



MAINSTREAMING WATER IN GLOBAL AGENDAS

WWC ANNUAL REPORT 2016



WORLD
WATER
COUNCIL



The World Water Council is an international multi-stakeholder platform organization, the founder and co-organizer of the World Water Forum. The Council's mission is to mobilize action on critical water issues at all levels, including the highest decision-making level, by engaging people in debate and challenging conventional thinking. The World Water Council, headquartered in Marseille, France, was created in 1996. It brings together over 300 member organizations from more than 50 different countries.

www.worldwatercouncil.org

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CONTENTS

5	PRESIDENT'S STATEMENT
6	A GLOBAL ORGANIZATION
6	Who we are
7	What we do
8	2016 HIGHLIGHTS
10	WORLD WATER COUNCIL INITIATIVES
12	Financing Water Infrastructure
14	Cities: At the Heart of Growth
16	Water and Climate Change
20	Integrating the World Water Forums
22	Involving Key Political Actors
24	Integrated Water Resources Management
26	World Water Council member-led initiatives
28	Other working bodies
30	WORLD WATER FORUM ORGANIZATION
32	8 th World Water Forum
33	9 th World Water Forum
34	MEMBERSHIP
36	ORGANIZATION
36	Governance
37	Secretariat
38	Finances
39	Communications and reporting to members



WATER FOR SUSTAINABLE GROWTH



I am pleased to submit the World Water Council's 2016 Annual Report. During the year, our members have persevered in their strong efforts to inform policy makers, financing institutions and practitioners involved in making decisions to improve performance in the water sector.

2016 saw an increase in the recognition that water issues are key to cross-sectoral sustainable growth. One of the greatest challenges ahead is to meet global demand for energy and food, which is expected

to grow by more than one-third by 2035, while providing water to domestic users. Our water future requires us to share resources across sectors to ensure global access to water. In June 2016, during the kick-off meeting for the 8th World Water Forum, the Council, along with its partners, addressed the myriad of issues concerning water to design the framework for the Forum which shall be held in March 2018 in Brasilia.

Securing water resources is critical in the face of the growing impacts of climate variability and water-related disasters. The first Action Day for Water, co-facilitated by the World Water Council at the 22nd Conference of the Parties in Marrakech in November, was a breakthrough. The sustained engagement of our members and partners is giving water security the visibility in the climate debate that it has always deserved.

Throughout 2016, the World Water Council has maintained its focus on its strategic priorities for water security. More insistently than ever,

we continue our work on financing water infrastructure, cities, climate change, the World Water Forum and Implementation Roadmaps, integrated water resources management and the involvement of political actors. The Council's messages are therefore important not only to those charged with the tasks of providing water services and managing water resources, but crucially also to leaders in national planning and financial management. We cannot claim to live in a civilized society if our people do not have access to safe drinking water or to basic sanitation.

In 2016, the Council celebrated its 20th anniversary. I would like to extend the Council's special gratitude to the Ville de Marseille for hosting our organization since 1996. This generosity and the continued support of our members has rendered possible 20 years of achievement in bringing water higher in the global agenda.

I look forward to pursuing work with our partners towards a water-secure world in the years to come.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Benedito Braga". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Benedito Braga

President, World Water Council

A GLOBAL ORGANIZATION

WHO WE ARE

Mission

The World Water Council is an international, multi-stakeholder platform. Its mission is to mobilize action on critical water issues at all levels, including at the highest decision-making level, by engaging in debate and challenging conventional thinking. The Council proactively addresses the political aspects of water security, adaptation and sustainability.



The World Water Council gathers member organizations from more than 50 countries

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

339 Member Organizations*

BOARD OF GOVERNORS

(36 Organizations)

COLLEGE 1
Inter-governmental
Organizations
(5 Governors)

COLLEGE 2
Governments and
Government Authorities
(8 Governors)

COLLEGE 3
Enterprises and
Facilities
(9 Governors)

COLLEGE 4
Civil Society
Organizations and
Water User Associations
(6 Governors)

COLLEGE 5
Professional
Associations and
Academic Institutions
(8 Governors)

BUREAU

PRESIDENT

B. Braga, Polytechnic School of University of Sao Paulo (Brazil)

VICE-PRESIDENT

D. Altinbilek, Turkish Contractors Association (Turkey)

TREASURER

G. Fradin
Scientific and Technical
Association for Water and the
Environment - ASTEE
(France)

J. Hai

Ministry Water
Resources
(China)

K. Harish

Jal Bhagirathi
Foundation
(India)

K. Krchnak

WWF-US
(US)

TASK FORCES

Financing Water Infrastructure

Cities: At the Heart of Growth

Water and Climate Change

Integrating the World Water Forums

Involving Key Political Actors

Integrated Water Resources Management

Ongoing and Member-led Initiatives

Communications

* As of 31st December 2016

Governing bodies

Four levels of governance work together to realize the World Water Council's strategic vision: the General Assembly, the Board of Governors, the Bureau and Task Forces.

The **General Assembly**, consisting of all World Water Council members, endorses the annual financial accounts and authorizes the budget. Every three years, the General Assembly approves the Council's strategy and work program. Each active member organization has one vote in elections for the Board of Governors.

The **Board of Governors** directs the Council's strategy. Governors ensure proper use of budgets and appropriate implementation of programs. Thirty-six Governors are proportionally distributed according to the number of active members in each of the Council's five colleges.

The **Bureau**, consisting of the President and five other Governors, is responsible for preparing and executing the decisions of the Board of Governors and the General Assembly. The members of the Bureau assist the Board in realizing the Council's strategy.

The **Task Forces** advance work in specific areas over finite timeframes. The activities of Task Forces are generally led by Governors and engage the wider membership.

WHAT WE DO

Engage proactively in hydro-politics

The World Water Council engages in hydro-politics to raise awareness among high-level decision makers of water issues, and to position water high on the global political agenda. In promoting policies that help authorities develop and manage water resources and encourage efficient water use, the Council reaches out across the entire spectrum of national governments, parliaments, local authorities and United Nations agencies.

Co-organize the World Water Forum

The World Water Council catalyzes collective action during and in between each World Water Forum – the world's largest gathering on water. Organized every three years

with a host country, the Forum is a unique platform for the water community and key decision makers to work together on global water challenges. The Forum brings together participants at all levels and from all spheres, embracing politics, multilateral institutions, academia, civil society and the private sector.

Tackle emerging challenges

Seeking to challenge accepted wisdom and to stimulate new thinking as a force for change, the World Water Council takes the initiative on emerging issues likely to affect water security. Together with members and other stakeholders, the Council explores areas where it identifies the potential for raising awareness of water as a critical natural resource in sustaining communities, economies and health. The Council strives to make a distinctive contribution by creating alternative approaches to global water challenges.



2016 HIGHLIGHTS



Year-long celebrations mark 20 years of achievement

Throughout 2016, many events commemorated the World Water Council's 20 years of achievement since its foundation in 1996. The celebrations culminated at a ceremony in Marseille, in November, alongside the 60th meeting of the Board of Governors.

Building on CoP21 and preparing for CoP22, World Water Council, Morocco and France co-organize 'Water Security for Climate Justice'

Together with the hosts of the 21st and 22nd Conference of Parties (CoP21 and CoP22), the World Water Council co-organized 'Water Security for Climate Justice', 11–12 July, in Rabat, Morocco, an important milestone in ushering water closer to the heart of the CoP22 agenda. Among the 600 participants were ministerial delegates from 20 African countries who launched a call to raise political awareness about water in climate change discussions.



JAN

JUN

JUL

AUG

Preparations for the 8th World Water Forum take off

In June, the World Water Council and the Brazilian authorities launched the two-year preparatory process leading up to the 8th World Water Forum. A record number of participants gathered to debate the thematic issues the Forum should address, and to discuss the political, regional and sustainability processes, as well as the Citizens' Forum. Building on the outcomes of the event, the Forum's framework and organization made significant progress.



