

WORLD
WATER
COUNCIL

ACTIVITY REPORT 2024



SUMMARY

3		Edito
4		The World Water Council
7		Membership
8		Global Water Initiatives and Advocacy : World Water Council's 2024 Highlights
13		Delivering on Our Programs in 2024
14		Board of Governors meetings
15		World Water Council Communications

1. EDITO

Action for Water

As we reflect on 2024, it is time to assess a year filled with challenges and achievements for the World Water Council. We have experienced significant moments marked by substantial progress and renewed commitments to water, a vital resource for humanity and our planet.

The 10th World Water Forum in Bali was a resounding success. Indonesia, a nation deeply connected to water, welcomed global water stakeholders with enthusiasm and determination. This forum strengthened international collaborations and laid the groundwork for future actions. We must continue these efforts as we work towards the 11th Forum in Riyadh in 2027, where we hope, our initiatives will continue to bear fruit and inspire new advancements. Hydrodiplomacy is at the heart of our mission. Advocating for water on the international stage is our *raison d'être*. Water must be a vector for peace and prosperity. Every day, we strive to amplify this voice, whether in our daily tasks or through the initiatives we promote with our diverse membership. We firmly believe that water can unite nations and foster sustainable development.

The strength of our Council lies in the diversity of its members, hailing from various sectors—international organizations, public and private sectors, civil society, and academia—and from all regions of the world.



This diversity is our wealth. It enables us to support regional initiatives and place them at the core of our concerns. Local action is essential for water stewardship. We must continue to support and elevate the visibility of regional and local actors in the water sector.

Our working groups are an inexhaustible source of new proposals and advocacy. We are delighted to see our recommendations reflected in international discourse, which encourages us to continue this advocacy work. It is crucial to keep our voice and ideas at the forefront of global discussions.

Three themes are particularly important for the future: water and health, water and food security, and water and nature. We must support innovations and research to ensure the health of all. Feeding the planet while safeguarding our water resources is a major challenge. Although water is essential for humanity, water for nature is equally important. Balancing resource sharing is crucial for our future. I would like to express my deep gratitude to all the members and partners of the World Water Council. Your commitment and dedication are the driving forces behind our success. In 2025, let us continue this essential work together and make water a central topic in the coming months, at all levels of discussion. Together, we can make a difference.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading 'Loïc Fauchon'.

Loïc Fauchon
Président, World Water Council

2. THE WORLD WATER COUNCIL

WHO WE ARE

In 2024, the World Water Council reaffirmed its essential role as a devoted advocate for Water by co-organizing the 10th World Water Forum with Indonesia. This event reunited more than 20 000 participants, ranging from heads of states and ministerial delegates to citizens, NGOs, scholars and companies. 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.

For more than 25 years, the World Water Council worked towards the recognition of the central importance of Water on the global agenda. Established as an independent, impartial, and not-for-profit organization headquartered in Marseille, France, the World Water Council represents over 240 member organizations across 51 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 advance 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 four levels of governance.

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 to elect 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 composed of diverse members and partners, 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 | 241 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, Office 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 Kasmi, 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

• THE WORLD WATER COUNCIL, A PLATFORM TO BRING TOGETHER 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. We believe in local approaches and dialogues, confident that they are key to ensuring equitable access to water resources. This is one of the reasons why the World Water Council works to promote hydro-diplomacy, which contributes to peace and the resolution of 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 hydro-diplomacy.
 - 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.
-

• AN ORGANIZATION PROMOTING POLITICAL ACTION, ADVOCACY AND HYDRO-DIPLOMACY

We strongly believe that multilevel cooperation with all stakeholders, whether they are a government institution or a civil society organization, is the key to achieve significant progress in water management. In the face of population growth and climate crisis, stakeholders must collaborate to increase water supply and promote water savings, as cooperation foster the development of innovative approaches.

To achieve water security, 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. We emphasize the importance of innovations in water management, such as the use of unconventional water resources, water-saving measures and nature-based solutions, because they are among the few ways to make water security an achievable goal.

Our organization seeks to secure the right to access water and sanitation for all through comprehensive and equitable water management, which is vital for human beings as well as for nature, including ecosystems and biodiversity.

