

ACTIVITY REPORT 2023





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1. EDITO

A Watershed Year for Global Water Governance

As we reflect on the events of the past year, it is with great pride and optimism that I address the global community on behalf of the World Water Council. In 2023, we witnessed a remarkable resurgence of attention and action towards one of our most precious resources: water.

At the heart of this resurgence lies the tireless efforts of the World Water Council and its members to elevate water to the forefront of political and international agendas. Through our collective advocacy and dedication, we have worked diligently to bring the voice of water, emphasizing its critical role in every aspect of human life and the environment.

In particular, our focus on three pillars—Water for Food, Water for Human and Nature, and Financing Water—has guided our actions and initiatives throughout the year. We have engaged with stakeholders across sectors to promote sustainable water management practices, ensuring equitable access to water for all, and safeguarding our ecosystems for future generations.

In 2023, our endeavors reached a pivotal moment with the UN Water Conference in New York, marking the resurgence of water on the international stage. This landmark event provided a platform for dialogue, collaboration, and concrete commitments to address the pressing water challenges facing our planet.

Understanding the urgent need for collective action, the United Nations recognized the role of the World Water Council and officially marked the 10th World Water Forum as a milestone towards the achievement of SDG 6.

Throughout the year, the World Water Council played a central role in shaping the discourse and driving meaningful change. From advocating for innovative water solutions to fostering partnerships for capacity-building and knowledge exchange, we remained steadfast in our commitment to advancing water security and resilience worldwide.

As we look ahead, let us build upon the momentum of 2023 and redouble our efforts to address the complex water challenges confronting our world. Let us continue to inform, educate, and empower communities on water issues and solutions, inspiring collective action for a water-secure future.

I extend my deepest gratitude to the members of the World Water Council and our partners for their unwavering dedication and support. Together, let us keep the good work, ensuring that water remains at the center of the political and international agenda, and forging a more sustainable and prosperous future for all.



Loïc Fauchon
Président, World Water Council



2. THE WORLD WATER COUNCIL

WHO WE ARE ?

In 2023, the World Water Council achieved a significant milestone with its support to the organization of the 2023 UN Water Conference, marking a pivotal moment in advocating for the central importance of Water on the global agenda. For more than 25 years, the World Water Council has served as a distinguished advocate for water. As an international multistakeholder platform, it has brought together expertise from diverse sectors, regions, disciplines, and professional fields to address critical water issues at all levels, including the highest decision-making echelons. This mobilization has steadily gained momentum, amplifying recognition for Water worldwide.

Established as an independent, impartial, and not-for-profit organization headquartered in Marseille, France, the World Water Council represents over 250 member organizations across 54 countries. These members actively contribute to shaping the World Water Council's strategy and programs, participating in various working bodies. Through collaborative efforts, members commit to advancing the water agenda, dedicating their skills, experience, and time to address complex water challenges globally.

Guided by a unified strategic vision, the World Water Council operates through 3 levels of governance and Task Forces.



The General Assembly, comprising all Council members, approves annual financial accounts and budgets. Every three years, it endorses the World Water Council's strategy and work program. Each active member organization holds voting rights for electing the Board of Governors.

The Board of Governors, reflecting a balanced representation of stakeholders, oversees the World Water Council's mission, values, and activities. They ensure proper budget utilization and program implementation. Thirty-five Governors are distributed proportionally across the World Water Council's five colleges based on the number of active members.

The Bureau, led by the President and five other Board members, is tasked with executing decisions made by the Board of Governors and the General Assembly.

Task Forces of the World Water Council, composed of diverse members, focus on key thematic issues, producing materials to inform and guide decision-making in the water community. Through debate and innovative thinking, they offer solutions to challenges, actively contributing to international events to advance the water agenda.