Engaging in high-level debates during Singapore Water Week

During Singapore Water Week, the World Water Council joined high-level decision makers in debating critical issues facing water at the Water Leaders' Summit, the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Plus Three Water Ministers Forum and the Latin America Business Forum.

Advocating for strategic priorities at World Water Week

The World Water Council promoted strategic priorities in financing water infrastructure, and water scarcity and agriculture during World Water Week in Stockholm. Three hundred participants came to the day-long seminar on 'Financing Water for Sustainable Growth', co-organized with the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD). A special session was held to launch the publication 'Increasing Resilience to Climate Variability and Change'.



High Level Panel on Water call for action

The High Level Panel on Water issued a Call to Action on 21 September to deliver Sustainable Development Goal 6 – ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all. The World Water Council, which was instrumental in creating the panel, contributed two framing papers and will continue working closely on the initiatives at the heart of the Call, outlining a comprehensive, coordinated approach to water and increasing attention to the need for investment in water-related services.

Setting clear directions at the Budapest Water Summit

The World Water Council provided major contributions to the messages and policy recommendations which were presented at the Budapest Water Summit, 28–30 November. The Summit, co-organized with the Government of Hungary, set out clear directions and guidelines to ensure successful implementation of Agenda 2030 and its water-related goals.



SEP

OCT

NOV



Catalyzing collective action in between World Water Forums

The first Implementation Roadmaps Annual Review Meeting, co-organized by the World Water Council and the Korea Water Forum, gathered champions in Daegu, Republic of Korea, to assess progress since the 7th World Water Forum and adjust plans accordingly. The meeting, a milestone in bridging the 7th and 8th Forums took place in October in conjunction with 1st Korea International Water Week.

First ever Action Day for Water brings water higher in the climate agenda

The World Water Council and the Moroccan and French governments co-organized the first ever Action Day for Water at CoP22 on 9 November. The Council presented the outcomes of this historic event in the presence of UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon during the High-level Event on Accelerating Climate Action in the closing phase of CoP22. Water was widely recognized as one of eight priority areas for action throughout the conference.







WORLD WATER COUNCIL INITIATIVES

In line with the principles of the triennial strategy, the World Water Council harnesses the expertise and experience of its diverse membership to catalyze action and make a unique contribution to water challenges.

Council task forces and members are currently working on six ongoing main initiatives, with further contributions mobilized through specific member-led initiatives and additional working bodies:

- Financing Water Infrastructure
- Cities: At the Heart of Growth
- Water and Climate Change
- Integrating the World Water Forums
- Involving Key Political Actors
- Integrated Water Resources Management

FINANCING WATER INFRASTRUCTURE

Recent estimates indicate that 650 billion US dollars of annual investment is required from now to 2030 to ensure the infrastructure necessary to achieve water security. As part of its long-running efforts to secure financing for water, the World Water Council is identifying nuanced financial approaches to improve water security. This work is key to the Council's endeavors to mobilize sustainable funding, improve understanding of investment risks and encourage more investment in water infrastructure worldwide.



World Water Council President Benedito Braga (left) and Secretary-General of the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development Angel Gurría take part in the seminar “Financing Water Infrastructure for Sustainable Growth”, World Water Week in Stockholm 2016, 30 August

Roundtable on Water Finance engages leaders

To encourage investment in water security and sustainable growth, the World Water Council, together with the OECD and the Netherlands, established the Roundtable on Water Finance. In leveraging policy, economic and financial expertise, and by providing leaders in the private sector, government, regulatory institutions, academia and civil society with a global public-private platform for exchanging views, the roundtable will build on the conclusions of ‘Water: Fit to Finance?’, the report of the OECD-World Water Council High Level Panel on Financing Infrastructure for a Water Secure World.

Roundtable discussions consider rigorous, innovative, compelling analyses and practical recommendations advanced by partners. By organizing high-profile events and engaging in broad policy debates, the roundtable will support

rapid scaling up of investment and financing flows to a level commensurate with the enormous challenges. The Council, OECD and the Netherlands are seeking to establish further relationships with partners who share the commitment to scaling up investment to drive transformative change.

Creating debate around Financing Water Infrastructure

On 30 August, during World Water Week in Stockholm, the World Water Council co-convoked a one-day seminar, ‘Financing Water Infrastructure for Sustainable Growth’. Co-conveners were the OECD, the Netherlands Ministry of Infrastructure and the Environment, the 2030 Water Resources Group and the Stockholm International Water Institute. Catalyzing knowledge from multiple backgrounds, the seminar tackled financial aspects of the overarching theme of World Water Week, ‘Water for Sustainable Growth’.

The 300 people at the standing-room-only event shared information on recent developments and discussed ways to secure appropriate levels of financing for water infrastructure and water security. During the seminar, President Braga and Angel Gurría, OECD Secretary-General, addressed the challenges of financing water in the current global environment.

Discussions involved a wide range of people, from financiers, project managers and staff of international organizations to academics. Perspectives shared during the seminar stressed the need to develop sustainable, bankable projects that will provide returns on investment; to mobilize political will for creating an enabling environment for investment in multi-purpose infrastructure; and to structure investments to reduce risks to an acceptable level.

Spotlight on multi-purpose water infrastructure at FT Water Summit

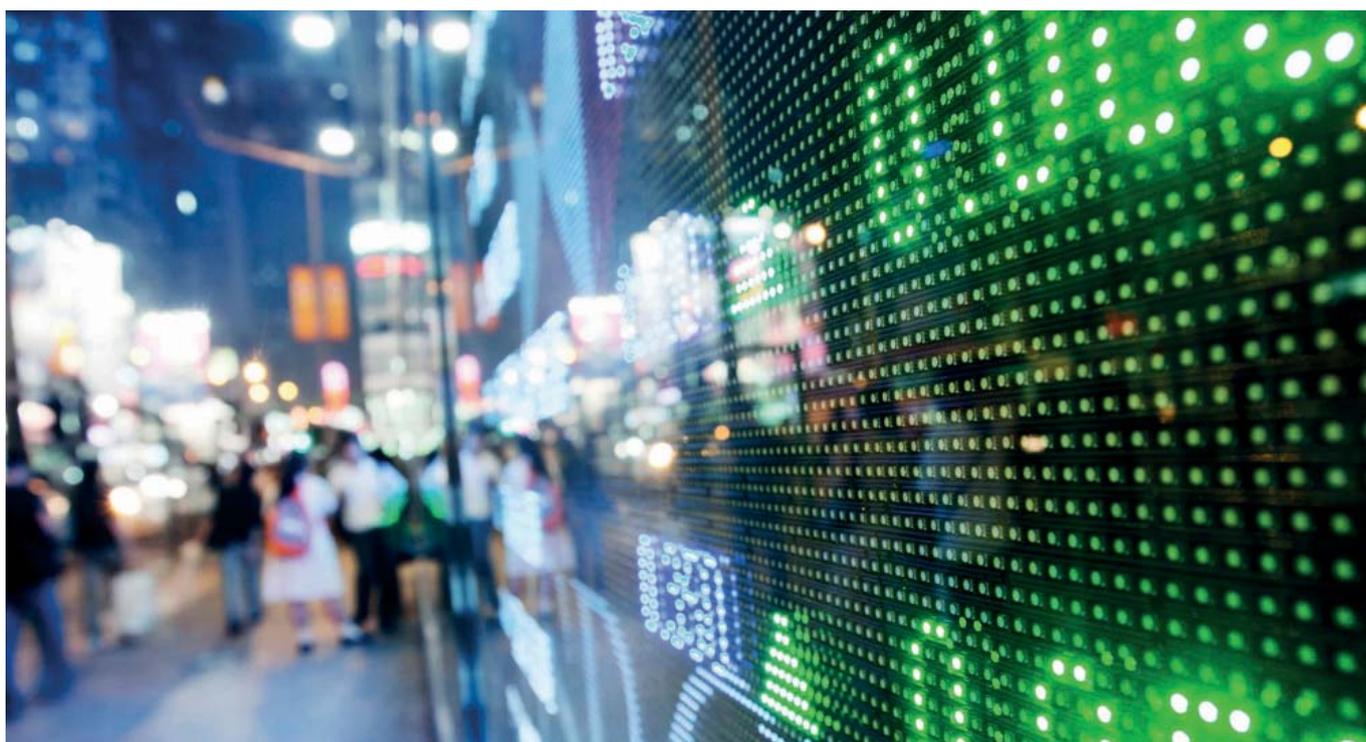
On 12 October, the World Water Council, as a founding partner, participated in the 2nd Financial Times Water Summit in London. Over 150 participants from the business, financial and water communities shared information and exchanged views on recent developments and solutions, and on reducing water risks.

