



GOVERNO DE  
**BRASÍLIA**



Press release



## Brazil kicks off preparation for 2018 World Water Forum

**Over 700 political leaders, diplomats and experts from nearly 60 countries unite in Brazil to establish new world water agenda**

- World Water Forum to be held for the first time in the southern hemisphere
- Main theme: “SHARING WATER” calling upon responsibilities and cooperation
- New focus on Sustainability

**Brasilia, 27 June 2016 – Official launch of the 8<sup>th</sup> World Water Forum** - More than 700 political leaders, elected officials, diplomats, water experts and operators, researchers and representatives of civil society gather from today to 29 June to identify and prioritize the most pressing water issues, which require to be collectively and globally addressed. Another output of this international collaboration is to define the Forum roadmap “*Road to the 8th Forum*” with the schedule of preparatory events around the world leading up to the event to be held 18-23 March 2018 in Brasília, at the Ulysses Guimarães Convention Center.

With the highest attendance a World Water Forum kickoff ever recorded, including strong political and diplomatic participation, this international collaboration witnesses not only stronger concerns for water but also recognition of shared responsibilities and need for cooperation among nations.

This event marks the beginning of two years of an open multi-stakeholder preparatory process converging towards the 2018 World Water Forum, the largest water event in the world. Its ambition is to catalyze changes in the face of threats as well as opportunities. To deliver high impact, five processes held by: the Political Commission, the Regional Commission, the Thematic Commission, a Sustainability Focus Group and a Citizens Forum - will work to design the global framework of the 8<sup>th</sup> World Water Forum.

*“Water, irreplaceable resource, must be shared between many uses and users, each of whom wants security. We all have a shared responsibility in order to achieve security, sustainability, and resilience tomorrow.”* highlights Benedito Braga, President of the World Water Council and Secretary of State for Sanitation and Water Resources for the State of Sao Paulo, Brazil.

*“Brasilia was born under the sign of the new and when you look at the future, the city needs to remain at the forefront. In this same sign, having the Forum here is a favorable opportunity so that the city reflects on its own needs and capabilities, but also register in an innovative global agenda with the understanding of water management as a safe path to sustainability.”* Rodrigo Rollemberg - Governor of Brasilia.

*“Brazil will have the opportunity to share with the world water community the strength of our institutional framework, with a strong participation of the civil society, due to our decentralized and participative legislation. It is important to emphasize the opportunity that we will have to raise water to a new level, a higher level, calling all stakeholder to discuss water not only as a cross cutting element, but also as a fundamental element for our development”* - Vicente Andreu, Director President of ANA.



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**Sharing Water** is the overarching theme of 8<sup>th</sup> edition of the World Water Forum, organized by the World Water Council together with the Government of Brazil and of Brasilia, conveys the many faces of sharing water: sharing knowledge and experience, sharing transboundary duties, sharing responsibilities, sharing a common vision, sharing best practices, sharing lessons learned, especially when the resource is scarce or overwhelming, when infrastructures are misfit and the investments absent.

### **Sustainability as driving force**

The sustainability Focus Group, cross-cutting the other commissions and the Citizens Forum, and all aspects of the organization – one week event, expo and fair –, is also an innovation of the 8<sup>th</sup> World Water Forum. Building on Brazil's long experience in sustainable development, it is responsible for bringing reflections on several water themes from the different sectors of society (civil, business, government, students, etc.), considering the three pillars of sustainability - social, environmental, economic -, and the principles established by the main international agreements and broadly accepted concepts, including the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals. Its action goal is to contribute to the development and adoption of more sustainable water management models and practices by current and future generations.

### **About the World Water Forum**

The World Water Forum is the largest global gathering on water. It is a multi-stakeholder platform that brings together international stakeholders, including governments, scholars, research institutes, businesses, and civil society, to discuss water issues.

Each triennial World Water Forum is a stepping stone to long-term progress. In order to bring concrete positive change, the World Water Forum aims at:

- Fostering debate by providing a platform for all stakeholders to engage, exchange, learn together, and catalyze concrete ideas for improved water resources management and development;
- Challenging conventional thinking by ensuring a diversity of perspectives and ideas on contemporary and critical water resource management issues; and
- Mobilizing action by policy and decision-makers on commitments for improved water resources management and development.

