

# STRIVING FOR WATER SECURITY

WWC TRIENNIAL REPORT 2016-2018



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](http://www.worldwatercouncil.org)

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This report has been printed on paper from sustainable forests.

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# FOREWORD



Steady momentum runs through the pages of the following report, as it ran through every month of the 2016–2018 triennium. This momentum was a response to the rising pressures of water challenges, changes and risks all over the globe – and equally, it was a result of constant and conscious efforts. The members of the World Water Council have all added to the momentum and harnessed it to generate political will and accountability for the water policy agenda at every level, right up to the highest international levels.

Together, throughout the past three years, our members and partners have helped shape political decisions and catalyze efforts towards water security through robust networking and tireless action. As the triennium drew to a close, the collaborative teamwork saw water addressed as one of the major concerns at the United Nations High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development in New York (USA). Not least, the 8<sup>th</sup> World Water Forum in Brasilia put water issues front and center among the more than a hundred thousand people from all walks of life who attended.

As the next triennial process for 2019–2021 gets under way, the strong, diverse community that is the Council must continue its commitment to promote water security at a global level. The multiplicity of voices amplifying our message is what gives the Council our influence and our momentum.

Together, we must continue reminding governments around the world that water has a place at the heart of strategies to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals

and other international frameworks. We must urge them to not only prioritize water issues, but to commit the human, technical and financial resources that will translate that priority into practical action.

The end of the 2016–2018 triennium sees the end of my six-year term as President. It has been a demanding but thoroughly enjoyable, rich and instructive experience. Thanks to the unremitting support of members, a great deal has been achieved. My heartfelt gratitude goes to all who have contributed in one way or another.

Looking to the next triennium and beyond, I am confident that the Council's strong voice will continue to sway political decisions and catalyze action on water. As always, the success and continuity of our collaborative work depends on your commitment, leadership and perseverance.

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

**Benedito Braga**

President, World Water Council

# WORLD WATER COUNCIL

## WHO WE ARE

For over 20 years, the World Water Council has been a Voice for Water and has endeavored to position water at the pinnacle of the global political agenda. Our mission is to mobilize action on critical water issues at all levels by engaging people in debate and challenging conventional thinking.

The Council, established under French law as an international not-for-profit organization, is independent, impartial and not bound to any special interests. Headquartered in Marseille, France, the Council works in close cooperation with member organizations, governments and major international bodies, both public and private.

The Council represents thousands of people from over 350 organizations in more than 50 countries. Together these form a unique network involving different sectors, regions, disciplines and professional fields. Members help shape the Council's strategy and programs by taking an active part in its various working bodies. Through collaborative efforts, members commit to advancing the water agenda. Their skills, experience and involvement help solve complex water-related challenges all over the world.



### Governing bodies

Four levels of governance help realize the Council's strategic vision: the General Assembly, the Board of Governors, the Bureau and Task Forces.

The **General Assembly**, consisting of all 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 holds one vote to elect the Board of Governors.

The **Board of Governors**, representing a balanced set of stakeholders from every sphere, oversees the Council's mission and values, and guides its

activities. 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 Board members, 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.

# GENERAL ASSEMBLY | 376 Member Organizations\*

## BOARD OF GOVERNORS | 36 Organizations

<b>COLLEGE 1</b> Intergovernmental organizations (5 Governors)	<b>COLLEGE 2</b> Governments and government authorities (8 Governors)	<b>COLLEGE 3</b> Enterprises and facilities (9 Governors)	<b>COLLEGE 4</b> Civil society organizations and water user associations (6 Governors)	<b>COLLEGE 5</b> Professional associations and academic institutions (8 Governors)
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### BUREAU

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

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**VICE-PRESIDENT** | D. Altinbilek, Turkish Contractors Association (Turkey)

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<b>TREASURER</b> 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)	D. Jacobson American Society of Civil Engineers – Environmental & Water Resources Institute – ASCE-EWR (US)
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### TASK FORCE

- 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

\*Membership is determined as of 1 October 2018

## WHAT WE DO

### Engage proactively in hydro-politics

The Council engages in hydro-politics to raise awareness among high-level decision makers for 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, parliamentarians, local authorities and United Nations bodies.

### Tackle emerging challenges

Seeking to challenge accepted wisdom and to stimulate new thinking as a force for change, the 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.

### Co-organize the World Water Forum

The 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 to overcome 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.

# MEMBERSHIP



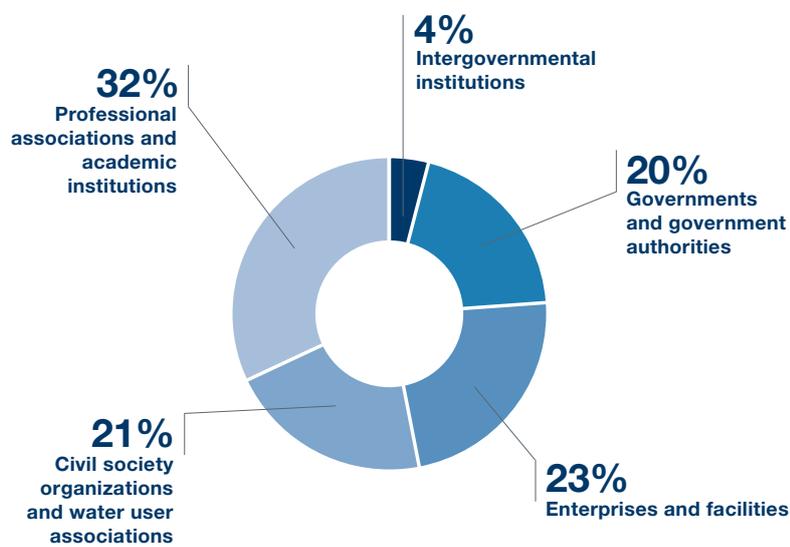
Members of the World Water Council at the 7<sup>th</sup> General Assembly, 13 November 2015

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 this triennium the Council has reached out and worked with more members than ever before, while member-led initiatives have offered opportunities for two-way interactions between

members. 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.

Membership of the Council has been consistently stable throughout the triennium. As of 1 October 2018, the Council had 376 member organizations from more than 50 countries, which are distributed in five colleges spanning continents across the world.

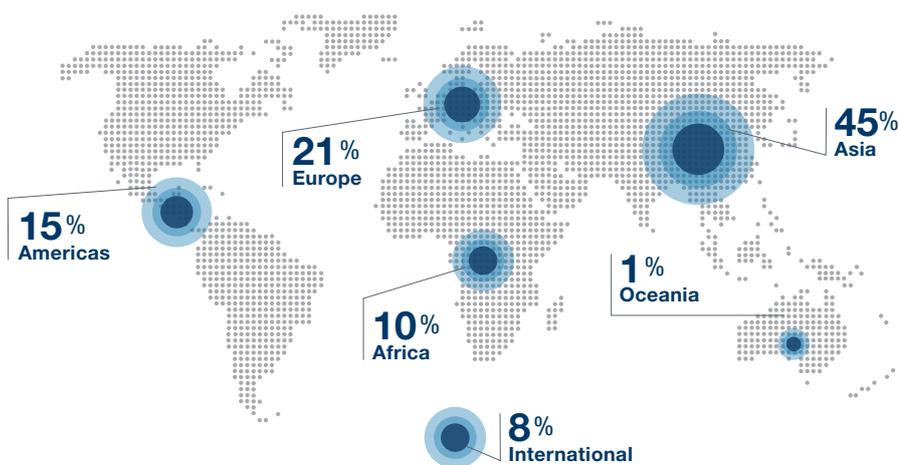
### College Distribution



### Member Organizations

**376**  
in more than  
50 countries

### Geographic Distribution



Membership is determined as of 1 October 2018

# HIGHLIGHTS

The 2016–2018 triennium delivered some of the most fruitful outcomes in the history of the World Water Council. Over the three years, the nine Council Task Forces and Working Groups launched ten new initiatives, drafted upwards of 50 publications and participated in over 80 events, including the United Nations High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development in July 2018. The 8<sup>th</sup> World Water Forum, held in Brasilia in 2018, broke previous records.

## Record-breaking 8<sup>th</sup> World Water Forum,

Organized for the first time in the southern hemisphere, the 8<sup>th</sup> World Water Forum, hosted by the Brazilian city of Brasilia from 18–23 March 2018, marked the largest edition in the history of the event. Under the overarching theme of ‘Sharing Water’, the Forum emphasized the importance of examining all aspects of sustainable water security.

*See page 34*



## Celebrating 20 years of achievement

In 2016, celebrations throughout the year marked 20 years of achievement for the Council since its foundation in 1996. A series of events commemorated the Council’s achievements in putting water at the very heart of global development. The celebrations culminated at a ceremony in Marseille, alongside the 60<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Board of Governors.

*See page 40*



20 YEARS OF ACHIEVEMENT

## Water financing roundtable

A key initiative of 2017 was the creation of the Roundtable on Financing Water in partnership with the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) and the Government of The Netherlands. The Roundtable aims to facilitate a fresh approach to overcoming the challenges of financing investment in water security and sustainable economic growth.

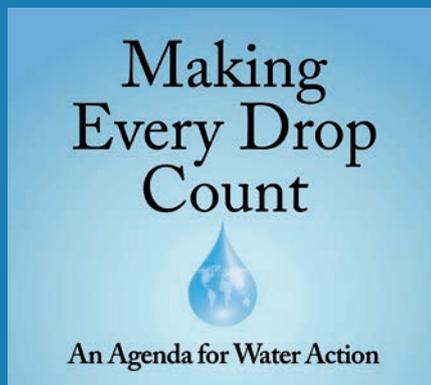
*See page 14*



## Momentum for action on water

In March 2018, two years after the Council contributed to its formation, the High-Level Panel on Water issued its outcomes report. 'Making Every Drop Count' was a clarion call to fast-track action on water and was presented at the opening of the 8<sup>th</sup> World Water Forum in Brasilia.

*See page 14*



## Looking ahead at the Budapest Water Summit

The Council cooperated with the Hungarian Government to organize the Budapest Water Summit in November 2016, the first global conference held after adoption of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in 2015. More than 30 Council Governors and members attended the Summit, which set out concrete directions and guidelines to ensure the successful implementation of Agenda 2030 and its water-related goals.

*See page 24*



## Agreement for 9<sup>th</sup> World Water Forum

Following the selection of Dakar in Senegal as the host for the 9<sup>th</sup> World Water Forum in 2021, a Framework Agreement for the Forum was signed by the Prime Minister of Senegal and the President of the World Water Council in Dakar in June 2018. The signing ceremony was followed by a workshop to mark the start of preparations for this emblematic international event.