Chaired by FT Environment Correspondent Pilita Clark, the Summit provided the Council with a chance to put the spotlight on the critical importance of multi-purpose water infrastructure in ensuring long-term water security for all. In his opening remarks, the President of Hungary, János Áder, warned participants that “we are seriously falling behind in building and

modernizing water infrastructure”. The World Water Council’s opening keynote address reinforced this message, stressing that “water security, business security and the well-being of the planet depends on working together to mobilize investment in new and existing infrastructure”.

“Financing water related infrastructure is one of the key solutions to advance global water security.”

Benedito Braga, World Water Council President, during ‘Financing Water Infrastructure for Sustainable Growth’ at World Water Week, Stockholm, 30 August



CITIES: AT THE HEART OF GROWTH

The World Water Council, by helping local and regional authorities to prioritize water in sustainable urban development and planning, supports efforts to enhance water security in cities. As a substantial majority of the world's population will soon live in urban centers, water for cities is a key initiative in the triennial strategy.



Bert Diphorn (left) represents the World Water Council during the event “Beyond Basic Services”, convened by GWOPA at UN-Habitat, Quito, 18 October

Contributing to the Strategic Recommendations for the New Urban Agenda

On 1 February, the World Water Council, participating in an Expert Group Meeting (EGM) organized by the Global Water Operators’ Partnerships Alliance of UN-Habitat, helped consolidate messages from water sector stakeholders for Habitat III, the UN Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development. Also taking part in the EGM were the Global Water Partnership, International Water Management Institute, WaterAid, Stockholm International Water Institute, International Water Association, Public Services International Research Unit at the University of Greenwich, National Electricity and Drinking Water Authority Morocco, Association of German Cities, United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization International Hydrological Programme, OECD, AgroEcology Fund, Human Cities

Alliance and the City of Barcelona. The Council contributed observations on the role of water as a catalyst for sustainable urban development to the EGM. Subsequently, the EGM’s ‘Strategic Recommendations for the New Urban Agenda’ were presented to Habitat III and circulated among its 10 thematic policy units. In addition, World Water Council President Benedito Braga reached out to all chairs of the policy units to reinforce the need to address water issues individually within the New Urban Agenda.

Integrating water in the New Urban Agenda

A record number of UN member states adopted the New Urban Agenda on 18 October during Habitat III in Quito, Ecuador. With 28 mentions of water, the New Urban Agenda will guide global urbanization policy for the next 20 years and be realized through voluntary commitments to action by partners in the Quito Implementation Plan.

At ‘Beyond Basic Services’, an event convened on 18 October by the Global Water Operators’ Partnerships Alliance of UN-Habitat and the Institute for the Advanced Study of Sustainability at United Nations University, the Council reiterated its conviction that improving water services in cities involves much more than technical competence. Improvements to services also depend on mayors and local authorities putting water above other competing issues.

Promoting sustainable urban water management at Singapore Water Week

During the Water Leaders’ Summit in Singapore, 12 July, World Water Council President Braga, in the session on ‘Raising the Water Agenda for Cities’, insisted that “water supply and sanitation is also key for social inclusiveness”. President Braga reminded those present that sustainable urban management has not only economic

and environmental aspects, but also a social dimension. Making equitable water quality and services available to all residents, no matter who they are, is an imperative for social well-being in urban areas.

In addition to supporting the Local and Regional Authorities Process in the lead-up to the 8th World Water Forum, the Council will continue to work on promoting a holistic approach to water in cities as a key thrust in the current mandate.



WATER AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Water is the natural resource most strongly affected by climate change. Although climate debates have long ignored the clear links between water and climate change, the theme has been central to the World Water Council's strategy in recent years. Maintaining the momentum in 2016, the World Water Council took every opportunity to emphasize the role of water in adapting to climate change and increasing resilience at all levels. Sustained efforts throughout the year to position water firmly on the climate agenda culminated at CoP22.



Moroccan Climate Champion Hakima El Haite, Moroccan Minister Delegate in Charge of Water Charafat Afilal and World Water Council Vice President Dogan Altinbilek, among others, present key actions and messages on water and climate, at the Global Climate Action Day for Water press conference, CoP22, 9 November

Raising visibility for water at CoP22

In July, the Government of Morocco, the host of CoP22, the Government of France, the host of CoP21, and the World Water Council co-organized 'Water Security for Climate Justice', an international conference to raise political awareness of the importance of water in climate change discussions. The conference in Rabat, attended by over 600 people, built on advances at CoP21 to put water a step nearer to core CoP22 climate discussions in November, in Marrakech.

During the conference, a high-level roundtable involving more than 20 African ministerial delegations called

for a united voice on water and climate change challenges specific to Africa. 'Water for Africa' calls for paying equal attention to mitigation and adaptation and for developing unique financial arrangements to help African countries deal with climate change.

The conclusions of the conference were summarized in the 'Blue Book on Water and Climate', which includes recommendations for the international water and climate community on improving climate change resilience and ensuring sustainable development.

At CoP22, the Council, together with French and Moroccan representatives, co-facilitated the first

“Water is the first and foremost resource to consider in adaptation efforts, given that climate change impacts are felt through, by, and with water.”

Dogan Altinbilek, World Water Council Vice-President, Stockholm

official United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) Global Climate Action Day for Water. This landmark event emphasized water as one of the eight priority areas for action that delegates discussed throughout the meeting. Inaugurating Action Day, Hakima El Haite, Moroccan Climate Champion, Charafat Afilal, Moroccan Minister Delegate in Charge of Water, and World Water Council Vice-President Dogan Altinbilek joined other advocates in calling for action on water and climate. The Council participated in the day's sessions showcasing initiatives and

progress achieved since CoP21 and in roundtables during which distinguished spokespersons shared their experiences and recommended ways forward on four topics inspired by the Rabat conference.

The outcomes of Action Day for Water were conveyed by World Water Council Honorary President Loïc Fauchon at the High-level Event on Accelerating Climate Action, in the presence of UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, the President of the Marshall Islands, Hilda Heine, and the High Commissioner for CoP22, Abdeladim Lhafi.

Throughout CoP22, the Council participated in many other events of the official program encouraging action on water issues. Looking ahead, the World Water Council will continue to work with the Presidencies of CoP22 and CoP23 to sustain momentum on water and climate.

“For the first time in CoP history, water has been at the heart of the debate, especially during Action Day for Water.”

