

**World Water Council**

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**Biennial Report  
2004-2005**

## Table of Contents

Introduction .....	3
1. Mobilizing stakeholders, enlarging the membership base.....	3
1.1. Organization of the 4 <sup>th</sup> World Water Forum.....	3
1.1.1. Regional preparatory process .....	3
1.1.2. Involvement of local authorities .....	5
1.2. An evolving voice for the water community .....	5
1.2.1. Participation in CSD meetings.....	5
1.2.2. Consultative status with UNESCO and ECOSOC.....	5
1.3. Broadening the membership base .....	6
1.3.1. Reform of the membership fees .....	6
1.3.2. Membership evolution: Towards a balanced distribution.....	6
1.3.3. Increasing interactions among members.....	9
1.4. Public at large: raise awareness and disseminate ideas.....	10
1.4.1. Water Media Programme .....	10
1.4.2. New website .....	11
1.4.3. Water Policy Journal .....	11
1.4.4. Prizes .....	12
2. Acting for water and for the achievement of the MDGs.....	12
2.1. Principles for action and the implemented process.....	12
2.2. Main issues: Initial identification and follow-up.....	13
2.3. Funding and implementation of programmes.....	14
2.3.1. Financing Water for All .....	15
2.3.2. Implementing the Right to Water .....	16
2.3.3. Targeting and Monitoring .....	16
2.3.4. Strengthening local governments .....	17
2.4. Some conclusions of the process.....	17
3. Strengthening the institution, implementing reforms .....	19
3.1. Improvement and reform of the institutional framework .....	19
3.1.1. Finalization and adoption of the By-Laws.....	19
3.1.2. Establishment of colleges.....	19
3.1.3. Evolution of status .....	20
3.2. Reinforcing the Headquarters .....	20
3.2.1. Strengthening human resources .....	20
3.2.2. Strengthening financial resources .....	21
3.3. Building partnerships.....	21
3.3.1. Strategic partnerships .....	21
3.3.2. Partnership with the City of Marseilles .....	22

# Introduction

This report summarizes the Council's activity over the past 2½ years, since the 3<sup>rd</sup> General Assembly held in November 2003.

At that time, the General Assembly defined three main directions:

1. Enlarge the membership base of the Council and involve a greater diversity of stakeholders, in particular from developing countries;
2. Build on existing strengths and develop thematic activities based on the priorities indicated by the Board upon analysis of the 3<sup>rd</sup> World Water Forum; involve members in these necessarily policy-related activities;
3. Implement and pursue internal reforms in accordance with the principles in the Constitution as adopted by the Extraordinary General Assembly.

This report is organized along these three main lines of action.

## 1. Mobilizing stakeholders, enlarging the membership base

The Council's first mission is to raise awareness of the critical role of water and to make water everybody's business. The Forum is an essential tool for achieving this, but the Council also actively communicates information through other activities, such as the Water Policy Journal and its website. The state of these activities are reported in this section, in addition to the effect of the reformed fee structure, implemented following the last General Assembly, on the evolution of membership.

### 1.1. Organization of the 4<sup>th</sup> World Water Forum

The preparatory process for the 4<sup>th</sup> World Water Forum has provided the Council with an excellent opportunity to involve Council members to a greater extent and to explain the role of the Council in greater detail to a number of institutions. In giving the Council Headquarters responsibility for catalyzing three regional processes, the Secretariat of the 4<sup>th</sup> Forum enabled the Council to broaden its contact base. The Council used this opportunity to establish relationships and involve new organizations, such as representatives of local authorities.

#### 1.1.1. Regional preparatory process

One of the peculiarities of the Forum is that the preparatory process takes root at the regional level. In this context, regional preparatory processes aim to determine the most relevant challenges faced by each region, to analyse the constraints and deficiencies faced by stakeholders and institutions, to review innovative processes and identify local actions which provide appropriate solutions, and to contribute to the conclusions and recommendations that will be presented and discussed during the Forum.

This regional approach required classifying countries according to five regions: Africa, the Americas, Asia-Pacific, Europe and the Middle-East. While the Secretariat of the Forum was in charge of guiding the preparatory process for the Americas and the Japan Water Forum was in charge of Asia-Pacific, the World Water Council headquarters played a role of initiator and facilitator for Africa, Europe and the Middle-East.

The African Preparatory Process for the 4th World Water Forum was launched in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia on 29 June 2005, on the occasion of an Executive Committee meeting of the African Ministers Council on Water (AMCOW). This meeting, attended by the main groups of stakeholders, developed a roadmap leading to Mexico. The Technical Committee of AMCOW and the African Bank for Development took responsibility for the process. The first meeting of the Technical Committee with regard to the Forum preparation took place in September in Tunis (Tunisia), and a second meeting was organised back to back with an AMCOW meeting in Windhoek (Namibia).

The Council supported this process by guiding the meetings and funding the involvement of various local stakeholders, namely NGOs and municipalities. A specific meeting of African representatives of local authorities was also organised immediately prior to a meeting of the Task Force on Financing Water for All, in order to identify specific financial needs and difficulties of local authorities in Africa.

The European preparatory process was launched at a meeting in February of 2005 in Paris. Various informal meetings were subsequently organised during conferences in various parts of Europe. During the World Water Week in Stockholm, the Netherlands Water Partnership assumed leadership for the process. The main challenges addressed in the European report include innovation in risk management in Europe, sanitation and wastewater treatment challenges, stakeholder participation, the need for solidarity among water users and IWRM in Europe. The process has enhanced cooperation among its European members and has proactively involved Eastern European countries. Many members or partners of the WWC have also been actively involved in this process.

