

# WATER SECURITY FOR WORLD HEALTH

ANNUAL  
REPORT  
2021



WORLD  
WATER  
COUNCIL



The World Water Council is an international multi-stakeholder platform organisation, the founder and co-organiser of the World Water Forum. The Council's mission is to mobilise 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 400 member organisations from more than 50 different countries.

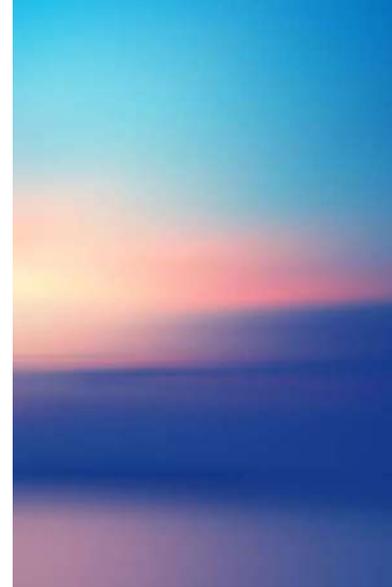
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## 2021 : FOR SHARED WATER ACCESSIBLE TO ALL

In 2021, the world continued to live under the threat of the covid 19 pandemic, and its many variants. Beyond the health crisis, other crises continued or emerged: armed conflicts, droughts, disasters, starvations, climate disturbances.

More than ever, water has been a central issue in the search for peace for development. Water for health and water for food remain the major reasons for ensuring water security. And water security depends above all on political will. Throughout the year, the World Water Council has endeavored to make the voice of water heard through a clear statement: Water is Politics.

This statement has been constantly repeated with a view to the organization of the 9th World Water Forum in March 2022.

The WWC Bureau, the Board, all members, as well as the staff and consultants have regularly participated to this movement: online meetings, "virtual» speeches, travels and congresses on all continents. Despite the pandemic, contact was never lost with the World Water Council's community, which was united, enthusiastic and willingfull.

More than four hundred organizations contributed throughout the year to frequent meetings implemented by the World Water Council for the preparation of the very rich thematic program of the 9th World Water Forum of Dakar.

We also highlighted the work of the WWC task forces and working groups and made a special focus on the necessity to share water between man and nature, with a common declaration that we launched during the IUCN world congress.

2021 was a year of transition but also a year of awareness and proposals for the future of water which should be accessible to all and shared by all.

# WORLD WATER COUNCIL

{Who we are}

The World Water Council has been a respected voice for water for more than 25 years. As an International multistakeholder platform organisation, the Council has united expertise from diverse sectors, regions, disciplines and professional fields to mobilise action on critical water issues at all levels, including the highest decision-making level. That mobilisation has grown year after year, building recognition for water on the global agenda.

Established as an international not-for-profit organisation with its headquarters in Marseille, France, the Council is independent, impartial and not bound to any special interests. It represents more than 360 member organisations in 59 countries, who help shape its strategy and programmes and take an active part in its various working bodies.

Through collaborative efforts, these members commit to advancing the water agenda while dedicating their skills, experience, and time to help solve complex water challenges all over the world. This is all guided by a singular strategic vision, realised through four levels of governance:

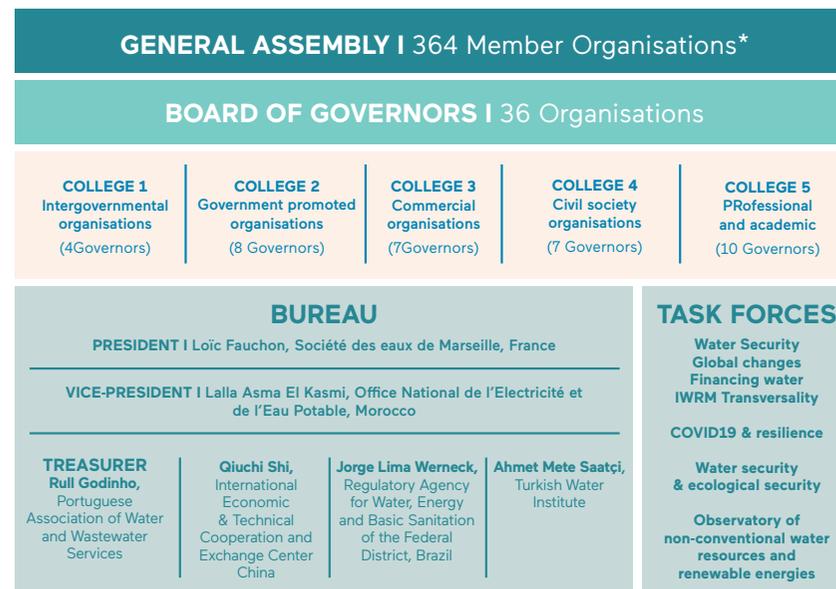
The General Assembly, consisting of all Council members, endorses the annual financial accounts and authorises the budget. Every three years, the General Assembly approves the Council's strategy and work programme. Each active member organisation holds one vote to elect the Board of Governors.

