



WORLD WATER COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

25



Contents

- 1 Word from the president p.1
- 2 Summary p.2
- 3 Presentation of the
World Water Council p.3-4
- 4 Day-to-day commitment:
events, advocacy and task forces p.5-10
- 5 World Water forum 10 & 11 p.11-12
- 6 Food for thought and action:
our priorities p.13
- 7 Membership p.14
- 8 Communications and reporting p.15

1 Word from the president

Moving forward with optimism

The year 2025 marks the culmination of a committed three-year period and the active preparation for the 11th World Water Forum. It confirms a reality that the World Water Council has championed since its inception: for far too large a portion of the world's population, safe drinking water remains an uncertain resource rather than a guaranteed right.

International reports rigorously document this reality every year, and its significance must not be downplayed. Warnings about the increasing scarcity of this resource and inequalities in access reflect a reality that no serious organization can ignore. But while these warnings are necessary, they are not enough on their own to bring about change: they must be accompanied by a resolute commitment to finding solutions.

We know what the solutions are. They are technological. They are financial, and they are also institutional. The World Water Council's conviction rests on this three-pronged approach: the knowledge and experience we have accumulated enable us to act effectively, provided that we organize the sharing of this knowledge.

This is precisely the role the World Water Council has set for itself: to promote the exchange of these solutions among its members, to facilitate dialogue among stakeholders, and to support their implementation. The commitments made over the past year—from Bali to Riyadh, through the major international events detailed in this report—illustrate this dynamic of cooperation, as does the growing mobilization of a new generation of water stakeholders.

These advances, as well as the challenges that remain, must be given equal attention. It is by taking these positive signs into account that the World Water Council intends to continue its work. The path toward safe drinking water accessible to all remains challenging; nevertheless, it is marked by proven solutions and driven by an international community determined to implement them. It is in this spirit that we will continue our commitment, alongside our members and partners, as we look ahead to the 11th World Water Forum in Riyadh.



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

Loïc Fauchon
Président, World Water Council

The year 2025 marks the culmination of a dynamic and transformative triennium for the World Water Council, characterized by strengthened global advocacy, expanded partnerships, and a renewed commitment to positioning water at the core of international political, social, and economic agendas.

Building on the momentum of the 10th World Water Forum in Bali in 2024, the World Water Council entered 2025 with a clear ambition: to turn dialogue into tangible action, elevate water on the global agenda, and mobilize stakeholders in preparation for the 11th World Water Forum in Riyadh in 2027.

Throughout the year, the World Water Council structured its activities around three complementary and mutually reinforcing pathways: sustained day-to-day engagement, the progressive development of the Forum process, and the production of strategic knowledge for Water and Dignity.

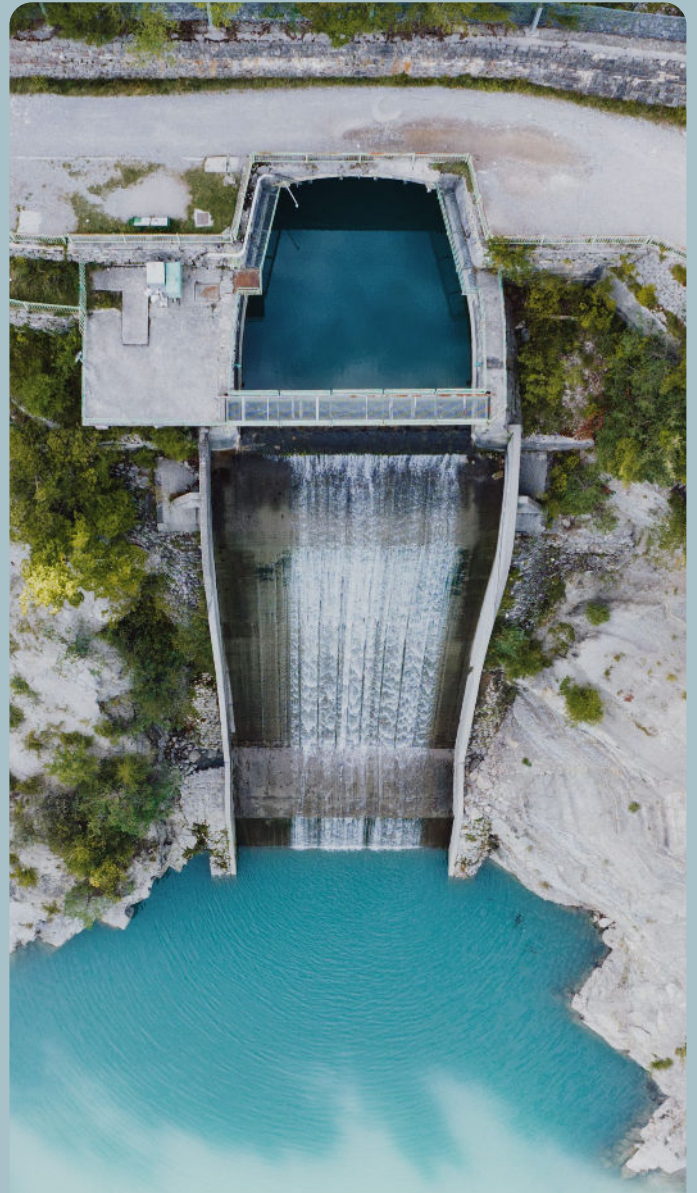
Across regions, the World Water Council maintained a strong and consistent presence, engaging with governments, international organizations, local authorities, and civil society. These interactions reinforced a central message: water must be recognized not only as a technical issue, but as a political priority and a driver of cooperation, stability, and sustainable development.