In addition, the Council actively participated in the preparation and events during the European Week of Solidarity for Water together with "Solidarité Eau-Europe" and the Council of Europe. In October, for an entire week, nearly one hundred European stakeholders from the water sector and local and national public authorities gathered in Strasbourg for a regional "mini Forum". A series of workshops on four of the Forum's themes were offered and European parliamentary representatives from national governments and local authorities were invited to speak and exchange at the Council of Europe on the theme "Water: a shared responsibility." This week produced at least two major results: the launch of the Strasbourg process, through which Eastern European countries and non-members of the European Union were able to contribute to the preparation of the 4th Forum; and the demonstration of the importance of dialogue among national governmental representatives, elected officials and parliamentarians.

Finally, the Council was instrumental in catalysing a similar process in the Middle East under the auspices of the Arab Water Council and with strong support from the MENA group of the World Bank. As a member of the Organising Committee, the Council actively participated in the design and facilitation of a number of meetings and overall preparation process. During these meetings, attended by a large group of stakeholders, the main issues identified by this region include coping with water scarcity, ensuring food security, building capacity and financing water infrastructure. Important local actions were also identified and prepared for presentation during the Forum.

### 1.1.2. Involvement of local authorities

Local authorities are key stakeholders with which the WWC should cooperate further due to their deep involvement in water and sanitation issues. The Council has been very active in advocating and promoting their participation in the 4<sup>th</sup> World Water Forum. They have been also associated in the two major programs of “Right to Water” and “Financing Water for All.”

To institutionalize the role of local authorities, the WWC has successfully advocated for the organisation of a dialogue among Ministers, Parliamentarians and representatives of Local Authorities during the 4<sup>th</sup> World Water Forum. Local authorities will be also represented in the round-table discussions that will bring together Ministers and other stakeholders during the last day of the Forum.

From this cooperation, a specific program on “strengthening local authorities” will be developed in the next 3 years with associations of local authorities and with other partners that have already shown interest in this program (including the World Bank’s Knowledge Networks Agency for the MENA Region based in Marseilles, The French Ministry of Ecology and Sustainable Development and the Italian Ministry of Cooperation).

As a result of these activities, ICLEI became a member of the WWC and discussions are in progress with United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG).

## **1.2. An evolving voice for the water community**

### 1.2.1. Participation in CSD meetings

A new cycle of CSD meetings was initiated at the Johannesburg summit. The two first CSD meetings in April 2004 and 2005 focused on water, sanitation and human settlements. Both of these meetings were attended by a WWC delegation, including several Governors and the President. They provided numerous opportunities to exchange with organizations in the water community and with government representatives.

The WWC co-organised a number of meetings and side events on this occasion, including informational meetings on the 4<sup>th</sup> World Water Forum and an important side-event on Monitoring with the French Government, UN agencies and donors.

The increasing divide between developing and developed countries became more evident during these CSD meetings, with developing countries primarily requesting more assistance from developed countries for the implementation of the MDGs. The quality of the debate on water issues was biased by this political backdrop.

The outputs from the 2005 CSD meeting were used as a basis for the 4<sup>th</sup> Forum’s Ministerial process.

### 1.2.2. Consultative status with UNESCO and ECOSOC

After being granted Consultative Status from UNESCO in 2002, the Council was granted Special Consultative status by the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations in July of 2005. This special status gives the Council the opportunity to designate official representatives to the United Nations Headquarters in New York and their offices in Geneva and Vienna. In addition, the Council may officially attend UN-sponsored meetings and conferences and may

actively contribute to the UN's reflection on important issues in its domain of expertise. This consultative status will also facilitate discussions on the status of the Council with the French Government.

### 1.3. Broadening the membership base

The two main objectives for these past three years were to balance sectoral and geographic member representation and also to increase involvement of members in the Council's activities.

#### 1.3.1. Reform of the membership fees

- A new system of membership fees

A new membership fee structure was established in 2004, further to its adoption by the 3<sup>rd</sup> General Assembly. The unique membership fee in the amount of 1,000 USD was replaced by five categories of membership fees in incremented amounts, based on the GDP (PPP) per capita (UNDP source) of the members' countries. They are distributed as follows:

- Category 1: GDP per capita over 20,000 USD and international organisations
- Category 2: GDP per capita between 7,500 USD and 20,000 USD
- Category 3: GDP per capita between 2,500 USD and 7,500 USD
- Category 4: GDP per capita between 1,000 USD and 2,500 USD
- Category 5: GDP per capita under 1,000 USD

The fee distributions from 2003 to 2006 are as follows:

Category	1	2	3	4	5
2003 Membership fees in USD	1,000				
2004 membership fees in Euros	920	750	585	420	250
2005 membership fees in Euros	930	760	595	430	250
2006 membership fees in Euros	930	760	595	430	250

- Membership Solidarity Fund

A membership solidarity fund was created to encourage the involvement of organizations from developing countries and with limited financial resources. The fund is supplied by voluntary donations. The Commission on Legal and Financial Affairs is in charge of allocating subsidies in the amount of 210 USD to members requesting them and meeting the eligibility criteria.

#### 1.3.2. Membership evolution: Towards a balanced distribution

In the period 2003-2005, the membership has not increased in number, but it has become more diversified and has significantly improved in the level of the commitment of members.

The number of active members is rather steady, as shown in Figure 1. The increasing trend of non-active members is explained by the fact that organizations may be registered as non-active for several years before they request resignation or before the Board of Governors decides to remove them from the list due to non-payment. Each year, approximately 15% of active

members stop paying their membership fees for a given year: sustaining membership requires a minimum of 40 new members every year.