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 programmes. 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 implementing the Council's strategy.

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



\*Membership is determined as of 31 December 2019

## WHAT WE DO

{Mobilise political action}

The Council engages proactively in hydro-diplomacy and raises the awareness of high-level decision makers on water issues. It also promotes policies that help authorities develop and manage water resources and encourage efficient water use.

By providing concrete responses in relation to knowledge, finance and governance, the Council mobilises political action on a global scale across national governments, parliaments, local authorities and United Nations bodies.

### Confront critical issues

Seeking to challenge accepted wisdom and to stimulate new thinking as a force for change, the Council takes the initiative on emerging is-

ssues likely to affect water security. It deepens, synthesises and shares knowledge around critical thematic issues, while carefully considering all of the social, environmental and economic dimensions of water sustainability. Together with members and other stakeholders, the Council strives to make a distinctive contribution by creating alternative approaches to global water challenges.

### Co-organise the World Water Forum

The World Water Forum is the largest global gathering on water.

It takes place every three years and is co-organised by the World Water Council with a new host country each time. The event catalyses collective action for water and provides a unique platform where the water community and key decision makers can collaborate.

The Forum brings together participants at all levels and from all spheres, embracing politics, multilateral institutions, academia, civil society and the private sector.



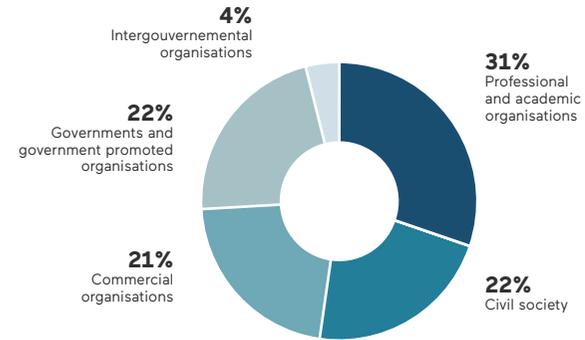


## MEMBERSHIP

As of December, 31st, 2021, the World Water Council had 364 member organisations from 59 countries around the world. Every single one of these members brings to the Council its unique experience and strong commitment. Together, they represent the Council's greatest asset.

The Council's membership is a remarkable network that links different sectors, regions, disciplines and professional fields with wide-ranging expertise and interests. The diversity is one of the Council's most important assets. It plays an essential role both in its governance and in its endeavours. All members enjoy the same rights, benefits and an equal vote in strategic decisions.

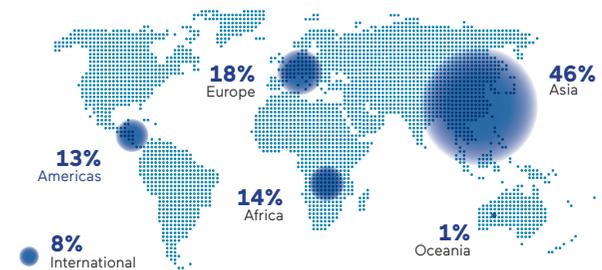
### College Distribution



# 364

Member Organisations in 59 countries

### Geographic Distribution



Membership is determined as of 31 December 2022



## 2021 HIGHLIGHTS

### A mobilized community despite the pandemic

The year was marked by many webinars and online meetings, to keep mobilizing the community despite the travel bans, and the return of the first physical encounters as well, by the second part of the year. From Korea to Portugal via Malta, Loïc Fauchon spent the last weeks of 2021 traveling around the globe with one clear focus: the rally the water world towards a common goal, the 9th Water Forum in Dakar, in March 2022.



