



Section 7

International Water Organizations and Initiatives

7.1. Asia Water Council



The Asia Water Council (AWC) is a global network focused in providing tangible solutions on Asian water challenges and facilitating multilateral discussions among stakeholders. It was established at the initiative of South Korea during the 7th World Water Forum in March 2015. As of October 2019, AWC is composed of 137 organizations from 36 countries. The AWC action tools include the application of high-tech tools in all areas of water management and nature conservation through IWRM, the reduction of risks

through better water security, especially as concerns prevention of floods and droughts. AWC is the main organizer and sponsor of the Asian International Water Week (AIWW).

Activities in 2019

On 14-16 March, Manila, the Philippines, hosted the AWC's [3rd General Assembly](#) and the 8th and 9th meetings of the Board of Council. The General Assembly approved amendments to the AWC Constitution, adopted the three-year work plan for the period of 2019-2021, and elected the new Board of Council for 2019-2021. One of the 26 newly elected members of the Board is the head of the [GEF Agency of IFAS](#), the only organization from Central Asia – an active member of the Council to date. The General Assembly also approved the 2nd [Asian International Water Week](#) in Bali, Indonesia, in October 2020. The theme of the week is "Better for Water - Better for Life". The 2nd AIWW will address such issues as security and sustainable growth; water management policies and technologies to meet the requirements of a changing climate;

water-energy-food-environment nexus; water security; pilot projects on smart technologies and capacity building, etc.

On 15 March, a special session was held under the umbrella of the AWC Advisory Council of National Parliaments in Asia (ACNPA) to promote the legal framework needed for solution of key water problems in Asia. Representatives of the parliaments of Indonesia, Korea, Pakistan, the Philippines and the leadership of AWC signed declaration on the establishment of the Advisory Council of National Parliaments in Asia. The Declaration is open for accession by all Asian parliaments.

The 10th meeting of the Board of Council was held on 23-24 September in Wuhan, China, with some 60 people from 37 institutions. The Board considered the matters related to financing, activity reports of AWC members and approved the Water Project Plan for 2020. It was decided that US \$2 million allocated by GCF for 2020 will be directed for 10 projects.

Source: Information note on AWC provided by GEF Agency of IFAS

7.2. Geneva Water Hub



The Geneva Water Hub is a joint project of the Swiss Confederation (Agency for Development and Cooperation, Global Program Water Division) and the University of Geneva. The Geneva Water Hub was established to help prevent water conflicts at an early stage and to promote water as an instrument of peace and cooperation. The [Platform for International Water Law](#) was established by some members of the Department of Public International Law and International Organization of the Faculty of Law of the University of Gene-

va in 2009. It has been a part of the Geneva Water Hub since its establishment in 2014.

Activities in 2019

International water law. On 3-4 December, the Platform for International Water Law of the Geneva Water Hub organized two events on inter-

national water law to celebrate its 10th anniversary: a roundtable entitled "Water disputes: how to prevent and solve them?" jointly organized with the Geneva Center for International Dispute Settlement and the Secretariat of the Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes and a Conference on "The implementa-

tion of international water law: global, regional and basin perspectives” jointly organized with the Secretariat of the Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes.

Water and philanthropy. On 11 December, the Platform for International Water Law organized a joint conference on “Water as a Public Good: Room for Philanthropy” with the Geneva Center for Philanthropy of the University of Geneva. Water is a public good with a variety of dimensions. It is an environmental, economic, social and cultural good that must be managed and protected accordingly. States, international organizations, the private sector, associations, foundations and local communities all have a role to play to protect water in times of peace as well as during and after armed conflicts. The role of non-state actors is often neglected in the management of water resources. However, codes of conduct and ethical standards, as well as commitments made in the context of SDGs and the Paris Agreement on Climate Change, highlight that they have an important part to play. This event has addressed the role of water as a source of cooperation and inclusiveness at the domestic and international levels. The following questions have been addressed: How can non-state actors contribute to the governance of water resources? How can public-private partnerships such as the UN Global Compact strengthen water protection? How can the private sector play a role as peacebuilder after an armed conflict?