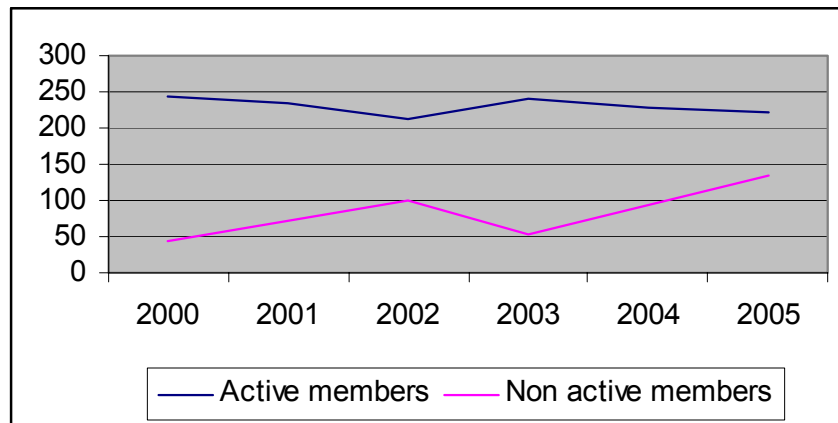


Figure 1: Evolution of active and non-active members

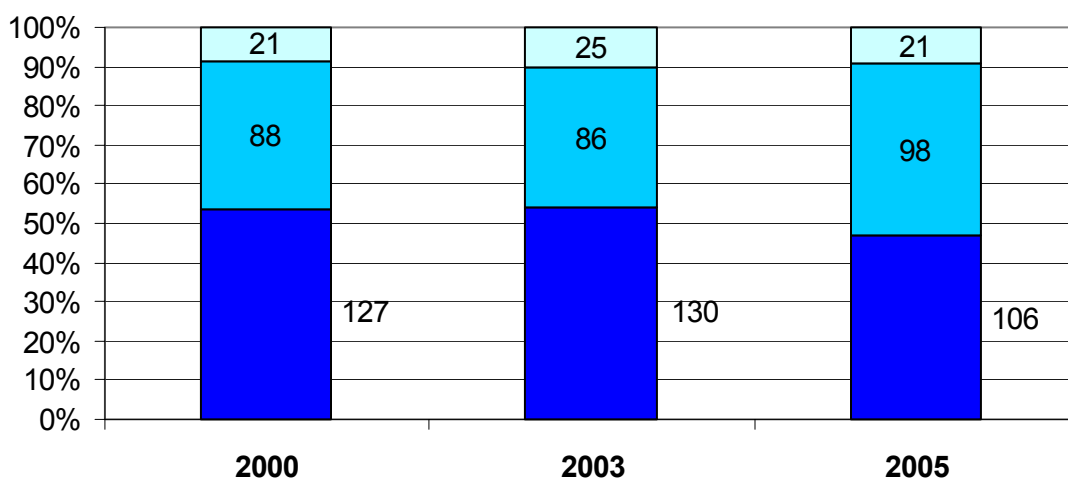
The distribution of active members has significantly changed and has become more balanced in terms of countries, stakeholders groups, and south/north origin.

- Distribution per country

The number of countries represented within the Council has increased significantly. Since 2003, 17 new countries are represented: Bangladesh, Cameroon, Congo, Democratic Republic of Congo, Germany, Greece, Iraq, Italy, Jordan, Lebanon, Niger, Nigeria, Peru, Russia, Saint Lucia, Ukraine and United Arab Emirates.

Half of the countries represented within the Council have more than one active member, and one-third have more than 5 members. As soon as a new country is represented, other new members in that country have a tendency to join as well.

The proportional representation for Japan, Turkey and France, which are the only countries with more than 30 members, has decreased. Combined, they now represent less than 50% of the active members.



□ Proportion of active members coming from countries with only one member

■ Proportion of active members coming from countries with more than 2 members but less than 30

Figure 2. Distribution of active members per country group

- Distribution by developing/developed countries

The number of members from countries with a GDP under 20,000 USD has notably increased and now represents more than 40% of the active members (Figure 3).

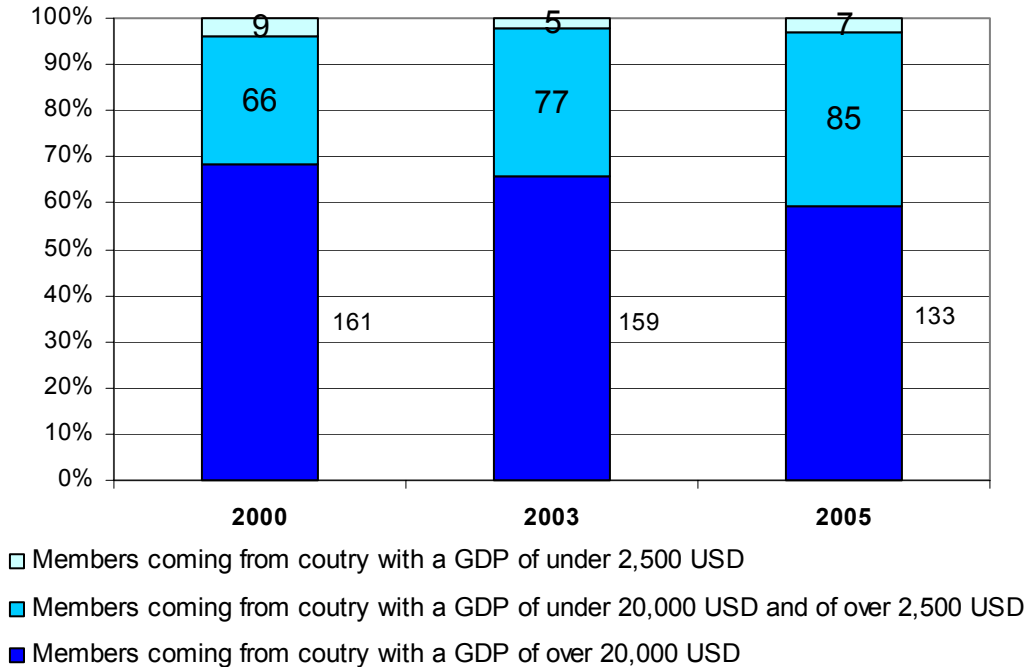


Figure 3. Distribution of Council members according to their country's GDP



- Distribution of Stakeholders

Membership evolution as regards the stakeholder groups is the most remarkable (Figure 4). The number of members from College 3 has decreased, although it is still the most represented college. It represents 41% of active members in 2005. At the same time, the number of members from College 4 has almost doubled, although it is still less represented than the other colleges.