## {FEBRUARY}

### A webinar on the future of water to start the year right

On February 1st, Loïc Fauchon, President of the World, participated in the Webinar "The Future of Water: Opportunity and risk", organized by the Institute of International and European Affairs (IIEA) and the Environmental protection Agency (EPA) of Ireland. A great chance to start the new year by reminding everyone that water security needs to be treated as one of the biggest challenges of the 21st century around the world.

## {MARCH}



### Online events for World Water Day

On the occasion of World Water Day 2021, the World Water Council took part in various debates organized throughout the week. This was an opportunity for the President, Loïc Fauchon, to federate international actors and to convey the WWC's commitments to different continents, and in particular to Africa, which was about to host the 9th World Water Forum in Dakar in March 2022.

As part of the "OECD Water Days», Loïc Fauchon was invited to participate in the opening of the special session "Water Governance in African Cities», beside Angel Gurria, Secretary General of the OECD. This webinar, gathering the mayors of 6 major African cities, UCLG-A (United Local Governments of Africa) and the Minister of Water of Morocco, took place on March, 24th 2021 in Paris.

## {APRIL}

### Water and Covid 19 discussed in Lisbon Speed Talks

On April, 28th, the President of the World Water Council was invited by Lisbon Speed Talks to discuss the geopolitics of water, water security and hydro-diplomacy. An important point in the discussion was the impact of the Covid 19 pandemic on water: "the virus has no impact on water quality, but the pandemic has highlighted the role of water in barrier practices (hand washing). We have also learned to detect traces of Covid-19 in wastewater, which is valuable for the future", explained Loïc Fauchon.

## {SEPTEMBER}



### IUCN World Conservation Congress: The first important in-person gathering post COVID 19

From September 3rd to 11th, more than 1400 governmental, civil society and indigenous peoples organizations gathered at the World Conservation Congress in Marseille, which is also the city of our headquarters, to define priorities and guide actions for conservation and sustainable development. On this occasion, the World Water Council was mobilized to offer water an international platform through its booth and various events.

This action is in line with the WWC's approach to increasingly federate the world's actors around the absolute necessity to place water at the heart of public concerns and policies, with a view to establishing a fair balance between water for man and water for nature.



### The 5th Arab Water Forum

The President travelled to Dubai for the 5th Arab Water Forum that took place from September 21st to 23rd. He delivered a keynote speech during the opening session. This regional forum, that focused on water security for peace and sustainable development, just like the upcoming 9th World Water Forum, was a major meeting point for Arab stakeholders with whom Loïc Fauchon made fruitful contacts and hold bilateral meetings.

## {OCTOBER}



### Cairo Water Week

A WWC delegation led by its president Loïc Fauchon went to Cairo to participate in the 4th Cairo Water Week, from 24 to 28 October 2021. As an honorary partner, WWC was involved at several levels, including the opening session and a session dedicated to the progress of the upcoming World Water Forum in Dakar. The WWC President called for a strong mobilization of all neighboring countries and reaffirmed the importance of preserving water resources for the planet: "We need water for people and water for nature. Providing, respecting, and sharing access to water for all is both a duty and a right. Everyone has the right and freedom to access to water".



## {NOVEMBER}

### COP 26

The UN Climate Change Conference in Glasgow (COP26) brought together 120 world leaders and over 40,000 registered participants in November 2021. For two weeks, the world was riveted on all facets of climate change — the science, the solutions, the political will to act, and clear indications of action.

The WWC, the Executive Secretariat of the 9th World Water Forum and the Ministry of Energy and Water Resources of the Republic of Tajikistan organized a hybrid session at the Water & Climate Pavilion during the COP 26 on November 12th.

### ENEG, Encontro Nacional de Entidades Gestoras de Água e Saneamento, Portugal

*"The world is thirsty, more and more thirsty. And when the world is thirsty, people are often hungry"*, warned the President of the World Water Council at the ENEG conference in Portugal. The event, that gathered many Ministers and all the major actors of the Portugal water world, took place at the Algarve Congress Center from November 23rd to 26th.

Mr. Fauchon was invited by Mr Rui Godinho, President of the APDA (Portuguese Association of Water and Wastewater services) and the current Treasurer at the World Water Council.