Loïc Fauchon, World Water Council Honorary President, speaking at the CoP22 High-level Event on Accelerating Climate Action, 17 November



World Water Council Honorary President Loïc Fauchon presents the outcomes of the Global Climate Action Day for Water at the High-level Event on Accelerating Climate Action, CoP22, 17 November

Presenting robust evidence of the role of water in increasing resilience

During World Water Week in Stockholm in August, the World Water Council, in cooperation with the Comisión Nacional del Agua (CONAGUA) and Asociación Nacional de Empresas de Agua y Saneamiento (ANEAS), Mexico, launched the publication ‘Increasing Resilience to Climate Variability and Change: The Roles of Infrastructure and Governance in the Context of Adaptation’. The evidence-based book, the result of a two-year cooperative effort, draws attention to the role that infrastructure and governance play in building resilience and adapting to climate variability and change.

The 11 case studies in the book analyze the effects of extreme events on projects, basins and regions in the Americas (United States and Mexico), Australia, Brazil, China, Egypt, France, Nepal, Mexico,

Pakistan, Turkey and South Africa. The analyses examine the needs of different sectors and stakeholders at different levels from a long-term perspective.

Rallying the water community around #ClimatelsWater

The #ClimatelsWater initiative, coordinated by the World Water Council and launched in late 2015 during the run-up to CoP21, unites members of the water community, numbering 22 by the end of the year, to speak with one voice on water in the climate agenda.

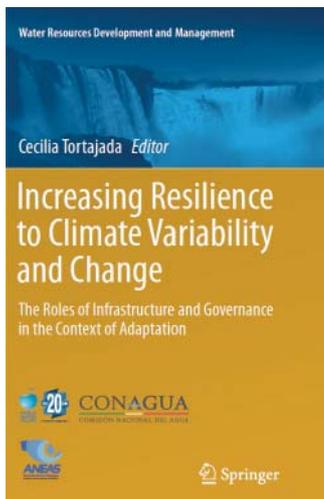
During the year, activities, messages and the distinctive #ClimatelsWater visual identity helped sustain momentum and add impetus on water and climate between CoP21 and CoP22. Year-long efforts culminated on CoP22 Action Day for Water, which featured #ClimatelsWater, and the acknowledgment of the growing movement as a key partner in the

Action Day for Water outcome document.

Looking ahead, #ClimatelsWater aims to continue to advocate for water issues within climate discussions, especially through UNFCCC processes. By enabling members of the water community to share information and collaborate in and beyond their normal networks, the movement is building a strong, unified voice advocating for greater consideration of water at all levels in the climate community.

Welcoming the opportunities opened by UNFCCC observer status

In 2016, the World Water Council received confirmation of its status as an observer to the UNFCCC. This provides opportunities for the Council to engage more substantially in climate negotiations and to strengthen its efforts in raising the visibility of water in the climate debate.



Launched in August by the World Water Council in collaboration with CONAGUA and ANEAS, the book “Increasing Resilience to Climate Variability and Change” provides decision makers with solutions for adaptation plans to increase resilience and improve disaster preparedness



Together with #ClimatelsWater partners, the Council encourages action on water issues from a booth in the Green Zone, the public space for innovation and civil society, throughout CoP22

“We have sensitized the CoP22 Presidency about mainstreaming water in the climate discussions. Water deserves correct positioning, and we need to guarantee that investment will follow.”

Charafat Afilal, Minister Delegate for Water in Morocco, in her closing statement at ‘Water Security for Climate Justice’, Rabat, Morocco, 12 July



INTEGRATING THE WORLD WATER FORUMS

At the conclusion of the 7th World Water Forum in 2015, the World Water Council and the Korea Water Forum, on behalf of the Government of the Republic of Korea, pledged their support for the Daegu-Gyeongbuk Implementation Commitment. In this commitment, 19 Champions undertake to lead action to address the challenges identified at the 7th Forum. As part of ongoing support for tracking commitments to action between each Forum, in 2016, the World Water Council introduced Implementation Roadmaps that show promises, plans and the state of play at a glance.



Daegu-Gyeongbuk Implementation Commitment Champions and their Core Groups join the roundtable discussion “Action speaks louder than words: Implementation Roadmaps for catalyzing change” on how to link the 7th World Water Forum Implementation Roadmaps to the broader international agenda and to the 8th World Water Forum preparatory processes, World Water Week in Stockholm 2016, 28 August

Implementation Roadmaps catalyze collaborative action

On 28 August, at World Water Week in Stockholm, the World Water Council invited the Daegu-Gyeongbuk Implementation Commitment Champions and their Core Groups to a roundtable discussion, ‘Actions Speak Louder than Words: Implementation Roadmaps for Catalyzing Change’. The discussion considered ways to tie the Implementation Roadmaps agreed at the 7th World Water Forum into the broader international agenda and into preparations for the 8th World Water Forum.

Opening the roundtable, President Benedito Braga again stressed that “implementation must be a top priority to overcome current water challenges.” The Implementation Roadmap Champions play an important part in leading the collaborative efforts to fulfill commitments that have been made.

Dr. Jae-heung Yoon, Secretary-General of the Korea Water Forum, called on those present to participate enthusiastically in the forthcoming Korea International Water Week in October “to carry this momentum forward.”

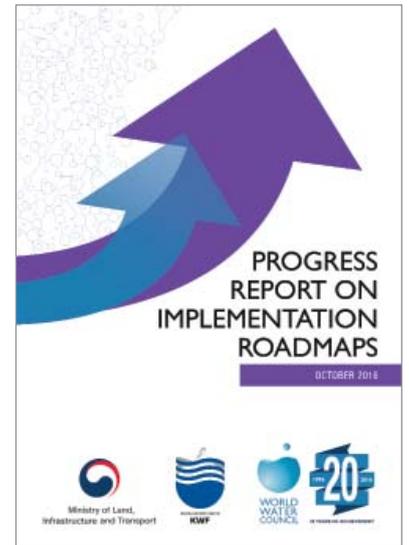
Showcasing progress on implementing commitments at Korea International Water Week

The World Water Council and Korea Water Forum co-organized the 7th World Water Forum Implementation Roadmaps Annual Review Meeting, 19–20 October. Building on the roundtable organized by the Council during Stockholm Water Week in August, ‘Actions Speak Louder than Words: Implementation Roadmaps for Catalyzing Change’, Implementation Commitment Champions assessed progress, shared information and responsibilities, discussed how to overcome obstacles and planned activities leading up to the 8th Forum.

Reporting progress on Implementation Roadmaps

Two reports, in March and October, documented progress on Implementation Roadmaps. In presenting information synthesized from the online Action Monitoring System, the reports chronicle the far-reaching, behind-the-scenes efforts by the global water community to advance the water agenda.

The October report, released to coincide with the Implementation Roadmaps Annual Review Meeting, provided up-to-date information for Champions to adjust actions and objectives in the light of changing circumstances. Further reports tracking progress will be issued twice a year in the run-up to the 8th World Water Forum, in March 2018 in Brazil.



In March and October 2016, the World Water Council, MOLIT and Korea Water Forum published two Implementation Roadmaps progress reports compiling information extracted from the online Action Monitoring System



Daegu-Gyeongbuk Implementation Commitment (DGIC) Champions at the 7th World Water Forum Implementation Roadmaps Annual Review Meeting co-organized by the World Water Council and Korea Water Forum during Korea International Water Week, Daegu, 19–20 October

INVOLVING KEY POLITICAL ACTORS

To strengthen and deepen political engagement, raise the visibility of water on the agendas of key multilateral political forums and encourage collective action, the World Water Council continued to work proactively with partners in reaching out to key influencers in governments, ministries, parliaments and other high-level decision-making settings.



János Áder, President of Hungary and Member of the High Level Panel on Water, Budapest Water Summit, 28 November

Supporting the High Level Panel on Water

The World Water Council, having played an instrumental part in instigating the High Level Panel on Water, welcomed its establishment in January 2016 as an important step forward in tackling global challenges in development and sustainability, and throughout the year collaborated in supporting its ongoing work as a Sherpa advisor.