In 2005, five ministries joined the Council from Algeria, France, Iraq, Italy and Lebanon. With these five new members, the Council now includes 21 ministries (either Foreign Affairs, Environment, Land Planification or Water Ressources) from 19 different countries: Australia, Congo, Egypt, France, Iran, Iraq, Italy, Lebanon, Morocco, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Senegal, Sudan, South Africa, Syria, Taiwan, Turkey.

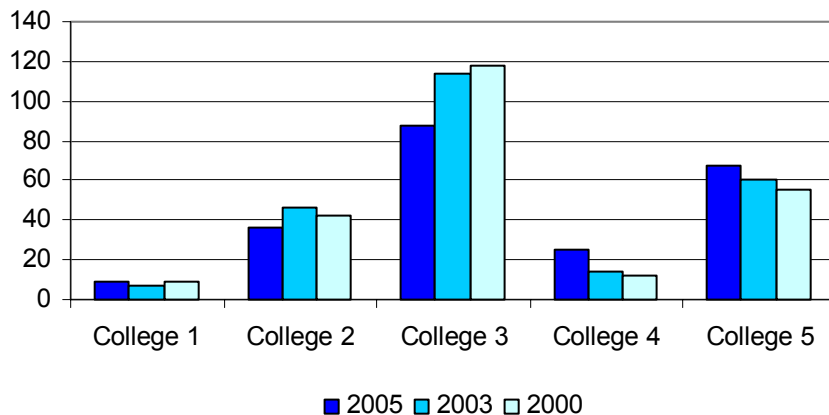


Figure 4. Evolution of the distribution of members in the 5 colleges

### 1.3.3. Increasing interactions among members

The World Water Council relies on an extensive network of stakeholders from the world's most renowned institutions and companies, to local authorities and NGOs. This network brings together hundreds of thousands of government officials, decision-makers, scientists, economists, engineers, etc. The principle membership challenge is to create greater interaction within the network and mobilize members to contribute to Council's activities towards solving water issues. To achieve our goal, it is also important that a maximum number of stakeholders in all their diversity take part in the movement; as such, the Council constantly seeks to enroll new members. Since 2003, several actions, as described below, have been carried out to reach these objectives:

- A greater number of opportunities to participate in the Council's activities has been offered to members, in particular, through the preparation of the 4th Forum and the establishment of the Council's programmes.
- A new database system has been developed to allow registration of more than one contact per member organization and, as such, improve interactions with member organisations.
- Communication towards members and potential members has been enhanced and improved through mail, e-mails, Extranet, newsletters and the website. Communication is now systematically carried out in both English and French.

- In addition to the reform of membership fees described above, the membership policies and procedures have also been clarified, simplified and assembled in a single document entitled, "Membership guidelines."
- In particular, the procedure for applying for membership has been completely revised, and the time between application submission and approval has been drastically reduced from 6 months (prior to 2003) to one month or less.
- Explicit and comprehensive brochures have been produced on membership (in general, solidarity fund, General Assembly, etc.) and distributed on several occasions to members and non-members.

The Headquarters has also been using the Extranet intensively to keep members informed of the latest developments within the Council. The Extranet usage statistics have been showing encouraging results, ranging from 34 to 80 visits by members per week, representing up to 23% of our members. The distribution of an Extranet newsletter has further contributed to increasing the numbers of visits.

#### **1.4. Public at large: raise awareness and disseminate ideas**

A number of Governors, some members of the Bureau and other interested parties have been involved in an overall reflection on the Council's communication strategy since mid-2004. This reflection has built upon several concept papers on the Council's vision and shared values and led to the creation of a Vision Task Force, which has supplied a framework for discussion and debate. The results of this reflection are brought to the General Assembly for discussion.

The aim of this process is, first, to clarify the Council's precise role and dispel confusion about its future orientation in order to develop better-adapted communication efforts and improve the concrete expression of its actions. Such a process will benefit the international positioning of the Council through the expression of clear messages to be communicated to the public at large and through improved communication tools, which will facilitate understanding of its mission and objectives and improve its image.

##### **1.4.1. Water Media Programme**

The media has a tremendous impact on society's consideration for and interest in big issues, such as water. Furthermore, helping people to better understand these issues can only contribute to finding solutions to them.

Based on this rationale, the World Water Council has been conducting a water awareness programme for journalists, focusing on developing countries. The Water Media Programme builds on the successful results of the Water Media Network, which was created by the Dutch government and implemented by the World Bank Institute (WBI) between the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> World Water Fora. An agreement was subsequently reached between the WBI and the WWC to transfer the tools of the Water Media Network to the Council in mid-2004.

This programme is divided into two phases: (i) in the short-term, to increase media coverage before and during the 4th World Water Forum, and (ii) subsequently, to build the capacity of journalists, worldwide, to understand better and report on water-related issues. A number of activities have taken place throughout the preparation of the Forum, in relation to its regional process, including:

- A series of journalist-training workshops organized or co-organized within the framework of the Water Media Programme, which were attended by about 60 journalists;
- An international journalists contest offering trips to Mexico for the winners, for which support was obtained from regional development banks, namely the IADB, the AfDB and the ADB. Approximately 40 journalists, worldwide, were sponsored to attend the Forum;
- Administration of an electronic network of journalists, including contacts for over 1100 journalists and communication specialists;
- A database for journalists was also developed to reference resources concerning water experts and local actions.

The benefits of capacity building go beyond one article or one workshop. Journalists trained in a technical area continue to report on and gain enthusiasm for the sector. Our Water Media Programme is expected to improve the coverage of water issues in general and have a long-term impact on improving the transparency of policies and reforms and the understanding of the public at large.