## {DECEMBER}



### IWRA

#### XVII World Water Congress and World Water Cities Forum, Daegu, Korea

In Korea, where the World Water Council has tied very strong and lasting ties during the 7th World Water Forum, Loïc Fauchon took part of the IWRA World Water Congress from November, 29th to December, 3rd.

In his opening speech, attended by many governors of the World Water Council, Mr Fauchon emphasized on the fact that *"our public and collective mission, as citizens of the world, is to guarantee the security of water"* for us all and by us all, a theme that was very central in the 9th World Water Forum in Dakar.

The World Water Council was also kindly invited by the Daegu Mayor, Mr Kwon Young-Jin, to the World Water Cities Forum.



### Mediterranean Water Forum in Malta

Last stop of the year : Malta, for the 4th Mediterranean Water Forum (December, 6th to December, 8th). Mr Fauchon congratulated the Maltese efforts to achieve water security using innovation and technologies –such as desalination or water recycling. *"This is an example that we will bring to the next World Water Forum in Dakar next March"*, he said. He also called for all Mediterranean countries to promote access to water for all in their Constitutions.

## DELIVERING ON OUR PROGRAMMES

Via numerous on-line meetings and exchanging hundreds of emails, the World Water Council's members not only created 3 new task forces in 2021, but also found the energy to achieve two publications, to be officially launched later, during the 9th World Water Forum.

The aim of these 7 task forces: to deepen knowledge and encourage interactions around key thematic issues, while carefully considering social, environmental, and economic dimensions of sustainability.

As the 9th World Water Forum was getting closer, the members of the different task forces spent part of the year preparing the special sessions and high level panels to present during the event.





## WATER SECURITY

Water security refers to the availability of an adequate quantity and quality of water to sustain socioeconomic development, livelihoods, health and ecosystems everywhere.

The workplan presented by the task force chair, Mrs Qiuchi Shi (INTCE), this year was based on 3 sections:

- Define and promote water security as it pertains to the 2030 Agenda
- Participate in the OECD program on water security
- Create greater political momentum for Water Security

The water security task force Chair also worked on a document about flash floods, to be finalized in 2022.

## GLOBAL CHANGES

To respond to large-scale forces reshaping the world and affecting water resources globally. Task Force Chair: IIASA and Co-Chair: UNESCO

The Task Force worked and presented a workplan based on 3 sections:

1. Greater attention for water issues within climate dialogues internationally
2. Act in the capacitation of communities to adapt to global changes and population dynamics
3. Seek out cooperative partnerships to reinforce the capacities of communities to improve their disaster preparedness and resilience in the event of emergency situations, humanitarian crises and forced migration



## FINANCING WATER

To mobilize financial resources through both traditional solutions and innovative practices.

**Task Force Chair:** Mr. Franz Rojas from CAF – Latin American Development Bank

Several meetings have been organized throughout the year and especially at the end of 2021, to discuss and review the documents to be produced on Blended Finance and on Nature-Based Solutions. The report on Blended Finance will also be translated in French. The objective was to present and launch both reports at the 9th World Water Forum in Dakar.



## IWRM AND TRANSVERSALITY

To refine concepts around integrated water resources management (IWRM) by strengthening the interactions between water, energy, agriculture, and industry.

Chaired by Pr Rabi H. Mohtar (formerly based in Beirut, now at Texas A&M University), the task force gathered about 8 times in 2021.

The workplan elaborated by the task force consists mainly in elaborating a document reviewing case studies related to interlinkages between water, energy, food, health, and education in 5 countries: Senegal, Lebanon, Netherlands, Korea, and Brazil.

## WATER SECURITY AND ECOLOGICAL SECURITY

To promote a better articulation between the requirements of water management and the need to preserve nature.

On the occasion of the IUCN World Conservation Congress, which brought together world leaders in September 2021, the World Water Council (WWC), the International Office for Water (IOWater), The Nature Conservancy (TNC) and the International Network of Basin Organizations (INBO), officially launched a call for the signing of the declaration "No water security without ecological security / No ecological security without water security", on September 4th, 2021 in Marseille. This initiative aims to put water at the center of nature



## COVID-19 & RESILIENCE

To study the effects of the pandemic on access to water for all and include sanitation goals in a comprehensive approach to protect health and environment.