The Council assisted with preparations for its meeting from 22–23 May in Rotterdam and drafted two papers – one on water infrastructure and investment, and the other on water and human settlements – for consideration. On 21 September, the panel launched a Call for Action at the United Nations General Assembly. Here, and subsequently at the Budapest Water

We have to achieve a state where the number one issue should be water when it comes to our political thinking.”

János Áder, President of Hungary, during the Call for Action by the High Level Panel on Water, at the United Nations General Assembly on 21 September

Summit in November, it called on governments to develop policies and incentives to meet the challenge of financing the world’s needs for water infrastructure.

The Council will continue working closely with the High Level Panel on Water to support its key initiatives.

Mapping tasks for the next 15 years at the Budapest Water Summit

More than 30 World Water Council Governors and members took part in the Budapest Water Summit 2016, 28–30 November. Organized by the Hungarian Government in cooperation with the World Water Council, under the patronage of János Áder, President of Hungary, the Summit featured several high-level events, a Women's Forum enabled by the Council, and the launch of the Council's Youth program. The High Level Panel on Water chose the Summit as its setting to review progress since its Call for Action in September.

The Summit, one of the first global conferences since the Sustainable Development Goals were adopted in 2015 and an important milestone on the road from the 7th World

Water Forum to the 8th World Water Forum, began to map out tasks for the next 15 years. The outcomes, which will serve as important inputs to preparations for the 8th Forum in Brasilia, were presented at the closing ceremony by András Szöllosi-Nagy, World Water Council Governor and Co-Chair of the International Program Committee and President of the Drafting Group.

Deepening high-level political engagement

The World Water Council has continued to strengthen and deepen political engagement with high-level decision makers. Throughout the year, the Council engaged with political representatives across the world, from heads of state to local and regional authorities, building ongoing relationships and mobilizing support for water issues at all levels.

Intensified bilateral meetings with high-level officials contributed to ensuring a presence of water issues in key multilateral political forums and around major political rendez-vous, such as the G7, the G20 and the Singapore Water Leaders' Summit, spurring awareness and raising water's visibility on the political agenda worldwide.

Launching the International Network of Parliamentarians for Water

On Action Day for Water during the 22nd session of the Conference of the Parties (CoP22) in Marrakech in November, World Water Council Governor Sophie Auconie presented the initiative of the International Network of Parliamentarians for Water, which links over a hundred parliamentarians around the world. Networking among parliamentarians is important for gathering information on national laws on water, exchanging best practices, advising practitioners on legal assistance and services, and drafting reports and briefings on water and sanitation policies in the run-up to the 8th World Water Forum.

High Level Panel on Water

Formally established on 21 January at the 2016 World Economic Forum in Davos by the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the President of the World Bank, the High Level Panel on Water aims to mobilize action to achieve Sustainable Development Goal 6 on water, adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in 2015.

The panel, consisting of sitting heads of state and government and a special advisor, aims to provide the leadership required to champion a comprehensive, inclusive, collaborative way of developing and managing water resources, and improving water and sanitation related services.

Co-chairs: Presidents of Mauritius and Mexico

Members: Presidents of Hungary, Senegal, South Africa and Tajikistan and Prime Ministers of Australia, Bangladesh, Jordan and the Netherlands

Special Advisors: Former Prime Minister of the Republic of Korea and Minister of State for the Environment of Peru

The Council was instrumental in the creation of the panel and continues to support its ongoing work.

“The progress of any country relies on the management of its water resources.”

Uma Bharti, Minister for Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation, at the Board of Governors meeting, Jodhpur, India, 18 March

INTEGRATED WATER RESOURCES MANAGEMENT

The World Water Council has proactively promoted integrated water resources management (IWRM) since 2013. The 2016 focus of the Council's Task Force on IWRM was to encourage dialogue on developing an innovative policy agenda that takes lessons from two decades of experience to accelerate the application of IWRM.



High-level Panel on Integrated Water Resources Management, Budapest Water Summit, 29 November

With the adoption of the Sustainable Development Goals and the explicit reference to IWRM in Target 6.5, the Task Force seeks to shape policy developments and innovations to achieve the target. An important aspect of the work of the Task Force is to determine ways to galvanize political support for activities to achieve integrated water management at the national and transboundary levels.

Challenging conventional thinking at the Budapest Water Summit

At the Budapest Water Summit, the World Water Council again encouraged debate on IWRM as a critical issue facing water. On 29 November, the Council moderated a High-level Panel on IWRM where panelists united in agreeing that it is a multi-sectoral issue essential to

achieving many of the Sustainable Development Goals.

Exploring how IWRM can effectively be achieved on the ground, panelists questioned its relevance in the light of the current context. They challenged conventional thinking on IWRM, claiming that it should be seen as a vector and not an end. They encouraged practical perspectives from different regions to be considered, arguing that IWRM will not succeed as a single model applied only at basin scale. Debating further, participants advocated for flexible IWRM river basin agreements that could respond to the increasingly severe effects of climate change.

Throughout 2016, the IWRM Task Force kept up the momentum in sending strong political messages on reframing IWRM.



“The policy agenda for water must proactively build water-wise policies across sectors. Integration is a much larger agenda than water as it cuts across sectors, environment and levels. National water policies provide a basic IWRM framework that enables dynamic and adaptive action on implementation.”

High-level Panel on IWRM, Budapest Water Summit

WORLD WATER COUNCIL MEMBER-LED INITIATIVES

Initiatives harnessing the particular expertise and experiences of members are deeply embedded in World Water Council efforts to proactively shape agendas and mobilize political action. Member-led initiatives endorsed by the Board of Governors support specific areas where member organizations have unique expertise.



Taking the initiative on smart water management

World Water Council member Korea Water Resources Corporation (K-Water) launched the Smart Water Management Initiative at the 7th World Water Forum and has since continued to emphasize smart water management as a key approach to overcoming the world's water challenges. This member-led initiative harnesses K-Water's expertise in applying information and communications technology (ICT) to improve management of water resources, a key political issue in global deliberations.

The systematic smart water management approach addresses the entire water cycle, from analyzing a situation to purifying, recycling, distributing, consuming, monitoring and communicating about water.

The two main thrusts are to help determine water technologies appropriate to national water and economic conditions, and to offer policy and institutional approaches that encourage stakeholders to cooperate in applying smart water management. In 2016, K-Water assembled an exemplary case study for a comprehensive analysis that will serve as a basis for a framework for effectively deploying smart water management approaches. To bring key influencers and decision makers together to debate smart water management, K-Water organized a special session during Korea International Water Week.

Recognizing the value of water systems heritage

Since 2013, World Water Council member the International Commission on Irrigation and

Drainage (ICID) has supported the World Water System Heritage (WSH) program. In identifying and documenting people-centered water management systems, organizations, regimes and rules, WSH recognizes their value as examples of win-win arrangements in which humans and the environment coexist. Learning from these heritage systems will help adaptation to present-day circumstances. At its 58th meeting in Jodhpur, India, 17–18 March, the World Water Council Board of Governors endorsed the program proposed by ICID. The WSH program then called for proposals from around the world for case studies of outstanding water heritage systems.

Raising awareness of water accounting in agriculture

In 2016, the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization, together with other World Water Council members the International Commission on Irrigation and Drainage, International Water Management Institute, United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization Institute for Water Education, United Nations World Water Assessment Programme and University of Nebraska Daugherty Water for Food Institute began promoting water accounting in agriculture. The member-led initiative proposes expert consultations and interactions

at the policy level. The group expects to prepare a white paper on water accounting for agriculture. The aim is to make decision and policy makers, especially in developing countries, aware of how water accounting can help formulate agricultural policies and programs that take account of the competing demands of other sectors. By accounting for water, agriculture can become more sustainable and even make water available for other sectors.