• ENCOURAGING SIGNIFICANT CHANGE WITH THE WORLD WATER FORUM

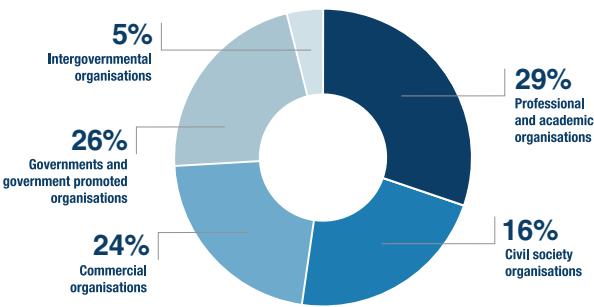
The World Water Forum has become the largest international event on water, which aims to catalyze collective action for water and achieve concrete results on the ground during and in between each edition. It is co-organized every three years by the World Water Council and an host country and city. The 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 10th World Water Forum took place in Indonesia in May 2024, and the 11th World Water Forum will be held in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in March 2027 under the theme “Action for a Better Tomorrow”.



3. MEMBERSHIP



College Distribution

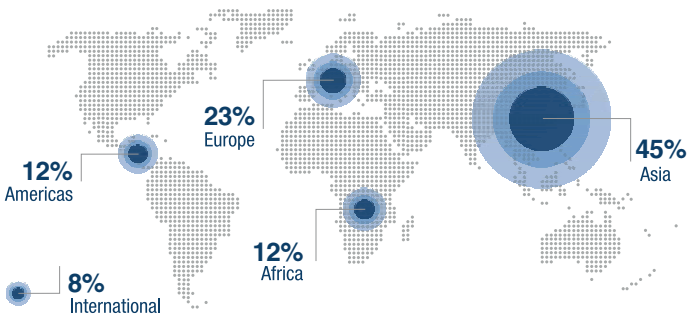


As of 31 December 2024, the World Water Council counted 241 member organizations from 51 countries globally. Each member brings unique experiences and an unwavering commitment, forming the core strength of the World Water Council. This diverse membership, spanning various sectors, regions, and disciplines, is the Council’s greatest asset, essential for its governance and initiatives. All members share equal rights, benefits, and voting power in strategic decisions.

241

Member Organisations in 51 countries

Geographic Distribution



Membership is determined as of 31 December 2024

4. GLOBAL WATER INITIATIVES AND ADVOCACY: WORLD WATER COUNCIL'S 2024 HIGHLIGHTS



4.1 10TH WORLD WATER FORUM IN BALI: A MILESTONE FOR GLOBAL WATER ACTION

The 10th World Water Forum, held in Bali, Indonesia, from May 18th to 25th, 2024, provided a unique platform for the water community and global decision-makers to collaborate and advance solutions for the world's pressing water challenges. The Forum gathered stakeholders from political, thematic, and regional sectors, fostering discussions that aimed to translate water solutions into concrete actions.

The Forum in Numbers:

- **20,000+** registered participants
- **64,000+** visitors from 160 countries
- **6** Heads of State and 135 Ministerial delegates (including 51 Ministers)
- **216** Parliamentarian Representatives from 44 countries
- **300** Local and Regional Government representatives
- **Over 280** sessions and 100+ activities in the Expo
- **254** Expo booths, including 19 national pavilions
- **1,000** journalists from 80 media outlets producing 2,000+ news pieces
- **113** water and sanitation projects worth \$9.4 billion USD

HYDRODIPLOMACY AND POLITICAL COMMITMENTS

Leaders' Meeting: High-Level Commitment to Water

The Forum's defining moment came with a Leaders' Meeting chaired by President Joko Widodo at the Bali International Convention Center, attended by six Heads of State. President Widodo emphasized the global importance of water, describing it as the "next oil." Key discussions focused on water as a fundamental right, enhancing resilience, funding water management, accelerating SDGs, and aligning global water agendas



Ministerial Declaration: Concrete Decision for Water

A significant outcome of the Forum was the adoption of the Ministerial Declaration, which reflected the political commitment of over 100 countries. The declaration highlighted urgent issues such as water security, transboundary cooperation, and concrete initiatives, including the establishment of a Center of Excellence on Water and the creation of World Lake Day. The compendium of success showcases outlined 113 projects.