At the beginning of February 2021, the idea of a COVID19 Group was launched by Professor Ahmet Saatçi (SUEN), its Chair, and President Loïc Fauchon.

The main objective of the group is to create a common space of exchange and, among others, to deepen the study of the role of wastewater as a key early warning solution to better anticipate epidemic trends.

conservation efforts. The declaration calls for an enhanced dialogue between the water and conservation communities.

«There is a new emerging obligation to share water between people and nature. This initiative will help us meet the demands of human development and at the same time respect nature, while maintaining biodiversity and protecting ecosystems,» said Loïc Fauchon, President of the World Water Council.

«This initiative aims to encourage public policies to better integrate water management and biodiversity conservation, and also to deploy Nature-based Solutions more widely,» added Eric Tardieu, INBO Secretary General.





## OBSERVATORY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL WATER RESOURCES AND RENEWABLE ENERGIES

To promote the sharing of information and know-how on the use of non-conventional water resources and the associated renewable energies.

The concept idea for the feasibility study of a Global Observatory on Non-Conventional Water Resources & Associated Renewable Energies has been set up by the World Water Council in collaboration with the Mediterranean Water Institute.

These specific themes are addressed through a cross-cutting approach under the different aspects of funding governance; institutional and functional organization; global demographic and climatic evolutions; impacts on the environment and biodiversity; the right to water and its related law.

A first phase would be to develop a pilot of the project in the Sahelo-Mediterranean area where several countries are united by the resort to unconventional water resources and renewable energies to meet their needs. A following second phase would focus on a potential worldwide expansion.

The Observatory will on one side bring together and synthesize all the data already available and on the other collect additional data. The feasibility study has been carried out in two phases to further specify and detail the targeted missions of the Observatory, the partnerships to be developed and the financial means to be mobilized.

The results of first phase (May –September 2021) was presented at the 4th Mediterranean Water Forum in Malta (December 2021) whereas the second phase (October 2021 to March 2022) was to be showcased at the 9th World Water Forum in DAKAR (March 2022).