The year 2025 also witnessed the deepening of long-standing partnerships and the emergence of innovative initiatives linking global dialogue with local implementation. Increased youth participation, strengthened institutional cooperation, and expanded outreach efforts further contributed to consolidating the World Water Council's role as a central actor in global water governance.

At a time when climate disruption, demographic growth, and resource pressures intensify water-related challenges, the World Water Council reaffirmed its commitment to collective action and long-term solutions.

In this context, 2025 stands as a pivotal year, consolidating achievements while laying the strategic and operational foundations for future progress under the guiding theme of the 11th World Water Forum :

" [Action for a Better Tomorrow](#) ".



Presentation of the World Water Council



Who we are

For nearly three decades, the World Water Council has established itself as the leading international multi-stakeholder platform dedicated to advancing water as a global priority.

Founded in 1996 and headquartered in Marseille, France, the World Water Council is an independent, impartial, and not-for-profit organization. Its mission is to promote water as a political priority and a unifying force for sustainable development, peace, and human dignity.

A unique global platform

As of 2025, the World Water Council brings together more than 240 member organizations from over 50 countries, representing a wide diversity of stakeholders, including governments, intergovernmental organizations, private sector actors, non-governmental associations, and academic institutions. This diversity ensures that global water challenges are addressed through inclusive, multidisciplinary approaches.

Governance and structure

The World Water Council operates through a governance system composed of the General Assembly, the Board of Governors, the Bureau, with the support of specialized Task Forces. This framework promotes clarity, strategic cohesion, and efficient decision-making.

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 Kismi, 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

A Clear and Action-Oriented Mandate

The World Water Council's mandate is to promote water as a political priority at all levels and to support the international community in addressing global water challenges through dialogue, cooperation, and action.

This mandate is implemented through :

- Advocacy at global and regional levels
- Facilitation of multi-stakeholder dialogue
- Support to policy development and implementation
- Promotion of innovation and sustainable financing
- Strengthening cooperation between institutions, regions

By bridging policy, knowledge, and action, the World Water Council acts as both a catalyst and a connector, ensuring that international commitments translate into tangible outcomes.

A Mission Anchored in Three Pillars

A Mission Anchored in Three Pillars

The World Water Council's work is structured around:

- 1 · Advocacy and hydrodiplomacy
- 2 · Knowledge and innovation
- 3 · Mobilization through the World Water Forum

At its core lies a guiding principle:

Water is a political priority.



4

Day-To-Day commitments: Events, advocacy and task forces

Throughout 2025, the World Water Council demonstrated sustained engagement across the global water agenda, combining advocacy, partnerships, and technical expertise.

Hydrodiplomacy and International Engagement

The year was marked by an extensive series of high-level engagements across regions.

Key events included :

- The 7th Rain Enhancement Forum in Abu Dhabi, where the Council contributed to discussions on water security in arid regions.
- The OECD Water Governance Initiative in Paris, reinforcing international dialogue on governance and sustainable development.
- A follow-up international meeting in Jakarta with the United Nations Special Envoy on Water, ensuring continuity between high-level conferences.



