

NEWS AND ACTIVITIES

NOVEMBER 2016–MARCH 2017

Report to the 61st Board of Governors meeting



Over 140 World Water Council Governors and members took part in the 60th Board of Governors meeting in Marseille, France, 25–26 November 2016 ©WWC/JM Huron

COUNCIL'S 60TH BOARD MEETING AND 20 YEARS' CELEBRATIONS IN MARSEILLE

Over 140 Governors and members met on 25–26 November 2016 in Marseille for the 60th Board of Governors meeting and to celebrate the Council's 20th anniversary.

The Board reviewed preparations for the 8th World Water Forum and the Budapest Water Summit, hosting of the 9th Forum, and the outcomes of the first Action Day for Water organized at the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) conference CoP22. The Board also finalized the workplans for its Task Forces and working groups to take forward Council initiatives.

During a reception to celebrate the 20th anniversary, President Benedito Braga congratulated the Council on its achievements, Honorary President Loïc Fauchon extended thanks to all Governors, past and present, and the Mayor of Marseille, Jean-Claude Gaudin, expressed the city's pride in hosting the Council's headquarters.

“Realizing water security... is a long, hard road that requires commitment to Institutions, Investment, and Infrastructure at the highest levels.”



President Benedito Braga, speaking in “Geopolitics of water: the impact of climate change in water systems. Conflicts and perspectives”, organized by the Pontifical Academy of Sciences, Vatican City, 23 February 2017



(Left) World Water Council Honorary President Loïc Fauchon presents the outcomes of Water Action Day at CoP22, Marrakech, Morocco, 17 November 2016 ©WWC; (right) Vice-President Dogan Altinbilek speaks at the press conference for the first official UNFCCC Action Day for Water, 9 November in Marrakech. The World Water Council, the French and Moroccan CoP Presidencies, and other partners organized the historic event

COUNCIL REPORTS ON FIRST ACTION DAY FOR WATER TO COP22

At the High-level Event on Accelerating Climate Action on the day before CoP22 ended, Honorary President Loïc Fauchon reported on the [outcomes](#) of the first Action Day for Water in the history of the United Nations climate change conferences. Emphasizing that it was a memorable day for water, he said “For the first time in CoP history, water has been at the heart of the debate, especially during Action Day for Water.”

Opening the event were UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon, the President of the Marshall Islands, Hilda Heine, and the High Commissioner for CoP22, Abdeladim Lhafi. The moderator was Hindou Oumarou, Coordinator of the Association for Indigenous Women and Peoples of Chad. Climate Champions Minister Hakima El Haite of Morocco and Ambassador Laurence Tubiana of France, set out detailed action agendas agreed during CoP22 on eight issues to support the implementation of the Paris Agreement.

BUDAPEST WATER SUMMIT 2016

Over 30 Governors and members took part in the Budapest Water Summit 2016. Organized by the Hungarian Government, under the patronage of János Áder, President of Hungary, in cooperation with the World Water Council, the Summit featured high-level events, a Women’s Forum supported by the Council and the launch of the Council’s Youth Delegates Program for 2016–2018.

Drawing from the Sustainable Development Goals adopted in 2015, the Summit contributed to identifying tasks for the next 15 years. The Budapest Water Summit messages suggest pathways and provide guidelines for successful implementation of Agenda 2030 and its water-related targets.

World Water Council granted UNFCCC observer status



The UNFCCC granted the World Water Council official observer status during CoP22. Official observer status will deepen the Council’s engagement with climate negotiation processes and strengthen its efforts to raise the visibility of water within the climate debate.

András Szöllosi-Nagy, World Water Council Governor, Co-Chair of the International Program Committee and President of the Drafting Group presents messages from the Budapest Water Summit 2016, 30 November 2016 ©Budapest Water Summit 2016



DAKAR TO BE HOST CITY AND SENEGAL HOST COUNTRY FOR 9TH WORLD WATER FORUM

At the 60th Board meeting, Governors unanimously selected Dakar, the capital of Senegal, to host in 2021 the 9th World Water Forum, whose proposed overarching theme is “Water Security for Peace and Development”.

Selection followed a rigorous evaluation process. The 9th Forum will be the first to be held in sub-Saharan Africa where innovative solutions for water are greatly needed.

8TH FORUM PREPARATORY PROCESSES PROGRESSING WELL



The 8th Forum International Steering Committee at the World Water Council headquarters, Marseille, 23 November 2016 ©WWC

In November 2016, the International Steering Committee and Commissions for the 8th World Water Forum met at the Council headquarters in Marseille to advance preparatory processes for the Forum.

In February 2017, all 45 Theme Coordinators were represented in a meeting with the 8th Forum Thematic Commission in Brasilia. Preliminary discussions were also held in February on the Regional Process and Local and Regional Authorities Process.

In addition, the Forum Secretariat issued the Call for Proposals for the Citizens Process to identify and map proposals of activities and initiatives.



Council President Benedito Braga with Thematic Process Commission Chair Torkil Jøneh Clausen and Vice-Chair Jorge Werneck-Lima, Thematic Commissions and Coordination Groups joint meeting, Brasilia, Brazil, February 2017

IN SHORT

The World Water Council 60th Board meeting confirmed that all Task Forces are fully operational and are making steady progress on implementing the triennium strategy.

Financing water infrastructure

The Council is preparing practical guides on investment, risks, and mobilizing sustainable funding for water.

