

NEWS AND ACTIVITIES

NOVEMBER 2017–MARCH 2018

Report to the 64th Board of Governors Meeting



Left: World Water Council Honorary President Loïc Fauchon opening Water Day discussions at CoP23, Bonn, 10 November 2017; Right: 1st Preparatory Committee Meeting of the Ministerial Process of the 8th World Water Forum (PrepCom I), UNESCO Headquarters, Paris, 13 December 2017

GLOBAL CLIMATE ACTION WATER DAY AT COP23

To raise political awareness about water in climate change discussions, the World Water Council and its partners actively engaged at CoP23, 8–17 November, Bonn, Germany. In addition to making the voice of water heard with the #ClimateIsWater initiative, and to supporting World Water Council members and their events throughout CoP23, the Council co-coordinated Water Day, which was held on 10 November as part of the non-state actor engagement mechanism of the Marrakech Partnership for Global Climate Action (MPGCA).

The 2017 Water Day sessions focused on exploring the critical linkages between the water and the global climate adaptation, mitigation and finance agendas, knowledge and capacity development, as well as Sustainable Development Goals 2, on Zero Hunger, and 11, on Sustainable Cities and Communities.

Water Day sessions hosted a number of high-level speakers from many different countries, including Honorary President Loïc Fauchon who led the Council's delegation. Highlighting the innovative work that is being done by the Council and its partners, the Council released a summary of the 2nd International Conference on Water and Climate, launched the updated Blue Book and pursued the Water for Africa initiative with the Government of Morocco.

COUNCIL STEPS UP ACTIVITIES IN THE RUN-UP TO THE 8TH FORUM

Since November 2017, the World Water Council has been working relentlessly on final preparations for the 8th World Water Forum, which opens on 17 March 2018 in Brasilia, Brazil. The Council's involvement includes co-convening major events such as preparatory political meetings, preparing multiple high-level panels and ordinary and special focus sessions, as well as delivering a number of key strategic publications related to its programmatic initiatives.



Photo: Valor Econômico

“The Forum is a platform where ideas are discussed. No sector will be more privileged than another.”

Benedito Braga, President, World Water Council



FINANCING WATER INFRASTRUCTURE

The **Roundtable on Financing Water**, established by the World Water Council, the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) and the Netherlands, is convening a **high-level panel** at the 8th Forum, which will engage governments, development finance institutions, private financiers and NGOs. The aim will be to disseminate key messages emerging from the High-Level Panel on Water focusing on valuing and financing water and to chart the way forward.

The Council concluded phase one of its analytical work on financing infrastructure with the release of **Ten Action Points for Financing Water Infrastructure**. The report identifies the barriers to finance flows from non-traditional sources and opportunities for ways forward. Phase two of the programme has been initiated: white papers on the **Typology of Water Infrastructure Projects** and the **Typology of Water Infrastructure Investors** delve deeper into two of the issues identified in phase one. The publications will feed into discussions that will be held during the Forum.



CITIES: AT THE HEART OF GROWTH

To contribute to the collective global effort to deliver on Sustainable Development Goal 6, Water and Sanitation, the Council's Cities Task Force produced a report on **Increasing Financial Flows for Urban Sanitation** together with a **policy brief** and a set of **eight case studies**. Focusing primarily on financing urban sanitation, the report provides insights as to what urban sanitation could look like in 2030 and how it could be financed. It will be disseminated at a dedicated high-level panel at the 8th Forum.

The Cities Task Force has also released a guide, **Start with Water: Putting water on local action agendas to support global change**, which seeks to provide strategies and support to help cities make concrete contributions to global agendas. Presented as a set of eight recommendations and incorporating case studies from around the world, the first-of-its-kind guide will be launched at the International Conference of Local and Regional Authorities for Water, 20–21 March.

WATER AND CLIMATE CHANGE

In advance of the 8th Forum, the Council has been preparing for the **High-Level Panel on Bridging Water and Climate**, which will bring together government representatives and the water and climate communities to work towards an integrated platform for addressing climate and water challenges at global, national and project scales. The debate will deliver a joint message that can be carried into UNFCCC negotiations processes.



Photo: Razon Rosemarie

#ClimatelsWater network is growing

As a result of a very productive 2017, #ClimatelsWater gained more than 20 new members, reaching a total membership of 67.