- A mission to South America, including institutional exchanges in São Paulo and participation in regional water governance discussions in Buenos Aires.



- The 41st anniversary of UN-Water in Rome, strengthening multilateral coordination.

- The Baghdad International Water Conference and the ICID Micro-Irrigation Conference, reinforcing technical and regional engagement.

- The OECD Roundtable on Financing Water in Jeddah, addressing investment challenges.



- The ICOLD Congress in Chengdu, where high-level dialogue with Chinese stakeholders was conducted.

- The UNESCO Water Youth Dialogue, contributing to the development of youth strategies.

- The UN Conference on Oceans in Nice, highlighting the interconnections between freshwater and marine systems.

- Osaka World Expo marked the launch of the "One Water, One Health" concept.



- HELP has demonstrated long-standing leadership and active engagement on water and disaster resilience.

- ICID continues to champion the water-for-food agenda through global irrigation and food security advocacy.

- The Global Water Security Seminar in Singapore, promoting the World Water Council's strategic priorities.

● Cairo Water Week, strengthening engagement with African and Middle Eastern stakeholders.



● The IWRA World Water Congress, contributing to global knowledge exchange.



These engagements reflect only part of the World Water Council's activities. Between 2023 and 2025, the World Water Council participated in more than 100 international events, illustrating the impulse of its advocacy efforts and the active involvement of its members.

Strategic Partnerships and Initiatives

The year 2025 marked a significant step forward in translating global dialogue into local action.

Among the most notable initiatives was [CitiesWithWater](#), developed in partnership with ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability. This initiative recognized the central role of cities in addressing water challenges and fostering resilience.

Through a global webinar series, CitiesWithWater explored the themes of “Too Much Water, Too Little Water, Too Dirty Water,” bringing together mayors, municipal leaders, and experts from major cities across the world. The webinar series featured 13 cities from across the world, representing Africa, Asia, Europe, and Americas. Participating cities included Cape Town, Durban (eThekweni), Lusaka, Marrakech, Barcelona, Larissa, Stockholm, Istanbul, Kumamoto, Ningbo, Andong, Del Carmen, and São Paulo. Together, these case studies showcased diverse experiences and solutions for addressing water scarcity, flood resilience, water quality, and sustainable water management.

In parallel, an international photography competition launched on World Water Day 2025 engaged young people worldwide. Supported by partners including Arup, RVO, and UN-Habitat, the initiative highlighted urban water challenges and showcased innovative perspectives, with selected works presented at World Water Week.

These initiatives strengthened the link between local realities and global policy discussions, reinforcing the Council's belief that local action is essential to global transformation.

Partnerships with key international organizations were further reinforced:

- Collaboration with FAO promoted integrated approaches to water, food, and agriculture.
- Engagement with UNESCO advanced knowledge sharing and youth participation.
- Cooperation with INBO strengthened basin-level governance approaches.
- Continued work with the OECD supported improvements in water governance and financing frameworks.

A major milestone was the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding with the Ministry of Water Resources and Irrigation of Egypt during Cairo Water Week. This agreement aims to enhance cooperation in governance, financing, and capacity building, particularly in the Middle East and North Africa regions.

The World Water Council also continued to strengthen its long-standing partnership with Chinese stakeholders, notably through the Water Security Seminar, co-organized yearly, which remains a key platform for dialogue and knowledge exchange.

Task forces and knowledge production

The World Water Council's Task Forces continued to provide expertise and strategic guidance across key thematic areas, including water security, financing, ecosystems, and health. Each group — composed of experts and member organizations — advanced research, reflection, and recommendations on key priorities aligned with the World Water Council's strategic vision.

- The [Task Force on Water Security and Resilience](#) focused on tools and showcases to help governments and basin authorities enhance resilience to droughts and floods.
- The [Task Force on Water for Humans and Nature](#) promoted integrated management and system approaches balancing ecological preservation with human needs, including work on the "Five Fingers Alliance" framework linking water to energy, food, health, and education.
- The [Task Force on Financing Water](#) successfully completed its triannual mandate with the publication of the [2025 report "Financing Sustainable Water Projects"](#), unveiled during the 8th Cairo Water Week. The report compiles innovative financial mechanisms, case studies, and recommendations for scaling up investments in sustainable water infrastructure.



