7TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY MARKS BEGINNING OF A NEW TRIENNIIUM

The 7th General Assembly took place in Marseille, France, on 13-14 November 2015. Over 250 members, from 40 countries, gathered to discuss the way forward by adopting the triennial strategy of the World Water Council.

The 7th General Assembly also elected the Board of Governors which appointed Benedito Braga as President for a new mandate to lead the Council in the implementation of the 2016-2018 Strategy.

President Braga said “I am honored that the Board of Governors has given me again the mission to place water at the highest political level globally. We are a winning team and this mission can only be attained if we work together as a family, the family of water.”

▶ Download the Council’s 2016-2018 Strategy
STRENGTHENING THE POSITION OF WATER IN THE CLIMATE DEBATE

At the 21st Conference of the Parties on climate change (COP21), the World Water Council, together with over a dozen members of the international water community, came together through the #ClimateIsWater initiative, to elevate recognition for water and climate at the political level.

Water issues were explored during “Resilience Day”, which was rounded off with a press event that focused on the need to place water issues at the heart of climate discussions. The event brought together Ségolène Royal, Minister of Ecology, Sustainable Development and Energy of France, Charafat Afailal, Minister Delegate in Charge of Water of the Minister of Energy, Mining, Water and Environment of Morocco, and Anna Lindstedt, Climate Ambassador of Sweden, and was chaired by Benedito Braga, President of the World Water Council.

World Water Council will continue to build on the momentum of the #ClimateIsWater initiative, with a particular emphasis on strengthening the position of water in COP22 in Marrakech. A preparatory meeting is planned mid-year with the Governments of France and Morocco.

Watch the Press conference at CoP21 Download the #ClimateIsWater initiative leaflet

IMPLEMENTATION ROADMAPS AND ACTION MONITORING SYSTEM

The Implementation Roadmaps, a key outcome of the 7th World Water Forum, aim to crystallise extensive, behind-the-scenes efforts by the global water community into actions to move forward on the global water agenda.

Flexible and dynamic, the roadmaps have three simple objectives: to ensure continuity between Forum editions, to catalyse action and to contribute to other global processes, such as the SDGs.

Supported by the World Water Council, together with the Government of the Republic of Korea, host of the 7th Forum, 67 organizations coordinated by 19 champions have initiated reporting actions through the online Action Monitoring System platform. A brochure was issued on 22 March 2016 on the occasion of World Water Day and progress reports are to be released on a biannual basis.

“It is through water that we can measure both the severity and the acceleration of global warming, however we can also see that, through water, solutions can be found.”

Ségolène Royal, Minister of Ecology, Sustainable Development and Energy of France
HEADS OF STATE PANEL ON WATER

During the World Economic Forum (WEF) 2016 Annual Meeting the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the President of the World Bank announced the creation of a Heads of State panel on Water to mobilize high level political momentum for water.

Other organizations such as WEF, SIWI and the World Water Council are formally associated with the initiative. “Solutions will only be possible if the political class is engaged and this is where a High Level Panel on Water can make a real difference,” said Benedito Braga, President of the World Water Council, who welcomed the announcement.

ENGAGE IN DEBATE

COP21 SUMMIT, PARIS

President Braga participated in a High level Panel on Water and Climate Change organized by the African Ministers’ Council on Water (AMCOW), linking the potential difficulties posed by climate change to delivery of the Sustainable Development Goals. In view of the GDP lost annually in Africa due to poor access to water and sanitation and to droughts and floods, President Braga concluded that “All these aspects of economic loss are directly related to poor infrastructure development...Investment is critical.”

The #ClimateIsWater initiative organized an event coordinated by the Alliance for Global Water Adaptation (AGWA) on “Solutions for the future.” Fraser MacLeod, Executive Director of the World Water Council, presented how water resources management contributes practical solutions based on emerging findings from the Council’s program on “Increasing Resilience to Climate Variability and Change: The role of infrastructure and governance in the context of adaptation.”

WATER IN THE SPOTLIGHT

MEDIA AND COMMUNICATIONS

CELEBRATING 20 YEARS OF ACHIEVEMENT

On 14 June 1996, the World Water Council was established on the initiative of renowned water specialists and international organizations to promote awareness, build political commitment and trigger action on critical water issues at all levels.

Ever since, the World Water Council and its members have played a strategic role in bringing water to the forefront of the global agenda. Twenty years later, water is finally being acknowledged as a global priority.

The World Water Council is happy to announce the launch of a celebrations campaign that will last throughout 2016.
WORLD WATER COUNCIL REACHES OUT TO INDIAN AUDIENCES

On the occasion of its first Board meeting in India, the World Water Council is partnering with Indian members to increase its visibility within the country and build greater connections with political actors, especially on the governmental level.

MEMBERS UPDATE

MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS*

336

* Membership is determined as at 17 February 2016.

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› 2012-2015 Triannual Report

› Contributions by President Braga to the 2015 G20 magazine

› Contributions to publications Hydropower and Dams and UNFCCC Outreach magazine

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