*See page 37*



## High-level political milestone

An important political milestone of the triennium was reached in July 2018 with the United Nations High-Level Political Forum in New York. Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 6 – Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all – was among the SDGs reviewed by the Forum and should continue to be reviewed every three years. The Council was fully involved and, together with its Brazilian co-organizers, presented the results of the 8<sup>th</sup> World Water Forum during a special event.

*See page 24*



## Spearheading climate and water efforts

The World Water Council has raised water in the climate agenda and fostered dialogue with the climate community, including strong advocacy at the Conference of the Parties (CoPs), the inaugural and second International Conferences on Water and Climate, and #ClimatelsWater, a coalition of over 70 partners from around the globe formed to speak with one voice for water. These efforts contributed to giving water issues a higher profile during CoPs.

*See page 18*





# DELIVERING ON OUR INITIATIVES

In keeping with the principles of the triennial strategy, over the three years 2016 to 2018, the World Water Council has harnessed the diverse expertise and experience of its members in initiatives that are catalyzing action and making significant contributions to solving water challenges.

In our collective effort to deliver our initiatives to make water a global priority, Council Task Forces have involved 52 members and engaged 140 partners. Between 2015 and 2018, Task Forces launched ten new initiatives, issued 50 publications and presented the Council's thinking on water at 82 events across the globe. Many further member-led actions and working groups have made valuable contributions to tackling water challenges in specific areas.

## FINANCING WATER INFRASTRUCTURE

The amount of money needed to finance water infrastructure is colossal. At current levels, the amount invested is plainly insufficient to achieve Sustainable Development Goal 6: Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all. In view of this, and as part of its long-running efforts to boost investment in water, in the last three years the World Water Council's Task Force on Financing Water Infrastructure began in-depth analysis of why there is a lack of financing and what can be done about it. Early findings have contributed to pragmatic recommendations for stimulating investment in water infrastructure.

### Partnering to raise the profile of water in economic, financial and investment spheres

Recent estimates indicate that USD 650 billion a year is required from now to 2030 to put in place the infrastructure necessary to

achieve water security. To find new approaches to financing, in the past three years the Council has continued to resolutely engage economic, financial and investment partners. During World Water Weeks 2016, 2017 and 2018 in Stockholm, Council events pursued overarching

themes in financing water infrastructure. Notably, the session in 2018 presented findings on hybrid and blended finance from work of the Council Task Force on Financing Water Infrastructure.

Reaching out beyond the conventional water community, the Council, the OECD and The Netherlands launched the Roundtable on Financing Water to foster dialogue and exchange between key actors in the water and finance sectors on new ideas and solutions. Three sessions of the Roundtable – the inaugural meeting at OECD Headquarters in Paris in April 2017, the second meeting in Tel Aviv in September 2017 and the third meeting, again in Paris, in November 2018 – brought water and financial stakeholders together to discuss challenges and explore ways of increasing engagement.

The Roundtable's work was mentioned in the 2018 final report of the High-Level Panel on Water, 'Making Every Drop Count: An Agenda for Water Action', presented at the 8<sup>th</sup> World Water Forum. Seizing the opportunity to reinforce the conclusions on financing and valuing water in 'Making Every Drop Count' and to encourage concrete action, the Council and its Roundtable partners co-convened a High-Level Panel on Financing Water Infrastructure during the 8<sup>th</sup> Forum. The Panel put forward realistic ways of translating the recommendations of 'Making Every Drop Count' into practice. A further session co-organized by the Council, 'Financing multi-purpose infrastructure for sustainable growth', examined new business models and new funding



José Carrera (far left), Development Bank of Latin America (CAF), speaks during the 'Roundtable on Financing Water' event, World Water Week, Stockholm, 28 August 2017

mechanisms for encouraging the public and private sectors to develop multi-purpose infrastructure.

**Engaging the business and investment communities**

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Financial Times Water Summit ‘New approaches to protecting supply and reputation’ in 2016 held in London, put the spotlight on the critical importance of multi-purpose water infrastructure for ensuring long-term water security for all. At this annual conference, founded by the Council and the Financial Times in 2015, the Council’s message for financiers was that business security and the well-being of the planet depends on working together to mobilize investment in water security.

At a meeting in the London Stock Exchange in 2018 and during the Global Engineering Congress 2018 the Council reached out to the international financial and other global business communities.

**Analyzing the barriers to financing water infrastructure**

The Council summed up the findings of phase one of its work to find out why there is a lack of financing and what can be done about it in a succinct report, ‘Ten Actions for

Financing Water Infrastructure’. The report, drawing on a large body of evidence and inputs from a number of stakeholders, looks at obstacles to investment and proposes solutions to overcome barriers and unlock sufficient funding to achieve Sustainable Development Goal 6.

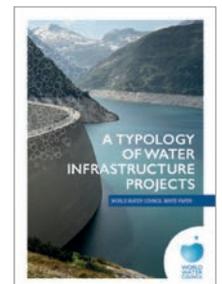
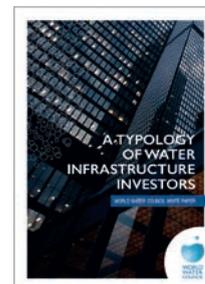
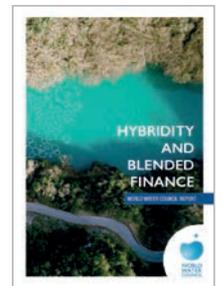
Three of these Ten Actions are explored in the reports ‘A Typology of Water Infrastructure Projects’, ‘A Typology of Water Infrastructure Investors’ and ‘Hybridity and Blended Finance’. The reports set out the challenges and barriers in financing multi-purpose infrastructure in more detail and suggest ways to move forward on financing projects that are strategically imperative but unlikely to be bankrolled without government support.

At World Water Week 2018 in Stockholm, concurrently with the publication of ‘Hybridity and Blended Finance’, the Council co-convened the session ‘Blended finance: From principles to practice’. The Council presented findings on how water-related investments can benefit from recent developments in blended finance, the prerequisites to make blended finance work at scale, and possible ways to engage development finance institutions and private financiers.

“...we are seriously falling behind in building and modernizing water infrastructure.”

President of Hungary, János Áder, opening the 2<sup>nd</sup> Financial Times Water Summit 2016, London

**KEY PUBLICATIONS**



**Ten Actions for Financing Water Infrastructure.** World Water Council Report. February 2018

**Hybridity and Blended Finance.** World Water Council Report. August 2018

**A Typology of Water Infrastructure Investors.** World Water Council White Paper. November 2018

**A Typology of Water Infrastructure Projects.** World Water Council White Paper. November 2018

## CITIES AT THE HEART OF GROWTH

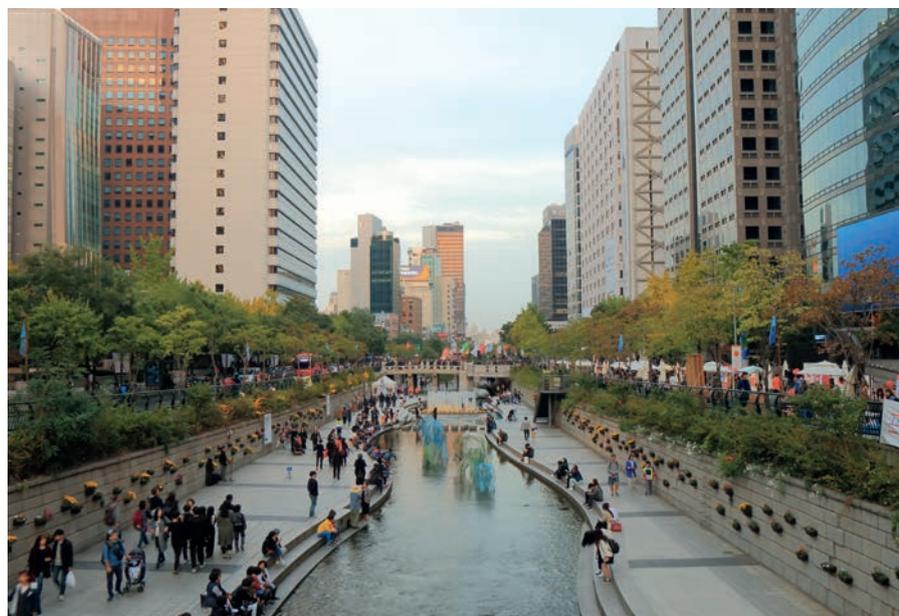
In the next ten years, 70 per cent of the global population may live in cities. This means that water security in cities is crucially important to sustainable development. Cities both present the greatest challenge and offer the greatest hope for a sustainable future: water is key to that future. Over the triennium, working with local and regional authorities and other partners, the World Water Council has been pivotal in providing urban leaders with sound guidance for managing water in ways that will contribute to sustainable development.

### Promoting water security in cities

Many countries have officially adopted global agreements – such as the Sendai Framework, the New Urban Agenda, the Sustainable Development Goals and the Paris Climate Agreement – meaning that city authorities need to begin translating what has been agreed into action. Often though, these authorities may not know where to start. The Council has built alliances with, among others, the International

Council for Local Environmental Initiatives (ICLEI), Global Water Operators' Partnerships Alliance (GWOPA) and United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG) to provide guidance.

These partnerships have helped the Council produce the guide 'Start with Water: Putting Water on Local Action Agendas to Support Global Change'. Launched during the Local and Regional Authorities Conference at the 8<sup>th</sup> World Water Forum (see page 34), the guide draws on examples

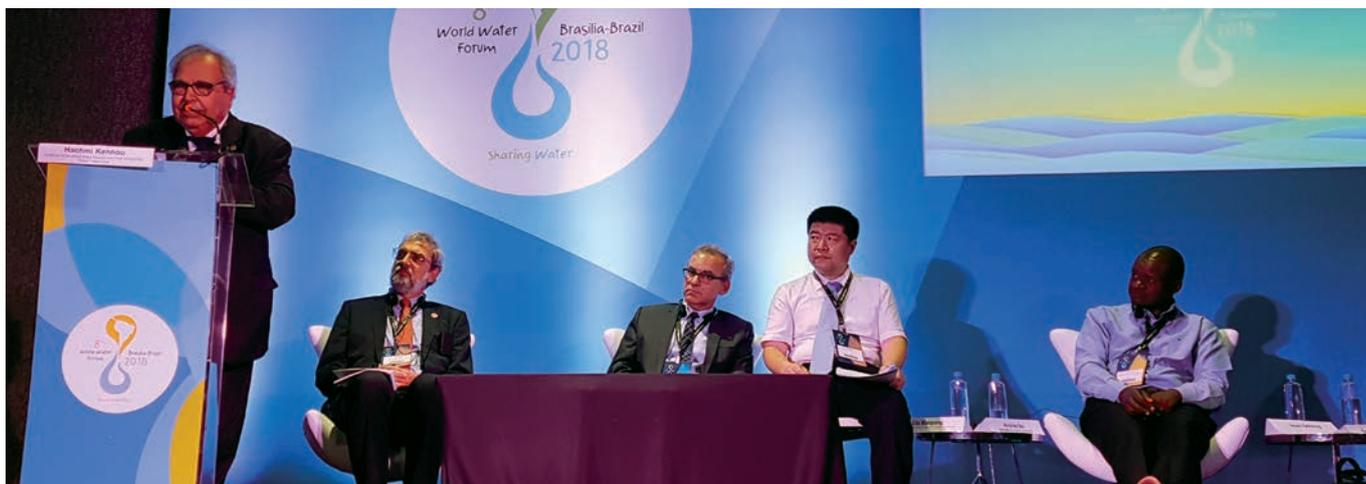


of successful action by cities and regions to explain how local water management can help to achieve global development goals. The guide is the result of multiple consultations and workshops with stakeholders and local decision makers, including at the UCLG World Council Meetings held in December 2017, in Hangzhou, China.