A synthesis report is available here:

https://www.unige.ch/philanthropie/files/8215/7953/4773/Summary_Phil_Lunch_Water_11.12.2019.pdf

Protection of Water During and After Armed Conflicts. The Platform for International Water Law of the Geneva Water Hub completed the “[Geneva List of Principles on the Protection of Water Infrastructure](#)”. This is the first document that comprehensively covers the protection of water infrastructure during and after armed

conflicts under international law. It is addressed both to States and non-State armed groups. It enshrines both customary norms and good practices. The Geneva Principles have been presented in several international events including at the International Peace Institute in New York, the World Bank and the Environmental Law Institute in Washington DC, as well as during the Stockholm World Water Week, the Geneva Peace Week and the 33rd International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement.

The Global Observatory on Water and Peace.

The Geneva Water Hub officially launched the Global Observatory on Water and Peace in two international events: the 5th Arab Water Week (March 2019) and the Budapest Water Summit (October 2019).

The role of large dams in transboundary water negotiations.

In May, the Geneva Water Hub organized a roundtable on “The role of large dams in transboundary water negotiations”. It counted with representatives from governments, the private sector, researchers and engineers, international financial institutions and civil society organizations. The goal of this meeting was to identify gaps to set the agenda for future research projects and open for collaboration to other institutions in the domains of water diplomacy and water governance.

Launch of the “Water Diplomat”. Media engagement is instrumental to raise awareness on water issues. In a move to bridge the gap on hydro-political information and trigger the interest of the public and the media, the Geneva Water Hub and the world’s leading publisher on water OOSKANews jointly launched the global media platform “[The Water Diplomat](#)”, free monthly news and intelligence resource specialized in hydro-politics. This project pursues the goal of promoting access to political stakes of water management that are making news around the world.

Source: Geneva Water Hub

7.3. Global Water Partnership

The Global Water Partnership (GWP) is a global network of action including over 3,000 partners in 179 countries. GWP is comprised of 13 Regional Water Partnerships (RWPs) and 86 National Water Partnerships (NWPs), with the mission to advance governance and management of water resources for sustainable and equitable development.



The completion of 2019 marks the end of the GWP 2015-2019 Strategy. The evaluation of its implementation drew broadly positive conclusions that reflect the substantial progress across a range of aspects.

Launched in the summer of 2019, the new GWP 2020-2025 Strategy identified climate and the water-related SDGs as two of the three anchor areas around which the programmatic focus of the Strategy is based. The third anchor area of the new Strategy concerns transboundary water management. This is an area of engagement where GWP has delivered significant results in some regions, e.g. Southern Africa, West Africa, Central and Eastern Europe, and the Mediterranean, while finding it harder to gain a foothold in other parts of the world where cross-border issues are equally urgent. Considering these variations, in 2019 the general programmatic approach for organizational coordination and engagement in transboundary water management was reviewed and updated based on the learning from success factors that enabled GWP to play a meaningful role in basins such as the Danube, Limpopo, Volta and Drin.

Activities in 2019

GWP's Transboundary Water portfolio in 2019 across each of four components is described below.

Component 1. Regional dialogues on transboundary waters

Central America: Collaboration with the Central America Commission for Environment and Development (CCAD) on the establishment of a transboundary water management framework for the region which has been initiated through the organization of a dialogue process to construct a cooperation agenda within this framework and the initial identification of actions by the countries of the region facilitated by a GWP organized regional workshop in Honduras.

China: Establishment of a new River Basin Partnership for the Yangtze basin which will provide a multi-stakeholder platform through which to facilitate more equal allocation of water resources and sustainable management of the basin as a whole in line with GWP's ambitions to promote IWRM throughout China.

Central Asia: Contributions to the working group on bilateral cooperation for water management between Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan in the context of an agreement on water relations between the two countries.

Mediterranean: Support to several Mediterranean countries exploring potential accession to the UNECE Water Convention, including Leba-

non, Jordan, Iraq and Tunisia, through awareness raising, capacity building and targeted discussions and clarifications on specific technical issues resulting in the establishment of inter-ministerial committees and, in the case of Iraq, ratification of the accession currently passing through Parliament.

