



# NEWS AND ACTIVITIES

## OCTOBER 2019 – FEBRUARY 2020



WWC Vice-President Asma El Kasmi surrounded by Honorary President Benedito Braga and Governor Jean Lapègue, during the Roundtable on SDG6 - Building a Resilient Future Through Water, COP25, Madrid, 9 December 2019

### ACCELERATING THE WATER AGENDA AT COP25

Addressing water issues is key to adapting to climate change and reducing the negative impacts of water-related disasters and extreme water events. The World Water Council was actively involved in highlighting water's crucial role in achieving and implementing the climate goals of the Paris Agreement at the UN Climate Change Conference in Madrid last December.

Joining forces with key partners, the Council co-organized and supported several events including the Water Action Event “Just Add Water: Solutions for the 2020 NDCs and beyond” co-convened under the Marrakech Partnership for Global Climate Action (MPGCA).

The events explored how to catalyze climate-resilient water management solutions for adaptation, showcased tangible examples of how water can help Parties achieve their climate ambitions, and identified sustainable water management solutions to support the delivery of the 2030 Agenda.

Together with members of the #ClimatelsWater initiative, the Council campaigned for the recognition of water as a game-changer in climate negotiations, promoting messages to help bring climate negotiators on board.

*“The 9<sup>th</sup> World Water Forum will be focused on responses for water”*

Serigne Mbaye Thiam,  
Minister of Water and Sanitation of Senegal,  
30 September 2019



## NON-CONVENTIONAL WATERS FOR FOOD SECURITY



WWC Governors Sasha Koo-Oshima (above) and Mbaruku Vyakweli participated in the Symposium on non conventional waters in Madrid.

The World Water Council was in Madrid on 14-15 November to participate in the International Symposium on the use of Non-conventional waters to achieve food security, co-organized by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the Government of Spain and WASAG. Honorary Governor Hachmi Kennou spoke in the closing on behalf of the Council.

## WATER GOVERNANCE INITIATIVE

On 9-10 January, the Council and its bureau member Rui Godinho participated in the OECD Water Governance Initiative meeting, Paris, which brought together 80 members and partners.



## FINANCING WATER IN ASIA

On 26-27 November, the World Water Council participated in the 5th meeting of the Roundtable on Financing Water in Manila, Philippines, which was hosted by the Asian Development Bank. Around 100 people attended this meeting focused on the Asian region.

WWC Bureau member Qiuchi Shi, from the Ministry of Water Resources of China, gave opening remarks on behalf of the Council. "Now more than ever, it is important to further promote concrete and operational recommendations at all levels, to mobilize more capital towards investment in sustainable water infrastructure, but also to better manage the funds that are available." She reiterated the dedication of the Council to propose solutions for water financing issues.

The Roundtable on Financing Water is a joint initiative of the OECD, the Netherlands, the World Water Council and the World Bank.

## ACTIVE HYDRODIPLOMACY



In Cairo, on 21 October, Loic Fauchon reiterated that the World Water Council wishes to bring "dialogue, always dialogue and again more dialogue" to the discussions between neighboring States on a fair and equitable sharing of common resources. A month later, he was at Chatham House in London making the case for "Water as a vehicle for peace".

During Cairo Water Week in October, Loic Fauchon Engaged in bilateral meetings with President Al Sissi of Egypt and restated publicly the Council's availability for hydrodiplomacy efforts between neighboring States of the river Nile. During the Opening Ceremony in the presence of the Prime Minister of Egypt Mostafa Madbouly, and the Minister of Water Resources and Irrigation of Egypt, Mohamed Abdel Aty, Mr. Fauchon announced the promotion of an International Observatory on Unconventional Water and Energy Resources. He underlined that alternative resources such as desalinated water, as well as reused wastewater are efficient and renewable solutions, which will need to be applied worldwide in response to demographic pressure.

On 18 November, the Royal Institute of International Affairs in London invited Loic Fauchon together with senior policymakers, experts and leading industry figures, to contribute his views on the geopolitics of water and hydrodiplomacy.

## FIRST ANNOUNCEMENT AND CALL FOR CONTRIBUTIONS



December saw two key steps in the Forum organization, starting with the release of the [First Announcement](#). Shortly after, a [call for participation in Action Groups and Consultative Groups](#) was launched.

Under each of the Forum’s four priority areas which are coordinated by a Pilot Group, Action Groups will be established at a more focused objective level. The Action Groups will also draw from a broader Consultative

Group, which can be solicited to react to and comment on different proposals, express interest in being actively involved in various activities, respond to surveys, etc. The call was broadly shared among the Council’s networks to encourage participation worldwide. Deadline for applications is 28 February 2020.

## PROMOTING FORUM’S ROLE IN CATALYZING ACTION

In December, during the COP25 side-event “Action for Adaptation: How We Manage Water for Climate Change Resilience”, Abdou Karim Sall, Minister of Environment and Sustainable Development of Senegal formally invited the audience to the Forum.

Additionally, Forum representatives were present at many international events to promote the Forum’s role in catalyzing action for water on a local and global scale. Dedicated sessions were organized to present Forum progress to participants at Cairo Water week, COP25 and the Non-conventional water use event in Madrid, and the OECD-Poland meeting in Dakar on Water Security.

## THE CATASTROPHIC LONG-TERM EFFECTS OF DROUGHTS

“By protecting the resource we will gradually reduce the impact of the disasters that arise from the lack of water” was the standpoint developed by the World Water Council during the 14<sup>th</sup> meeting of High-level Experts and Leaders Panel on Water and Disasters (HELP) held in Paris in November 2019.

In the presence of the former President of the Republic of Slovenia, Danilo Türk, and the Chair of the HELP, Han Seung-soo, President Loic Fauchon gave a speech on the importance of considering the long-term effects of water scarcity as disasters.



14<sup>th</sup> meeting of High-level Experts and Leaders Panel on Water and Disasters (HELP), Paris, 8 November 2019.

## INTENSIFYING COLLABORATION WITH THE FORUM SECRETARIAT, ISC

Since October, Council Members and HQ staff have traveled to Senegal on two occasions to work with the Forum team, stepping up collaborative work with the Forum secretariat. In January, ISC co-chair Patrick Lavarde and WWC Counselor Guy Fradin met important political stakeholders, such as the Association of Mayors of Senegal, 18 members of the National Assembly, key NGOs, and the Vice-Mayor of Dakar.

The Forum International Steering Committee met on 4 February to talk about progress and upcoming priorities.



Council representatives meet Parliamentarians of the Senegalese National Assembly, 17 January 2020

## LAUNCH OF “DAKAR 2021”

On 16 January, the Forum officially launched one of its most innovative features, the Dakar 2021 Initiative. The initiative is an operation that showcases concrete actions on the ground to accelerate progress, such as building community projects that target access to potable water and decent sanitation.