Founded by the World Water Council, the World Water Forum is co-organized every three years by the Council together with a Host Country.

With the oversight of a joint International Steering Committee, hundreds of organizations and volunteers also contribute to shaping its program. At least three permanent processes guide the three years of collaborative preparation: the Political process, the Regional process and the Thematic process, which provide the priorities and key objectives of each edition. For more information on the outcomes of the previous editions, go to the Forum section of [www.worldwatercouncil.org](http://www.worldwatercouncil.org) [#wwaterforum](https://twitter.com/wwaterforum)

### **About the World Water Council**

The World Water Council is an international multi-stakeholder platform organization, the founder and co-organizer of the World Water Forum. The World Water Council's mission is to mobilize action on critical water issues at all levels, including the highest decision-making level, by engaging people in debate and challenging conventional thinking. The Council focuses on the political dimensions of water security, adaptation, and sustainability, and works to position water at the top of the global political agenda.

Headquartered in Marseille, France, and created in 1996, the World Water Council brings together over 300 member organizations from more than 50 different countries. More on

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### **About the Government of the Federal District of Brasilia**

Brasilia was chosen as the venue for the event because it is the capital of Brazil, headquarters of the Federal Government and the national political and decision-making center. It is also the country's diplomatic center, home to a hundred embassies and various international agencies. UNESCO has declared this modern city to be a World Heritage Site and it is endowed with the logistics conditions, infrastructure, hotel installations and accessibility required by an event of this size. For the capital city of Brazil, this is an opportunity to strengthen its water resource management system and that in itself will constitute an important legacy of the event for the host city.

More on <http://www.worldwaterforum8.org/main/index.php/en/host-city/city-history>

### **About the Federal Republic of Brazil**

Covering an area of 8,514,876 square kilometers, Brazil is the world's 5th largest nation in geographic terms, accounting 20.8% of Americas and 47.7% of South American continent. Brazil also stands out for possessing roughly 12% of the Planet's fresh water and encompassing a number of major river basins. Aside from this vast hydrological potential, the country and its biomes account for the greatest range of biodiversity on the planet.

From an institutional standpoint, Brazil has a comprehensive and representative water-resources management framework, comprised of relevant bodies such as: the National Water Resources Council; State-level Water Resources Councils, the Secretariat of Water Resources and Urban Environment of the Ministry of Environment; the National Water Agency; State-level Management Bodies; Basin Committees and Basin Agencies.

More on <http://www.ana.gov.br>

### **Press contacts**

For more information, photos or interview request on the 8<sup>th</sup> World Water Forum, contact

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## **THE WORLD WATER COUNCIL MAKING WATER A GLOBAL PRIORITY**

The World Water Council is an international multi-stakeholder platform organisation whose mission is to mobilize action on critical water issues at all levels, including the highest decision-making level, by engaging people in debate and challenging conventional thinking. Established in June 1996 in Marseille, France, the World Water Council celebrates its 20th anniversary in 2016.

**The Council focuses on the political dimensions of water security, adaptation, and sustainability.**

### **The World Water Council leads hydropolitics**

The World Water Council works towards increasing the awareness of high-level decision makers on water issues. It seeks to position water at the top of the global political agenda and to produce worldwide policies to help authorities develop and manage water resources, and encourage efficient water use. The Council endeavors to reach the whole political sphere: national governments, parliamentarians and local authorities, as well as United Nations bodies.

### **The World Water Council tackles global challenges**

The World Water Council tackles the many issues facing water security, and seeks to challenge convention and generate new thinking as a force for change. Together with members and other stakeholders, the Council explores areas where it sees the potential to increase the visibility of water. It seeks a more distinctive contribution to global water challenges by forming alternative approaches to emerging issues.

### **The World Water Council co-organise the World Water Forum**

The World Water Council catalyses collective action during and in between each World Water Forum, the world's largest event on water. Organised every three years with a host country, the Forum provides a unique platform where the water community and key decision makers can collaborate and make long-term progress on global water challenges. The Forum brings together participants from all levels and areas, including politics, multilateral institutions, academia, civil society and the private sector.