Component 2. Cooperation for the management of transboundary water bodies

GWP facilitates cooperation at the level of specific transboundary water bodies, supporting improved management and governance. Examples of GWP's work on this component in 2019 include: completion of the Strategic Action Program for the long-term management of the **Drin Basin**, a transboundary diagnostic analysis, and the advancement of three local pilot projects as part of GWP's role as Secretariat of the formal Drin Core Group (acting as de facto joint commission for the Drin Basin management) and coordinator of key projects in the Southeast Europe basin, including large-scale GEF/UNDP Drin Project. In the **Tisza basin**, GWP supported the successful development of the Tisza River Basin Management Plan through participation in the JOINTISZA project under which GWP facilitated the stakeholder engagement processes for the project. GWP also assisted a number of African River basins in: the creation of the **Ogoue-Ntem-Nyanga-Komo river basin organization** as a strategic partner of the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS); the development of a project proposal on transboundary water management in the Limpopo River basin in collaboration with the Limpopo River Basin Commission (LIMCOM) and UNDP; the implementation of a series of transboundary water and energy projects identified through the Program for Infrastructure Development in Africa (PIDA) Priority Action Plan.

Component 3. SDG 6.5 targets on transboundary waters

SDG 6.5 is particularly relevant for transboundary water governance, as indicator 6.5.1 focuses on the degree of IWRM implementation at all levels, including the transboundary level. More importantly, SDG indicator 6.5.2 focuses on the proportion of transboundary basin area with an operational arrangement for water cooperation. GWP CAf in collaboration with UNECE-UNESCO and ECCAS supported 10 countries in the region to advance transboundary cooperation and improve SDG 6.5.2 monitoring through activities such as a regional workshop on accelerating progress towards SDG 6.5.2

and participation of actors from the region to the GWP facilitated pan-African International Water Law training. GWP also contributed to the SDG 6.5.2 workshop organized between Bulgaria and Romania to support the two countries in advancing on the transboundary SDG indicator in relation to their shared portion of the Danube basin.

Component 4. Transboundary water management knowledge and learning

GWP has a well-established capacity building program in Africa, Latin America and Asia. The program focuses on key subjects of international water governance, including international water law, and makes use of a combination of online and face-to-face trainings. In 2019, GWP investigated ecologic resilience of the River Black basin, a major tributary of the Yellow River,

to provide information upon which to base the annual cross-provincial water allocation plans and water-controlling schemes of the River Black's resources. It supported the Volta Basin Authority in the organization of capacity building activities on eco-system management for climate change adaptation in the six countries of the Volta Basin, as well as in the development of a consolidated action plan for ecosystem management for adaptation to climate change in the Volta Basin. A knowledge exchange visit was organized; it saw delegates from the riparian countries of the Drin Basin (Albania, Kosovo, Montenegro and North Macedonia) visit the Mekong basin to share and learn from peers working on transboundary issues and to explore applicable solutions.

Source: GWP Annual Progress Review for 2019

7.4. International Commission on Irrigation and Drainage

The International Commission on Irrigation and Drainage (ICID) was established in 1950 as a scientific and technical organization with a view to develop scientific technologies in engineering, agriculture, irrigation and drainage, economy, ecology, and social sciences to increase food production, protect environment, improve water quality, improve land productivity, and manage floods and disasters. Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan are the members of ICID.



ICID • CIID

On 3-7 September, the [3rd World Irrigation Forum](#) (WIF3) and the 70th International Executive Council Meeting were hosted by the Commission in Bali, Indonesia. The main theme of WIF3 was "**Development for Water, Food and Nutrition Security in a Competitive Environment**". WIF3 provides an important platform for scientists, researchers, experts and professionals from private and government sectors to come together to exchange and share experiences. In total more than 1,500 participants from 60 countries, including ministers and vice ministers from 9 countries and heads, or representatives of 10 International Organizations attended the Forum. Three parallel sessions and 12 supporting events were held, including 6 international workshops: (1) Innovation of Developing the Strategy for Impact Assessment of and Adaptation to the Climate Change as the "New Normal"; (2) Historical Water Sustainability; (3) Participatory Irrigation/ Drainage Management – Transfer, Approaches and Condition for Successful PIDM; (4) Modernizing Irrigation Services for Water, Food, and Nutrition Security; (5) Improving the Water Use Efficiency and Productivity within Water Energy Food Nexus; (6) Integrated

Development of Tidal Areas – An Exchange of Expertise from Basin Perspective.