GENERAL ASSEMBLY | 247 Member Organizations

BOARD OF GOVERNORS | 36 Organizations

COLLEGE 1
Inter-governmental
organizations
(4 Governors)

COLLEGE 2
Government and
government promoted
organizations
(11 Governors)

COLLEGE 3
Commercial
organizations
(6 Governors)

COLLEGE 4
Civil society
organizations
(5 Governors)

COLLEGE 5
Professional
and academic
organizations
(10 Governors)

BUREAU

PRESIDENT : Loïc Fauchon, Société des Eaux de Marseille, FRANCE

VICE-PRESIDENT : Eric Tardieu, Organisation International de l'Eau, FRANCE

Treasurer :
Irfan Aker, Dolsar,
Turkiye

Andrea Erickson, The
Nature Conservancy,
United States of
America

Jin Hai, International
Economic & Technical
Cooperation and
Exchange Center,
China

Asma Al Kasbi, Office
National de l'Electricité
et de l'Eau, Morocco

TASK FORCES

Water Security and Resilience

Water for Humans and Nature

Financing Water

Water Quality and Health

Observatory on
Non-Conventional Water
Resources and Associated
Renewable Energies

WHAT WE DO ?

• GATHER THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY

The first mission of the World Water Council is to bring together the international community to convince decision-makers that water is a political priority for the sustainable and equitable development of the planet.

The World Water Council aims to mobilize political actors at all levels to guarantee the right of access to water and sanitation for all and to promote hydro-diplomacy in order to contribute to peace and in resolving water-related conflicts around the world.



To do this, the World Water Council seeks to:

- Advocate for access to water and sanitation as a basic human right.
- Support water as a key political priority for Humans and for Nature.
- Foster an open dialogue and hydrodiplomacy.
- Embrace discussions with all stakeholders, appreciating diverse perspectives.
- Promote innovative and concrete act Advocate for access to water and sanitation as a basic human right.
- Support water as a key political priority for Humans and for Nature.
- Foster an open dialogue and hydrodiplomacy.
- Embrace discussions with all stakeholders, appreciating diverse perspectives.
- Promote innovative and concrete actions for water and sanitation.
- Behave ethically, with respect, and integrity.
- Operate transparently.
- Behave ethically, with respect, and integrity.
- Operate transparently.

• PROMOTE POLITICAL ACTION, ADVOCACY AND HYDRO-DIPLOMACY

To achieve water security in the face of population growth and climate crises, all stakeholders must work together to increase water supply while promoting water savings. The World Water Council therefore strongly encourages its members to develop innovative approaches, concrete solutions, and responses on the ground, by improving knowledge, finance and governance.

Comprehensive and equitable water management is vital for human beings as well as for nature, including ecosystems and biodiversity.

By encouraging innovations in water management, such as the use of unconventional water resources, water-saving measures and nature-based solutions, the World Water Council seeks to contribute to make water security an achievable goal.

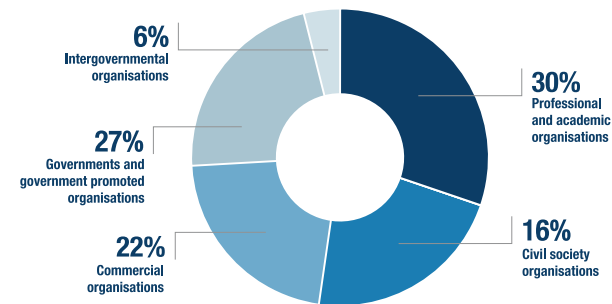
• ORGANIZE THE WORLD WATER FORUM

Every 3 years, the World Water Council organizes the World Water Forum with a host country and city. With this international event, the World Water Council aims to catalyze collective action for water and achieve concrete results on the ground.



3. MEMBERSHIP

College Distribution

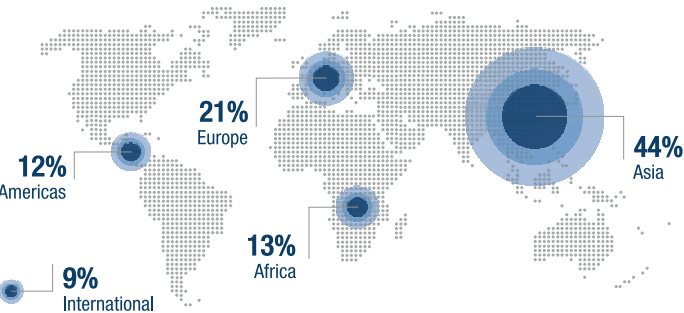


As of 31 December 2023, the World Water Council boasted 257 member organizations from 54 countries globally. Each member contributes unique experiences and unwavering commitment, forming the core of the World Water Council’s strength. This diverse membership, spanning sectors, regions, and disciplines, represents the Council’s greatest asset, vital for its governance and pursuits. All members share equal rights, benefits, and voting power in strategic decisions.