The World Water Council represents thousands of people from over 300 organizations in more than 50 countries. Together they form a unique network involving different sectors, regions, disciplines and professional fields with wide-ranging expertise and interests. Through collaborative efforts, members commit to advancing the water agenda. Their skills, experience and involvement help solve the complex water-related challenges found all over the world. Members help build the Council's strategy and shape its programs by taking an active part in its various working bodies.

Brought together through five different colleges, members elect, on a triennial basis, 35 representatives to the Board of Governors, which oversees the general operations of the Council.

More information on [www.worldwatercouncil.org](http://www.worldwatercouncil.org)

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## THE 8<sup>TH</sup> WORLD WATER FORUM - SHARING WATER BRASILIA, MARCH 2018

The 8<sup>th</sup> World Water Forum is jointly organized by the World Water Council and the Governments of Brazil and Brasilia. It consists of five collaborative processes:

1. The political commission, which involves local, regional, national and international governing bodies
2. The thematic commission, which works on issues to address
3. The regional commission, in order to involve stakeholders from all continents and regions of the world;
4. The Sustainability Focus Group – an innovation of the 8<sup>th</sup> Forum – a cross-cutting perspective and process to discuss the adherence of public policies and actions to the principles of sustainable development (economic, social and environmental);
5. A Citizens Forum, which stimulates the participation of civil society in the discussions.

Each commission has 8 members, half of whom are nominated by the World Water Council and half by the National Organizing Committee (NC) and each is led by a chair and a co-chair with due deference to observing parity between the National Committee and the WWC.

The World Water Forum organization is overseen by an International Steering Committee (ISC) composed half by WWC members and half by the hosts representatives (NC), and co-chaired by Mr Braga and Mr Rollemberg. *More information on* <http://www.worldwaterforum8.org>

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### **The World Water Forum is the largest global gathering on water**

It is a multi-stakeholder platform that brings together international stakeholders, including governments, scholars, research institutes, businesses, and civil society, to discuss water issues. Each triennial World Water Forum is a stepping stone to long-term progress. Since 1997 the World Water Forum has developed a distinct format to ensure the Forum is a dynamic environment for opinions, debates, exchanges, networking and learning around water-related issues and solutions. It is not just a conference: The World Water Forum is a repeating cycle that includes a three-year preparation phase, a one-week event, and a presentation of the results.

In order to bring concrete positive change, the World Water Forum aims at:

- Fostering debate by providing a platform for all stakeholders to engage, exchange, learn together, and catalyze concrete ideas for improved water resources management and development;
- Challenging conventional thinking by ensuring a diversity of perspectives and ideas on contemporary and critical water resource management issues; and
- Mobilizing action by policy and decision-makers on commitments for improved water resources management and development.

### **A genuine platform of multi-stakeholder dialogues, multi-regional debates and political progress.**

Founded by the World Water Council, the World Water Forum is co-organised every three years by the Council together with a Host Country. With the oversight of a joint International Steering Committee, hundreds of organizations and volunteers also contribute to shaping its program.



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At least three permanent processes guide the three years of collaborative preparation: the Political process, the Regional process and the Thematic process, which provide the priorities and key objectives of each edition. A World Water Expo and Fair also provide a space for all stakeholders to showcase their contribution to water dialogues and solutions. These pillars are also complimented by international water prizes and various events and innovations, such as a Virtual Forum, a Village of Solutions, a learning centre, a youth Forum, a women’s conference, a film festival, art exhibitions, etc.

**The adventure started one year after the creation of the World Water Council and continues serving the cause of water through major achievements**

- 1997 - “Vision for Water, Life and Environment”, Marrakesh, Morocco
- 2000 - “From Vision to Action”, The Hague, The Netherlands
- 2003 - “A Forum with a Difference”, Kyoto-Shiga-Osaka, Japan
- 2006 - “Local Actions for a Global Challenge”, Mexico City, Mexico
- 2009 - “Bridging Divides for Water”, Istanbul, Turkey
- 2012 - “The Time for Solutions”, Marseille, France
- 2015 - “Water for our Future”, Daegu & Gyeongbuk, Republic of Korea

More information on [www.worldwatercouncil.org](http://www.worldwatercouncil.org) / Forum

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