During the Opening Ceremony of WIF3, presentation of trophy by H.E. M. Basuki Hadimulyono, Minister for Public Works and Housing (PWH), Indonesia, prize money by H.E. Tian Xuebin, Vice Minister, Ministry of Water Resources of PR of China, and Er. Felix B. Reinders, President, ICID presented the World Irrigation and Drainage Prize 2019 to Prof. Dr. Chandra Madramootoo for his sustained, long standing and highly committed work in irrigation and drainage sector worldwide through education, research, planning and international project implementation.

Following speeches and discussions, the following Statements of the Forum were formulated and adopted (excerpts are given below).

Main Statements

The focus of WIF3 was to address global food security, poverty alleviation and environment protection, through sustaining economically

and socially viable irrigation and drainage development and management. We, therefore:

- recognize that the world is facing rapid population growth and urbanization, changes in land use, climate and diets, increasing droughts and floods, environmental degradation, etc.;
- reaffirm that sustainable development and management of agricultural water is a priority issue for achieving food security and poverty alleviation;
- recognize the need to achieve water security. To this end it is vital to course-correct and increase water productivity by improving agricultural water management at all levels, in particular with respect to the specific challenges facing least developed and emerging countries, in meeting SDG and maintaining rural development.

Activities in 2019

On 4 September, the **first meeting of the Working Group on Irrigation and Drainage in the States under Socio-Economic Transformation (WG-IDSST)**

was held. WG-IDSST was established in 2018 composed of representatives of Ukraine, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, Russia, Nigeria, Sudan, Egypt, India, Pakistan, Sri-Lanka, and Japan. Among other issues, the mandate of WG-IDSST includes developing and strengthening the network among the countries of transition on the basis of establishment of monitoring and evaluation of common problems and promoting implementation of IWRM; creating database and exchanging information about changing situation in Irrigation and Drainage in these States; monitoring the ecological situation in the transition states, including problems of closed basin (Aral Sea, Lake Chad, Lake Victoria, Caspian Sea). The agenda included the Road Map to ICID Vision 2030 – Activities in the States under socioeconomic transformation, work plan based on the mandate, as well as strengthening of the network among the transition states.

ICID identifies, recognizes and maintains a record of World Heritage Irrigation Structures of archival value that are more than a century old and help understand the evolution of irrigation systems among civilizations across the world. Nineteen heritage structures were recognized by ICID in the year 2019.

Source: Mrs. Irena G. Bondarik, ICID Vice President, www.icid.org/ag_idsst.pdf

7.5. International Network of Basin Organizations



The International Network of Basin Organizations (INBO) was established in 1994 in Aix-les-Bains (France) to promote integrated water resources management at the level of river basins as an essential tool for sustainable development. Basin organizations, governmental administrations in charge of water, and bi and multilateral cooperation organizations are the members of INBO.

INBO member organizations belonging to the same geographic region created 8 regional networks of INBO, including African, Latin American, Mediterranean, etc.

General Assembly

Meeting under the Marrakech International Summit on Water Security, INBO members held their General Assembly from 30 September to 3 October 2019. The Assembly gathered more than 400 registered delegates, representing the Member Organizations, water administrations or observers from 62 countries, as well as the representatives of several interested bi or multilateral organizations and International Commissions or Authorities of transboundary basins. The

Kingdom of Morocco took over the INBO presidency from Mexico. The Assembly unanimously confirmed H.E Mr. Abdelkader Amara, Minister of Equipment, Transport, Logistics and Water of the Kingdom of Morocco, as the new INBO World President until next General Assembly which will be held during 2022; members of the new World Liaison Bureau were also designated. It was reminded that INBO was awarded the “**Special Advisory Status**” under “Major Groups” by the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), and in this respect is allowed to attend all events organized in its field of competence by the UN Agencies and Programs. The Assembly was also an opportunity to present the first assessment of the implementation of the commitments of the “[Paris Pact on Water and](#)

[Adaptation to Climate Change in the Basins of Rivers, Lakes and Aquifers](#)", already signed by more than 350 organizations from all over the world on the occasion of the COP21 in Paris in December 2015.

INBO Member-Organizations reiterated their wishes of a coordinated international initiative of the bi- and multilateral donors which would focus the Official Development Aid on IWRM projects relying on the creation and strengthening of Basin Organizations and of their Basin Information Systems, especially in the context of the necessary adaptation to the effects of climatic change on water resources all over the World.