- The [Task Force on Water Quality and Health](#) addressed the connections between water safety and public health, contributing to the creation of the "One Water – One Health" dialogue.
- The [Task Force on Non-Conventional Water Resources and Associated Renewable Energies](#) expanded its monitoring of desalination and wastewater reuse projects, emphasizing the growing role of circular water systems in climate adaptation.

The Task Forces transitioned into "incubators" for future World Water Council projects, ensuring continuity beyond the current mandate and preparing for new collaborations leading up to 2027.

Youth engagement

Youth engagement was further reinforced through dedicated programmes, participation in international events, and contributions to policy discussions, confirming the World Water Council's commitment to inclusive governance.

A milestone moment for youth participation came with the 1st UNESCO Water Youth Dialogue (May 2025), organized as part of UNESCO's 50th Anniversary of the Intergovernmental Hydrological Programme. Represented by Vice-President Eric Tardieu and WWC Youth Representative, the World Water Council contributed to shaping the new UNESCO Water Youth Strategy and to promoting youth leadership in water governance.

Under the guidance of the WWC Youth Delegates (2023–2025 mandate), the World Water Council launched the "[Youth Advocacy Training](#)" [webinar series](#) beginning on 25 April 2025, where over 120 young participants from diverse regions learned about governance, financing, storytelling and youth-led diplomacy. This initiative ran in parallel with the preparation for the 11th World Water Forum, ensuring youth perspectives were woven into every stage of the process.

Through these efforts, the WWC affirmed that youth are not merely participants but co-creators: their voices, innovations and networks now form a fundamental part of the World Water Council's roadmap toward the 2027 Forum in Riyadh and beyond.



Governance and institutional life

The governance bodies of the World Water Council remained fully mobilized throughout 2025.

The Board of Governors convened 3 times in 2025, to review strategic priorities, monitor progress on World Water Forum preparations, and ensure alignment between advocacy, partnerships, and operational activities.

These meetings played a central role in maintaining institutional coherence and supporting the World Water Council's long-term vision.



5

World water forum 10&11

The year 2025 marked a transition between two major milestones in global water governance.

The legacy of the 10th World Water Forum in Bali continued to shape international discussions, with its outcomes serving as a foundation for ongoing initiatives and partnerships, notably through World Water Warriors Initiative and the Bali Youth Prize.

At the same time, preparations for the 11th World Water Forum in Riyadh accelerated significantly.

The 11th World Water Forum is co-organized by the World Water Council and the Ministry of Environment, Water and Agriculture (MEWA) of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, marking a new chapter of collaboration and leadership in the global water community.



The official Kick-off and First Stakeholders' Meeting, held in Riyadh in April 2025, gathered more than 600 participants from 60 countries and organizations, signaling the beginning of an inclusive and ambitious preparatory process.

This inaugural meeting set the foundation for the Forum's thematic, political, and regional processes, each designed to mobilize experts, policymakers, civil society representatives, and youth from all continents.

In line with the World Water Council's commitment to inclusivity and transparency, a call for coordinators was launched in mid-2025, inviting institutions and organizations worldwide to take an active role in shaping the Forum's sessions and outcomes. With more than 700 responses, from a variety of stakeholders, this call reaffirms the World Water Council's and Saudi Arabia's shared belief that the World Water Forum belongs to all — a global platform built by and for the international water community.



Throughout 2025, the World Water Council and MEWA led a global outreach campaign to build momentum for the 11th World Water Forum under the theme "[Action for a Better Tomorrow](#)".

Through major international events and targeted engagement with members, youth, and partner networks, they promoted the World Water Forum as the key platform for turning dialogue into action. Their efforts also align closely with preparations for the 2026 UN Water Conference, ensuring that its outcomes will feed directly into Riyadh 2027 and strengthen the World Water Forum's role as the world's leading venue for converting global water commitments into real, measurable progress.



Under the theme "[Action for a Better Tomorrow](#)", the World Water Forum aims to deliver concrete and measurable outcomes, strengthening the link between commitments and implementation.

6

Food for thought and action: Our priorities

In 2025,
the World Water Council continued to structure its work around four strategic priorities:

Water for Food

promoting sustainable agriculture and resource efficiency.

Water for Nature

supporting ecosystem protection and nature-based solutions.

Water for Health

advancing integrated approaches linking water and public health.

Financing Water

encouraging investment and innovative financial mechanisms.

In parallel, the World Water Council continued to explore innovative solutions, including non-conventional water resources, to enhance resilience and sustainability.