#### 1.4.2. New website

In an effort to further improve its internal and external communication, the World Water Council launched an upgraded version of its website in October 2005 ([www.worldwatercouncil.org](http://www.worldwatercouncil.org)). The interface, as well as the architecture and the design, have been modified to make it more user-friendly, to give a clearer picture of the Council's activities and to highlight the current and future global water-related challenges. Thanks to the support of the "Agence inter-gouvernementale de la francophonie", a French version is also now available.

In the last months of 2005, statistics showed that our website received an average of 27,000 visits per month and that 102,000 pages were viewed. These numbers reflect a clear increase in traffic as compared to the former website: the number of pages viewed in March 2003, the month of the 3<sup>rd</sup> World Water Forum, was only 50,000.

This upgraded version of the website was developed using a "Content Management System" (CMS) called Typo3. A CMS manages websites like databases and makes it easy for nearly everyone to develop web pages. This also stimulates partnerships in web development and in the creation of "satellite websites", such as the one already developed for the Water Monitoring Alliance ([www.watermonitoringalliance.net](http://www.watermonitoringalliance.net)). The Financing Water for All satellite website (developed in cooperation with GWP) is currently under construction, and the Water Media Programme will also create its own.

#### 1.4.3. Water Policy Journal

The Water Policy Journal is the official journal of the Council and has been published since 1998. The journal publishes analyses, reviews, research papers and progress reports on the following water issues, among others: financial, diplomatic, organizational, legal, administrative and research.

In 2003, IWA Publishing (International Water Association) became the new publisher for the Journal. Thanks to the collaborative work between IWA publishing and the editors-in-chief, the Journal is now published on a regular basis. The Journal is not yet registered with ISI, but this is expected to change soon. The Journal receives great recognition within the water community. The number of papers submitted has greatly increased in both quantity and quality. The number of subscribers has also significantly increased.

#### 1.4.4. Prizes

##### *Kyoto World Water Grand Prize*

In March 2003, during the 3rd World Water Forum in Japan, Kyoto City, “Soroptimist International of Kyoto” and the World Water Council announced the establishment of the “Kyoto World Water Grand Prize”, to be presented every three years at the World Water Forum, starting from the 4th Forum in March, 2006. The Prize aims to honour a distinguished individual or organization whose grass-root-level activities work towards addressing critical water needs of communities and regions. Thirty finalists will be invited to attend the World Water Forum to present their activities. The prize of 5 million Japanese yen (or approximately US\$45,000) must be used by the winner or winning organization to continue the award-winning exercise or similar ones.

The Council, the Japan Water Forum and the 4<sup>th</sup> Forum have each named two representatives to compose the prize committee, with additional support from their respective secretariats. Six additional experts will join these members to create the international panel of judges, which will select the final winner(s) from the ten finalists during the Forum. The winner will be announced during the Forum’s closing ceremony.

##### *King Hassan II Great World Water Prize*

For the second edition of the King Hassan II Great World Water Prize, the award will be given to Torkil Jonch-Clausen for his "outstanding contribution to the development and promotion of water resources management issues", having greatly influenced the international Integrated Water Resources Management agenda. Torkil Jonch-Clausen was one of the co-founders of the Global Water Partnership in 1996. The Prize is worth 100,000 USD. A special ceremony will take place during the opening ceremony of the 4th World Water Forum with the participation of high-level representatives from the government of the Kingdom of Morocco.

## 2. Acting for water and for the achievement of the MDGs

The second mission of the Council is to increase priority for water with regard to politics and policies. This mission requires, first of all, that the most important water-related issues be identified and, then, that substantive contributions be developed as much as possible through multi-stakeholder platforms.

### **2.1. Principles for action and the implemented process**

During and after the 3<sup>rd</sup> World Water Forum, The Council’s Board of Governors supplied a great effort to identify strategic issues on which the Council should be working. The selected priority issues were analysed and a strategic work plan that projected beyond the 4th World Water Forum was prepared.

For the implementation of these priorities, the Headquarters ensured ample consideration for the principles put forward in the triennial work plan and adopted by the last General Assembly. These principles stated that:

- “The Council should restrict itself as much as possible to policy-related issues; it can address other issues only if they are cross-cutting or controversial and upon request from its members;

- The Council should not duplicate the work of its members; instead, it should play the role of facilitator and broker of cross-cutting programmes;
- The Council should, as much as possible, cooperate with its members to identify the policy implications of their work and possibly help them to develop and promote these implications.”

The Bureau defined a process to involve Council members in addition to some key partners in the selection of priority programmes.

## 2.2. Main issues: Initial identification and follow-up

The initial list of priorities was identified soon after Kyoto and subsequently adopted by the General Assembly. The list of commitments announced by the Council in Kyoto is presented hereafter, together with key members and partners involved in the corresponding priorities and the main outcomes.

<b>Issues as identified after Kyoto</b>	<b>Members/partners</b>	<b>Results of the follow-up</b>
Benefits of water and sound water management	World Bank, IUCN, USACE	Topic identified as one of the 5 framework themes of the 4 <sup>th</sup> Forum under the leadership of the World Bank; follow-up to be defined after the 4 <sup>th</sup> Forum
Financing Water for All	GWP, Regional Banks and World Bank, donors, Secretariat of the Forum	Project launched in partnership with GWP and the Secretariat of the Forum. (See below)
Follow-up on World Water Actions	French Government, OECD	Interlinking Monitoring activities identified as a major related issue. A Water Monitoring Alliance project and website was established.
Virtual Water	FAO, UNESCO, IHE	Follow up mainly in terms of dissemination of the results obtained before Kyoto through a publication and an e-conference.
International Cooperation Facility	UNESCO	Workshop jointly organised in Delft to prioritise and prepare a programme with several partners. Follow-up pending.