### Identifying financial barriers and economic opportunities

Along with helping cities understand how they can contribute to global sustainable development, financing sanitation in urban areas is part of the wider problem of financing water infrastructure that the Council has been addressing in the last three years. In 2017, the Council began laying the groundwork for discussions by the High-Level Panel on 'Increasing Financial Flows for Sanitation and Wastewater Management' during the 8<sup>th</sup> World Water Forum. At an informal session at World Water Week 2017, the Council shared early findings from extensive discussions and investigations of eight cities in Latin America, Africa and Asia that typify the complexity of financing urban sanitation.

The report of this work, 'Increasing Financial Flows for Urban Sanitation', made a sound business case for improving sanitation, described what urban sanitation could look like by 2030, suggested how it could be financed and recommended practical steps that decision makers could take to generate the funds needed. Drawing on the report, the High-Level Panel on 'Increasing Financial Flows for Sanitation and Waste



Chair of the 'Cities at the heart of growth' task force, Hachmi Kennou, introduces the High-Level Panel on 'Increasing Financial Flows for Sanitation and Wastewater Management', 8<sup>th</sup> World Water Forum, Brasilia, 20 March 2018

Water Management', co-organized by the Council together with the World Bank and Development Bank of Latin America (CAF) at the 8<sup>th</sup> Forum, issued two compelling messages: firstly, urban sanitation needs an increase in financial flows to progress and, secondly, exploring different opportunities in financing mechanisms is essential.

**Partnering in targeted analyses**

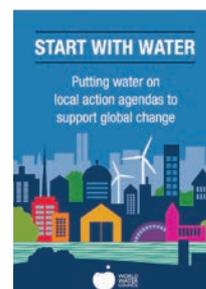
The New Urban Agenda, adopted by a record number of states at Habitat III, the UN Conference on Housing and Urban Development in October 2016, will guide global urbanization policy at least until 2030. The Council helped consolidate messages from the water community for the 'Strategic Recommendations for the New Urban Agenda'; these messages ensured that water – mentioned 28 times – is a theme running throughout the Agenda.

As a permanent member of the High-level Experts and Leaders Panel on Water and Disasters (HELP), the Council supports the international community, governments and

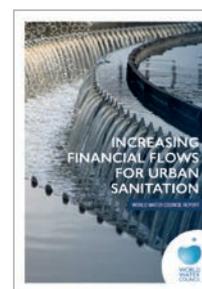
stakeholders in mobilizing political will and resources to improve responses to water-related disasters. The Council took part in the 7<sup>th</sup> meeting of HELP in Rotterdam in May 2016, the 9<sup>th</sup> meeting in Chengdu in May 2017, the 10<sup>th</sup> meeting in September 2017 at the 2<sup>nd</sup> Korea International Water Week and the 11<sup>th</sup> meeting in May 2018.

Looking to the future, during the triennium, the Council has reflected on how it could best use its strengths and members' knowledge to foster urban resilience and improve preparedness in the face of water disasters. The concept note 'Urban Resilience and Water Disasters: A Future Role for the World Water Council' points to two areas – monitoring, evaluating and capacity building to improve urban resilience and involving non-traditional stakeholders in the debate – where the Council could be most effective in making a difference.

**KEY PUBLICATIONS**



**Start with Water: Putting water on local action agendas to support global change.** World Water Council. *March 2018*



**Increasing Financial Flows for Urban Sanitation.** World Water Council Report. *March 2018*

## WATER AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Decisions made about water today will resonate for generations to come. In the three years from 2016 to 2018, the World Water Council sustained its strenuous efforts to raise the standing of water on political agendas and to ensure it features prominently in deliberations on climate, especially in United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) processes. Events, and publications and policy briefs developed by the Council's Task Force on Water and Climate Change have raised the awareness of governments and supported dialogue on water and climate, particularly concerning the importance of adaptation.



Minister Delegate in Charge of Water of Morocco, Charafat Afailal, during her opening speech at the 2<sup>nd</sup> International Conference on Water and Climate, Marseille, 3 October 2017

### **Elevating the role of water on the climate agenda**

Water is the natural resource most strongly affected by climate change. This simple message has been central to the Council's climate strategy for the past three years and has made the Council a strong actor in elevating the visibility of water across the agenda of the UN climate conference of the parties.

These efforts gained official recognition at the 22<sup>nd</sup> annual Conference of Parties (CoP22) in November 2016, where the Council was granted UNFCCC observer status. Observer status allows the Council to participate in key meetings under the framework, including the intersessional Bonn Climate Change Conference in May 2017, where it cooperated with the Global Water Partnership and International Water Association for a side event on climate finance for water-related adaptation and mitigation. The status has furthermore empowered the Council's involvement in multi-stakeholder engagement platforms created under the UNFCCC, such as the Marrakech Partnership for Global Climate Action.

In collaboration with other partners, the Council also convened its own International Conferences on Water and Climate (ICWCs). The first conference, headlined 'Water Security for Climate Justice', was a large-scale collaboration with the hosts of CoP21 and CoP22, the Governments of France and Morocco, which brought more than 600 participants to Rabat in July 2016. Following its success, the Council and the Delegate Ministry for

Water of the Kingdom of Morocco decided to repeat the event. The second ICWC, 'Fostering dialogue on the road to CoP23', was endorsed by the Fijian CoP23 Presidency and held in October 2017 in Marseille. It was designed on a smaller scale to encourage positive, concrete intersectoral exchanges between the targeted participants.

The ICWCs were extremely valuable in fostering dialogue between the water and climate communities. The outcomes were released in two separate editions of the 'Blue Book on Water and Climate' and, through these books, ICWC recommendations fed directly into the broader discussions that followed at CoP22 and CoP23.

During the CoPs themselves, the Council was even busier. At CoP22 the Council, together with French and Moroccan representatives,



World Water Council Vice President, Dogan Altinbilek, talks about key actions and messages on water and climate, at the Global Climate Action Day for Water press conference, CoP22, Marrakech, 9 November 2016

co-facilitated the first official Global Climate Action Day for Water. This landmark event emphasized water as one of the eight priority areas for action that delegates discussed. The following year at CoP23, the Council and its partners invited delegates to take part in a Global Climate Action Water Day. This day-long event

dedicated 10 November 2017 to water action as part of the non-state engagement mechanism of the Marrakech Partnership. The Council again engaged with its partners to prepare water events for CoP24 in December 2018, particularly in organizing events under the framework of the Marrakech Partnership.



CoP23 media briefing for Water Action Day, Bonn, 10 November 2017. From left: James Dalton (IUCN), John Matthews (AGWA), World Water Council Honorary President, Loïc Fauchon, Maggie White (SIWI)



Participants during the High-Level Panel on 'Bridging Water and Climate', 8<sup>th</sup> World Water Forum, Brasilia, 19 March 2018



Another of the Council's major initiatives, #ClimateIsWater, pre-dates its official participation as an observer to the UNFCCC. This coalition began in 2015 and has since grown to 69 members from around the world. It has effectively federated the water community and raised awareness through consistent strong messages to impact climate discussions.

As the Council's efforts brought water more and more into the spotlight at the world's major climate gatherings, the need to address water and climate as a single issue also grew in stature at the 8<sup>th</sup> World Water Forum. This built up to a High-Level Panel on 'Bridging Water and Climate' which was among the most heavily attended events in Brasilia.

As it turned out, the Panel itself was just the beginning: it launched a Working Group on Water and Climate, an informal collaboration among key countries that aims to include wording on water into climate negotiations from CoP24 on.

In August 2018, the Council was elected to the Steering Committee and chosen as vice-chair of the Global Framework on Water Scarcity and Agriculture (WASAG). The WASAG initiative was launched by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and a broad range of partners engaging for urgent action to cope with water scarcity in agriculture and increasing competition for water resources in the context of climate change.

### Working together on the financing challenges of multi-purpose infrastructure

The 1<sup>st</sup> International Conference on Water and Climate in 2016 had one particularly significant outcome for Africa. During the conference, a ministerial ‘Rabat Call to Action’, involving the 20 African ministerial delegations that took part in the Conference roundtable, voiced the need for financing to build multi-purpose infrastructure for Africa’s water security.

Morocco, the Council, the African Development Bank and the World Bank answered this call with the Water for Africa Initiative, launched at CoP22. Inter-institutional efforts



are being made in seeking innovative mechanisms to enable African countries to secure climate finance funds for improving access to water and sanitation, as well as for ensuring food and energy security.

The Council’s report, ‘Water Infrastructure for Climate Adaptation (WI4A): The Opportunity to Scale Up Funding and Financing’, published in November 2018, provides an overview of existing innovative financing tools and ways to access them. It is illustrated with case studies and offers recommendations for policy makers.

### Toward solutions for adaptation

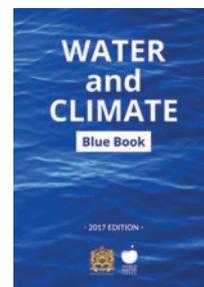
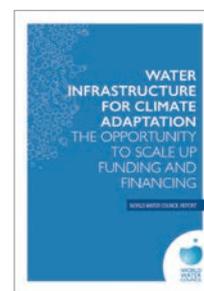
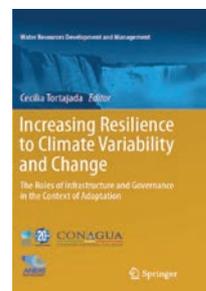
Along with helping the world recognize the scale of water adaptation challenges, and facilitating finance to meet them, the Council has also pursued the next step: providing decision makers with promising solutions.

A wealth of these solutions is collected in the book, ‘Increasing Resilience to Climate Variability and Change: The Roles of Infrastructure and Governance in the Context of Adaptation’, launched during World Water Week 2016. Created by the Council in collaboration with Mexico’s Comisión Nacional del Agua (CONAGUA) and Asociación Nacional de Empresas de Agua y Saneamiento (ANEAS), this evidence-based book puts forward examples of adaptation plans that truly increase climate resilience. Through 11 case studies it highlights the dual roles of infrastructure and governance in adapting to climate change in very different contexts around the globe.