7 Membership



A Global Community Driving Water Action

At the heart of the World Water Council lies a vibrant and diverse community of organizations united by a shared commitment to advancing water security and sustainable water management worldwide. As of 31 December 2025, the World Water Council brought together **243 member organizations from 49 countries**, representing a rich spectrum of stakeholders from governments, international organizations, academia, civil society, the private sector, and water professionals.

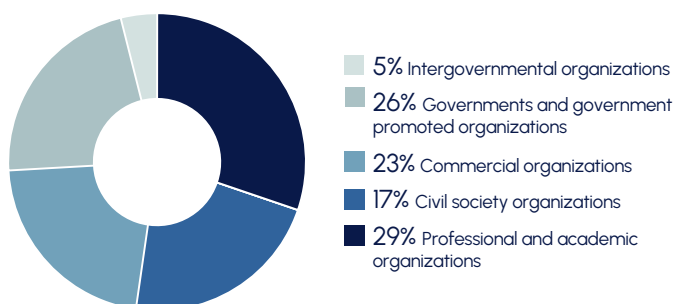
This unique network is the World Water Council's greatest strength. Each member contributes valuable expertise, perspectives, and experience, enriching dialogue and fostering collaboration across regions and sectors. Together, they form a dynamic platform that promotes collective action, innovation, and knowledge exchange to address the world's most pressing water challenges.

The dedication and active engagement of our members continued to shape the World Water Council's work throughout 2025. Members played a vital role in advancing advocacy initiatives, contributing to knowledge

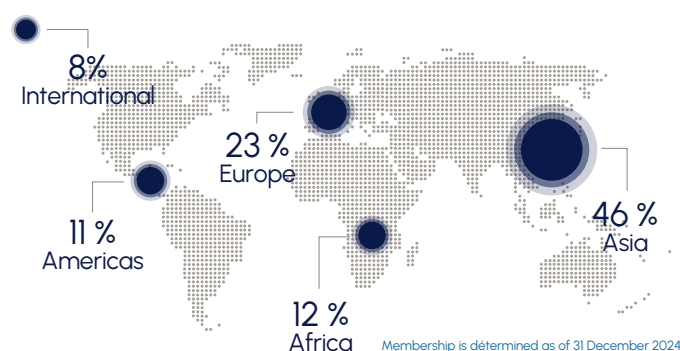
development, strengthening partnerships, and supporting preparations for future World Water Forums. Their commitment reinforces the World Water Council's position as the leading global multi-stakeholder platform for water cooperation.

Built on the principles of inclusiveness and shared responsibility, the World Water Council grants all members equal rights, benefits, and voting power in strategic decision-making processes. Through their trust, expertise, and unwavering engagement, our members continue to drive the World Water Council's mission forward and inspire collective progress toward a water-secure future.

College distribution



Geographic distribution



8 Communications and reporting

The World Water Council continued to strengthen and expand its communication strategy throughout 2025, enhancing its visibility, transparency, and engagement with stakeholders worldwide. Through a combination of publications, digital platforms, media relations, and public outreach, the World Water Council ensured the consistent dissemination of its activities, priorities, and key messages.

A major communication milestone during the year was the development and launch preparation of the World Water Council's new website, scheduled to go live in 2026. Designed to provide a more modern, accessible, and user-centered experience, the new platform will strengthen the World Water Council's digital presence and improve access to information for members, partners, and the broader water community.

The World Water Council's digital audience continued to grow significantly, particularly on LinkedIn, where the community expanded steadily throughout the year, increasing engagement and amplifying the reach of the World Water Council's initiatives and advocacy efforts. Regular publications, newsletters, thematic reports, and updates on preparations for the 11th World Water Forum contributed to maintaining strong connections with global stakeholders.

Digital communication channels played an increasingly important role in reaching diverse audiences, fostering dialogue, and strengthening the impact and visibility of the World Water Council at both regional and international levels.

Media outreach also remained a key component of the communication strategy. Numerous interviews were given to local and regional media outlets during events and international gatherings, helping to raise awareness of water-related challenges and the World Water Council's mission while reinforcing its role as a leading voice in global water governance.