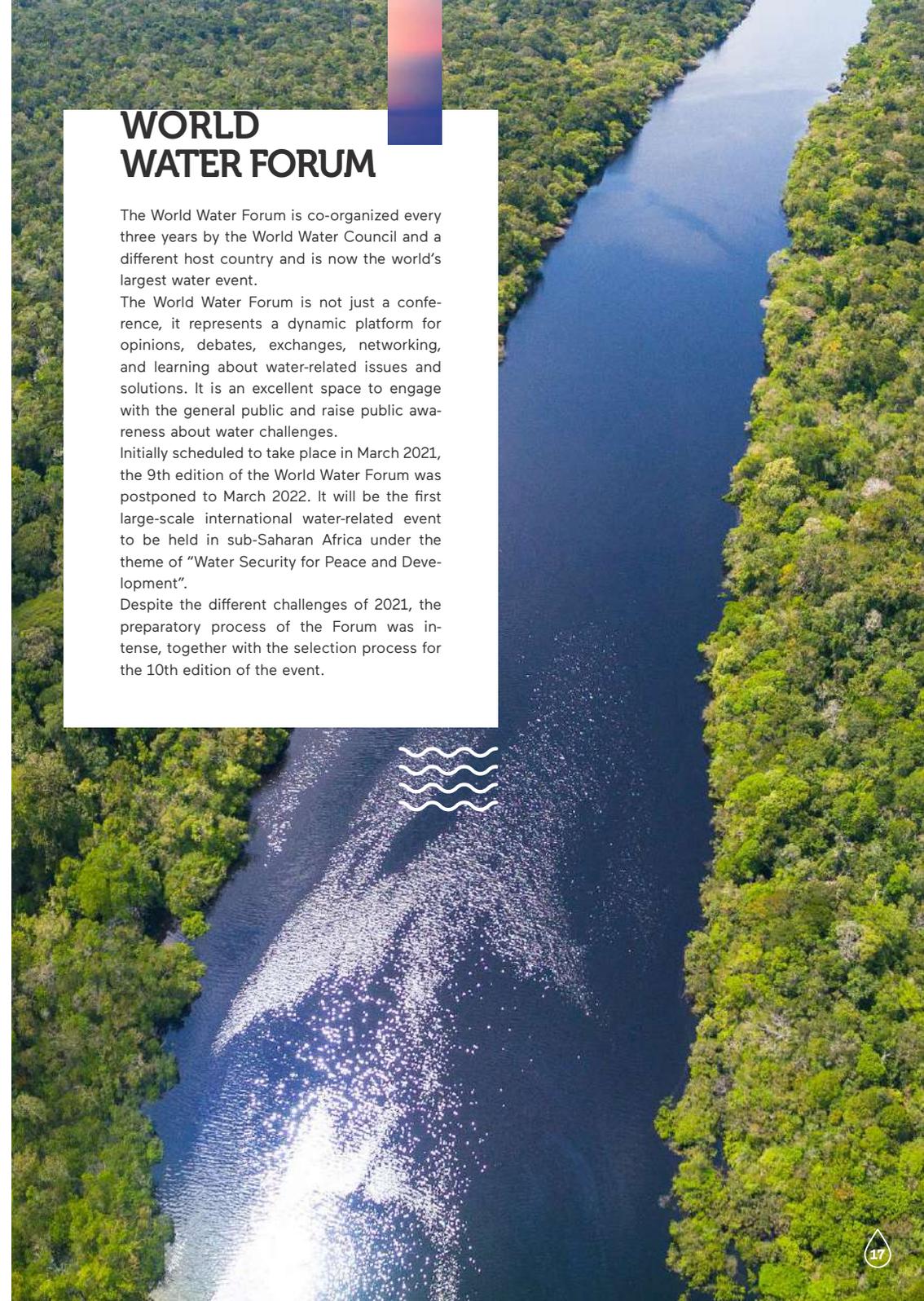
## WORLD WATER FORUM

The World Water Forum is co-organized every three years by the World Water Council and a different host country and is now the world's largest water event.

The World Water Forum is not just a conference, it represents a dynamic platform for opinions, debates, exchanges, networking, and learning about water-related issues and solutions. It is an excellent space to engage with the general public and raise public awareness about water challenges.

Initially scheduled to take place in March 2021, the 9th edition of the World Water Forum was postponed to March 2022. It will be the first large-scale international water-related event to be held in sub-Saharan Africa under the theme of "Water Security for Peace and Development".

Despite the different challenges of 2021, the preparatory process of the Forum was intense, together with the selection process for the 10th edition of the event.





## 9TH WORLD WATER FORUM

### ON THE ROAD TO DAKAR

Delayed by a year, like many other events, the preparation of the 9th World Water Forum entered its final phase. Despite challenges, 2021 marked a year rich in fruitful preparatory events and meetings, including the 2nd Stakeholders Meeting.

Both teams of the World Water Council and the Secretariat in Dakar, coordinated by the International Steering Committee (ISC) and its Bureau, worked closely, and held several meetings, virtually and in person, to ensure a continuous and efficient preparation of the Forum.

Throughout the year, a total of more than 700 organizations involved in the Thematic Process worked relentlessly to define action proposals and related projects and to create responses to water and sanitation issues.

In the spirit of mobilizing action for water through an integrated approach based on multi-stakeholder exchanges and in order to allow the greatest number of contributions to the preparatory process, the year started with the launch of a global Consultation Process that lasted until June.

Hundreds of organizations participated in the process through an online cooperative platform and almost 200 contributions were received to integrate the work of Pilot and Action Groups.

On the occasion of World Water Day, the two secretariats seized the opportunity to bring all



stakeholders together in a series of webinars. The virtual events aimed to share the main orientations and progress of the 9th World Water Forum by mobilizing stakeholders and encouraging the participation of national and international actors.

During the first part of the year, a delegation of the World Water Council led by President Loïc Fauchon, traveled to Dakar to facilitate the progress of the preparation of the event and to meet several political actors.

The second semester of the year was characterized by different fertile events. The summer began with the organization of an international webinar, on 13 July, to inform the public about the preparation progress of the Forum from a thematic and logistical point of view.

While the working groups worked to finalize their activities on the action plans and to prepare for the concluding phase of the preparatory process, the promotion of the Forum and the mobilization of actors from all over the world continued.