“Water is a common denominator in both the challenges and solutions to design resilient systems.”

Discussion paper of the High-Level Panel on ‘Bridging Water and Climate’ 8<sup>th</sup> World Water Forum, Brasilia

### KEY PUBLICATIONS



**Increasing Resilience to Climate Variability and Change: The Role of Infrastructure and Governance in the Context of Adaptation.** World Water Council, CONAGUA and ANEAS. August 2016

**Water Infrastructure for Climate Adaptation (WI4A): The Opportunity to Scale Up Funding and Financing.** World Water Council. November 2018

**Water and Climate. Blue Book.** 2016 edition. Ministry Delegate in charge of Water of the Kingdom of Morocco, Ministry of Environment, Energy and the Sea of France, World Water Council. November 2016

**Water and Climate. Blue Book.** 2017 edition. Ministry Delegate in charge of Water of the Kingdom of Morocco, World Water Council. November 2017

## INTEGRATING WORLD WATER FORUMS

Documenting progress is key for maintaining momentum on solving water challenges. In collaboration with its Korean partners, the World Water Council introduced a novel way of supporting advances on key water issues in between editions of the World Water Forum. The online system and related reports have supported the implementation of common goals and activities. Communities of stakeholders and Forum participants then contributed collectively to their achievement.

### Concerted actions along the Implementation Roadmaps

At the conclusion of the 7<sup>th</sup> Forum in 2015, Champions made a commitment to undertake action responding to the challenges identified there. To span the three years between this 7<sup>th</sup> Forum and the 8<sup>th</sup> Forum in 2018, the Council supported the development of

16 Implementation Roadmaps: mechanisms that chart out promises, plans and progress at a glance.

The 16 Roadmaps ensured continuity between the Forums, contributed to complementary global endeavors – and most importantly, catalyzed action. Nineteen Champions, and more than 90 organizations overall, coordinated efforts to ensure the

implementation of 16 Roadmaps, which embrace social, economic and environmental aspects of water.

The Champions and their Core Groups came together for a workshop at Stockholm World Water Week in August 2016, together considering ways to catalyze collective action and tie their commitments into broader international agendas and plans for the 8<sup>th</sup> Forum. As the three years went by, the organizations reported their efforts through an interactive Action Monitoring System, where they provided rich data for inclusion in four progress reports published in 2016 and 2017. Their rapid tally of successes was then discussed in detail at two Annual Review Meetings, which the Council co-convened with the Korea Water Forum and the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport during Korea International



Implementation Roadmaps Champions and Core Group members line up at the special session 'From the 7<sup>th</sup> to the 8<sup>th</sup> World Water Forum: Three Years of Implementation Roadmaps', 8<sup>th</sup> World Water Forum, Brasilia, 21 March 2018



Governor of the World Water Council and Chair of the Implementation Roadmaps Task Force, Soontak Lee, speaks during the Implementation Roadmaps Annual Review Meeting, Korea International Water Week, Gyeongju, 21 September 2017

Water Weeks 2016 and 2017.

These meetings also provided an opportunity for the former Forum host countries gathered under the World Water Partnership to meet and discuss global joint collaboration for the cause of water.

Finally, at a special session during the 8<sup>th</sup> Forum, the Council and its Korean partners presented these three years of achievements in a synthesis report. This synthesis showed that, from the objectives in the Roadmaps set for 2018 and 2030, 61 per cent had been completed, and another 36 per cent showed progress. In all, 336 key focus areas and 97 objectives revealed a high rate of completion.

### From actions to global processes

The Implementation Roadmaps were not intended to stay within the world of water experts; their actions were integrated into global processes, including the SDG processes. The Council worked with Implementation Roadmap Champions to ensure this.

The most visible contributions of the Champions have been to the United Nations High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development, which meets annually to guide implementation of the SDGs. The Champions provided the 2018 Forum – which was tasked with reviewing SDG 6 on water and sanitation for all – with a succinct list of 14 policy suggestions. The list began with the statement that “water security is a prerequisite to the achievement of all the SDGs, not only SDG 6” and provided recommendations on topics such as integrated water resources management, infrastructure, investment, governance, science and education.

“In the spirit of cooperation that embodies the World Water Forum, collaborative thinking is central to making progress on water-related challenges. The World Water Forum is not just an event. It is a process that evolves between events. Through this initiative, we addressed how to share responsibility and action collectively, in full awareness of the ways water connects us.”

Benedito Braga,  
World Water Council President

### KEY PUBLICATIONS



**Catalyzing Action for Water. Implementation Roadmaps.** World Water Council, Korea Water Forum, Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport of the Republic of Korea.

**Progress Report on Implementation Roadmaps.** World Water Council, Korea Water Forum, Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport of the Republic of Korea. *March 2016*

**Progress Report on Implementation Roadmaps.** World Water Council, Korea Water Forum, Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport of the Republic of Korea. *October 2016*

**Progress Report on Implementation Roadmaps.** World Water Council, Korea Water Forum, Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport of the Republic of Korea. *April 2017*

**Progress Report on Implementation Roadmaps.** World Water Council, Korea Water Forum, Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport of the Republic of Korea. *October 2017*

**Synthesis Report on Implementation Roadmaps 2015-2018.** World Water Council, Korea Water Forum, Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport of the Republic of Korea. *March 2018*

## INVOLVING KEY POLITICAL ACTORS

Engaging decision makers is at the heart of World Water Forum political processes and the *raison d'être* of the World Water Council. In the three years 2016 to 2018, the Council purposefully engaged governments and multilateral agencies to mobilize political support and secure robust commitments for solving water challenges. The Council also enhanced bilateral cooperation inside and outside the water community on multiple fronts.

### Water in bilateral and multilateral political forums

More than 30 Council Governors and members took part in the second edition of the Budapest Water Summit, co-organized by the World Water Council and the Hungarian Government under the patronage of Hungary's President János Áder. Held in November 2016, as one of the first large global conferences to take place after the adoption of the Sustainable Development Goals, the Summit was an early opportunity to map out tasks all the way to 2030.

The Summit also provided a space for the High-Level Panel on Water to review progress since its inception at the start of 2016. The World Water Council was instrumental in creating the High-Level Panel; provided framing papers on water infrastructure and human

settlements; and remained a strong supporter throughout its work. The Panel's report, 'Making Every Drop Count: An Agenda for Water Action', was promoted at the opening of the 8<sup>th</sup> Forum and during a special session led by President Áder, a Panel member.

Messages from the Panel shared throughout the Forum also aimed to inform the United Nations High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development review of SDG 6. The World Water Council was present at the event in July 2018, in its official role as observer of the United Nations Economic and Social Council, a position that was reconfirmed in 2018 for the following four years. Throughout the High-Level Political Forum, the World Water Council showcased its work through its booth 'Water Connects'. The Council also co-organized

a side event with Brazil which presented the outcomes of the 8<sup>th</sup> World Water Forum.

The Council also maintains strong collaborations within the United Nations system, including the biannual meetings of the coordinating mechanism UN-Water, during which the Council participated in discussions and contributed to shared activities.

### Engaging political actors between World Water Forums

Between the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> World Water Forums, the Council seized every opportunity to bring scientific knowledge and decision-making closer together. One such opportunity was the 2017 International Water Resources Association's 16<sup>th</sup> World Water Congress in Cancún. Here the Council convened high-level panels on water and climate, Integrated Water Resources Management and the SDGs, mobilizing scientific contributions and political engagement prior to the 8<sup>th</sup> Forum.

The Parliamentarian Process gained momentum after the launch of the International Network of Parliamentarians for Water, during the Action Day for Water at CoP22. The Network linked more than a hundred parliamentarians around the world to share information on national water laws and exchange best practices in the run-up to the 8<sup>th</sup> Forum.

Throughout the triennium, the Council engaged with political actors during a number of events, including the Conference of Water Ministers of the Organization of Islamic

#### Enhanced bilateral cooperation

To enhance bilateral cooperation in a range of areas, President Braga met throughout the triennium with many high-level political officials and decision makers, including two heads of state, more than 20 ministers and vice-ministers, special envoys and High Commissioners from multiple countries such as China, Iran, Jordan, Kenya, Morocco, Portugal, the Republic of Korea and Tajikistan.



The World Water Council and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Brazil co-convene a side event on the outcomes of the 8<sup>th</sup> World Water Forum during the UN's 2018 High-Level Political Forum, New York, 17 July 2018

Cooperation, in Istanbul in May 2016, the International Desalination Association (IDA) International Water Reuse and Recycling Conference in September 2016, the Vatican in February 2017, the 1<sup>st</sup> Baku International Water Week in March 2017, the 4<sup>th</sup> Istanbul International Water Forum in April 2017, the 31<sup>st</sup> National Association of Water and Sanitation Utilities of Mexico (ANEAS) Convention in November-December 2017, the Asia-Pacific Water Forum in December 2017, the One Planet Summit in December 2017 and the International Water Association (IWA) Congress in Argentina, in November 2017. The Council was also represented

at the World Bank Water Week in Washington DC, Singapore International Water Weeks and three Korea International Water Weeks, where the Water Leaders Roundtable contributed to fruitful discussions on the sustainable development of water.

### The Right to Water

Recognizing the importance of recent developments in raising the profile of sanitation in the political agenda, the Council has commissioned an update of its 2006 report, 'The Right to Water: from concept to implementation'. The report will assess the status of the two human

rights, with a greater emphasis on the right to sanitation. The goal is to engage policy makers by providing them with guidelines to support their efforts toward meeting the targets of the Post-2015 Development Agenda. Following the presentation of the analytical framework of the report to the General Assembly in November 2018, work will start early in 2019 and the report is expected to be published by the end of that year.

### KEY PUBLICATIONS



**Water Infrastructure and Investment, Framing Note for the High-Level Panel on Water.** World Water Council. December 2016



**Human Settlements, Framing Note for the High-Level Panel on Water.** World Water Council. December 2016

“Whoever you are, whatever you do, wherever you live, we urge you get involved, and contribute to meeting this great challenge: safe water and sanitation for all, and our water resources managed sustainably. Make every drop count. It’s time for action.”

Open Letter from the High-Level Panel on Water, 14 March 2018

# INTEGRATED WATER RESOURCES MANAGEMENT

Agenda 2030, adopted at the United Nations Sustainable Development Summit on 25 September 2015, calls for integrated water resources management (IWRM) to deliver sustainable development. Responding to this call, in the triennial period, the World Water Council’s Task Force on Integrated Water Resources Management has been building on policies already in place in many countries, in particular focusing on finding successful ways to drive change within and across sectors to bring about widespread transformation in managing water.