Total website page views



26 email campaigns and 5 newsletters



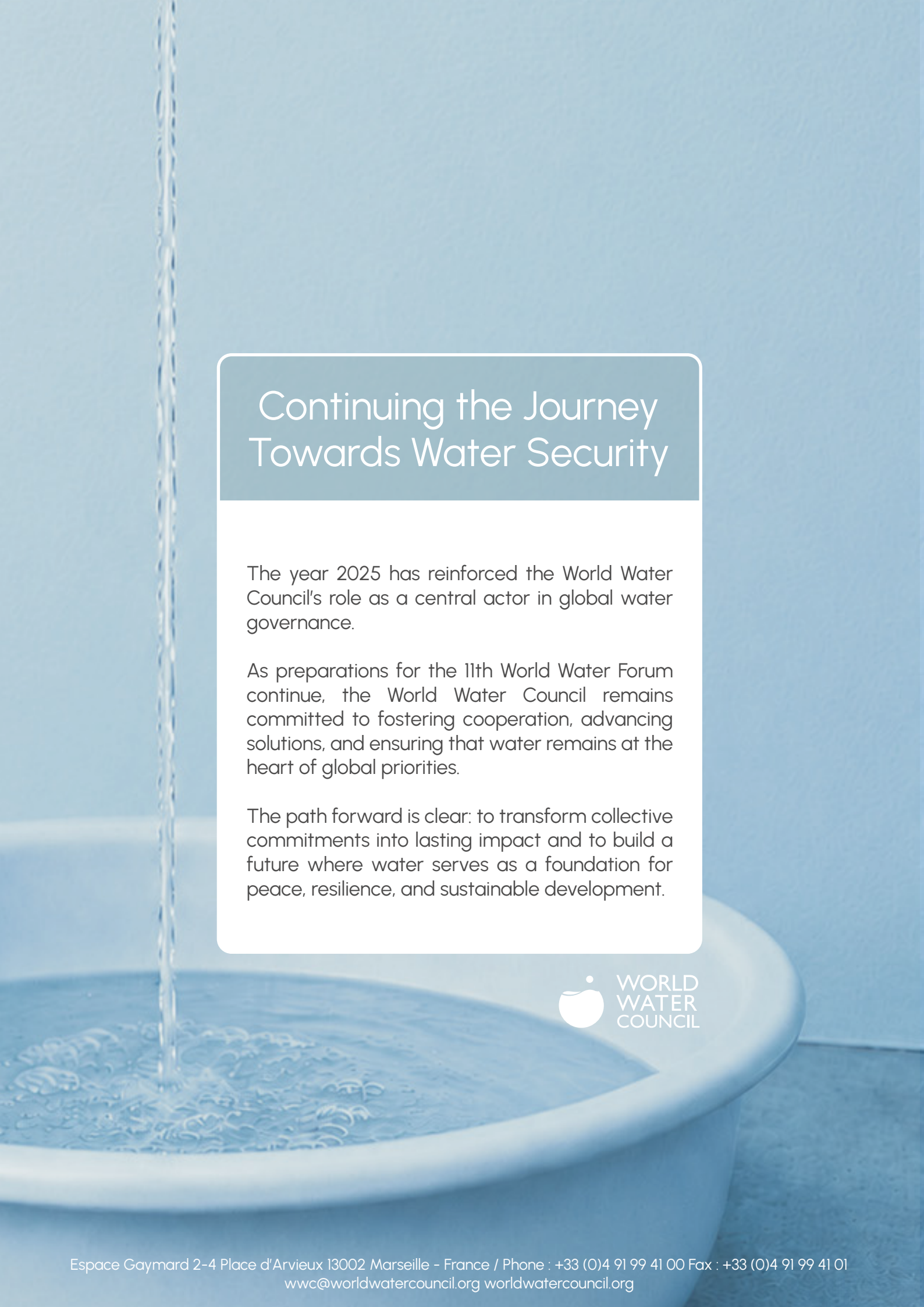
+62 followers, +0.5%
13,809 followers in December 2025



+192 followers, +2%
9,320 followers in December 2025



+3,520 followers, +24%
18,016 followers in December 2025



Continuing the Journey Towards Water Security

The year 2025 has reinforced the World Water Council's role as a central actor in global water governance.

As preparations for the 11th World Water Forum continue, the World Water Council remains committed to fostering cooperation, advancing solutions, and ensuring that water remains at the heart of global priorities.

The path forward is clear: to transform collective commitments into lasting impact and to build a future where water serves as a foundation for peace, resilience, and sustainable development.