ENHANCING BI-LATERAL COOPERATION

As part of continuing efforts to enhance **bi-lateral cooperation** inside and outside the 'water box', in November 2017 World Water Council President Benedito Braga travelled to Argentina and Portugal to meet with a number of high-level decision makers. Among others, he met with João Pedro Matos Fernandes, the Portuguese Minister for the Environment; Nelson Geada, President of the Managing Council and General Assembly of the Portuguese Association of Water and Wastewater Services (APDA); Rui Godinho, President of the Organizing Committee of the National Meeting of Water and Sanitation Management Entities (ENEG 2017); and Kenzo Hiroki, Coordinator of the High-Level Experts and Leaders Panel on Water and Disasters.



President Benedito Braga speaks at the International Water Association (IWA) Water and Development Congress, Buenos Aires, Argentina, 16 November 2017

HIGHLIGHTING THE CRUCIAL IMPORTANCE OF WATER IN GLOBAL DEVELOPMENT

In January, Honorary President Loïc Fauchon gave a speech at the opening of the **annual convention** of Mexico's National Association of Water and Wastewater Companies (ANEAS). He highlighted the crucial importance of water as a cornerstone for resolving worldwide crises and called upon the water community to commit to action by participating in the 8th Forum. Mr Fauchon also spoke at the **African Water Association 2018 Congress**, which was held in Bamako in February, where he met with the President of Mali Ibrahim Boubacar Keïta.



Honorary President Loïc Fauchon delivers opening remarks at the 19th African Water Association Congress, Bamako, Mali, 12 February 2018

INTEGRATING WORLD WATER FORUMS

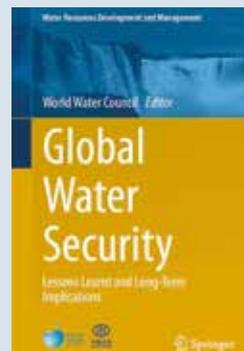
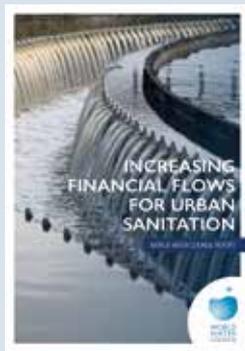
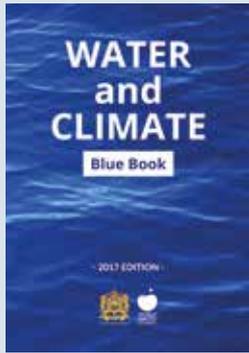
The World Water Council, Korea Water Forum and the Ministry of Land, Transport and Infrastructure of the Republic of Korea (MoLIT) have delivered the **Implementation Roadmaps final report**, which assesses progress that has been made by the water community on the challenges identified at the 7th World Water Forum. The report will be presented at a special session, **From the 7th to the 8th World Water Forum: Three years of implementation roadmaps**, where the Daegu-Gyeongbuk Implementation Commitment (DGIC) Champions and Core Groups will share Implementation Roadmaps achievements and lessons learnt in the last three years (2015–2018). The report will seek to contribute to the upcoming High-Level Political Forum and the review of Sustainable Development Goal 6, Water and Sanitation.

KEY POLITICAL ACTORS

In February, the World Water Council participated in the **UN-Water** annual meeting in Rome to present the latest progress on the organization of the 8th Forum. The Council has been providing valuable input to the 8th World Water Forum **Parliamentarian Conference** to be held on 20 March, which aims to bring together parliamentarians from around the globe.

Work on the report, **Right to Human Water and Sanitation**, has been initiated. The Council is also preparing to participate in the High-Level Political Forum in New York in July.

OUT NOW



INTEGRATED WATER RESOURCES MANAGEMENT (IWRM)

Building on the achievements of past decades, the IWRM Task Force has tailored key new and updated political messages to trigger the revitalization of IWRM. The messages will galvanize the political support required for action on Sustainable Development Goal 6, Water and Sanitation, and other water-related targets. The forward-looking **challenge paper** will support discussions at the **High-Level Panel on Revitalizing IWRM for the 2030 Agenda**, on 20 March.

GLOBAL WATER SECURITY

As part of a joint program on water security, the Council and the Chinese Ministry of Water Resources have released the book, **Global Water Security: Lessons Learnt and Long-Term Implications**. Taking lessons from ten case studies, the book and its accompanying **policy brief** propose innovative policies for bringing all water users on board to reach and sustain water security. The book will be launched in a **special session** at the 8th World Water Forum.