As a result of the "Peer-to-Peer Review" projects, aimed at facilitating the implementation of the Basin Management Plans of the Water Framework Directive in the 28 Member-States of the European Union, it was agreed to propose new initiatives of this kind, expanding the possibilities of involvement of the Voluntary Basin Authorities on a global scale.

The Assembly was pleased with the continuation of the work of the "**Platform of pilot Transboundary Basins for testing measures for adaptation to the effects of climate change on water resources**", initiated in partnership by UNECE and INBO. It calls for a broad mobilization of International Commissions or Transboundary Basin Authorities from around the world to join this strategic initiative given the very short-term challenges of adaptation, especially for

the practical implementation of the commitments of the "Paris Pact".

The INBO Work Program for 2019-2021 was approved, with 7 thematic priorities that, ultimately, should ensure ubiquitous water security as a cornerstone of sustainable development.

The Assembly wished that INBO continue the thinking started in the World Water Forums, to propose its own "vision" on the evolution of water management in the coming years, and present its proposals to go to practical field actions with the prospect of the 9th Forum in Dakar in Senegal in March 2021. INBO is the part of the steering group for the Cooperation priority.

In 2019, 17th "Europe-INBO 2019" International Conference for the Implementation of the European Water Directives (17-20 June, Finland) and 7th General Assembly of the African Network of Basin Organizations (1-5 July, Tunisia) were also held.

INBO contributed to the World Bank's Report "Financing Climate Change Adaptation in Transboundary Basins: Preparing Bankable Projects" (see Section "[Publications](#)").

INBO published the new issue of "INBO Newsletter" (No. 27, May 2019) with the key highlights of Network's activity.

Source: <https://www.inbo-news.org/en>

The Eastern Europe, Caucasus, and Central Asia Network of Water Management Organizations (EECCA NWO)

EECCA NWO is one of the eighth regional networks of INBO. It was established in 2010 to exchange views, experiences, and information on various aspects of water-management activity. The Network is administered by SIC ICWC, with the support of the Government of Russian Federation and the UNECE, and Network's activities are coordinated with those of INBO.

Activities in 2019

The International Conference of EECCA NWO on the theme "Science and Innovations for Water Security" was organized and held on 23-24 September 2019 in Yekaterinburg, Russia. 40 participants from Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Russia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, France, Finland, Columbia and the Netherlands took part in the Conference. The reso-

lution, which supported the Network's development plan for the next years, was adopted as the outcome of the Conference.

The main topics addressed at the Conference included:

- Water security of transboundary water bodies in the context of growing water scarcity;
- Innovation-based water sector development strategy;
- New innovative approaches/ideas to efficient and effective water management;
- Role of science and education for ecologically safe environment and innovative water development.

Following the Conference, collections of scientific papers titled “Science and Innovations for Water Security” (volumes 1 and 2) and “Selected transboundary water agreements signed between European and Asian states over 1992-2019” were issued.

EECCA NWO contributed to the development of the knowledge base on the CAWater-Info portal and supported the “Atlas of water-management and environmental organizations in the EECCA countries”; e-newsletter “Water management, irrigation and environment in the EECCA countries” is prepared and distributed weekly.

Network’s members consulted their respective states on a wide circle of water-related matters (IWRM, strengthening of financial and economic mechanisms in sustainable water

management, improvement of transboundary water cooperation mechanisms) and contributed to drafting of regulatory legal acts and national strategies (e.g. Concept of water sector development in Uzbekistan until 2035, Concept of Kazakhstan’s State Program for water management until 2030, 2020 Water Code of Tajikistan). Network’s members expanded activity through joint participation in tenders and joint implementation of research projects (e.g. drafting of the 2019 Diagnostic Report on Water Resources in Central Asia by request of OECD). A regional expert platform on water security, sustainable development and future studies was initiated (see “[Central Asian Expert Platform on Water Security, Sustainable Development and Future Studies](#)”).

Source: www.eecca-water.net

7.6. International Water Resources Association and World Water Congress



International Water Resources Association (IWRA) is a global knowledge network of water experts. Since 1971, the Association has grown to become a preeminent key actor working internationally for the sustainable use and management of the world’s water resources.

In 2019, IWRA welcomed its new Executive Board (the first truly gender-balanced Board in its history). Together they developed a new strategy as a basis for IWRA’s priorities and action plans over the short, medium and long-terms.