North-north partnerships	Japan Water Forum and several other country networks	NNP transformed into “Nownet”, a global network of country partnerships from developed countries with its Secretariat established at the Japan Water Forum; Nownet is operational with its first meetings having been organised in various conferences.
Water and Politics	IUCN	Workshop organised on this topic; joint project with IUCN implemented and concluded with a publication
Water in emergency situations	UN organisations, ICRC	Contacts with various organisations in order to understand the possible contributions of the WWC network.
Dialogue Water Food and the Environment	IWMI, IUCN, ICID, GWP, WWF, FAO, BothEnds	Main activities completed; partnership established with IWMI for the Comprehensive Assessment of Agriculture.
Dialogue Water and Climate	WMO, CPWC, UNFCCC, UNISDR, GWP, IPCC, IUCN, IWA, NWP, UNESCO, World Bank, UNDP, NFWC, Netherlands Foundation on Water and Climate	Dialogue transformed into Collaborative Programme on Water and Climate; strong partnership with the Council maintained. Risk management is increasingly an issue.

In addition, two member-led programmes, i.e. those carried out jointly by a consortium of members, were identified, and preliminary discussions for their implementation have been initiated: (i) a “Dry area forum” where members could share views and develop proposals specifically for arid countries and, (ii) “Space to earth” a platform of exchange on the development and use of remote sensing tools for developing countries.

### 2.3. Funding and implementation of programmes

In order to transform these priorities into action, a call was made for the participation of WWC members. Members were invited to attend a meeting held at IHE in Delft (NL) to discuss the preparation of Council programmes. From the results of this meeting and in partnership with its interested members, the Headquarters developed project proposals.

The Delft process resulted in the selection of three core priorities to be transformed into programmes:

- First Priority: Convince decision-makers to invest in water services and infrastructure.
- Second Priority: Strengthening Local stakeholders to enable provision of sustainable water services.
- Third Priority: Monitoring Policies, actions, commitments and impacts.

These three priorities were subsequently transformed into a number project proposals:

- Water for development;
- Strengthening local stakeholders for local action: financing water for all, right to water, capacity building;
- Interlinking monitoring activities.

Three project proposals were eventually financed and a fourth one is in preparation. These projects and their main characteristics are presented hereafter.

### **2.3.1. Financing Water for All**

Following the previous work of the panel chaired by M Camdessus and in relation with the programme on strengthening local stakeholders, a new Task Force on financing water for all has been established under the chairmanship of Angel Gurria, former Minister of Finance of Mexico and recently appointed as new Executive Secretary of the OECD. The project has been implemented in partnership with GWP (as was the first panel) and in close relation with and with support from the Secretariat of the 4<sup>th</sup> Forum. Funding was obtained from the Secretariat of the Forum as well as from the IADB. In addition, most organizations involved in the Task Force contributed their time and travel expenses.

This Task Force has worked on the following components:

1. Assessment of follow-up to the previous Camdessus Panel
2. Financing water and local governments
3. Financing water for agriculture

A unit on the follow-up of the Camdessus report has been established in the Council headquarters. Another working group has been established on “financing water for agriculture”, while the Task Force, itself, has composed the working group for financing local action and local governments. The Task Force has otherwise provided guidance to these working groups, reviewed their findings, and will bring the conclusions to the attention of governments and politicians during the 4<sup>th</sup> Forum.

The work has drawn upon the lessons of a great number of case studies (about 40 cases on financing mechanisms that have enabled local governments to obtain funding for investments in water services either in small, local situations, from the private sector or from government to government) provided by several institutions, from International Financial Institutions to local NGOs.

The project has produced two important reports and a joint website with GWP on financing issues. Indirectly, two synthesis reports have also been generated as a result of this work: one report comparing several cost assessments of MDG Target 10 and another in partnership with OECD on ODA for water. In addition, sessions are also organised on this topic during the Forum. Most importantly, the group has decided that its tasks will not end with the 4<sup>th</sup> Forum, but will continue afterwards in order to achieve more concrete results. The issue of water for agriculture also requires a much more in-depth analysis in order to clearly identify the issues, the financial needs and the difficulties encountered.

The project has also resulted in new members joining the Council and in an increased cooperation with local Governments.

### **2.3.2. Implementing the Right to Water**

In 2002, water was internationally recognized as a human right through the United Nations Economic and Social Commission (general comment n°15). In 2004, a report on the right to water was issued by the UN Sub-Commission on the Protection and Promotion of Human Rights. Despite these advances, the Council's Board of Governors recognized that the precise scope of the right to water and its implications for its application in social, cultural, economic and environmental terms requires further investigation in light of international, national and local practices.

In line with the programme on strengthening local stakeholders and in preparation for the 4<sup>th</sup> Forum, the Board of Governors agreed that this issue required debate, but one fed by real action and experience. It was, indeed, perceived that progress could be achieved on this issue only when the water community could explain to policy-makers what it means in practice to put the principle into action and could assist them in implementing this right in a practical and affordable manner.

Following the outcomes of the Delft process, a project proposal along these lines was prepared in partnership with Council members: ALMAE, French Water Academy, Greencross and the International Secretariat for Water. This project was funded by the Swiss Development Corporation and the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs, through the French Agency for Development.

The project focused on implementation through examination of a set of case studies (24 were received and analysed), highlighting the approaches and experiences in introducing and implementing the right to water. It also improved understanding of different interpretations and perspectives on the concept from various local, national and international stakeholders. In conclusion, the project provided an outline of implications and policy recommendations for the implementation of the principle of water as a human right in both developed and developing countries. A synthesis report was prepared, and all case studies may be viewed on the Council's web site.

### **2.3.3. Targeting and Monitoring**

From the various discussions held in Kyoto, it became obvious that more clarity was needed on what programmes were already in place in the area of targeting and monitoring in order to create greater coordination and coherence among the great number of existing initiatives.

The Board of Governors, therefore, stressed that an effort should be made to interlink existing programmes, rather than to implement new ones. A project was prepared along these lines and submitted a request for funding to the French Government, which had advocated in favour of a global monitoring tool in Kyoto. The proposal was to create a "Water Monitoring Alliance" that is, at the same time: (i) a web portal through which monitoring programmes can be accessed to provide information on objectives, types of data and indicators used in various monitoring programmes, and (ii) a cooperation among key organisations in charge of important monitoring programmes. In addition, the work would provide mapping for the various activities analysed.