OTHER WORKING BODIES

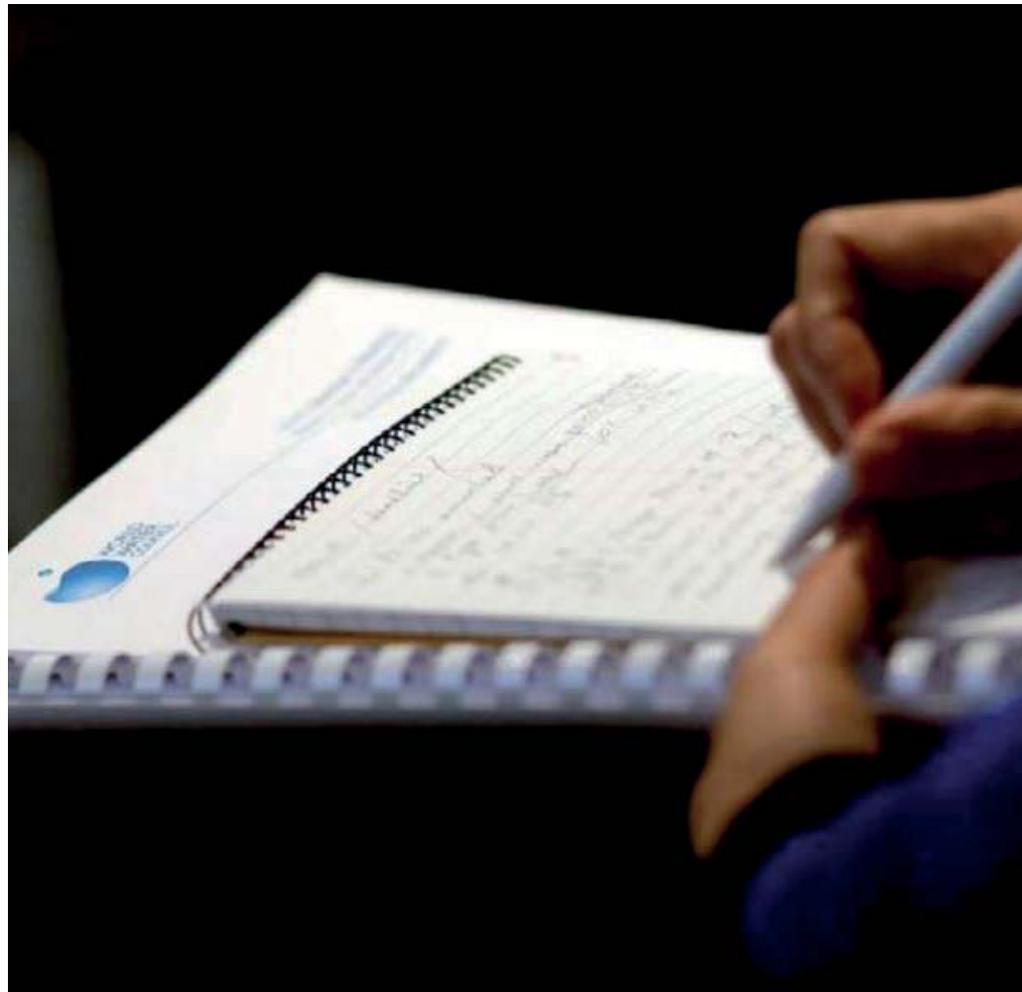
The World Water Council consistently ensures that internal systems and operations keep abreast of institutional change and developments. Throughout the year, the Council has made improvements to enhance how it works and to deepen members' involvement in activities to shape agendas and mobilize political action.

Improving the way the World Water Council works – the new Governance Commission

Following the recommendations of the 7th General Assembly, the World Water Council Board of Governors appointed a Governance Commission to lead institutional improvements and offer more members opportunities to share in the life of the Council. Over the year, the Commission has interviewed members to gain insights on ways to improve. In August, the Commission gathered members' views on Council governance, the Board of Governors and their understanding of their roles as members through an online survey.

Connecting with youth – Youth Delegates

In October, the Council appointed four Youth Delegates, representing South Africa, Brazil, Bangladesh and Serbia, as observers to the Board of Governors. The Youth Delegates will strengthen the involvement of young people in processes leading up to the 8th World Water Forum and propose concrete ways to complement the work of Council Task Forces and working groups.





World Water Council Youth representatives, Budapest Water Summit, 29 November





WORLD WATER FORUM ORGANIZATION

9th World Water Forum, Dakar, 2011



8th World Water Forum, Brasilia, 2018

8TH WORLD WATER FORUM

Brazil’s visionary theme for the 8th World Water Forum, ‘Sharing Water’, embodies its commitment to ensuring continuity with previous Forums. More broadly, it implies sharing actions and responsibilities among nations. The 8th Forum will be held from 18–23 March 2018 in Brasilia, and is co-organized by the Council with the Government of the Federal District of Brasilia, the Ministry of Environment of Brazil, with the support of the Brazilian Association of Infrastructure and Industry (ABDIB), the National Water Agency (ANA) and the Regulatory Agency for Water, Energy and

Sanitation of Brasilia (ADASA). Since Brazil was chosen in February 2014, the World Water Council has been supporting processes which embrace all stakeholders and sectors involved in the organization of the world’s largest water-related event.

Carrying the Forum legacy forward – the International Steering Committee and process commissions

The International Steering Committee met for the first time in Brasilia, 2–3 May, to set overall directions for the 8th Forum. The co-chairs of the Committee, Rodrigo Rollemberg, Governor of the Federal District of Brasilia, and President Benedito Braga, in opening the meeting, reiterated that the World Water Forum

is an ongoing process for change rather than an event that takes place every three years.

The International Steering Committee, enthused with the prospect of holding a Forum in the Southern Hemisphere for the first time, ensured strong oversight of the organization of the Forum throughout the year, meeting a further two times to prepare planning and logistics as well as the Forum roadmaps put forward by each process commission.

The process commissions met on 22–23 November to flesh out preparations for Brasilia in 2018 and to strengthen links and coordination among the five Forum processes. To the four processes of past Forums – Thematic, Political, Regional and



From left to right: World Water Council President Benedito Braga, Governor of the Federal District of Brasilia and Senator Rodrigo Rollemberg, and President of ANA Vicente Andreu Guillo, during the opening ceremony of the 8th World Water Forum kick-off meeting, Brasilia, Brazil, 27 June

Citizens' Forum – the 8th Forum also introduces a new Sustainability Focus Group.

Triggering the countdown – 8th Forum kick-off meeting, 27–28 June

A dynamic kick-off meeting launched the two-year preparatory processes leading to the 8th World Water Forum. Some 800 people from 55 countries, a record number in the history of World Water Forum kick-off meetings, took part.

Opening the kick-off meeting, President Braga encouraged participants to make their voices heard and to work together so that the Forum will reflect their concerns, support progress, influence decision makers and truly make a difference.

In addition to addressing Forum themes, participants considered the political, regional, sustainability and Citizens' Forum processes to help refine the overall structure of the 8th Forum.

“This Forum is needed at a time when 78% of jobs depend on water...Let's move forward so this Forum becomes a stepping stone in making water an issue of the utmost importance.”

Rodrigo Rollemberg, Governor of the Federal District of Brasilia, at the kick-off meeting for the 8th World Water Forum



The 9th World Water Forum will be hosted by Dakar, Senegal, in 2021

9TH WORLD WATER FORUM

In November 2015, the World Water Council called for expressions of interest to host the 9th World Water Forum in 2021. The Board of Governors opened the bidding to governments of any country that, together with their proposed host city, could demonstrate their capacity to organize a fruitful Forum.