Since 1973, IWRA holds a World Water Congress every three years in various locations around the world. In 2019, the Association undertook multiple preparatory activities for its XVII World Water Congress planned to take place in 2020, in Daegu,

Republic of Korea. The theme of the Congress was agreed to be “Foundations for Global Water Security and Resilience: Knowledge, Technology and Policy”. It is the first time that the World Water Congress will be held in East Asia. Its main objective is to provide an ideal platform for researchers, professionals, experts, policymakers, students, and stakeholders to exchange ideas, present new knowledge and learn from each other in the field of water policy and sciences around the world. As this Congress focuses on Water Security, IWRA wanted to hear stories from different younger representatives of communities facing Water Security issues. A competition was launched to identify these individuals. This World Water Envoys program is unique, as it gives an opportunity to young people that are not necessarily from the water world to become the ambassadors of their communities, meet with international water experts, raise the profile of the

water issues their communities face, and hopefully bring some concrete solution back to where they live. The final decision was very hard, but in the end 5 candidates were selected as winners, trying to ensure a geographical balance, as well as a good variety of water security challenges.

Three new Task Forces were launched on Water Security, Climate Change, and IWRA 50th Anniversary. The Task Forces have proven to be an effective way of engaging more deeply with active members on specific topics and projects, giving them opportunities to get directly involved in projects that IWRA is partnering with other international organizations to deliver.

An important Water Security project with UNESCO’s International Centre for Water Security and Sustainable Management (i-WSSM) was launched with the assistance of a

new, associated member-led Task Force. The agreement between UNESCO i-WSSM and IWRA was finalized to produce the annual Global Water Security Issues (GWSI) Papers series to collect case studies on emerging and future global water security issues in the context of SDGs. IWRA is now managing the collection and editing the case studies being used in this publication. Given the complexity and range of the topic of water security, a sub-theme is selected for each GWSI Paper Series. In 2019, the sub-theme was: Water Reuse within a Circular Economy Context.

In 2019, eight issues of Water International were produced, including 4 special issues. Five Policy Brief documents were published in 2019, either as part of the “Blue Series” based on 4 Water International special issues or otherwise as part of the “Green Series” (Policy Brief on

Compensation for Flood Storage). In 2019, IWRA held webinars on eight different topics. These online events were based on either selected special issues of Water International, or in relation to other water related events, such as the World Water Day, etc. Overall, 825 registrants participated for free in these eight webinars.

A renewed IWRA website was launched in October, presenting a more interactive interface and a fresher look. The website is completely redesigned with new features and more user-friendly menus and sections, as well as security enhancements. Over the year, IWRA's website received over 150,000 visitors and more than 480,000 visits.

Source: IWRA Communication Division, 2019 IWRA Activity Report

7.7. OIC Water Council

The Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) was established upon a decision of the first high-level Islamic Conference, which took place in Rabat, Kingdom of Morocco on 25 September 1969. In March 1970, the first ever meeting of Islamic Conference of Foreign Minister (ICFM) was held in Jeddah; it was decided to establish a permanent Secretariat in Jeddah headed by the organization's Secretary General. OIC consists of [57 members](#) and [5 observers](#).



The **Water Council of OIC** is the execution branch of the Ministers of Water Resources in OIC Member-States. The Council aims at activating cooperation among the OIC Member-States on water, in addition to following up the efforts and progress achieved in this regard. Following the results of the first meeting held in November 2017 in Turkey, the Water Council approved the Program of Actions for 2017-2023, which provides for:

- assessment of institutional and human capacity requirements in Member-States;
- collaborative activities amongst water institutes of OIC countries and arrangement of joint events;
- training workshops for government officials, civil society, private sector, academic and research institutions of the Member-States;
- promotion of network of Centers of Excellence in collaborative arrangements with the Member-States;

- improvement of water infrastructure of the Member-States.

Activities in 2019

The second meeting of the OIC Water Council was held as part of the [Cairo Water Week](#) (20-22 October). It is considered as an attempt to put countries on the right track to implement their national water strategy under the general framework of the OIC Vision. The program of the second meeting included a meeting of senior officials of the Council Member-States (21 October), which discussed capacity building, wastewater treatment, transboundary issues, and financial support, and the Ministerial Meeting of the OIC Water Council (22 October), where recommendations were adopted to motivate cooperation among the OIC Member-States.