257

Member Organisations in 54 countries

Geographic Distribution



Membership is determined as of 31 December 2023



4. 2023 HIGHLIGHTS

Elevating Water: The World Water Council's Global Advocacy Efforts in 2023

In 2023, the World Water Council, represented by its dedicated members and President, actively engaged in numerous global events, seminars, and conferences. Their collective efforts aimed to elevate water to its rightful place, advocating passionately for its cause. Through participation in various platforms worldwide, they tirelessly worked to center water at the heart of political and international agendas, emphasizing its critical importance for the well-being of humanity and the planet.

Some highlights of the year:

MARCH

UN Water Conference 2023,
New-York, USA.

In New York, the UN Water Conference concluded with 6,500 delegates from 185 countries. Views on outcomes varied, reflecting differing priorities. The World Water Council actively engaged in over 15 events, advocating for key issues like local governance, basin management, and disaster response. Emphasized the political nature of water challenges, highlighting the upcoming 10th World Water Forum in Bali.



MAY

2023 Water for Food Global Conference,
Lincoln, Nebraska, USA.

The World Water Council and its President emphasized Water as vital for food. At the 10th Water for Food Global Conference, experts gathered to discuss innovative strategies for enhancing water and food security. The event, milestone to the 10th World Water Forum, united participants from over 27 countries to explore solutions for sustainable agriculture and water management.



JULY

3rd International Conference on Water and Climate,
“Basin management, key to adaptation and achieving
the Sustainable Development Goals”,
Fez, Morocco.

Fez, Morocco hosted the 3rd International Conference on Water and Climate (ICWC) with over 500 global participants. Organized by the World Water Council, Moroccan Ministry of Equipment and Water, and International Network for Basin Organizations, it addressed water management challenges amidst climate change. Discussions emphasized the need for innovation and knowledge-sharing.



SEPTEMBER

18th World Water Congress,
Beijing, China.

The XVIII World Water Congress was held in Beijing, China, from September 11 to 15, 2023. Themed “Water for All: Harmony between Humans and Nature,” it aimed to promote coordination between human and environmental water needs. The Congress featured four major events co-organized by the World Water Council, including the 3rd high level seminar on water security, special sessions, and the launch of the report “Opening-Up Integrated Water Resource Management: to Include Energy, Food, Health and Education”.





OCTOBER

Euro-RIOB 2023 and kick-off of the 5th Mediterranean Water Forum, Valencia, Spain.

The year 2023 marks the 20th anniversary of the Euro-RIOB international conferences for EU water directives implementation. Hosted by the Júcar River Basin Hydrographic Confederation in Valencia, Spain, it gathered stakeholders from EU member states, water administrations, and basin organizations. World Water Council members actively participated in discussions and workshops.

The World Water Council's participation in the kick-off of the 5th Mediterranean Water Forum organized by the Mediterranean Water Institute underscores global commitment to addressing water challenges in the Mediterranean region.



NOVEMBER

6th Cairo Water Week, Cairo, Egypt.

The sixth edition of the Cairo Water Week (CWW), organized by the Egyptian Ministry of Water Resources and Irrigation, saw active participation from World Water Council members, marking a pivotal moment in preparations for the 10th World Water Forum. CWW serves as a vital platform for professional exchange, promoting collaboration and progress in water management.



DECEMBER

9th World Water Cities Forum, Daegu, Korea.