Parliamentary Diplomacy for Innovative and Sustainable Water Management

The parliamentary discussed the legislation needed to support water initiatives. During the Forum, 216 parliamentarians from 44 countries reaffirmed the importance of mobilizing parliamentary action on water for global security and prosperity. The Parliamentarian segment concluded with the Nusa Dua communiqué, a document summarizing key points and recommendations. They pledged to promote laws favoring sustainable water management and to allocate sufficient budgets to implement the projects identified at the Forum.

Fostering Local and Regional Initiatives

Local and regional government representatives, numbering 300 delegates, emphasized the vital role of grassroots actions in water management. The meeting underscored the need for inclusive governance, community involvement, and innovative funding mechanisms for water infrastructure. A Joint Declaration was adopted to guide future water governance and legislative frameworks.

Integrated Water Management at the Basin Level

The Basin Day focused on governance, planning, financing, transboundary cooperation, and ecological security, with 300+ participants including ministers and basin representatives. Initiatives like the "Twin Basin" program, promoting peer exchanges for water management, were launched, advancing the Bali Basin Champion Agenda.

BRIDGING REALITIES THROUGH REGIONAL DIALOGUES

Regional dialogues helped address diverse water challenges, with over 50 sessions bridging the gap between different global realities. Participants from Africa, the Mediterranean, Asia-Pacific, and Latin America shared regional solutions, shaping concrete recommendations for global action.

EMPOWERING GLOBAL WATER SOLUTIONS: THEMATIC INSIGHTS

Thematic discussions, involving over 300 experts, explored 30 critical water-related topics under six sub-themes, ranging from water security to governance and sustainable financing. These sessions provided solutions aimed at moving the global water community from dialogue to action.



Active Participation from Civil Society

Civil society played a crucial role, with more than a third of the speakers in thematic sessions coming from NGOs and local communities. Their involvement ensured inclusivity, particularly for vulnerable populations, and showcased their significant contributions to the Forum's outcomes.



YOUTH-LED IDEAS FOR THE FUTURE OF WATER

Youth engagement was a cornerstone of the Forum, with over 4,000 young participants actively involved in all processes. The Bali Youth Plan introduced “Bali Youth Targets” focused on job opportunities, youth inclusion in governance, and leadership in water initiatives. The Forum also hosted a dedicated youth space, attracting over 2,500 participants. The Bali Youth Prize further reinforced the momentum of youth involvement in future water forums.

Looking Ahead to the Future

The 10th World Water Forum in Bali, Indonesia, highlighted the theme “Water for Shared Prosperity,” emphasizing global collaboration and innovative solutions. The upcoming ‘World Water Warrior Guide’ will catalog concrete and adaptable solutions presented at the forum. As we move forward, all stakeholders are invited to engage in the preparatory process for the 11th World Water Forum, to be held in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia in 2027, under the theme “Action for a Better Tomorrow.”

4.2 REGIONAL SUPPORT AND PARTNERSHIP: ADVOCATING FOR GLOBAL WATER PRIORITIES

Rome: Water and Agriculture Synergy with FAO

In Rome, the WWC met with FAO officials to address the critical role of agriculture in water management. With agriculture accounting for 70% of global freshwater withdrawals, the discussions focused on increasing its visibility in global water debates and strengthening the connection between water and food security. FAO and WWC advocated for cross-sectoral cooperation to secure adequate resources for water initiatives.

Abu Dhabi: Tackling Water Scarcity and Climate Resilience

In Abu Dhabi, the WWC praised the region's leadership in non-conventional water resources, such as desalination and wastewater recycling. The discussions emphasized the need for increased investment in water infrastructure and integrating water management with climate and demographic policies to ensure long-term sustainability.

Bordeaux: Advocating Basin Organizations at the INBO General Assembly

In Bordeaux, the WWC participated in the General Assembly of the International Network of Basin Organizations (INBO), emphasizing the critical role of basin organizations in securing and managing water resources. The Council advocated for water sobriety and nature-based solutions as essential strategies to manage limited resources.

