutions:

Those national or international organisations and their associated networks that carry out research or provide education and training on the scientific, technical, legal, social cultural and economic aspect of water and water-related issues, as well as those national or international professional organisations and media which provide information on research.

Included: national and international professional organisations, private or public universities, schools and research centres, public and private training centres.

2.2 Conditions for application and admission

Membership of the World Water Council is open to any organisation with an interest in water and water-related issues, and which accepts the mission and objectives of the World Water Council as set out in its Constitution and By-Laws.

Organisations interested in joining the Council first have to register through the appropriate membership application form provided by the Council's Headquarters.

In order to validate its application, it is imperative that the organisation send to the Headquarters the original application form duly completed and signed by its Chief Executive Officer or equivalent, and provide information on the organisation and its water-related activities.

If the Headquarters judges that the documents supplied and the information available on the website are not sufficient, or upon request from a member of the Bureau or the Board, the Headquarters may request additional information and clarification from the applicant.

2.3 Acceptance

If the new applicants provide all the necessary documents and fulfil the criteria as set out in the By-Laws and in this document, the Headquarters submits the applications to the Bureau for review. Once reviewed by the Bureau, the application is submitted to the Board for adoption or rejection. Once applications are approved, applicants are considered to be officially members subject to the payment of their membership fees.

2.4 Re-admission

Organisations that wish to renew their membership after having cancelled it or after having had their member status removed for non-payment of fees may apply again through the same procedure as is set out above.

3 Rights and obligations

3.1 Rights

3.1.1 Participation in the Council's activities

Any member is welcome to participate in the programmes and initiatives of the World Water Council; to contribute to defining the World Water Forum themes or to promote and engage with the Council in global public events on water.

Staff members of active member organisations benefit from a discount in registration fees for World Water Forums and other events organised or co-organised by the Council.

3.1.2 Participation in the management of the Council

The Council's members are invited to participate in the Ordinary and Extraordinary General Assembly meetings. General Assembly meetings are organised at least every three years. On these occasions, members have the opportunity to directly influence the management of the Council, provide their comments and advice on the activities and management of the Council by electing the Board of Governors, by providing comments on action plans for the coming years and by running for election to the Board.

On the day of the General Assembly meeting, each member organisation that is up to date with payment of their membership fees is entitled to one vote. In order to hold the right to vote, the new applicants have to be approved 3 months prior to the General Assembly meeting and be up to date with payment of their membership fees.

Each member that is up to date with their payment before the closing of the list of candidates, two month prior to the General Assembly, has the right to run for election to the Board.

Through their membership, members also have free access to information regarding the management of the Council such as the annual budget, minutes of the Board meetings, etc.

3.1.3 Receiving the Council's official publications

Every two months, the Council issues its official journal, the Water Policy Journal, published by International Water Association Publishing (IWAP). The journal publishes high level analyses, reviews, debates and progress reports on all policy aspects of water resources in the following areas: financial, diplomatic, organisational, legal, administrative and research. Upon request, active members are entitled to one free institutional subscription. A reduced-rate subscription is available to individuals working for Council member organisations.

In addition to the Water Policy Journal, the Council regularly publishes reports, proceedings of meetings, and publications. Copies of each such publication can be provided free of charge to active members on request from the Headquarters.

3.1.4 Use of the name and logo

Active members of the World Water Council have the possibility to use the World Water Council logo to show their affiliation with the World Water Council. The use of the logo is subject to copyright and must be in accordance with the logo usage policy, a copy of which may be requested from the Headquarters.

3.2 Obligations

3.2.1 Payment of fees

The main obligation for a member is to pay its annual membership fees in order to remain active and benefit from full members' rights. Members have a full year in which to pay their fees in order to remain active. However, they benefit from a 5% reduction if the fees are paid before 1 April of each year, and from a 15% discount if they pay the fees for the three coming years in a single instalment.

In the year of the General Assembly, membership payments should be carried out before the date of the General Assembly, in order to allow the member organisation to hold the right to vote.

3.2.2 Facilitating the objectives and the mission of the Council

Members are required to support and facilitate the objectives and activities of the Council. This is partly achieved through their active participation in the Council General Assembly meeting, members meetings, and partly through

members' activities undertaken as specific contributions to the Council's activities.

Members have a say in the work plan of the Council and may propose new activities or working themes.

Members are also greatly encouraged to advertise the Council's activities on their website and disseminate the Council's documents.

3.2.3 Keeping detailed information updated

Members are required to inform the Council of any change in their contact person as well as in the name of the organisation, the postal address, the e-mail address, and telephone and fax numbers.

3.2.4 Member Code

Each member is attributed a member code upon admission to the Council and is requested to indicate this code with payments, and in all correspondence with the Headquarters.

4 Relationship between members the Headquarters

Member organisations are requested to nominate a person responsible for the relationship with the Headquarters. The contact person can be changed by sending the name of the new contact with his or her full contact details.

The Headquarters, under the authority of the Management is in charge of:

4.1 Membership services

- Invoicing and collecting the annual membership fees;
- Informing members of the activities, management and programmes of the Council;
- Facilitating the involvement of members in the activities of the Council;
- Facilitating the exchange of information and experience among members;
- Facilitating contact between members.