A World Water Council delegation actively participated in the 9th World Water Cities Forum (WWCF) hosted by Daegu Metropolitan City, centered on cooperation and innovation among global water cities. Discussions focused on climate response, smart water management, and city-to-city learning, fostering collaboration and knowledge exchange. Memorable highlights included signing MoUs for future water projects.

5. ON THE ROAD TO 10th WORLD WATER FORUM

In 2023, preparatory phase and processes for the 10th World Water Forum gained momentum as stakeholders convened twice, in February and October. These gatherings aimed to organize and build the 10th World Water Forum, initiating discussions crucial for its success in May 2024. Three key preparatory processes—thematic, regional, and political—were established to address various aspects of water management.

The World Water Council and its members played a pivotal role, leading these processes with active engagement and leadership. As the world faced pressing water challenges, these preparatory efforts were instrumental in shaping the agenda, fostering collaboration, and ensuring the 10th World Water Forum's effectiveness in addressing global water issues.

SETTING THE STAGE

The Kick-off Meeting of the 10th World Water Forum

The kick-off meeting of the 10th World Water Forum, held on February 15 and 16, 2023, in Jakarta, Indonesia, marked the beginning of preparations for the upcoming forum in Bali, scheduled for May 18 to 24, 2024. This crucial gathering convened stakeholders from 26 nationalities, including countries, ministries, universities, and public and private companies, totaling 1400 participants.

Loïc Fauchon awarded Indonesia the title of “International Water Country” until the Bali 2024 Forum. The kick-off meeting laid the groundwork for a successful and impactful 10th World Water Forum, highlighting the collective determination to address water challenges to achieve shared prosperity.



ADVANCING PREPARATIONS

Insights from the 2nd Stakeholder Consultation Meeting of the 10th World Water Forum

The 2nd Stakeholder Consultation Meeting of the 10th World Water Forum, held on October 12–13, 2023, in Bali, Indonesia, gathered 1,094 stakeholders from 73 countries. Discussions focused on developing Forum Processes, including the Political, Regional, Thematic, and Youth Processes.

The Political Process aimed at developing a concept and roadmap, with participants emphasizing strong political commitments. Regional Process breakout sessions addressed regional water challenges and priorities, while stakeholders committed to signing Letters of Intent with Forum co-hosts. Thematic Process working groups finalized sub-themes, topics, and session topics for the Forum, promoting cross-cutting priorities.

The Bali Youth Plan took shape during the meeting, with a dedicated working group discussing objectives, milestones, and activities for youth participation in the Forum. Youth engagement was emphasized across thematic, regional, and political processes, with efforts to ensure geographical balance in participation.

Overall, the meeting successfully advanced preparations for the 10th World Water Forum, with stakeholders collaborating to develop agreements and proposals to be finalized at the Forum in May 2024.



6. DELIVERING ON OUR PROGRAMMES

For the first time, the World Water Forum is taking place in the middle of a mandate. In this context, the World Water Council adopted in 2023 a comprehensive strategy aimed at aligning the Task Forces with the World Water Forum's Thematic framework. Driven by a shared vision for effective collaboration and impact, this strategy has resulted in the alignment of the Task Forces and the Thematic Process Sub-themes as follows:

TASK FORCES	SUB-THEMES
Water Security and Resilience	Water Security and Prosperity
Water for Humans and Nature	Water for Humans and Nature
Financing Water	Disaster Risk Reduction and Management
Water Quality and Health	Governance, Cooperation and Hydro-diplomacy
Observatory on Non-Conventional Water Resources and Associated Renewable Energies	Sustainable Water Finance Knowledge and innovation

Synchronizing objectives and priorities across both platforms has entailed a seamless integration of efforts. The members of the Task Forces have committed to the Thematic Process contributing importantly with their expertise and resources to the design, organization and planning of the different sub-themes, topics, and sessions, fostering a cohesive approach to tackling water-related challenges on a global scale.

Through this synergy, the World Water Council and the World Water Forum are better equipped to drive insightful dialogue and present concrete solutions that will contribute to building meaningful and sustainable change in the water sector.