Delhi: Strengthening Cooperation at India Water Week

In Delhi, the WWC participated in the 8th India Water Week, focusing on enhancing India's collaboration in addressing water challenges. The discussions highlighted the importance of engaging youth and fostering public-private partnerships to scale up water-related projects. India's commitment to the Council's initiatives was reaffirmed, with both parties exploring future collaboration.



Beijing: Water Security and Agricultural Innovation at Asia Water Week

In Beijing, the WWC addressed water security in agriculture with Chinese officials. The discussions focused on promoting water-efficient technologies and improving governance to ensure sustainable water use. China's role in setting global standards for water management was highlighted, aligning with the UN's 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Cairo: Engaging at Cairo Water Week and Africa Water Week

At Cairo Water Week and the 9th Africa Water Week, the WWC emphasized the central role of water in climate adaptation, sustainable development, and food security. The Council underscored the need for integrated approaches to tackle droughts and floods, highlighting the importance of reducing per capita water consumption and promoting decentralized governance.

Madrid: Water and Climate Integration at the Water Dialogues

In Madrid, the WWC focused on integrating water management into climate policies as part of the CAF Water Dialogues. The discussions highlighted Spain's leadership in water reuse and advanced management technologies, emphasizing the need for enhanced financing mechanisms to attract investments in critical water infrastructure.



Montpellier: Supporting the REUSE EUROMED 2024 Conference

The WWC fully supported the REUSE EUROMED 2024 conference, addressing the critical issue of wastewater reuse. Organized by AFEID, this event fostered showcase sharing and strengthened sustainable water management practices, contributing to innovative and sustainable solutions for water-related challenges.



Daegu: Strengthening Regional Partnership through World Water Cities' Forum & Korea International Water Week 2024

The World Water Council demonstrated its commitment to global water cooperation through active participation in , South Korea. Key figures from the World Water Council participated in signature programs, emphasizing hydrodiplomacy and horizontal approaches to water management.



4.2 EMPOWERING LOCAL INITIATIVES: STRENGTHENING PARTNERSHIPS WITH DECISION-MAKERS

Amplifying Local Voices in Water Politics

Throughout 2024, the World Water Council strengthened its partnerships with organizations that promote local authorities, such as UCLG, ICLEI, and IPU. These collaborations aim to amplify the impact of local initiatives and decision-makers in water politics.

In October 2024, the WWC participated as an observer in the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) General Assembly, witnessing the IPU's commitment to fostering equity, justice, food security, and fair access to resources, including water. The Council's partnership with UCLG and the ongoing collaboration with ICLEI, set to materialize in 2025, underscore the importance of local governance in achieving global water goals.

Together, these initiatives highlight the World Water Council's willingness to making water a global priority, emphasizing the role of local authorities and regional cooperation in securing a sustainable water future.



5. DELIVERING ON OUR PROGRAMS

In the first half of the year and alongside their work on the 2023-2025 program, the Task Forces engaged on the coordination of the Thematic process of the 10th World Water Forum, which revolved around six sub-themes:

SUB-THEMES
Water Security and Prosperity
Water for Humans and Nature
Disaster Risk Reduction and Management
Governance, Cooperation and Hydro-diplomacy
Sustainable Water Finance Knowledge and innovation



By leveraging their expertise and resources to design and prepare the sub-themes, topics, and sessions of the Forum, the Task Forces managed to create a cohesive approach for addressing global water-related challenges.

They underlined that concrete solutions should be explored by civil society, governments, academia, companies and intergovernmental bodies to better protect water, and contributed to the Forum Final Report.

In the second semester of 2024, the Tasks Forces continued their work to reflect on how to make water a political priority around five themes:

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



The Task Force on Water Security and Resilience worked on how stakeholders can enhance resilience against water-related risks.

The Financing Water Task Force focused on how financial resources can be mobilized for water projects.

The Task Force on Water for Humans and Nature stressed the importance of nature rights to provide a comprehensive approach to managing water.

The Task Force on Water Quality and Health focused on the connections between water quality and public health, advocating for integrated management approaches.