MEMBER-LED INITIATIVES

K-water (the Korea Water Resources Corporation) and the International Water Resources Association (IWRA) will present the work of the **SMART Water Management** initiative at the 8th World Water Forum. Likewise, the **World Water System Heritage Programme**, led by the International Commission on Irrigation and Drainage (ICID) and its partners, will be recognizing three structures that qualify as valuable examples of intangible water heritage during an event in the Council Pavilion on the Forum Opening Day. Finally, after a series of consultations and webinars, the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and its partners will launch a white paper supported by a number of case studies during the session on **Water Accounting for Agriculture** at the 8th Forum.

YOUTH DELEGATES

In addition to actively contributing to the Youth Forum which will take place 17–18 March, the Council's **youth delegates** have developed the programme for satellite events in partnership with youth-led networks and organizations around the world. The programme will facilitate a coordinated youth contribution to the 8th Forum and give youth a stronger, more unified voice.

THE 8TH WORLD WATER FORUM IS HERE!

In the last few months, the organization of the 8th World Water Forum has made great strides. In February, the programme was finalized and, as of 1 February, includes 174 Ordinary Sessions, 53 Special Focus Sessions and 18 High-Level Panels. All registration platforms were launched by the end of 2017 or early in 2018 and communications efforts increased dramatically across all channels.

MOBILIZING MINISTERIAL INVOLVEMENT

Ministerial delegations were convened by the Brazilian Government 13–14 December at the UNESCO Headquarters in Paris. The **1st Preparatory Committee Meeting of the Ministerial Process of the 8th World Water Forum (PrepCom I)** initiated discussions. The discussions were pursued in February at **PrepCom II** and will be concluded during the Ministerial Conference at the 8th World Water Forum. The process helped produce a meaningful Ministerial Declaration and created opportunities for political decision-makers to interact on important water issues.

BUILDING THE COMMITMENT OF LOCAL AUTHORITIES

The **International Conference of Local and Regional Authorities** is set to bring together hundreds of locally elected officials from around the globe. Since the last Board meeting, the Council has been working tirelessly with its partners to prepare for the event.

A **pre-conference** meeting was organized in Brasilia on 22 November and was followed by a second preparatory meeting in Hangzhou, China on 8 December. Two more working sessions were held 8–9 February at the 9th World Urban Forum in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.



Local and Regional Authorities partners meet at the 9th World Urban Forum, Kuala Lumpur, 9 February 2018

LAST PREPARATORY MEETINGS

The Thematic Commission convened a **preparatory meeting** with the Theme Coordination Groups and the Regional Process Commission in Lisbon, 7–9 February 2018. The meeting covered all issues related to Thematic Sessions and Forum planning, including the process for generating thematic conclusions and outcomes, and coordinating with other processes.

At the **3rd Mediterranean Water Forum**, Cairo, Egypt, 22–24 January 2018, the Council helped to formalize Mediterranean participation in the 8th Forum and to formulate a message to present to the international water community.

The World Water Council was represented by Torkil Jønych Clausen, co-Chair of the thematic process at the **3rd Asia-Pacific Water Summit (APWS)**, 11–12 December 2017 in Myanmar, co-organized by the Asia-Pacific Water Forum (APWF), one of the regional coordinators of the 8th Forum's Asia-Pacific process.

In December 2017, Council member the Global Institute for Water Environment and Health (GIWEH) participated in the **4th Arab Water Forum** as a representative of the Citizens' Process. GIWEH presented the 8th World Water Forum and activities related to the Citizens' Process, including the Film Festival and the Citizens' Village.

The World Water Council, together with the National Water Agency of Brazil (ANA), attended the **10th OECD Water Governance Initiative Meeting** in Vienna, 20–21 November 2017, to present progress on preparations for the 8th World Water Forum. The meeting was an opportunity to inform participants of the preliminary structure of the Forum week, with a particular focus on the Governance Theme sessions.

EARLY WORK STARTS ON THE 9TH FORUM

Following a number of exchanges with Senegal, a Council working group has been set up to define the preparatory process for the next Forum more explicitly, given a desired change in approach. The aim is to establish a clear understanding of both parties' points of view, to enhance convergence and to further develop the 9th World Water Forum.

The 3rd Negotiation Meeting with representatives of the Senegalese 9th World Water Forum Committee and the World Water Council negotiation team was held 4–5 December 2017 at the Council Secretariat in Marseille.



