

# NEWS AND ACTIVITIES

## MARCH–JULY 2017

Report to the 62<sup>nd</sup> Board of Governors meeting



The 2<sup>nd</sup> Stakeholders Consultation Meeting of the 8<sup>th</sup> World Water Forum brought more than 900 participants to Brasilia, Brazil, including representatives of governments, companies, financial institutions, universities and non-governmental organizations, on 26–27 April

### COLLABORATING TO DESIGN THE 8<sup>TH</sup> WORLD WATER FORUM

More than 900 people participated in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Stakeholders Consultation Meeting of the 8<sup>th</sup> World Water Forum, coming together in Brasilia, Brazil to design the content of the upcoming Forum around the overarching theme of “Sharing Water”.

The Consultation Meeting on 26–27 April was opened by World Water Council President, Benedito Braga, together with the Governor of the Federal District, Rodrigo Rollemberg; the Executive Secretary of the Ministry of Environment, Marcelo Cruz; the Secretary General at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, José Antonio Marcondes de Carvalho; Senator Roberto Muniz; the President of the Federal District Regulatory Agency for Water, Sanitation and Energy (ADASA), Paulo Salles; and the President of the National Water Agency (ANA), Vicente Andreu.

Participants evaluated the Forum’s preparation and discussed the core themes and cross-cutting topics related to each of the five processes. The meeting was a timely event for the coordinators to assess how the contents have evolved since the Kick-Off in June 2016, develop action plans and advance work together with the many stakeholders present.

*“More than ever, it is up to each one of us to ensure that our leaders do not miss the opportunity represented by the Forum to secure urgent action towards more commitment for water security.”*



President Benedito Braga, speaking during the opening ceremony of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Stakeholders Consultation Meeting



Council President Benedito Braga and Governor Patrick Lavarde opened the XVI<sup>th</sup> World Water Congress on 29 May

## MOBILIZATION AT THE XVI<sup>TH</sup> WORLD WATER CONGRESS IN CANCÚN

The XVI<sup>th</sup> World Water Congress was jointly organized on 29 May–3 June by the International Water Resources Association (IWRA), the National Water Commission of Mexico (CONAGUA) and the National Association of Water and Sanitation Utilities (ANEAS).

The World Water Council played a central role in convening three high-level panels on Water and Climate, integrated water resources management (IWRM) and the Sustainable Development Goals, and participated in a number of other events. Another special session during the Congress, “Making investments on multi-purpose water infrastructure fit to finance”, was co-convened by the World Water Council along with the Development Bank of Latin America (CAF). Here President Braga called for greater investment in water infrastructure worldwide, including multi-purpose infrastructure.

Presenting the Congress as a milestone in the Forum preparatory process, a special session, “Bridging stakeholders’ knowledge and the 8<sup>th</sup> World Water Forum thematic framework”, gathered the Thematic Process coordinators and interested stakeholders together to develop the Forum’s thematic program at a more detailed level. Overall, the Congress was a unique opportunity for the Council to mobilize the scientific community and Latin American stakeholders to participate in the 2018 Forum in Brasilia.

## ROUNDTABLE ON FINANCING WATER INAUGURATED

On 12–13 April, the World Water Council, the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) and the Netherlands held the first meeting of the Roundtable on Financing Water. This has been established to facilitate a fresh approach and augment dialogue between the water and finance communities on the global challenges of financing the water-related investments needed to achieve water security and the wider Sustainable Development Goals. In dialogue with more than 60 other participants, the World Water Council emphasized the importance of strengthening collective understanding of water financing and of bridging the gaps between investors and investment needs in both developed and developing countries.

## UNFCCC OBSERVER AT THE BONN CLIMATE CHANGE CONFERENCE

Following its confirmation as an Observer to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) last November, the World Water Council had its first opportunity to participate in an Intersessional Climate Conference on 18 May. The Council, in cooperation with the Global Water Partnership and International Water Association, convened a side event at the Bonn Climate Change Conference entitled “Implementation of NDCs – Climate finance for water-related adaptation and mitigation action.” During a panel discussion, members of the #ClimateIsWater initiative reflected on solutions to finance climate adaptation and mitigation.



