

NEWS AND ACTIVITIES

NOVEMBER 2018 - MARCH 2019

Report to the 68th Board of Governors Meeting



Loic Fauchon, President of the World Water Council, and Angel Gurría, Secretary-General of the OECD, announce the new collaboration together with OECD partners, OECD Headquarters, Paris, 22 March 2019. Photo: OECD.

OECD AND WWC LAUNCH JOINT PROGRAM ON WATER SECURITY IN AFRICA

The Organisation of Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) and the World Water Council announced a new partnership in cooperation with the Kingdom of Morocco and the Republic of Senegal that aims to advise local and national governments on how to design and implement improved policies to help drive water security in Africa.

The partnership stems from the 6th King Hassan II Great World Water Prize, which was awarded to OECD during the 8th World Water Forum in March 2018 for “Working towards greater solidarity and inclusion in order to ensure water security and climate justice”.

The two-year program - launched on 22 March to coincide with World Water Day - will build on a long-standing partnership to produce new data, analysis and policy recommendations on water governance, financing and irrigation for African decision-makers to ultimately address the increasing pressure on water resources due to population growth, urbanization and climate change. The program will also support the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals through national and regional assessments of water policy reforms and capacity-building workshops.

Findings will be released at the 9th World Water Forum, to be held in Dakar, Senegal in 2021.

“No country today can ignore that water security is essential for sustainable development.”

Loic Fauchon,
President,
World Water Council





“Water-wise climate solutions to mitigate, adapt and thrive” event at COP24, Katowice, Poland, 7 December 2018. Photo: WWC

MAINTAINING MOMENTUM FOR WATER AT COP24

From 3-14 December, in Katowice, Poland, the World Water Council and key partners, including many #ClimatelsWater members, engaged actively in the United Nations Climate Change Conference (CoP24) to enhance and recognize the essential role of water in achieving the climate goals of the Paris Agreement.

The dedicated event “Water-wise climate solutions to mitigate, adapt and thrive” was held on 7 December under the Marrakech Partnership for Global Climate Action (MPGCA) non-Party Stakeholder framework, and gathered many organizations from both inside and outside the water sector.

President Loic Fauchon reaffirmed the Council’s strong support and engagement in making water a priority in the climate debate.

In addition to the Water Event, the Council co-organized other side-events with key partners including SIWI, AGWA, and UN-Water. The Council launched its newest report “Investing in Water Infrastructure for Climate Adaptation”, co-authored with Global Water Partnership.

WORLD BANK WATER WEEK

The Council participated in the World Bank’s Water Week from 2-4 April in Washington, DC, exchanging with over 500 water sector leaders and practitioners from across the world on advancing the water SDGs. President Fauchon had the opportunity to present the Council’s work and perspectives on shaping the Global Water Agenda. A breakfast meeting with Council members in the US was also held, as well as many other informal exchanges with influential organizations.

WATER AND DISASTERS

Early March, members of the Council Secretariat met with Kenzo Hiroki, the coordinator for the High-Level Experts and Leaders Panel on Water and Disasters (HELP) to discuss the Council’s involvement in the panel. The Council is currently participating in workshops driven by the OECD and the Dutch Government to develop the HELP Principles on Investment and Financing. These principles will be presented at the 4th UNGA Special Thematic Session on Water and Disasters on 22 June 2019.

FIRST WASAG FORUM

From 19 to 22 March, Cabo Verde, its prime minister, members of cabinet and national parliament welcomed 200 participants from around the world to Praia for the 1st WASAG International Forum on Water Scarcity in Agriculture. The Forum was supported by the Council, FAO, IFAD, and the Governments of Italy and Switzerland, and included a celebration of World Water Day.

Discussions addressed challenges related WASAG’s six working areas: Water and Migration; Drought preparedness; Water and nutrition; Financial mechanisms; Sustainable agricultural water use; and Saline agriculture. The exchanges gave rise to the [Praia Commitment](#), a document that stresses the need to share learning and work together across silos to improve global food and water security.



The Prime Minister of Cabo Verde Ulisses Correia e Silva at the WASAG Forum, Praia, Cabo Verde, 20 March 2019

3ICWC WORKSHOP

The Council and key partners have confirmed that a workshop contributing to the 3rd International Conference on Water and Climate (3ICWC) will tentatively be held in Bonn on 13 June. The event will aim to increase global ambitions in putting water at the center of climate action and foster debate by bridging the outcomes of CoP24 with CoP25 in view of the implementation of the Paris Agreement.

MEETING IN DAKAR

On 4-5 February, the 9th World Water Forum partners held a meeting in Dakar to discuss various aspects of the two-year preparatory process.

Patrick Lavarde and Abdoulaye Sene, Co-Chairs of the Forum International Steering Committee (ISC), will lead the preparation in conjunction with the Working Groups for each of the Forum Priorities.

The participants also evoked the preparation of the Forum Kick-Off meeting, agreeing that it will tentatively be held in the new city of Diamniadio on 20 and 21 June 2019. The meeting provided a solid basis for further cooperation on subjects such as the establishment of the 9th Forum Secretariat, the website and the communications strategy.