The web site ([www.watermonitoringalliance.net](http://www.watermonitoringalliance.net)) was officially launched for the 13<sup>th</sup> meeting of the CSD in April 2005. It already contains the description of nearly a hundred programmes. Country profiles providing information on the water situation and on monitoring activities in each nation are being developed in a first step for the African region.



In addition, partnerships have also been built, in particular with the French MEDD. Another partnership with OECD has already produced an analysis of ODA for water and a report for presentation at the Forum. Subsequently, the ODA data collected by OECD is planned for publication in the country profiles on the website. Additional partnerships are currently being discussed with JMP and with WWAP.

#### **2.3.4. Strengthening local governments**

The overarching theme of the 4<sup>th</sup> World Water Forum is “local actions for a global challenge.” This Forum should, therefore, create recommendations for strengthening local stakeholders, among which local governments are key, especially for water supply and sanitation services.

In accordance with the programme on strengthening local stakeholders, discussions have been initiated with the world federation, “United Cities and Local Governments”, in order to establish a joint programme that will support the activities of their Commission on Water. Following the events at the Forum in Mexico City, priorities for this programme should be identified. The French Government has initially committed to supporting this programme and other governments are expected to join the initiative during 2006.

#### **2.4. Some conclusions of the process**

The Council’s programmes should, first of all, strengthen its role as a facilitator of dialogue and debate on critical water issues. Through the overall process that has been implemented for these programmes, the network of the Council’s members has supplied a great deal of input. The most important lessons drawn from the Council’s experience in this domain are proposed for the consideration of the General Assembly as follows:

- The difficulty of funding the process through which issues are defined and transformed into joint programmes: In the future, it is important to design a process for defining critical issues, which should make the best possible use of the Forum and of the entire network of organisations represented in the Council. Innovative ways of involving members and partners in the debate could be employed, such as virtual platforms, thus reducing elevated costs related to transportation. Such a process should be funded through earmarked core funds and contributions from the members and partners.
- Conflict between donors funding criteria and member participation: Continual adjustment between our proposals and donor priorities is necessary but not realistically feasible when working closely with members. Therefore, programmes should be prepared without allocating specific tasks to involved members in a precise way, but rather include a general list of necessities and a list of participating organisations, rather than attribute a responsibility to each participant.
- Linking the programmes to the Forum: Donors are both interested in the Forum and in the exposure it provides, but are also reluctant to limit outputs to messages for the Forum. It is very difficult to convince a donor to fund a process resulting only in a report, a session or even a high-level panel during a Forum, albeit a worldwide one, but are more convinced to provide funding for action in the field.
- The added value related to the Council’s image and involvement is not always questionable. This added value is not related to the Forum as such, but to the size and representation of our network, to the facilitator’s role and to the Council’s previous achievements.

In conclusion, and in order to progress into the next triennial period:

1. Programmes can only be realised with external support from donors, members or others. This support must be secured in order to make the programme viable, but may entail compromises.
2. Formulation of the programmes is the responsibility of the Bureau, carried out by the Headquarters with approval from the Board of Governors based on general guidelines approved by the General Assembly. Those guidelines are formulated in the triennial work plan. (See Triennial Work Plan OGA4.11)
3. The General Assembly must approve the principle of an allocation of a certain amount of funds per year from the core budget to be used for preparation of programmes and proposals for funding. (See Triennial Budget OGA4.11)

## 3. Strengthening the institution, implementing reforms

### 3.1. Improvement and reform of the institutional framework

In 2003, the Constitution of the Council was modified to be in accordance with the Council's evolution. With the objective of further improving the Council's procedures and its efficiency, the Commission on Legal and Financial Affairs, with the contribution of the HQ, carefully reviewed all of the Council's statutory documents. As a result the By-Laws were completely revisited and several procedures were created: Membership guidelines, procedure of selection for the Forum's host country, logo usage policy, financial regulations...

#### 3.1.1. Finalization and adoption of the By-Laws

Taking account of the recent reforms, the Commission on Legal and Financial Affairs drafted a new version of the Council's By-Laws. This new version includes the new election procedures based on principles voted upon during the 3<sup>rd</sup> General Assembly; it also introduces colleges and establishes the principle that all governors are elected, except for the host City.

The By-Laws, defined as the document specifying the implementation of the Constitution, were approved by the 21<sup>st</sup> meeting of the Board in March, 2005, in Rabat, for immediate implementation, subject to final ratification by the General Assembly in March 2006.

#### 3.1.2. Establishment of colleges

The Commission on Legal and Financial Affairs, as the body of the Board of Governors responsible for supervising all administrative activities of the Council, worked towards developing a better definition of the colleges. The five colleges are:

- *College 1: Intergovernmental institutions:* Those international organisations composed exclusively of Member States, which monitor, regulate and finance water and water-related projects, policies and cooperation.  
Includes: UN agencies, intergovernmental organisations, international financial institutions, development banks, etc.
- *College 2. Governments and government authorities:* Those national or local institutions related to the state, which monitor, regulate and finance water resources and sanitation management at the national and local level, elaborate and implement water and water-related policies at the national or local level, and develop and implement national water and water-related international cooperation strategies.  
Includes: state agencies, ministries, local authorities, municipalities, basin authorities, parliamentary associations, national development agencies, etc.  
N.B: state-owned universities, research centres, state-owned companies, are not included in this college.
- *College 3. Enterprises and facilities:* Those companies and their associated networks that are either state-owned, private, public or run as a public-private partnership which provide goods and services related to water supply and sanitation, as well as those companies working in water-related fields such as energy supply, health care, environmental conservation and food production.  
Includes: water supply and sanitation companies; consulting firms; law firms; infrastructure companies in charge of hydropower plants, dams, reservoirs, irrigation canals, energy supply; service providers; construction companies; industrial companies; etc.