The months of September and October were particularly intense and included the organization of several special sessions, in particular on the occasion of the 5th Arab Water Forum in Dubai, from 21 to 23 September, as well as during the 9th session of the meeting of the parties of the UNECE Water Convention and on Monday 25 October during the Cairo Water Week in Egypt. All sessions aimed at presenting

the progress of the preparation and sharing the Forum's vision of how to address water issues and challenges in order to accelerate the achievement of all the SDGs.

The Stakeholders' meeting of the 9th World Water Forum, the last major preparatory meeting, was held on 14 and 15 October 2021 in Diamniadio.

The meeting gathered different political actors, members of the working groups, and all interested stakeholders. It provided for the development of links and synergies between many stakeholders, particularly between the thematic stream and political segments. Fundamental and cross-cutting themes were also refined in order to provide useful inputs for the final Forum program.

In a spirit of inclusion and in order to facilitate the participation of a great number of stakeholders, the meeting was partially hybrid. The majority of plenary sessions were streamed online. The last part of the year was marked by other important stepping stones in the preparation of the Forum: A special session was organized during the IWRA's XVII World Water Congress, while several other regional meetings and events were organized by the World Water Council's Governors and members, for example during the XXIV Brazil Symposium on Water Resources organized in Belo Horizonte at the end of November, where three roundtables focused on the 9th World Water Forum.





## 10TH WORLD WATER FORUM

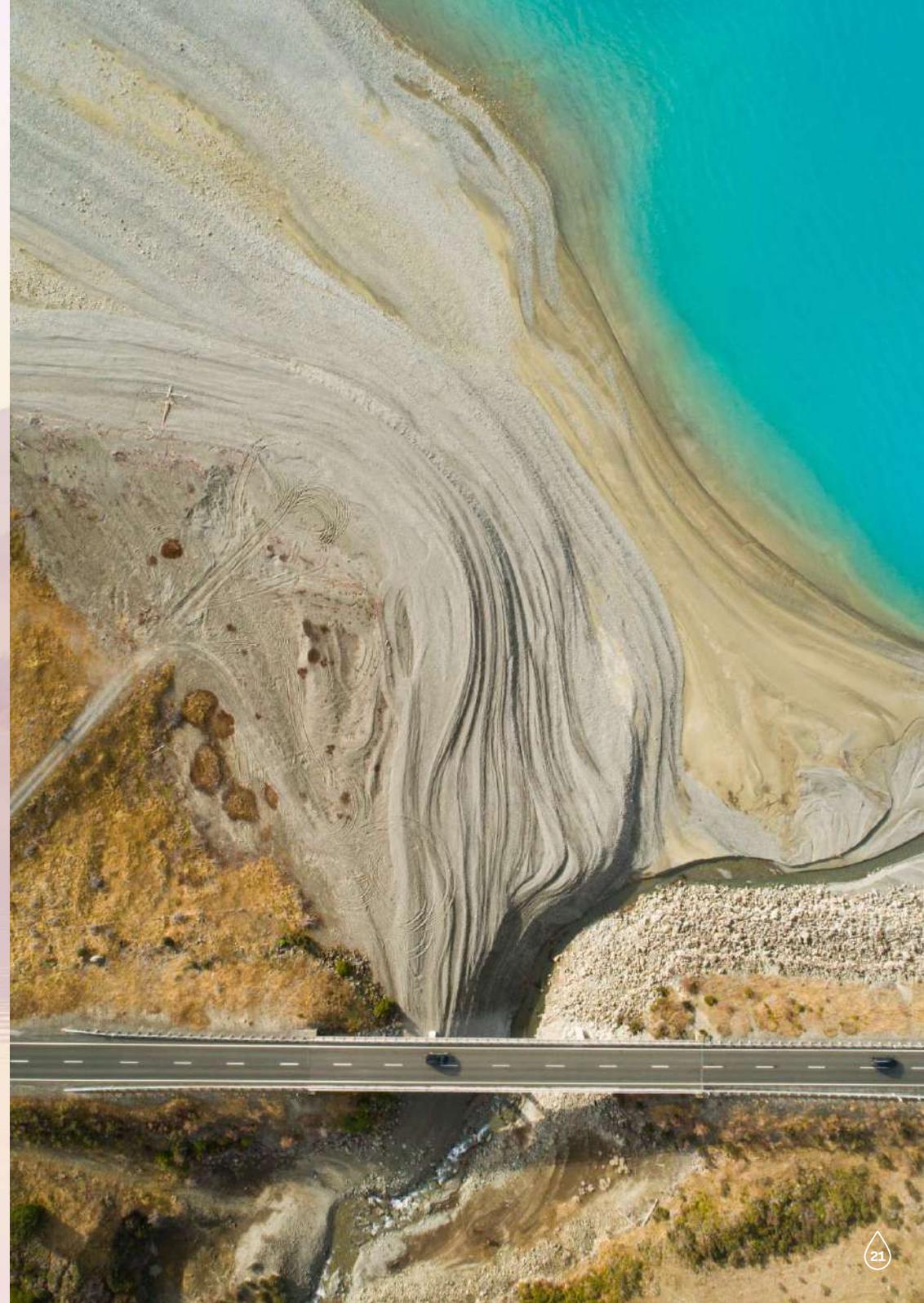
Preparing for a large event such as the World Water Forum requires long-term planning, so work is well under way for the 10th Forum.