## Revitalizing and rethinking integrated water resources management (IWRM)

The Council’s longstanding promotion of IWRM sprang to the forefront of global relevance with the adoption of the SDGs. Specifically,

SDG Target 6.5 calls on countries to implement IWRM at all levels, including through transboundary cooperation as appropriate, by 2030. This target has mobilized the Council’s Task Force on IWRM to seek renewed policy developments, innovations and political commitment to put integrated management into practice.



Governor of the World Water Council and Chair of the Thematic Commission for the 8<sup>th</sup> World Water Forum, Torkil Jønch Clausen, opens the High-Level Panel on ‘Revitalizing IWRM for the 2030 Agenda’, 20 March 2018

The Task Force brought this agenda to a series of High-Level Panels on IWRM, leading debates on the policy needs of the SDG era at the Budapest Water Summit in 2016, the 16<sup>th</sup> World Water Congress in Cancún in 2017 and Stockholm World Water Week in 2018.

This conversation continued, and developed, during the 8<sup>th</sup> World Water Forum. The Task Force convened a fourth High-Level Panel on ‘Revitalizing IWRM for the 2030 Agenda’ in Brasilia. It also coordinated a series of three thematic sessions during the Forum on the details and demands of implementing integrated management.

## A challenge to policy makers

The 8<sup>th</sup> World Water Forum’s High-Level Panel on IWRM was also the occasion for launching a Challenge Paper that summed up the messages of the Task Force, as shaped through the previous year of panels and events. The paper was a focal point for the other sessions at the Forum. The Challenge Paper was then updated once more with outcomes from the Forum and published in final form in 2018.

The Challenge Paper’s polished and compelling political messages begin with the statement: “The SDGs are a wake-up call for IWRM.” The paper argues that the challenge and opportunity of integrating water across the SDGs requires a re-think of IWRM as an approach – it demands, in fact, that the approach be transformational on a large scale.

## KEY PUBLICATIONS

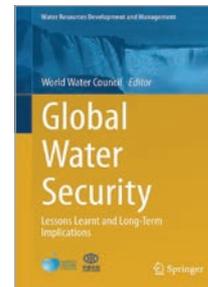


**Revitalising IWRM for the 2030 Agenda.**  
World Water Council Challenge Paper.  
March 2018

## GLOBAL WATER SECURITY

Water security – both global and local – is a prerequisite for economic growth and sustainable development. Recent research indicates that water security could raise global economic growth by 0.5 per cent or about USD 500 billion a year. In the three years 2016 to 2018, the World Water Council's work on Global Water Security has promoted awareness and urged political commitment for appropriate investment in infrastructure, capacity building and project development to achieve water security.

### KEY PUBLICATIONS



**Global Water Security: Lessons Learnt and Long-Term Implications.** World Water Council and Ministry of Water Resources of China. February 2018

### Experience as a guide

There is no one recipe for water security that works all over the world, but there are many good examples to be found. In 2018, the Council and the Ministry of Water Resources of the People's Republic of China collected some of these good examples in the

book 'Global Water Security: Lessons Learnt and Long-Term Implications'. This evidence-based volume offers decision makers perspectives on what really works in implementing water security-oriented policies. Its messages are informed by ten case studies of cities, countries and regions that have taken action.

Following the book's publication, the Council and the Ministry came together to highlight its lessons at a special session during the 8<sup>th</sup> World Water Forum. In addition, they distributed a policy brief which draws on lessons in the book to put forward eight actions to take for water security.



Panelists of the special session on 'Water Security and the SDGs' gather for the launch of the book 'Global Water Security: Lessons Learnt and Long-Term Implications', 8<sup>th</sup> World Water Forum, Brasilia, 19 March 2018

## MEMBER-LED INITIATIVES

During the triennium, the World Water Council fostered initiatives led by members in specific areas – providing new openings for these members to work together with others sharing their areas of interest. Member-led initiatives integrate, through existing communication platforms, a broad diversity of member perspectives on water challenges and timely ideas. They have long been instrumental in creating opportunities for the Council to advance its strategy to achieve water security, resilience and sustainability. The Council has continued to work actively to develop member-led initiatives that directly support the Council's initiatives.



### Supporting Council initiatives

A member-led initiative steered by the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) to promote a comprehensive approach to **Water Accounting for Agriculture** was completed in 2018. After a series of consultations and webinars, FAO and its partners launched a white paper and a number of case studies during a session at the 8<sup>th</sup> World Water Forum. Together these summed up current knowledge and experiences of the water accounting approach and established its potential for helping to sustainably meet the water needs of food production.

The Korea Water Resources Corporation (K-water) and the International Water Resources Association (IWRA) presented their initial work on another member-led initiative, the **Smart Water Management Initiative**, at the 8<sup>th</sup> Forum – three years after launching their effort at the 7<sup>th</sup> Forum. This future-oriented research initiative seeks to bring significant improvements to world water management practices through the application of information and communications technologies and greater use of data.

The **World Water System Heritage Programme**, an initiative led by the International Commission on Irrigation and Drainage (ICID) and its partners, kicked off in November 2016 during the Council's 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration. This joint effort aims to identify and preserve valuable people-centered water management systems, organizations, regimes and rules – examples of intangible water heritage that



Winners of the World Water System Heritage Programme accept their award during a dedicated event at the World Water Council booth at the 8<sup>th</sup> World Water Forum, Brasilia, 19 March 2018

**Recipients of World Water System Heritage Programme recognition, 2018**

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Genbegawa Irrigation Canal System, Japan

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Sekikawa Suikei Land Improvement District, Japan

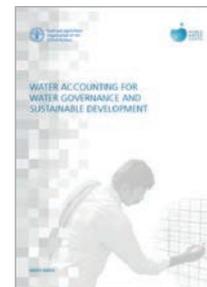
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Sheikh-Bahaei Water Allocation Scroll, Iran



Signature of the Memorandum of Understanding with the Asia Water Council, Brasilia, 18 March 2018

**KEY PUBLICATIONS**



**Water Accounting for Water Governance and Sustainable Development.** Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and World Water Council. White Paper. 2018

create coexistent social systems for humanity and a sound environment. On the opening day of the 8<sup>th</sup> Forum, the Programme held a ceremony to recognize three such structures of outstanding value to humanity.

Member-led initiatives will continue to play an important role in the

Council's collaborations. In 2018, at the 8<sup>th</sup> Forum, the Council signed a new **Memorandum of Understanding with the Asia Water Council**, agreeing to pursue further initiatives for water security and capacity development in developing countries.

## OTHER WORKING BODIES

In the course of the World Water Council's work, there are occasions when special working bodies are invaluable sources of perspective and expertise on fundamental concerns. Two such bodies in particular generated important inputs for the Council between 2016 and 2018. The first, the Council's Youth Delegates, brought the voices of young people all over the world to the World Water Forum process. The second, the Governance Commission, reviewed and updated some of the Council's most important documents.



Youth Delegates organized a dedicated event at the World Water Council booth, 8<sup>th</sup> World Water Forum, Brasilia, 22 March 2018

### Youth Delegates achieving meaningful participation in hydro-politics

In the second Stakeholders Meeting leading up to the 8<sup>th</sup> World Water Forum, held in Brasilia in April 2017, young people sent a clear signal that they were seeking meaningful ways to participate. Following discussions, Council

Youth Delegates encouraged young people across the globe to coordinate their inputs to the 8<sup>th</sup> Forum by designing satellite events. Satellite events were integrated in the Youth Forum held 17–18 March in the Citizen's Village. The Youth Forum Statement issued at the 8<sup>th</sup> Forum presented young people's priorities for hydro-politics at local, regional and global levels.





Members of the Governance Commission speak during the General Assembly, Brasilia, 17 March 2018

**Governance Commission proposing changes to legal and institutional framework**

A wish expressed by Council members during the 7<sup>th</sup> General Assembly in 2015 – for a review of the Council Constitution and By-Laws – kicked off a very comprehensive three-year process of consultations. This was managed by a Governance Commission, drawn from members of the Board of Governors, and supported by an Advisory Group of representatives from the membership colleges.

The mission of the Commission was to seek ways of adapting the Council’s legal and institutional framework to position it so that it can continue to fulfill its goals in a rapidly changing world.

The Governance Commission proposed a set of resolutions for changes to the Constitution, the By-Laws and the Membership Guidelines. Approved resolutions on the By-Laws took effect using a modern system of electronic voting at the General Assembly in June 2018.



Chair of the Governance Commission, Karin Krchnak, presents progress, 63<sup>rd</sup> Board of Governors meeting, Marseille, 3 November 2017

7<sup>th</sup> World Water Forum  
**Water for Our Future**  
Daegu and Gyeongbuk,  
Republic of Korea, 2015

9<sup>th</sup> World Water Forum  
**Water Security for Peace  
and Development**  
Dakar, Senegal, 2021



8<sup>th</sup> World Water Forum  
**Sharing Water**  
Brasilia, Brazil, 2018

# WORLD WATER FORUM

As the largest international event on water, the World Water Forum strengthens the ability of the entire world to respond to water-related challenges. Held every three years, it grows larger with every iteration as tens of thousands of participants join in – from all levels of government, multilateral institutions, academia, civil society, the private sector and beyond.

The Forum is not just a series of flagship events, but an ongoing legacy, a catalyst for collective action and a platform for long-term progress. The World Water Council treads an unbroken path between Forums. The Council's activities over the past three years leading to the 8<sup>th</sup> Forum stemmed directly from the 7<sup>th</sup> Forum. Now, all eyes are on the upcoming 9<sup>th</sup> Forum to be held in Dakar, in 2021 (see page 37).



## DELIVERING THE 8<sup>TH</sup> WORLD WATER FORUM

The 8<sup>th</sup> World Water Forum in Brasilia was the largest water event to date, the first Forum to be held in the southern hemisphere, and the result of three years of collaboration and hard work. It involved more than 10,600 participants in the main program and attracted over 109,500 visitors to the Citizens' Village. In the opening ceremony, it gathered 11 heads of state or government under the leadership of the President of Brazil. While overseeing the Forum as a platform for all voices on water, the World Water Council showcased the significant progress it has made on its key programs and engaged at multiple levels in sessions, bilateral meetings and activities in its Pavilion.

Six main themes – climate, people, development, urban, ecosystems and finance – and three cross-cutting issues – sharing, capacity and governance – underpinned

the Forum. The Thematic Process Commission proposed thematic priorities, contributed to the definition of the preparatory and follow-up process, managed the thematic working groups, monitored progress and contributed to the planning of the Forum linked to outcomes from previous editions.

### Catalyzing political engagement

The Council co-organized three major conferences through the 8<sup>th</sup> Forum's Political Process – for ministerial delegations, local and regional authorities, and parliamentarians. Each of these landmark gatherings was the culmination of a process that the Council instigated well before the Forum, bringing hundreds of collaborators into discussions right from the start.