The Observatory on Non-Conventional Water Resources and Associated Renewable Energies explored innovative solutions to better protect water reservoirs and respond to water demands.

In December 2024, they presented their action plans for 2025 to the Board of Governors in Barcelona to wrap up the year.

6. BOARD OF GOVERNORS MEETINGS

In 2024, the Board of Governors convened three times, including once during the World Water Forum held in Bali. This was the occasion to see concrete results of the day-to-day activities of the World Water Council and to discuss the next steps to be taken for the water community including the WWC participation in international water events.

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.

86TH BOARD OF GOVERNORS

In February 2024, the Board of Governors convened in Istanbul. During this meeting, Saudi Arabia/Riyadh were chosen as the host country/city for the 11th World Water Forum by a secret ballot. Additionally, there were discussions on the future of water, with various experts presenting their perspectives, as well as deliberations on the preparatory process for the 10th World Water Forum.

87TH BOARD OF GOVERNORS

In May, the Board of Governors convened in Bali just before the start of the 10th World Water Forum, to finalize the last preparations for the event. It also provided an opportunity to discuss water strategy, international agendas, and insights from various stakeholders. The co-host, Indonesia, was given the floor to share their perspective on our collaborative efforts and the preparatory process.

88TH BOARD OF GOVERNORS

The Board convened in Barcelona in December to review the outcomes of the World Water Forum and discuss how water-related organizations could prioritize hydro-diplomacy. This gathering provided an opportunity to emphasize the interconnected nature of water with various issues, advocate for a “five fingers alliance”, and feature presentations on critical topics within our mandate, such as water and food, water and nature, and water and health.



7. WORLD WATER COUNCIL COMMUNICATIONS

In 2024, the World Water Council continued its dynamic communications strategy, emphasizing its activities and those of its members and partners, with a particular focus on the 10th World Water Forum in Bali. The year saw active communication across various channels, reflecting the Council's dedication to raising public awareness about critical water and sanitation issues.

The World Water Council's website remained a central hub for disseminating key information. It served as a primary platform for relaying the year's main events, providing a comprehensive resource for both internal and external stakeholders. Additionally, the website showcased the President's speeches and interviews, which were also broadcast in selected media. This strategy enhanced the Board's visibility and ensured broader media coverage.

Digital broadcasting tools, such as the YouTube channel, played a crucial role in raising public awareness. The Council's social media platforms, in conjunction with its website, effectively shared messages about activities and events, utilizing striking visuals and engaging videos.



The creation of eye-catching visuals reinforced the visual impact of communications, while video production added an immersive dimension, capturing public attention and amplifying the Council's message.

The World Water Council maintains strong media relations, engaging local press during visits and regional trips to spread its messages globally. The Council is frequently sought for expert opinions and analysis on water issues by various media outlets.

The 10th World Water Forum in Bali was the focal momentum of public relations efforts in 2024. The Council's active involvement in the preparation and organization of this event underscored its commitment to fostering dialogue and the exchange of ideas. Communication about the issues at stake in the event's processes and preparations was successfully coordinated, maximizing the impact and scope of discussions on water-related issues. This holistic approach mobilized a wide range of stakeholders, reinforcing the Council's position as a catalyst for change in water management.

The World Water Council’s pavilion at the 10th World Water Forum in Bali was a vibrant hub for networking and gathering members of the global water community. As one of the most visited pavilions, it hosted a full agenda of sessions where members showcased their initiatives. The pavilion’s success was marked by engaging discussions and the active participation of attendees from around the world.

The hydrodiplomacy tour in the latter half of the year strengthened relations with members and regional initiatives, promoting the Council's objectives at a local level. The meetings and discussions held during the tour helped forge lasting partnerships and raise awareness of water issues.

In conclusion, the World Water Council’s communication and media relations in 2024 were characterized by a proactive and diversified approach, leveraging digital tools to reach a wide and diverse audience, solidifying the Council's position as a key player in advocating for water as a political priority at all levels.



WORLD WATER COUNCIL COMMUNICATIONS : KEYS FIGURES





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WORLD WATER COUNCIL
CONSEIL MONDIAL DE L'EAU - CONSEJO MUNDIAL DEL AGUA