On 20 March, the Council and its Senegalese partners co-organized a side-event at the WASAG Forum in Praia to engage West African nations in the preparation of the 9th Forum. It was attended by the Ambassador of Senegal to Cabo Verde. In particular, the organizers called for contributions related to the Forum's priority on rural development.

TENTH FORUM DEADLINE EXTENSION

The Council extended its call for initial expressions of interest to host the 10th World Water Forum in March 2024. Countries now have until 1 June 2019 to send their official letters to the Council secretariat in Marseille.

BILATERAL MEETINGS WITH BRAZILIAN, AZERBAIJANI AND EGYPTIAN REPRESENTATIVES

Since the beginning of 2019, the World Water Council has received a number of high-level political visits.

On 24 January 2019, Antonio Benjamin, Justice of the National High Court of Brazil and coordinator of the 8th World Water Forum's Judges and Prosecutors Process, visited the Council secretariat to discuss future collaboration in the perspective of the 2020 IUCN World Conservation Congress in Marseille and the 9th World Water Forum.

In addition, President Fauchon received representatives from the Embassy of Azerbaijan in Paris on 28 February and the Consul General of Egypt in Marseille on 11 March.

Late February, the President also met Maria Donoso, Director of UNESCO's Division of Water Sciences, to discuss future paths of collaboration on the way to the 9th Forum.

NEWS IN SHORT

Roundtable on Financing Water

On 12 December, the Council met with the OECD and the Ministry of Infrastructure and Water Management of the Netherlands to take stock of the work achieved to date and discuss future actions. In follow-up to the meeting, a letter of invitation was extended to World Bank to join as partner of the Roundtable. The Roundtable's next meeting is scheduled to be held in Washington, USA, in June.

Stockholm Seminar on Financing

On 5-6 March, the Council attended a co-conveners meeting, hosted by SIWI in Stockholm, to prepare the seminar on Financing for the upcoming World Water Week. In addition to the day-long seminar the Council will also be co-organizing a session on Blended Finance.

UN Water meeting in Rome

On 31 January and 1 February, the Council attended the 30th UN Water Meeting in Rome, which gathered over 50 delegates from UN Water members and partners. Participants discussed how to coordinate efforts to contribute to upcoming global awareness-raising and high-level events, including the 2019 meeting of the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF).



African Water Association

President Loic Fauchon participated in the 81st African Water Association's Scientific and Technical Council meeting held in Rabat on 1-5 April. The meeting was organized under the theme "Financing, Cooperation and Capacity Building, Levers for Improving Access to Drinking Water and Sanitation Services in Africa" and gave Council the opportunity to present strategic objectives for the mobilization of African stakeholders and resources on the way to the 9th Forum.

CAMPAIGN ON FINANCING AROUND WEF

Released in January, WEF's annual Risks Report reveals a global failure to adapt to climate change and points at an infrastructure gap of US\$18 trillion affecting both emerging and advanced countries. The Council responded with a dedicated campaign during the WEF annual meeting to publicize its most recent work on financing, including its latest publications which eloquently address WEF's findings. The campaign included strong messages and broad dissemination of the publications through its digital channels.



WORLD WATER DAY CELEBRATIONS



The Council engaged in multiple outreach activities to ensure a solid presence and strong visibility throughout the annual celebrations on and around World Water Day. On 22 March, French newspapers published dedicated OpEds and President Fauchon was interviewed by national radio channels. The efforts were rewarded with four printed articles and a radio interview. A newspaper advertisement was printed to raise awareness on this year's UN theme 'Leaving no one behind' targeting local audiences in Marseille.

LATEST COMMUNICATIONS FIGURES

PRESS

11 press articles and OpEds (online and web)
1 radio interview

SOCIAL MEDIA

6,559 followers (+685)
 5,107 followers (+601)
 1,672 followers (+14)
 158 subscribed (+8)

WEBSITE

33k visitors
(1 December - 26 March)

MEMBERS UPDATE

MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS

377

GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION

12%	Africa	20%	Europe
15%	Americas	7%	International
45%	Asia	1%	Oceania

COLLEGE DISTRIBUTION

4%	Intergovernmental organizations
21%	Governments and government promoted organizations
23%	Commercial organizations
21%	Civil society organizations
31%	Professional and academic organizations

All data as of 26 March 2019



WORLD WATER COUNCIL

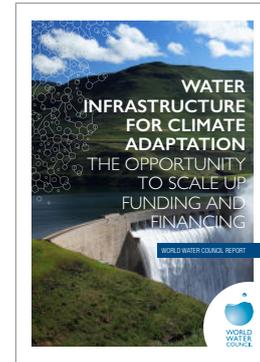
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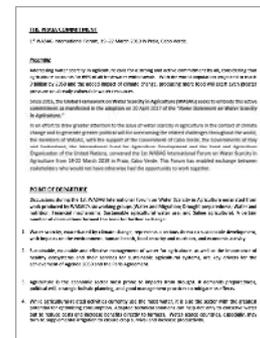
OUT NOW



Water Infrastructure for Climate Adaptation: The Opportunity to Scale Up Funding and Financing. Report



The Governance and Economics of Water Security for Sustainable Development in Africa. Brochure



Praia Commitment



President Loïc Fauchon presents the priorities for the new mandate. Video



Water event at Cop24, Katowice, Poland. Video