The delegations that prepared the **Ministerial Conference** met first in December 2017 and then in February 2018 at the headquarters of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) in Paris to discuss the political potential for action on water – and again in Brasilia on the day before the 8<sup>th</sup> Forum began. These discussions set the scene for the Ministerial Conference during the Forum, where more than 100 delegations led by 56 ministers and 14 deputy ministers crafted the Ministerial Declaration: 'An Urgent Call for Decisive Action on Water' calling all countries to step up to water- and sanitation-related challenges, and singling out specific areas for swift, constructive change. The delegations also participated in six roundtable dialogues relating to the six themes of the Forum, approaching climate, people, development, urban water, ecosystems and finance from a ministerial perspective.

Preparations for the 8<sup>th</sup> Forum's **Local and Regional Authorities Conference** were launched at the XII Metropolis World Congress in Montreal in June 2017. To organize the event, the World Water Council joined forces with ICLEI (Local Governments for Sustainability), United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG), the Brazilian Confederation of Municipalities and the UN-Habitat Global Water Operators' Partnerships Alliance (GWOPA). Three preparatory events helped mobilize worldwide involvement from local and regional decision makers: in Brasilia in November 2017, in Hangzhou, China in December 2017 and at the 9<sup>th</sup> World Urban Forum (WUF9) in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia



President of Brazil, Michel Temer (front row center), welcomes Heads of State at the Itamaraty Palace on the occasion of the 8<sup>th</sup> World Water Forum, Brasilia, 19 March 2018

in February 2018. All these efforts culminated in bringing together more than 300 participants, including 180 city mayors, governors and state legislators, in Brasilia in March 2018. The Council, with input from its partners, produced a practical guide, 'Start with Water: Putting Water on Local Action Agendas to Support Global Change', in support of the Conference and its aims (see page 16). Showcasing and catalyzing these actors' roles in achieving a sustainable future resulted in the Conference's outcome document, the 'Call for Action of Local and Regional Governments on Water and Sanitation'.

Action Day for Water at CoP22, in November 2017, saw the launch of the International Network of Parliamentarians for Water, which was instrumental in organizing the **Conference on the Role of Parliaments and the Right to Water** at the 8<sup>th</sup> Forum. The 134 parliamentarians representing 20 nations involved in the conference issued the 'Parliamentarian Manifesto', a strongly worded call that declared the essential role of water in transforming the SDGs from visions to tangible realities and highlighted the need for multilateral collaboration, along with participatory and democratic processes in water governance.

### Involving the local community

One of the most successful components of the 8<sup>th</sup> World Water Forum, the Citizens Village, attracted more than 100,000 visitors during the Forum week and preceding weekend. In this open, free and democratic space, audiences could



Visitors queue up to enter the Citizens Village at the 8<sup>th</sup> World Water Forum, Brasilia, 18-23 March 2018

engage in activities that aimed to sensitize them to the importance of water and sanitation. With a mix of culture, science, education and recreation, the Citizens Village also attracted school excursions, contributing to a dynamic inter-generational exchange.

### Introducing new features

A novel outcome from the 8<sup>th</sup> Forum was the cross-cutting Sustainability Process, which resulted in the establishment of a Sustainability Declaration, read at the closing ceremony. Calling for the United Nations, governments and societies to consider water as a core element in achieving sustainability, the declaration emphasized the need for holistic policies and made 12 recommendations for change in policy and political dialogue.

The Sustainability Focus Group also called on the private sector to engage in the Forum more actively than ever before, with a special Business Day dedicated to the roles of private businesses in water action. The day encouraged representatives from industry to

demonstrate their environmental accountability and add their voices to a 'Brazilian Commitment to Water Security', which highlights the importance of constructive relationships and collaborative projects uniting private sector companies, civil society and government.

### THE 8<sup>TH</sup> FORUM IN NUMBERS



Over **10,600** participants registered in the main conference



**109,581** registered visitors to the Citizens Village, including **37,829** children, **20,410** youth and **3,585** teachers



**172** countries represented, **12** heads of state, **56** government ministers and over **100** delegations



**134** parliamentarians, **180** local authorities, **83** judges and prosecutors



Nearly **2,000** press professionals



Over **350** sessions and events in the main conference



Prime Minister of Morocco, Saadeddine Othmani (front row, center), and Minister Delegate in Charge of Water, Charafat Afaïal (front row, right), hand the King Hassan II Great World Water Prize to OECD Director of Centre for Entrepreneurship, SMEs, Regions and Cities, Lamia Kamal-Chaoui, Brasilia, 19 March 2018

### Reaffirming relationships

The presentation of prestigious prizes during the 8<sup>th</sup> Forum reaffirmed the Council’s strong relationships with Moroccan and Japanese partners. The Forum’s opening ceremony saw the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) receive the King Hassan II Great World Water Prize in recognition of its work in elevating water security as a crucial issue globally.

During the closing ceremony, the Council and the Japan Water Forum announced the winner of the 5<sup>th</sup> Kyoto World Water Grand Prize. This recognizes outstanding accomplishments by grassroots organizations in developing countries in solving water issues in ways that can act as a model for other countries. The Charité Chrétienne pour Personnes en Détresse from Togo received the award for its work to improve living conditions of women, children and underprivileged people in rural areas through water, sanitation, hygiene and education.

Also announced during the Forum were the first projects to benefit

from recognition by the World Water System Heritage Programme. This recognizes historically relevant water management systems, organizations, regimes and regulations, and encourages their preservation. Three programs were recognized: the Genebegawa Irrigation Canal System, Japan; the Sekikawa Suikei Land Improvement District, Japan; and the Sheikh-Bahaei Water Allocation Scroll, Iran (see page 28).

### The World Water Council Pavilion

Positioned strategically at the entrance to the Forum Expo was the World Water Council Pavilion – a space for members to meet and exchange views informally, as well as a site for special events to further the discussions that began in larger sessions at the Forum. It became a go-to place to network, interact and explore interesting topics in detail. Always bubbling with activity, the Pavilion hosted youth activities, book signings, press briefings, World Water Day celebrations, and ceremonies for signing Memorandum of Understanding, to name just a few.

### World Water Day

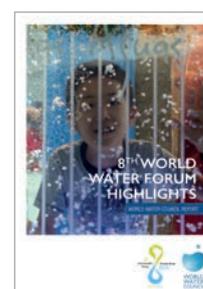
UN World Water Day 2018 took place during the 8<sup>th</sup> Forum on 22 March, inspiring the Council and the Government of Brazil to co-convene a commemoration for Forum participants to join people all over the world in recognizing this key annual day of advocacy and discussion. The focus of the day was an interactive special session under the World Water Day 2018 theme, ‘Nature for Water’.

Here, indigenous representatives shared their views together with high-level political representatives including Brazil’s Minister of the Environment, H.E. José Sarney Filho, and the Governor of the Federal District of Brasilia, H.E. Rodrigo Rollemberg.

### Forum highlights

A summary of the main outcomes of the 8<sup>th</sup> Forum published in June 2018 included reflections on the novel statements, innovative ideas, joint commitments and collective efforts that emerged.

### KEY PUBLICATIONS



8<sup>th</sup> World Water Forum Highlights. World Water Council Report. June 2018



World Water Council booth at the 8<sup>th</sup> World Water Forum, Brasilia, 18-23 March 2018

## 9<sup>TH</sup> WORLD WATER FORUM TO CATALYZE POSITIVE CHANGE IN SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA

Preparations for the 9<sup>th</sup> World Water Forum, to be held for the first time in sub-Saharan Africa, were already well under way during the triennium. While this landmark event will not take place until 2021, Dakar was selected to be the host city in 2016,

giving the World Water Council and the Government of Senegal ample time to lay ambitious plans.

The official Framework Agreement for the 9<sup>th</sup> Forum was signed in June 2018. With a focus on raising

political awareness and mobilizing action on water management under the theme of 'Water Security for Peace and Development', the Forum will take place during the third week of March in 2021. Four priorities will channel the development of the discussions and outcomes: water security, cooperation, water and rural development, and means and tools.

At Stockholm World Water Week in August 2018, the Council convened 'A new World Water Forum horizon: from Brazil to Senegal' to present the outcomes of the 8<sup>th</sup> Forum and outline preparations for the 9<sup>th</sup> Forum. As with all the previous Forums, the process leading up to Dakar will be one of continuity – one in which the Council and its partners will carry forward all of the declarations and calls to action from Brasilia, tracking progress through the coming years. In this way, the 9<sup>th</sup> Forum will build on the legacy of the international community's largest event for the planet's most important resource.



Signature of the agreement for the 9<sup>th</sup> World Water Forum, Dakar, 22 June 2018. From left: World Water Council President, Benedito Braga, Prime Minister of the Republic of Senegal, Mohammed Boun Abdallah, President of the 9<sup>th</sup> World Water Forum Preparatory Committee, Abdoulaye Sene, Minister of Hydraulics of the Republic of Senegal, Mansour Faye, and World Water Council Honorary President, Loïc Fauchon

# ORGANIZATION

## Modernizing Council governance

In March 2016, the Board of Governors approved the formation of a Governance Commission to review and improve the institutional life of the World Water Council (see page 31). After two years of wide-ranging discussions and engagement with members, the Commission proposed in 2018 a series of updates to the Council's Constitution, By-Laws and Membership Guidelines.

Members had their say on the Governance Commission's proposals at two Extraordinary General Assemblies convened in 2018, the first in Brasilia on 17 March 2018

and the second in Marseille on 18 June 2018. For the first time in Council history, members were able to vote electronically during the assembly in June.

Members wholeheartedly embraced the electronic voting process in March 2018 and resolutions adopted by the vote in June 2018 were enshrined in the World Water Council Constitution and By-Laws, taking immediate effect for the 8<sup>th</sup> General Assembly, held in Marseille from 30 November to 1 December 2018.

## Changes in the Secretariat

Executive Director Fraser MacLeod served until April 2016 and was

succeeded by Executive Director Tom Soo from April 2016 to October 2017. During the vacancy of the Executive Director position, the Directors of Administration and Finance and Policy and Programs managed the team on a daily basis under the direct authority of President Braga.

There was otherwise minimal change-over and only a small increase in the number of staff at the Secretariat in Marseille. During the triennium two project officers and a communications officer departed, and the Secretariat recruited three new project officers. Three interns also joined the Secretariat, lending their temporary support to program and communications work.