7. ORGANIZATION

In 2023, the Board of Governors convened four times, adapting to the evolving landscape by holding two virtual sessions and two in-person meetings. This adjustment allowed for a dynamic exchange of ideas and strategies, ensuring the effective governance of the World Water Council. The gatherings proved invaluable, particularly with the international water events agenda. The kickoff meeting of the 10th World Water Forum in February and the 18th World Water Congress in September served as pivotal moments for collaboration and innovation within the global water community.

Amidst these engagements, the Council remained diligent, hosting regular Bureau meetings to monitor progress and respond promptly to emerging challenges and opportunities in the water sector.

82nd BOARD OF GOVERNORS

In February, the 82nd Board of Governors convened in Bali, Indonesia, coinciding with the kick-off of the 10th World Water Forum. It provided an opportunity to unveil the venue for the Forum and engage stakeholders. Indonesian partners extended warm hospitality, facilitating productive discussions and strategic planning.

83rd BOARD OF GOVERNORS

The 83rd Board of Governors convened online in June, focusing on preparatory processes for the 10th World Water Forum and initiating discussions about hosting the 11th. Key agenda items included water strategy, international agendas, and insights from the March 2023 UN Water conference, shaping future directions in global water management.





84th BOARD OF GOVERNORS

The 84th Board of Governors convened in Beijing alongside the 18th World Water Congress. Discussions centered on the 10th World Water Forum's organizational progress, emphasizing Task Forces achievements. The Chinese Minister of Water Resources delivered a keynote speech. Special acknowledgment was extended by the World Water Council to the ministry for its pivotal role in advancing water-related initiatives and hosting the event.

85th Board of Governors

The 85th Board of Governors convened online in November, focusing on organizational finances and updates regarding the 10th and 11th World Water Forums. Task Forces progress was highlighted, shaping future initiatives. Notably, discussions included insights on COP28, underscoring the World Water Council's commitment to addressing pressing global water challenges within the broader climate change discourse.



8. COMMUNICATIONS AND SHARING MEMBERS' NEWS



In 2023, the World Water Council implemented a dynamic communication strategy, highlighting its activities as well as those of its members and partners, with a particular focus on the 10th World Water Forum. This year was characterized by active communication across various channels, reflecting the Council's commitment to raising awareness among the public about crucial water and sanitation issues.

The World Water Council website played a central role in disseminating key information. It served as a central platform where the year's major events were relayed, providing a comprehensive source for both internal and external stakeholders. Additionally, the website served as a showcase for the President's speeches and interviews, which were also broadcast in certain media outlets. This strategy enhanced the World Water Council's visibility and ensured broader media coverage.

Digital dissemination tools played a crucial role in public outreach. The Council's social media platforms,

coupled with its website, effectively shared messages about activities and events, utilizing impactful visuals and engaging videos. The creation of visually appealing graphics strengthened the visual impact of communications, while video production added an immersive dimension, capturing the audience's attention and amplifying the Council's message.

This proactive approach was also extended to the dissemination of reports and publications, generating numerous perspectives, and attracting new followers.

Active participation in the preparation process for the 10th World Water Forum was a highlight of the year, showcasing the World Water Council's commitment to fostering dialogue and idea exchange. Communication on the issues surrounding the event's processes and preparation was successfully coordinated, maximizing the impact and scope of discussions on water-related issues.

WORLD WATER COUNCIL COMMUNICATIONS : KEYS FIGURES

Total website page views

450.000



 Number of Facebook followers

+5% Increase

January 2023: 8,617 followers / December 2023: 9,000 followers

 Number of Twitter followers

+8% Increase

January 2023: 12,509 followers / December 2023: 13,500 followers

 Number of LinkedIn followers

+29% Increase

January 2023: 12,509 followers / December 2023: 13,500 followers



Launch of the
World Water Council
Instagram page



Newsletters **10**

Mailing
Campaigns

21

CONTACT US

World Water Council
Espace Gaymard
2-4 place d'Arvieux,
13002 Marseille - France

Phone: +33 4 91 99 41 00

Fax: +33 4 91 99 41 01

Email: wwc@worldwatercouncil.org

Website : www.worldwatercouncil.org