- *College 4. Civil society organizations and water user associations:* Those national and international organisations and their associated networks that represent water and sanitation users, those organisations that advocate human rights and nature protection with regard to social, cultural, historical, and environmental aspects, those organisations working in humanitarian aid, as well as those organisations that provide information on water and water-related issues to the public at large.  
Includes: foundations, consumer associations, farmer associations, trade unions and the media.  
N.B: NGOs whose main activities are training and education should not be included in college 4, but college 5.
- *College 5. Professional associations and academic institutions:* Those national or international organisations and their associated networks that carry out research or provide education and training on the scientific, technical, legal, social cultural and economic aspect of water and water-related issues, as well as those national or international professional organisations and media which provide information on research.  
Included: national and international professional organisations, private or public universities, schools and research centres, public and private training centres.

For existing members, the Headquarters proposed attribution of members to colleges, the denominator being their scope of activity and not their legal incorporation. This proposal was sent to the members for their approval. New members are requested to identify their appropriate college when filling in their application form for membership.

The distribution of the Council's active members may vary, but are currently represented per college as follows:

- College 1: 5%
- College 2: 17%
- College 3: 41%
- College 4: 10%
- College 5: 27%

### 3.1.3. Evolution of status

The French government is very supportive of the idea of improving the current status of the Council. Three options have been evoked: (i) to become an Intergovernmental Organisation; (ii) to become an international NGO, or; (iii) to work out specific arrangements for the Council relating to taxes and employment of experts from outside the European Union. The comparative advantages of the three solutions need to be analysed in detail before taking the process any further. This task will be the responsibility of the Board to be elected by this General Assembly.

## **3.2. Reinforcing the Headquarters**

### 3.2.1. Strengthening human resources

As the work programme of the Council became progressively more structured over the last three years and with priorities being better identified, the expertise and professionalism of the staff was enhanced.

The permanent staff is currently composed of the Executive Director, a Senior Expert for Water Management, being the Programme Director, three Programme Officers (including two senior ones, one seconded by the French Ministry of Public Planning and Housing in October 2004 for a 2-year period and one seconded by the French Ministry of Agriculture), an Administrative Director, an Accountant, an Executive Assistant, a Membership Officer, two Office Assistants, a Communication Officer and a Communication Assistant.

Three new staff members also joined the programme team on a temporary basis, under the supervision of the programme director, to develop activities related to the Right to Water, Financing Water for All and the synthesis process. The Council has also offered an increased number of internship opportunities for a period of 3 to 6 months. Students in training who come from all over the world have contributed to an increased multi-cultural working approach at the Headquarters.

### **3.2.2. Strengthening financial resources**

Some difficulties have been faced over the past two years regarding the Council's financial situation. These difficulties were both a result of the past (severe delays in the reimbursement of expenses incurred by the 3<sup>rd</sup> Forum, legal proceedings initiated by an English company linked to the publication of a special magazine for the 3<sup>rd</sup> Forum) and of the necessary initiation of new activities: the 4<sup>th</sup> Forum and related programmes.

As a result, much effort has been devoted to preparing proposals for donors, especially in partnership with the Secretariat of the 4<sup>th</sup> Forum. This activity has finally resulted in a significant increase in support for the Council, especially by the governments of France, Switzerland and Italy. In addition, a significant contribution from Mexico has also been obtained for the preparation of the Forum.

After a negative result in 2003 and 2004, the balance of our accounts was again positive in 2005 (See financial report).

## **3.3. Building partnerships**

### **3.3.1. Strategic partnerships**

The programmes that have been implemented have played a critical role in strengthening our relationships with several organisations, including:

- Global Water Partnership (GWP): Relations with GWP have become very close through the programme on Financing Water for All and communication activities. A memorandum of understanding was signed in 2004 and a joint website on financing water issues has now been implemented.
- The French Government: The relationship with the French Government has been enhanced through programmes (Water Monitoring Alliance, the African regional preparation process for the Forum, strengthening local governments), through regular meetings and exchanges, and through a clear "diplomatic" support from the Government for the Council's activities and change in status.
- The Swiss Government: The Swiss Development Corporation has been very supportive of the Forum and of the programme on the Right to Water, to which they have contributed financially and substantively.

- The Italian Government: The Italian government began supporting the Council in 2005. So far, the cooperation has been directed towards the preparation of the Forum. Future cooperation will be based on the topics of monitoring and risk management.
- European Commission: The participation of the Headquarters in activities of the European Water Initiative (financing, monitoring) has significantly enhanced our relations with the European Commission. This should be transformed into more concrete support in the coming triennial period.
- OECD: Concrete cooperation has been initiated with the DAC (Development Aid Committee) and with the Environment Directorate, respectively on ODA and on financial tools. This cooperation will be reinforced after the 4<sup>th</sup> Forum.
- Local governments: The cooperation with local government associations (UCLG, ICLEI) has been actively pursued and developed and will be enhanced in the near future.
- Council members: As pointed out above, several members have concretely contributed to the programmes and to communication activities. It should also be mentioned that all three governments above are (or have become) members of the Council.

A majority of the partnerships above are expected to be further developed in the coming three years. New partnerships also need to be initiated, in particular, with other governments and UN institutions.

### 3.3.2. Partnership with the City of Marseilles

A new 3-year agreement was agreed upon with the City and was signed on the occasion of the 23<sup>rd</sup> Board meeting held in Marseilles, in January 2006. According to this new agreement, a 440,000€ grant will be provided every year to the headquarters, in addition to the new facilities and two staff members, namely an administrative and financial director and a financial officer, amounting to a total of 645,680€ of support, in addition to a one-time allocation of 113,710€ for equipment.

Also, in July 2005, the Headquarters moved to new facilities measuring over 700 square meters, located in the heart of the business centre of Marseille. These new facilities, provided as before by the City of Marseilles, allow very good working conditions for the staff.