World Water Council members participate in the General Assembly, Brasilia, 17 March 2018



63<sup>rd</sup> Board of Governors meeting, Marseille, 3 November 2017

**2016–2018 Board of Governors meetings:**

- March 2016 – Jodhpur, India
- June 2018 – Brasilia, Brazil
- November 2016 – Marseille, France
- March 2017 – Baku, Azerbaijan
- July 2017 – Nairobi, Kenya
- November 2017 – Marseille, France
- March 2018 – Brasilia, Brazil
- June 2018 – Dakar, Senegal
- November 2018 – Marseille, France



# COMMUNICATIONS AND REPORTING TO MEMBERS



Journalists take part in a press briefing at the World Water Council booth during the 8<sup>th</sup> World Water Forum, Brasilia, March 2018

A new communications strategy for the 2016–2018 triennium revitalized the World Water Council’s engagement with its members and promoted the Council as the go-to source of authoritative comment on water-related issues. Reinforcing traditional communication channels, the Council also embraced digital tools. To support the new communications strategy, the Council appointed Marco de Comunicación (MdC), a public relations consultancy to step up media outreach, and launched a new visual identity and new branded materials.

Enthusiastic engagement at major international events leading up to the 8<sup>th</sup> World Water Forum – such as in the Council’s booth at the Budapest Water Summit in December 2016

and in the Water Connects booth at the ‘High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development’ in July 2018 – and during the 8<sup>th</sup> Forum itself, was key to raising the Council’s profile more widely. Engagement at these events provided opportunities for the Council’s communications activities and media relations.

## Sharing information with members

The Council is deeply committed to informing its members of its activities. The revitalized newsletter, launched in April 2016 and published each month, has made a particularly positive impact together with the activities reports provided for each Board of Governors meeting. The Council has

also published four reports to keep members abreast of progress on the Implementation Roadmaps that act as a bridge between the triennial World Water Forums (see page 22).

## Celebrating outcomes

Throughout 2016, celebrations marked the Council’s 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary. A commemorative logo designed for the occasion promoted the milestone throughout the year. Special events brought members and partners together to celebrate shared achievements. In July 2016, the anniversary was honored at Singapore International Water Week, while in August 2016 during World Water Week in Stockholm, a joint celebration with our sister organization, the Global

Water Partnership, saw the release of an anniversary video featuring Council Governors.

The celebrations culminated in Marseille on 25 November 2016 with a reception hosted by Board member and mayor of Marseille Jean-Claude Gaudin which saw the launch of the anniversary book, 'Twenty Years of Achievement'. The commemorative publication highlights the central role the Council has played over the past two decades in putting water at the very heart of political decision-making.

### Leading commentary on water

Throughout the triennium the Council stepped up its outreach activities, developing quality messaging and proactively exploring new ways to engage the media as part of its holistic communications approach to lead commentary on water. Starting with CoP22 in 2016, the Council and its media partner MdC sought opportunities for speaking and commenting on water and issued no less than 28 press releases and announcements appropriate to each occasion to elevate the profile of water. The Council placed articles in major media outlets to extend the reach of its thought leadership on water issues and provided in-depth commentary to specialist water and climate change communities.

In parallel, the Council explored new avenues to attract the interest of journalists, such as videos, infographics and a millennials poll carried out in April 2017 on behalf of the Council in 16 countries. These strategies helped reinforce and consolidate the Council's position as a major international voice on water.

### Promoting Council messages

In the run-up to the 8<sup>th</sup> World Water Forum, the Council made strenuous efforts to engage the media in promoting its messages. The Council organized a media workshop in Brussels to highlight European water issues and two media webinars focusing on water issues in the Asia-Pacific and the UK and US. In response to media requests, members of the Council Bureau made themselves available as spokespersons and provided comment.

Online articles mentioning the Council increased by more than 500 per cent from 2016 to 2017 and nearly doubled from 2017 to 2018. Over the triennium the Council featured in 44 international TV news items, eight radio broadcasts and 82 print articles. Media outreach at the 8<sup>th</sup> Forum alone generated thousands of news pieces, both online and offline, that spread key Council messages on water.

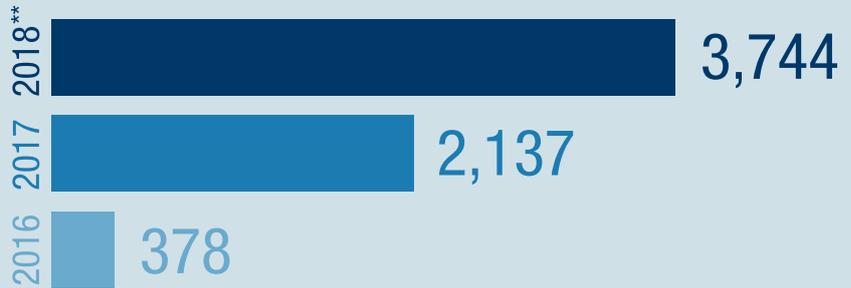
### Embracing digital communications

During the triennium the Council made expanding its digital communications a priority in order to maximize the impact of its messages. Adapting its online presence to changing times, the Council refurbished and redesigned its website in November 2017, improving user friendliness and enhancing visitor experience. The revamped platform is compatible across devices and offers new functionalities such as facilitating sharing of content on social media, an enhanced library search engine and a dedicated media space.

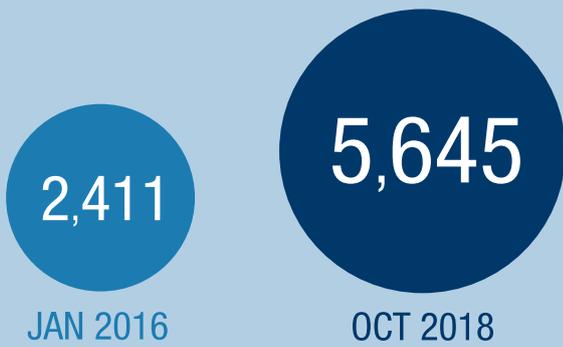
### Major media outlets carrying World Water Council messages

- AFP
- Al Jazeera
- AllAfrica
- APS
- Ashai Shimbun
- Bloomberg
- CBS
- Daily Times (China)
- Deutsche Welle TV
- El Espectador
- El Pais; AP (Associated Press)
- Europa Press
- France24
- The Guardian
- Huffington Post
- The Japan Times
- Jornal do Brasil
- Le Monde
- Moroccan TV
- La Nación
- New Delhi TV
- News24
- Nhan Ban
- One India
- Le Point Afrique
- O Politico
- Reuters
- RTBF
- RTVE
- Thomson Reuters
- The Times of India
- The Times (UK)
- Viet Nam News
- The Washington Post
- Xinhua News Agency
- Yahoo

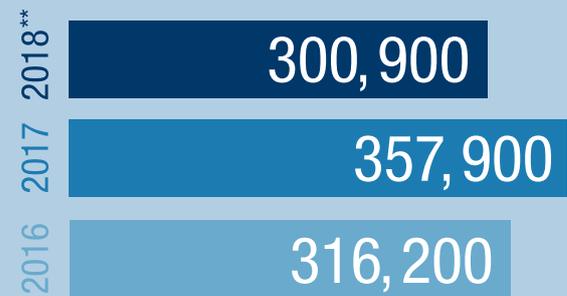
### Press and media hits



### Twitter followers



### Twitter impressions



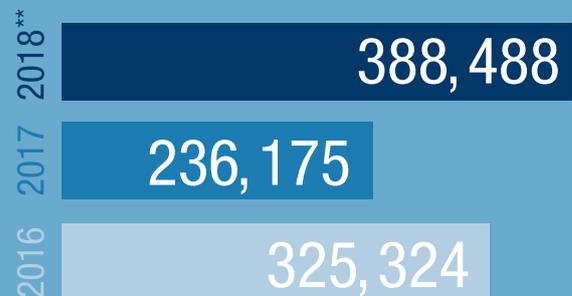
### Facebook followers\*



### Facebook and Twitter followers\*



### Web page visits

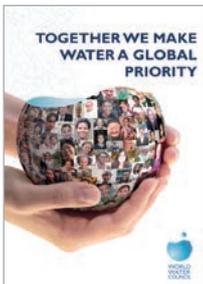


\* As of 5 October 2018 | \*\* Estimation as of 5 October 2018

Note: The media report figures refer to online articles only, since the WWC is not subscribed to a reporting system for printed, TV and radio media. Although a few print, radio and TV clippings have been identified and are reported here, there is reason to believe there are many more unreported.

In addition, the Council raised its profile on social media platforms – Twitter, Facebook, LinkedIn and YouTube – opening the Council to fresh perspectives from members. Digital campaigns for World Water Days, World Cities Days and World Toilet Days have boosted the number of followers, especially on Twitter. Stepping up the use of videos, such as the ‘World Water Council: Making It Flow’ video released at the 8<sup>th</sup> Forum and the King Hassan II Great World Water Prize promotional video, has helped engage non-traditional audiences.

**KEY PUBLICATIONS**



General brochure



Membership brochure



Website



20 Years of Achievement (English, French)



News and Activities Reports 58-66



Annual Report 2016



Triennial Report 2016-2018



World Water Council: Making it Flow video

**A global voice on water**

The Council shared key messages in multiple op-eds, interviews and commentaries in media outlets and publications with strong regional and global outreach:

- 2016 – ten interviews with OOSKANews on water and climate
- September 2016 – advertorial in United Nations Association–UK report ‘Climate 2020: Facing the Future’
- November 2016 – op-ed in ‘Climate Change: The New Economy’ CoP22 edition, Marrakech
- October 2017 – O Globo interview with President Braga
- November 2017 – op-ed in G20 publication – 20,000 copies circulated at the summit in Hamburg
- November 2017 – op-ed in ‘Climate Change: The New Economy’ CoP23 edition, Bonn
- November 2017–March 2018 – op-eds in publications including Euractiv, UN Chronicle, Agua y Saneamiento
- June 2018 – op-ed in G7 2018 edition of ‘Climate Change: The New Economy’
- July 2018 – Interview with Guy Fradin, World Water Council Governor on Sud FM Sen Radio (Senegal)
- September 2018 – Interview with Loïc Fauchon, World Water Council Honorary President, ‘Au Bout du Jour’, RTBF (Belgium)
- November 2018 – op-ed in Buenos Aires G20 publication – 6 million copies circulated worldwide

# FINANCIALS

During the triennium, the Headquarters work force was stable. External consultants supported the Council's thematic staff in developing programs and partnerships on Financing Water Infrastructure, Water and Climate Change, Cities at the Heart of Growth, Integrated Water Resources Management and Involving Political Actors.