In 2021, the Covid-19 pandemic continued to preclude international travel and consequently face-to-face meetings.

The Selection Committee used thus video conferencing to meet several times during the year to discuss and review the contents of the candidates' proposals, in accordance with the detailed criteria found in the 2020 World Water Forum Guidelines, which major categories in the matrix included Concept & Program, Logistical & Technical Aspects, Communication & Marketing, Organization and Finance.

While the pandemic improved, international travels were allowed in some parts of the world.

A first technical visit could thus be undertaken early December in Indonesia.



## ORGANISATION

The World Water Council's Board of Governors met three times virtually in 2021 – due to the continuation of the pandemic – to provide guidance on Council activities. During this year, the Council continued to host Bureau meetings every month to closely monitor the situation and follow the progress of the Council's work globally.



### 73rd Board of Governors meeting

Early April, the Board of Governors of the World Water Council met virtually. Various topics related to institutional matters, Secretariat organization, Task Forces, working groups activities, 9th World Water Forum and advancement of the selection process for the 10th World Water Forum were discussed.

### 74th Board of Governors meeting

The Board of Governors of the World Water Council met again at the end of June. The 2020 Activities Report was presented with a special focus on the strong mobilization of the World Water Council during the pandemic period.

An update of the 9th World Water Forum various processes was made, as well as the circulation of a Global Water Agenda on the Road to Dakar offering opportunities to represent the WWC at various events in the view of the 9th World Water Forum. Task Forces & Working Groups activities chairs presented the progress of their works. Finally, Durk Krohl, Water Europe Executive Director, was invited as a special guest to present "The European Green Deal".

### 75th Board of Governors meeting

The Board of Governors' meeting held in October was mainly divided in two parts: institutional and Forum matters. The continuation of a close cooperation with the 9th Forum Secretariat was illustrated by several travels from WWC staff to Dakar on the eve of the Forum. The 10th Forum process also accelerated with the organization of field visits in candidates' countries with the decrease of travel restriction.



### Reorganising the Secretariat

For improved efficiency, the WWC Secretariat reorganized into three bodies in 2021:

- a Cabinet to oversee political and communications matters
- a Secretariat-General to oversee administrative, legal, and financial matters
- a Programme Directorate to oversee the World Water Forum preparation, the implementation of the Task Forces' agendas, and other projects.

## COMMUNICATION AND SHARING MEMBERS' NEWS



In 2021, the World Water Council went on publishing a newsletter on a regular basis, featuring news from the members.

The main events of the year were also relayed on the Council's updated website, as well as most of the President's speeches.

A focus is to be made on the whole page of the COP 26 The New Economy magazine,

published for the event, dedicated to Loïc Fauchon. It was a great chance to communicate on the Council's main proposals for water security, since the COP 22 in Marrakech.

Many other WWC interviews were published, among them by ITW Portugal, NTV Turkey, Afrik 21 and other French and Senegalese medias.

### WORLD WATER COUNCIL COMMUNICATIONS: KEY FIGURES

Total website page views

261 500

20 464

Facebook and Twitter followers

Total number of Twitter impressions

208 743

Number of Facebook followers

5% Increase

Number of Twitter followers

13% Increase

News letters 7

Special News letters 8





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