The shortlist of four candidate host countries across four continents was approved at the World Water Council 58th Board meeting in March. The Board also set a timeline for selection and established a selection Committee with support from the Secretariat.

On 26 November, at its 60th meeting in Marseille, France, the Board of Governors unanimously elected Senegal and the city of Dakar as hosts of the 9th World Water Forum. The proposed theme for the 9th World Water Forum was suggested as ‘Water Security for Peace and Development.’

MEMBERSHIP

The World Water Council’s greatest asset is its membership. The experience and commitment of its members have contributed to strengthening the Council year by year. In providing a platform that encourages debate and an exchange of views, the Council brings together a great diversity of stakeholders in and beyond the water community. By connecting key actors, ranging from field practitioners to high-level decision makers, the Council has earned deserved credibility on water issues affecting the global agenda.

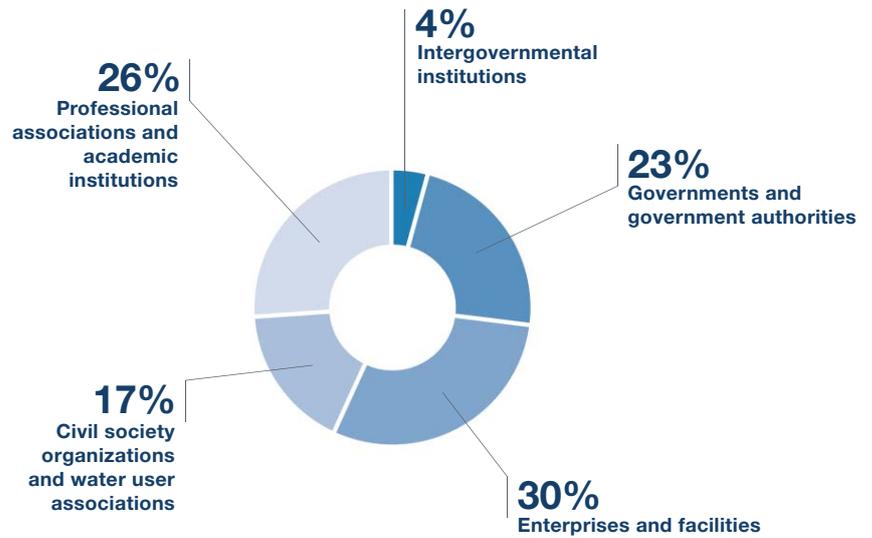
As of 31 December 2016, the Council brings together 339 member organizations from more than 50 countries, which are distributed in five colleges spanning continents across the world.

Member Organizations*

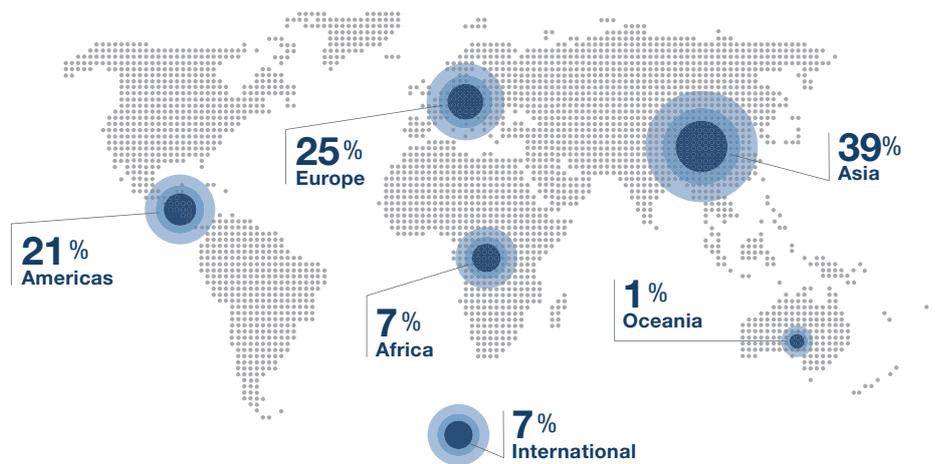
339

* Membership is determined as of 31 December 2016

College Distribution



Geographic Distribution





World Water Council members at the 60th Board of Governors meeting in Marseille, France, 25 November

ORGANIZATION

GOVERNANCE

The World Water Council Board of Governors met three times in 2016 to provide guidance on Council activities. Members were also invited to attend the 60th Board of Governors meeting, in Marseille, to jointly celebrate the Council's 20th anniversary and 20 years of achievement.

India, Brazil and France host Board of Governors meetings in 2016

Serving its first mandate as a Board member, the Jal Bhagirathi Foundation hosted the 58th meeting of the World Water Council Board of Governors in Jodhpur, 18–19

March. This was the first time India had hosted a meeting of the Board of Governors.

Brasilia hosted the 59th Board of Governors meeting, 24–25 June. In welcoming the Board, the Governor of Brasilia, Senator Rodrigo Rollemberg, expressed the commitment of the



World Water Council Board members during their 59th meeting, Brasilia, Brazil, 24–25 June

Federal District to water, which in his words represented “the future of humanity.” At their meeting, the Governors examined plans to strengthen the World Water Council triennial strategy and enrich the World Water Forum.

From 25–26 November, the Governors and more than 140 members gathered in Marseille to take part in the 60th Board meeting. Here they discussed issues ranging from arrangements for the 8th World Water Forum, the hosting of the 9th World Water Forum and the Budapest Water Summit, to the outcomes of the first Action Day for Water at CoP22.



The Minister for Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation, Uma Bharti (center) and the Maharaja of Rajasthan, HH Gajsingh Jodhpur (third from left), welcomed the Board of Governors for their 58th meeting in Jodhpur, India, 18 March

SECRETARIAT

Based in the World Water Council headquarters in Marseille, France, the Secretariat facilitates the development of programmatic, policy and Forum-related activities, provides services to members, and supports the Board,

Bureau and President in preparing plans and implementing decisions. The Secretariat assures the smooth operations of the World Water Council, including administrative and financial functions, policy, programs

and communications as well as support of the Council's Task Forces and the overall implementation of the Council's three-year strategy.

An enthusiastic, competent group of 14 people staff the Secretariat. In April 2016, Tom Soo, a senior executive with experience in sustainability, natural resources science, policy and water resources management at the international level was appointed Executive Director.