Cities: At the heart of growth

The Council is identifying innovative financing instruments for sanitation in cities based on case studies.

Involving key political actors

In February, Executive Director Tom Soo visited China to strengthen collaboration between the Council and the Ministry of Water Resources.

Water and climate change

The #ClimatelsWater Steering Committee exchanged in February to develop the 2017 workplan for enhancing the visibility of water in the climate agenda.

Water governance

In January, the Council and Brazilian colleagues updated delegates at the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) Water Governance Initiative Meeting in Rabat, Morocco on preparations for the 8th World Water Forum.

“Your Voice” online consultation platform for the 8th Forum launched

Discussion rooms on the online platform “Your Voice”, launched in February, enable people worldwide to contribute to themes of the 8th Forum on climate, development, ecosystems, finances, people and urbanization. The platform is available in Portuguese and English and the interface is available in another 90 languages.

20TH ANNIVERSARY COMMEMORATED WITH A BOOK AND CELEBRATIONS

The World Water Council launched “Twenty Years of Achievement” at a special reception in Marseille for Governors, members and guests to celebrate its 20th anniversary. The anniversary book shows the important role the Council has played over the last two decades in putting water at the very heart of global development.



World Water Council President and Honorary President present the 20th anniversary book, “Twenty Years of Achievement”, to Jean-Claude Gaudin, Mayor of Marseille, and host of the Council since 1996, 25 November 2016

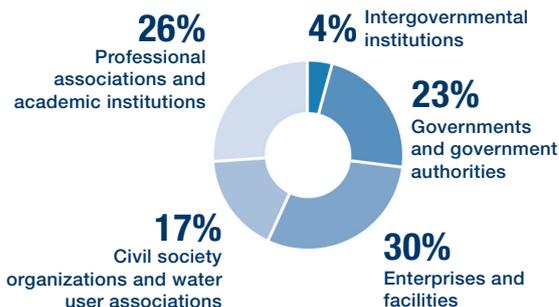
MEMBERS UPDATE

MEMBER ORGANISATIONS*

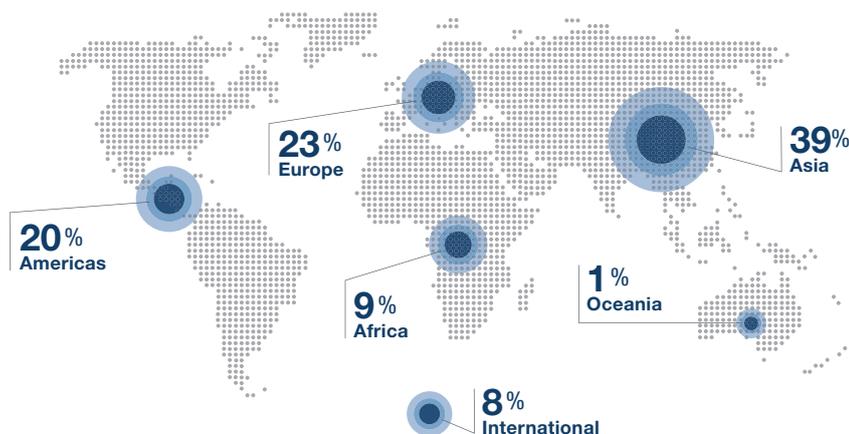
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* Membership is determined as of 15 February 2017

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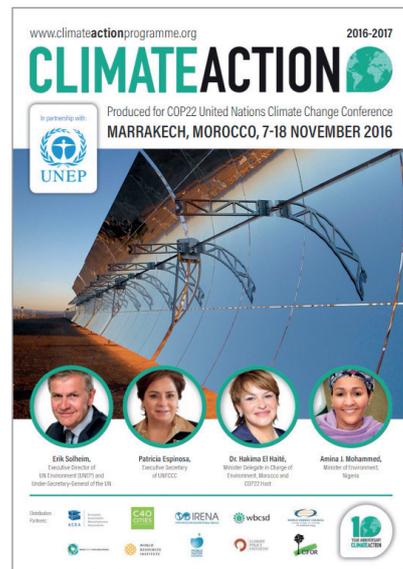
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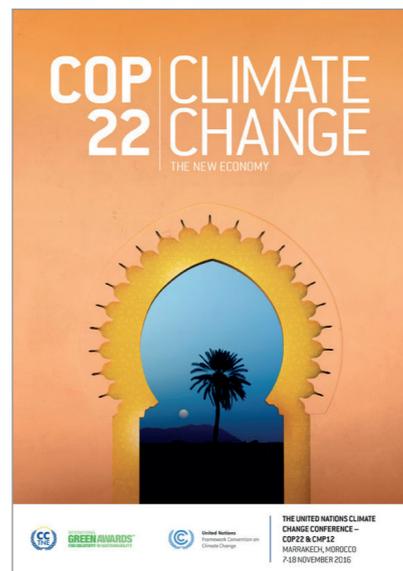


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Raising the visibility of water and climate in the media



“Water Infrastructure Challenges and Opportunities” by Benedito Braga, President of the World Water Council, in: *Climate Action 2016–2017* pp 110–111



“Climate is Water” by Benedito Braga, President of the World Water Council, in: *COP22: Climate Change* pp 64–67



“UN Climate Change Conference – Water Focus”, Interview with Dogan Altinbilek, Vice-President of the World Water Council