Thematic Process Commission Meeting, Lisbon, 7–9 February 2018

COUNCIL INTENSIFIES PRESS RELATIONS



President Braga speaking to journalists at the National Meeting of Water Utilities (ENEG), Portugal, 21–23 November 2017

The World Water Council has been intensifying its global outreach to the press to galvanize interest in its activities and draw international media attention to the World Water Forum. In January, the Council organized a joint roundtable debate with the press and representatives from the European Commission in Brussels and welcomed a group of Brazilian journalists to its headquarters in Marseille. Two webinars discussed the importance of raising awareness on water-related issues in Asia and the United States.

Since the 63rd Board of Governors meeting, the Council has issued eight press releases on a number of topics, such as the Local and Regional Authorities (LRA) partnership, as well as on global events CoP23 (November) and the Asia-Pacific Water Summit (December). Since February, the Council has been releasing a press announcement each week to publicize Forum-related activities and new publications. These efforts, together with many interviews with Council spokespersons, have resulted in 586 articles in major media such as the Huffington Post, Radio Televisión Española (RTVE), Le Monde and The Times of India.

COUNCIL ANNOUNCES KYOTO WORLD WATER GRAND PRIZE WINNER

Organized in cooperation with the Japan Water Forum, the Kyoto World Water Grand Prize rewards the best water-related initiative carried out by a grass-roots organization in a developing country. This year, the USD18,000 prize has been awarded to Charité Chrétienne pour Personnes en Détresse (CCPD) of Togo. The prize will be presented during a special ceremony at the conclusion of the 8th World Water Forum.

HASSAN II PRIZE JURY CHOOSES ITS LAUREATE

The Jury of the 6th edition of the prestigious Hassan II Great World Water Prize met in January in Rabat, Morocco, to select their laureate(s). The laureate(s) will be announced at the 8th World Water Forum. The prize rewards outstanding achievements in managing and developing water resources.

MEDIA STATISTICS

8 press releases, including videos and infographics

586 online articles including in:

- Thomson Reuters
- Agence France Presse (AFP)
- Deutsche Welle TV
- Huffington Post
- RTVE (Radio Televisión Española)
- Le Monde
- News24
- The Times of India

22 interviews with World Water Council spokespeople on radio, TV and in print media worldwide

4 TV news pieces and interviews with President Braga

2 radio news pieces with President Braga

Multiple op-eds by President Braga

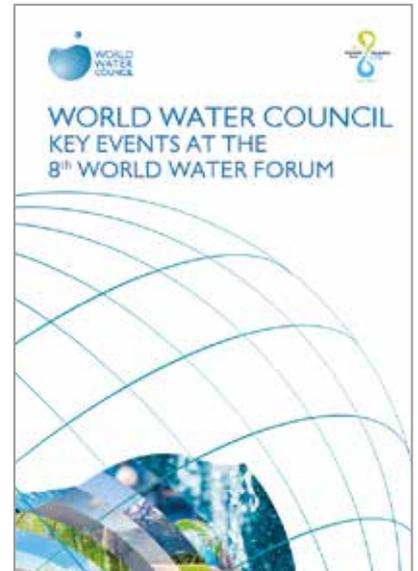
2 media webinars involving Asia and UK/US with Kanupriya Harish and Karin Krchnak

1 media workshop with European journalists in Brussels with Guy Fradin

1 meeting with Brazilian journalists in Marseille with Hachmi Kennou

BUILDING INTEREST IN THE FORUM

To galvanize interest and attract potential members during the Forum and beyond, the Council has developed a new brochure and video. These present its long-standing achievements and commitment to putting water at the top of the international agenda. The brochure and video will be on display in the Council's 114 square metre pavilion, booth No E04A in the Forum EXPO. The booth will also stage task force events to promote the Council's activities, as well as partner and press gatherings to encourage exchanges through creative and festive activities.



World Water Council programme, membership brochure and booth design for the 8th World Water Forum



World Water Council video

MEMBERS UPDATE

MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS

297

COLLEGE DISTRIBUTION

- 5% Intergovernmental institutions
- 22% Governments and government authorities
- 26% Enterprises and facilities
- 17% Civil society organizations and water user associations
- 31% Professional associations and academic institutions

GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION

10%	Africa	23%	Europe
18%	Americas	9%	International
38%	Asia	1%	Oceania

* Membership figures as of 19 February 2018.



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