4.2 Programme support

- Obtaining and integrating inputs from members into the Council's programmes and policies
- Disseminating knowledge on the science, policy and practice of sustainable water management
- Advocating the Council policies and positions in international conferences and Forums.

4.3 Administration

- Preparing documents submitted to the Board of Governors and the General Assembly
- Implementing the Council's policies
- Managing financial resources

When members are directly involved in the implementation of programmes in partnership with the Council, the relationship, expectations and obligations will be defined in an agreement between the Headquarters and these members.

The Headquarters of the World Water Council is committed not to divulge the contact information of its members to non-member organisations.

5 Resignation and Member status removal

5.1 Resignation

Any member may cancel its membership simply by informing the Council by letter or e-mail. The cancellation will be officially validated at the following Board meeting.

5.2 Member status removal

Member status may be removed from an organisation by a decision of the Board for either of the following reasons:

- if their activities become contradictory with the mission of the Council;
- if they do not pay their membership fees for more than one year.

6 Membership fees guidelines

As stated in article 2.5.5 of the By Laws: The Board shall set the amount of the fees at its final meeting of the previous year. The Management shall inform the Members of the fee amount and due dates.

Organisations that submit their application in the second semester of the year will be required to pay only half of the relevant yearly membership fee.

6.1 Membership fees structure

In order to bring together as many organisations as possible involved in the water sector, and in order not to discriminate against organisations from low-income countries, a differentiation of membership fees has been introduced under the following principles.

The total amounts of the fees are calculated according to the annual budget of the organisation for colleges 1, 3, 4 and 5. For college 2, the GDP per capita in the country where the member is based is used to calculate the fee. The fees are as follows:

Gross Annual Budget (in Euros)	< 1,000 000	1,000 000–5,000 000	5,000 000–20,000 000	>20, 000 000
College 1 <i>Intergovernmental institutions</i> College 4 <i>Civil society organisations and water user associations</i> College 5 <i>Professional associations and academic institutions</i>	€ 300	€ 900	€ 1,200	€ 2,000
College 3 <i>Enterprises and facilities</i>	€ 750	€ 1,000	€ 2,000	€ 3,000
GDP per capita (in Euros)	< 700	700 – 3,500	3,500 – 10,000	>10,000
College 2 <i>Governments and government authorities</i>	€ 600	€ 900	€ 1,500	€ 2,000

The reference used to determine the GDP (PPP) (of the previous year) is the Human Development Indicators of UNDP.

6.2 Membership Solidarity Fund

A Membership Solidarity Fund has been established with the objective of balancing the membership distribution and allowing organisations with limited financial means and from developing countries an opportunity to become members of the World Water Council and to have their voices heard in the global water debate. The fund is made up of voluntary donations, which are used to subsidise membership fees for organisations preferentially from civil society, academic and research institutions, local authorities and user associations.

The procedure of the Fund, as well as the donor form and the application form, are available on the Council's website or may be requested from the Headquarters.

6.3 Invoicing and payment

Pro-forma invoices for membership fees are sent to members at the beginning of each year. Members who pay before 1 April benefit from a 5% discount. Members have the option of paying their membership fees for the three coming years in a single instalment and benefit from a 15% discount. Upon receipt of payment, the Headquarters sends a pre-paid invoice. Invoices are issued in Euro since the Headquarters is based in France. However, members can pay their fees in US Dollars using the exchange rate valid for the date of payment. Members may pay their fees by bank transfer, cheque or UNESCO Coupons to the Headquarters.

6.3.1 Bank transfer

Bank details:

World Water Council - Conseil Mondial de l'Eau
HSBC France
13 place de la Joliette
13002 Marseille
Tel: +33 (4) 91 14 01 53
Fax: +33 (4) 91 91 57 98
IBAN (International account n°): FR76 3005 6001 9601 9600 9553 514
Code Bic: CCFRFRPP

6.3.2 Check

Postal address for sending a check:

World Water Council – Conseil Mondial de l'Eau
Espace Gaymard
2-4 place d'Arvieux - 13002 Marseille
France Tel: +33 (4) 91 99 41 00
Fax: +33 (4) 91 99 41 01

6.3.3 UNESCO Coupons

The Council has obtained an agreement with the UNESCO coupons programme to allow payment of our membership fees using UNESCO coupons. The objective is to provide assistance to members who encounter difficulties in paying their fees in a foreign currency due to the shortage or even the impossibility to access foreign currency in their own country. The UNESCO Coupons programme was established in 1949 in order to assist

Member States short of convertible currencies to acquire the educational, scientific and cultural material they consider necessary for technological development.

UNESCO Coupons can be purchased from the National Commission for UNESCO of any country. The list of distributing bodies throughout the world is available on: www.unesco.org/general/eng/about/coupon/couplist.shtml

6.3.4 Western Union Transfer

Organisation can also send a western union transfer indication the name of the World Water council as the person allowed to redraw the money.

World Water Council - Conseil mondial de l'eau

Espace Gaymard– Place d'Arvieux – 13002 Marseille -France

Ph: +33 (0)4 91 99 41 00 – Fax: +33 (0)4 91 99 41 01

E-mail: membership@worldwatercouncil.org - Website:

www.worldwatercouncil.org