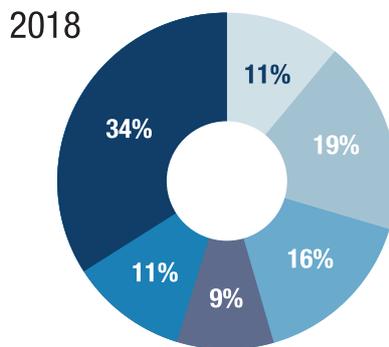
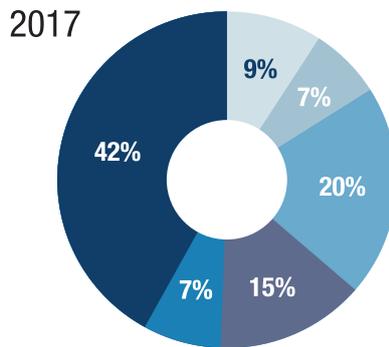
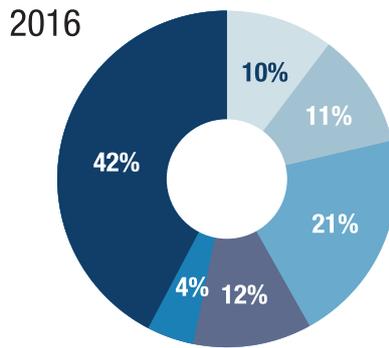
The partnership with the Financial Times – initiated in 2015 to organize the Financial Times Water Summit – continued in 2016 and concluded in 2017.

In 2016, the Chinese Ministry of Water Resources continued to support the Council's initiative in water management through a financial contribution of EUR 70,000 and, in 2017, initiated a collaboration on water security, through a contribution of EUR 160,000 2017–2018.

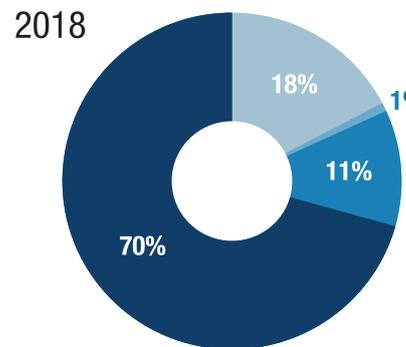
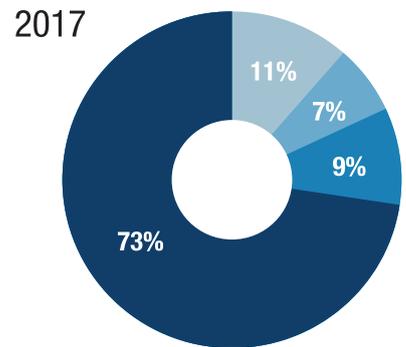
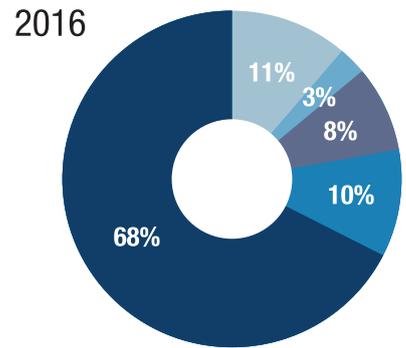
For the past few years the Council's financial position has been very healthy, with an average annual budget of EUR 3 million. Prudent management has provided sufficient funds to implement two years of the 2019–2021 strategy work program.

The graphs on the right show expenditure and revenue by category for each year of the triennium.

## EXPENSES



## REVENUES



- Governance
- World Water Forum
- Administrative management
- Program activities
- Communications to support objectives
- Human resources

- Membership fees
- Financial and exceptional income
- Subsidies
- In-kind contributions
- Partnerships and projects (including the World Water Forums)

Note: As of 30 September 2018

# PUBLICATIONS

## Financing Water Infrastructure

- Ten Actions for Financing Water Infrastructure. Report
- Hybridity and Blended Finance. Report
- A Typology of Water Infrastructure Investors. White Paper
- A Typology of Water Infrastructure Projects. White Paper

## Cities: At the Heart of Growth

- Start with Water: Putting water on local action agendas to support global change (English, Portuguese, French, Spanish)
- Start with Water: Putting water on local action agendas to support global change. Flyer
- Increasing Local Mobilization on Water: 5<sup>th</sup> International Conference of Local and Regional Authorities for Water. Leaflet
- Urban Resilience and Water Disasters. Concept note
- Increasing Financial Flows for Urban Sanitation. Report (English, Portuguese, French, Spanish)
- Increasing Financial Flows for Urban Sanitation. Policy Recommendations (English, French, Spanish, Portuguese)
- Increasing Financial Flows for Urban Sanitation. Baguio case study
- Increasing Financial Flows for Urban Sanitation. Blumenau case study
- Increasing Financial Flows for Urban Sanitation. Bogota case study
- Increasing Financial Flows for Urban Sanitation. Dakar case study
- Increasing Financial Flows for Urban Sanitation. Dakar (eThekweni) case study
- Increasing Financial Flows for Urban Sanitation. Jodhpur case study
- Increasing Financial Flows for Urban Sanitation. Marrakech case study
- Increasing Financial Flows for Urban Sanitation. Nairobi case study
- Increasing Financial Flows for Urban Sanitation. A World Water Council Programme. Leaflet

## Water and Climate Change

- Increasing Resilience to Climate Variability and Change. Report
- Water Infrastructure for Climate Adaptation (WI4A): The Opportunity to Scale Up Funding and Financing. Report
- Water and Climate. Blue Book. 2016 and 2017 editions (French, English)
- Blue Book key recommendations for policy makers
- Water and Climate Change High-Level Panel statement
- 2<sup>nd</sup> International Conference on Water and Climate Summary Report
- #ClimatelsWater. Flyer
- Water for Africa

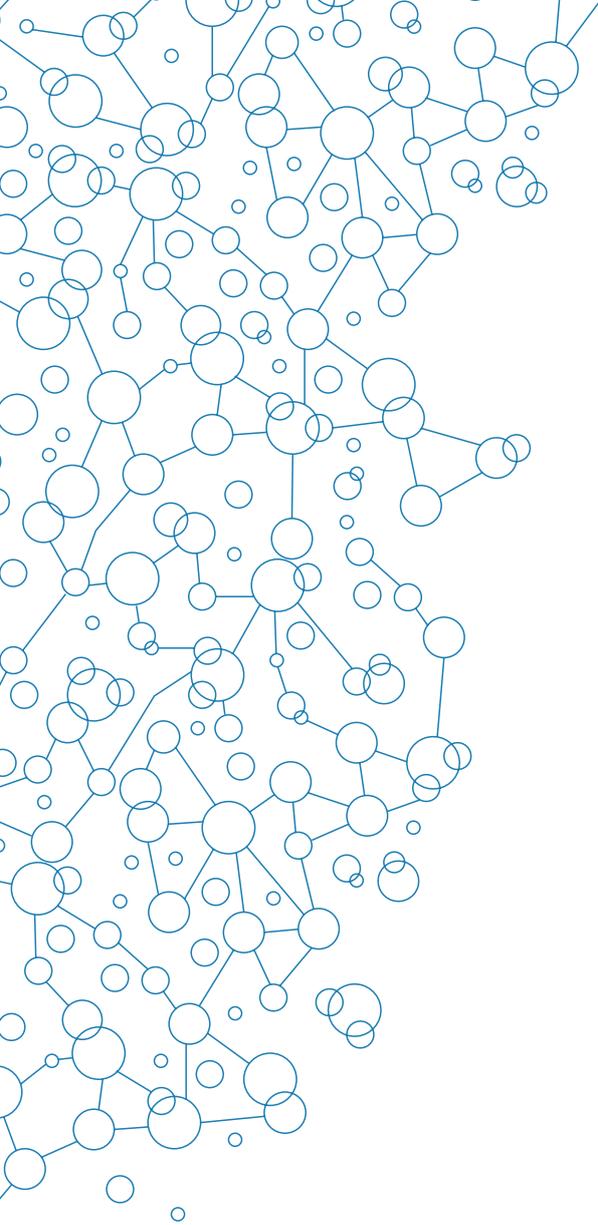
## Integrating the World Water Forums

- Catalyzing Action for Water. Implementation Roadmaps. Brochure
- Progress Report on Implementation Roadmaps. March 2016
- Progress Report on Implementation Roadmaps. October 2016

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Progress Report on Implementation Roadmaps. April 2017</li> <li>■ Progress Report on Implementation Roadmaps. October 2017</li> <li>■ Synthesis Report on Implementation Roadmaps 2015-2018</li> <li>■ Recommendations for the 2018 High-Level Political Forum</li> <li>■ Contributions to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development 2016</li> <li>■ Contributions to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development 2017</li> </ul>
<b>Involving Key Political Actors</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Water Infrastructure and Investment. Framing note for the High-Level Panel on Water</li> <li>■ Human Settlements. Framing note for the High-Level Panel on Water</li> </ul>
<b>IWRM</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Revitalising IWRM for the 2030 Agenda. Challenge Paper</li> </ul>
<b>Water Security</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Global Water Security: Lessons Learnt and Long-Term Implications</li> <li>■ Water Security for All. China Water and World Water Council Policy Recommendations</li> </ul>
<b>Member Initiatives</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Water Accounting for Water Governance and Sustainable Development. White Paper</li> <li>■ Water Accounting for Water Governance and Sustainable Development. Policy Brief</li> </ul>
<b>8<sup>th</sup> World Water Forum</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ World Water Council Key Events at the 8<sup>th</sup> World Water Forum</li> <li>■ 8<sup>th</sup> World Water Forum Highlights. World Water Council Report</li> <li>■ King Hassan II Great World Water Prize. Brochure (English, French, Portuguese, Arabic, Spanish)</li> </ul>
<b>9<sup>th</sup> World Water Forum</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ World Water Forum Guidelines document (English, French)</li> </ul>
<b>Institutional/Communications</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Together we Make Water a Global Priority. Brochure (English, French, Spanish, Chinese, Russian, Portuguese)</li> <li>■ Together, For Water, For Everyone. Membership brochure (English, Portuguese)</li> <li>■ World Water Council website</li> <li>■ News and Activities Reports 58-66 for Board of Governors meetings</li> <li>■ Letters from the President</li> <li>■ Newsletters</li> <li>■ Mainstreaming Water in Global Agendas. WWC Annual Report 2016</li> <li>■ Striving for Water Security. WWC Triennial Report 2016-2018 (English, French)</li> <li>■ Budapest Water Summit 2016. Youth delegates report</li> <li>■ XVI World Water Congress. Youth delegates report</li> <li>■ 8<sup>th</sup> World Water Forum. Youth delegates report</li> <li>■ Water Security, Sustainability and Resilience. WWC Strategy 2019-2021</li> <li>■ Twenty Years of Achievement (English, French)</li> <li>■ World Water Council: Making it Flow. Video</li> <li>■ World Water Council Members Celebrate 20 Years of Achievement. Video</li> <li>■ King Hassan II Great World Water Prize. Video</li> <li>■ 8<sup>th</sup> World Water Forum welcomes tens of thousands of participants from 172 countries. Video</li> </ul>

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