The World Water Council, the OECD and the Netherlands held their inaugural meeting of the Roundtable on Financing Water in April





Executive Director of the Secretariat of the 8<sup>th</sup> World Water Forum, Ricardo Andrade, and Co-Chairs of the thematic process commission, Torkil Jønch Clausen and Jorge Werneck Lima, at the 2<sup>nd</sup> Stakeholders Consultation Meeting

### MOMENTUM IN THE FORUM PREPARATORY PROCESSES

In April, prior to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Stakeholders Consultation Meeting of the 8<sup>th</sup> World Water Forum, all five commissions of the Forum met simultaneously in Brasilia to discuss the preparation of the event and future steps.

Following the successful Consultation Meeting, the Secretariat of the 8<sup>th</sup> World Water Forum opened up a wider opportunity to provide suggestions for Thematic Sessions through an online consultation process.

In April in Nebraska, Governor Dale Jacobson represented the Council at the Water for Food Conference. In June in Washington DC, Bureau Member Karin Krchnak participated in the event “Sharing Water”, co-organized with the World Wildlife Fund and the Coca-Cola Company. These sub-regional events provide input to the thematic agenda for the 8<sup>th</sup> World Water Forum.

At the IWRA Congress in Cancún, the members of the International Steering Committee of the 8<sup>th</sup> World Water Forum met for the fifth time, allowing all Forum commissions to report on the progress made.

### WATER & PEACE AT THE 4<sup>TH</sup> ISTANBUL INTERNATIONAL WATER FORUM

Held every three years in the year before the World Water Forum under the patronage of the Ministry of Forestry and Water Affairs of Turkey, the Istanbul International Water Forum was organized for the fourth time on 10–11 May by the Turkish Water Institute. World Water Council members, including Vice-President Dogan Altinbilek, Akif Ozkaldi, Blanca Jiménez Cisneros, Jean Lapègue and Bert Diphooorn, participated in the Forum along with over 1,500 delegates from 64 countries. Within the context of “Water & Peace”, participants discussed urban water management, relief actions, legal aspects and the Sustainable Development Goals, with a specific focus on refugees.



### MORE NEWS IN SHORT

The World Water Council’s 61<sup>st</sup> Board meeting confirmed that all Task Forces are fully operational and are making steady progress on implementing the triennium strategy.

#### Financing water infrastructure

The Council is preparing practical guides on investment, risks and mobilizing sustainable funding for water.

#### Cities: At the heart of growth

The Council has officially launched the “Increasing Financial Flows for Sanitation” project, which will help identify innovative financing instruments for sanitation in cities based on case studies. The Council is also pursuing its work on strategic positioning on urban resilience and water-related disasters.

#### Involving key political actors

With its partners, the Council has elaborated the framework agreement for the Local and Regional Authorities Process.

#### Water and climate change

In April, the Council participated in the Strategy and Planning Workshop for the Marrakech Partnership for Global Climate Action.

#### Integrating World Water Forums

Champions of the Implementation Roadmaps shared their accomplishments in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Progress Report.

#### IWRM

In early July, the Co-Chairs presented their key political messages for a revitalized concept of IWRM at the OECD Water Governance Initiative.