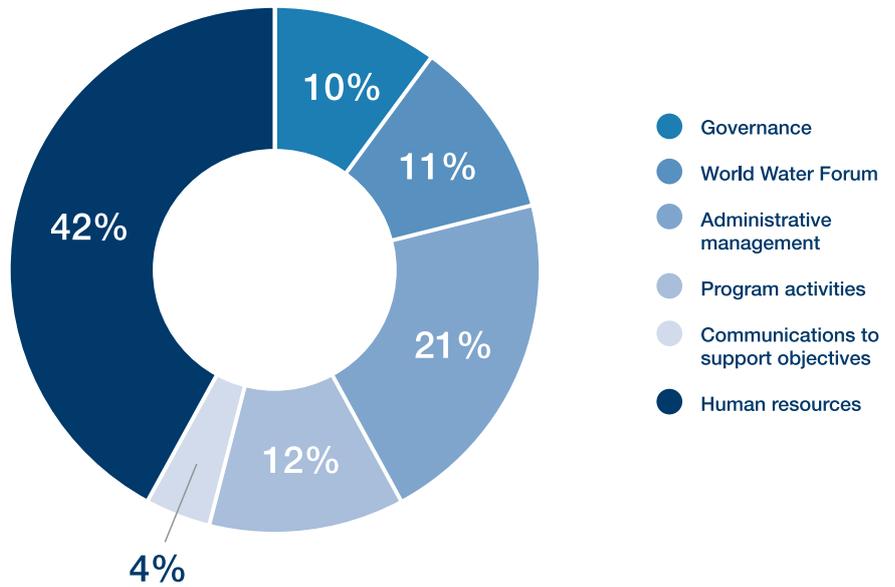


World Water Council HQ staff

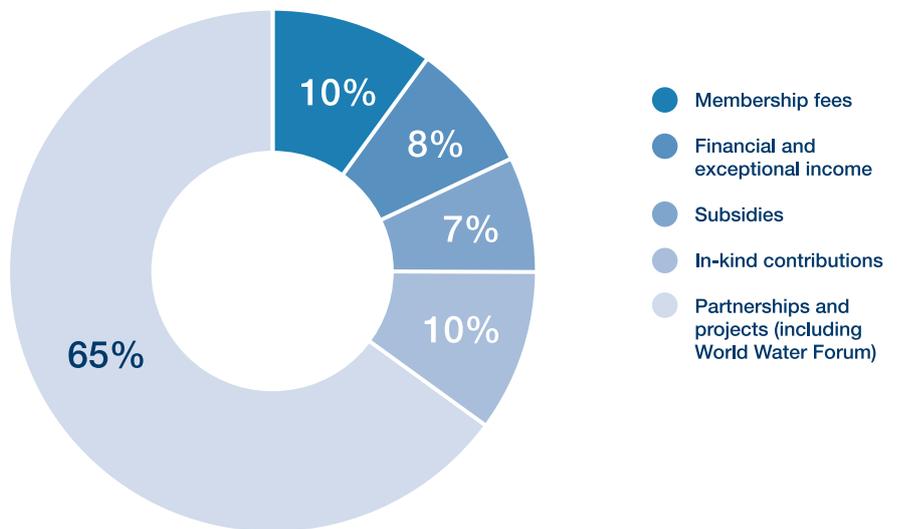
FINANCES

The World Water Council finished 2016 in a healthy financial position: its annual income was EUR 2.9 million. This represents a decrease of EUR 0.5 million from 2015, which is usual in the year after a World Water Forum. Annual operations were maintained, with a steady expenditure of EUR 2.9 million, confirming the stability of the Council's accounts. A graphical breakdown of expenditure and revenue per category is displayed here.

Expenditure 2016



Revenue 2016



COMMUNICATIONS AND REPORTING TO MEMBERS

In 2016, the World Water Council stepped up media relations, energetically engaged in major international events and capitalized on digital tools for communicating the right information to the right people at the right time. The new communications strategy takes a proactive approach to raising the Council's profile and to engaging members. Throughout 2016, special celebrations to mark the Council's 20th anniversary brought members and partners closer together.

Celebrating 20 years of achievement



Ever since its creation on 14 June 1996, the World Water Council and its members have played a strategic role in placing water on the global agenda. In the Council's 20th anniversary year, water was at last being acknowledged as a global priority. Early in 2016, the World Water Council launched celebrations to mark the achievements of its first 20 years. A 20th anniversary toolkit provided to members contained materials to help them mark the milestone year and promote the Council. In a video launched

during anniversary celebrations in Stockholm, members of the Board of Governors offered their best wishes for the Council's 20th birthday.

Two special events saluted the Council's pioneering achievements in bringing water to the center of the international stage. At a ceremony in July during Singapore International Water Week, President Braga and Ravi Narayanan, Chair of the Asia Pacific Water Forum, commemorated the Council's 20th anniversary and the 10th anniversary of the Asia Pacific Water Forum. In August, during World Water Week in Stockholm, President Braga, Oyun Sanjaasuren, Chair of the Global Water Partnership, and distinguished guests marked the 20th anniversaries of the Council and the Global Water Partnership.

The anniversary year culminated at a reception on 25 November in Marseille, where Governors convened for the 60th Board meeting. They celebrated together with members, guests and Council host Jean-Claude Gaudin, Mayor of Marseille. The mayor told the gathering that the city was honored to have hosted the Council since its foundation and that he was "proud of the progress that the Council has made in just 20 years." The mayor was presented with a copy of the anniversary book 'Twenty Years of Achievement', launched during the celebrations. The book, a memento for members, chronicles the significant role the Council has played in putting water at the very heart of global development.



World Water Council President Benedito Braga (center), Mayor of Marseille Jean-Claude Gaudin (right) and World Water Council Honorary President Loïc Fauchon celebrate the 20th anniversary of the World Water Council, 25 November, Marseille, France

Maximizing outreach

The World Water Council's new communications strategy reinforces and capitalizes on the triennial strategy and workplan. The key institutional messages to maximize the Council's outreach set out in the communications strategy, presented consistently again and again during the year, are proving adhesive.

Underpinning efforts to communicate with the Council's many target audiences are new communications tools, a new visual identity, a new set of promotional materials, including a brochure issued in June, and standalone posters.

Strengthening online presence

Throughout the year, the World Water Council continued to enhance its website and expand digital communications. Regular updates and news articles ensured that the website always provided timely information. Targeted email campaigns reached out to the Council's network of thousands of recipients.

Particular attention to adapting messages for social media strengthened the Council's online presence. Social media campaigns for important Council programs and events, and significant international activities such as World Water Day, generated hundreds of thousands of hits.

Communicating to the right people at the right time

Throughout the year, vigorous efforts to galvanize media interest in the World Water Council's stance and responses on water issues led to wide coverage. Exploiting all avenues for media coverage at events in which the Council took part reinforced its position as one of the foremost global authorities on water.

Major campaigns in 2016 brought media attention to the Council's 58th Board meeting in India, the 8th World Water Forum kick-off meeting in Brazil, and the Council's participation in Singapore International Water Week, Stockholm World Water Week and CoP22. In all, media coverage of the Council resulted in more than 350 media hits reaching people in over 40 countries.

A major achievement in 2016 was establishing the Council as an influential global voice on water and climate issues. Among many items promulgating Council views and messages were several op-eds by President Braga; an advertorial in the major report on the new climate framework, 'Climate 2020: Facing the Future', by the United Nations Association – UK (UNA-UK); an article in the G20 China 2016 publication; the press launch of 'Increasing Resilience to Climate Variability and Change'; and 10 interviews in partnership with OOSKANews.inc, a specialist publisher of international water-related news and intelligence. A campaign from August to November drew attention to the importance of water in the fight against climate change and the efforts of the Council in positioning water on the climate agenda at CoP22.



By contributing regularly to major publications the Council helps increase water's visibility in the international agenda



In 2016, the Council published 3 activity reports and 7 newsletters



World Water Council President Benedito Braga talks to journalists during the 8th World Water Forum kick-off meeting press conference, Brasilia, Brazil, 27 June

Keeping members informed

The World Water Council is deeply committed to keeping members up to date on its activities. All members receive a newsletter by email. In early April, the first revitalized monthly newsletter made a positive impact and was followed by six more during the year.

Activity reports distributed electronically and by post, together with the Council's latest publications and President's Letter, kept the membership informed. Two reports issued in March and October kept members abreast of progress on Implementation Roadmaps since the 7th World Water Forum.

World Water Council communications: Key figures

Press and media
378 hits



6,494 Facebook and
Twitter followers



325,324 website visits

Library pages: 53,078
News pages: 17,571
Events pages: 8,934



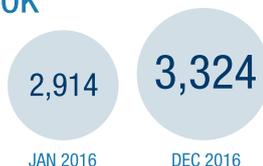
Number of Twitter
followers

31% increase



Number of Facebook
followers

14% increase



Total number of
Twitter impressions
316,200



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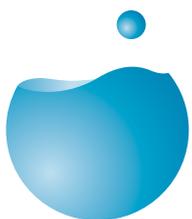
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