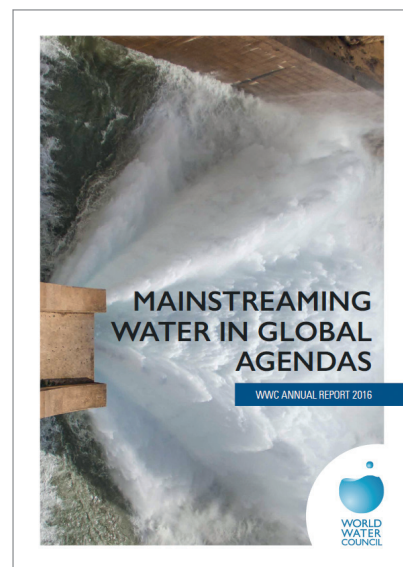
## MEDIA AND COMMUNICATIONS

To leverage media and increase its influence, the Council has been working on specific events with PR and media relations partners. Two video press releases were issued for World Water Day and for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Stakeholders Consultation Meeting. The media coverage that followed generated over 1,400 articles in outlets worldwide, including The Washington Post, Al Jazeera, the Huffington Post, Politico and Yahoo!.

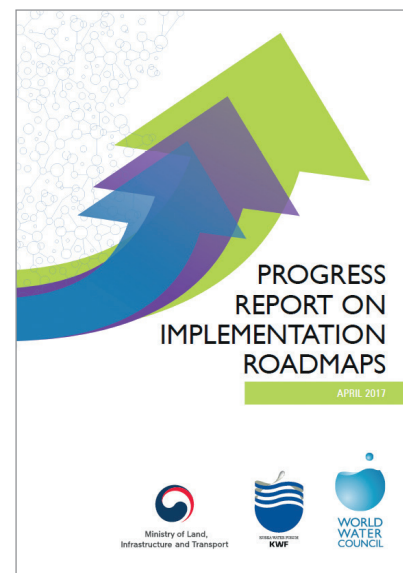
The Council intends to further develop quality messaging through media channels as part of a holistic communications approach to increase its political impact.

The Council is also continuing its #ClimatelsWater series in collaboration with OOSKANews. Recent broadcasts, including interviews with President Braga and representatives from partner organization UNESCO-IHP, can be streamed online at OOSKANews.

## Latest publications



World Water Council 2016 Annual Report



Third Progress Report on Implementation Roadmaps



Summary of the inaugural meeting of the OECD-WWC-Netherlands Roundtable on Financing Water

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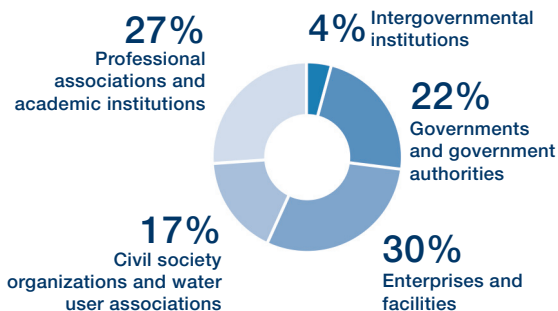
## MEMBERS UPDATE

### Member Organizations\*

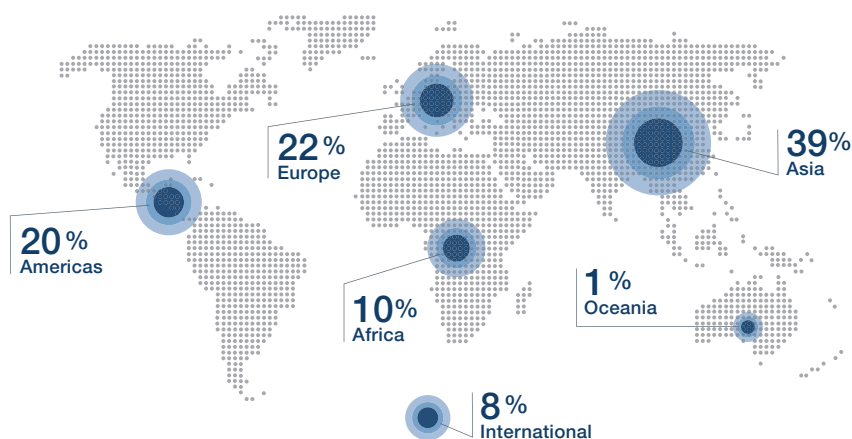
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\* Membership is determined as of 6 June 2017

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