Recommendations of the second meeting of the OIC Water Council:

- To adopt a more focused approach and develop synergies among OIC institutions'



activities, the meeting requested OIC institutions to conduct capacity-building and training workshops, in particular on the water monitoring network and early warning system; water conservation and productivity in the agricultural sector.

- To exchange information with various stakeholders and share innovative me-

thods and new mechanisms for addressing water-related issues adopted by OIC countries.

- It is recommended that the web portal on water be re-launched. The portal should focus on highlighting success stories, case studies and other information on water-related activities undertaken by member states.
- The network of centers of excellence in the Islamic world should be established to share experiences.
- The OIC Secretariat should work closely with member states and other OIC institutions to organize a meeting of the OIC water research institutions in the near future.
- To overcome the lack of technical and financial resources in many OIC Member-States for the development of water strategies, as well as for conduction of and cooperation on innovative research to achieve various mitigation measures, the OIC General Secretariat is invited to work with other regional and international stakeholders to establish institutional mechanisms to benefit from available funds and international best practices, as well as opportunities for capacity building.

Source: Information provided by the GEF Agency of IFAS

7.8. Stockholm International Water Institute and World Water Week



The Stockholm International Water Institute (SIWI) is a Swedish not-for-profit foundation, which seeks to strengthen the governance of fresh water globally, regionally, nationally, and locally. Its priority areas include cooperation over shared waters, informed international policy and improved water governance.

In 2017, the 2018-2021 Strategy was adopted, based on which SIWI intends to influence decision-makers, by combining its convening power with their

expertise in water governance, and by building dialogue, improving policies, and changing water governance practice.

World Water Week

The Stockholm World Water Week is the leading annual global event for concretely addressing the planet's water issues and related concerns of international development. World Water

Week 2019 gathered 4,000 participants from 138 countries, 47 exhibitors, 277 sessions and 578 convening organizations on the theme "Water for society – including all". The overarching conclusions can be summarized as "Inclusion is key to addressing today's challenges". During the 2019 World Water Week, SIWI hosted a special delegation from Afghanistan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan in partnership with SDC. Each country delega-

tion included representatives of the relevant water ministry, ministry of foreign affairs, and institutes of strategic studies. Ensuring the participation of a Central Asian delegation at the world's leading annual water event gives a unique opportunity for experience-sharing, learning of the latest developments in the water sector around the world and provides the delegates a networking prospect for establishing new partnerships. In addition to participating in full at the World Water Week the delegation also took part in several meetings organized for the invited delegation to share views on top priorities for transboundary water cooperation; current national initiatives meant to address these priorities; gaps or hurdles remaining to take new or more substantial steps towards strengthening regional cooperation.

SIWI's Activities in Central Asia

In Central Asia, SIWI is engaged in supporting multi-track riparian dialogues surrounding transboundary water management, as well as targeted capacity building and networking opportunities to elevate regional water coope-

ration dialogue. Providing capacity building and knowledge management for young professionals is an ongoing priority for SIWI in line with SIWI's three cross cutting issues of gender equality, youth empowerment and human rights-based approaches.

SIWI's ongoing collaboration with CAREC continued in 2019. On the request and invitation of CAREC and OSCE, SIWI led a three day training session on Water Diplomacy during the Central Asian Leadership Program on Environment for Sustainable Development (CALP) in Almaty, September 2019. The overarching themes of the training sessions were the intersections between gender equality, water management and conflict prevention. The training was attended by 30 early and mid-career professionals from the environment and water fields. The main objective of the training was to strengthen young professional voices and develop the next generation of water and environment leaders, including water diplomats in Central Asia.

Source: www.siwi.org

7.9. World Water Council

The World Water Council (WWC) is an international multi-stakeholder platform.

It was established in 1996 on the initiative of renowned water specialists and international organizations, in response to an increasing concern about world water issues from the global community.

The World Water Council catalyzes collective action during and in between each World Water Forum – the world's largest event on water.

Organized every three years with a host country, 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.



9th World Water Forum “Water Security for Peace and Development”



9th WORLD WATER
FORUM | DAKAR 2021

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 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. The participants also evoked the preparation of the Forum Kick-Off meeting held in the new city of Diamniadio, Senegal on 20 and 21 June 2019. The meeting brought nearly six hundred organizations and experts from around the world who contributed in the construction of the program for the [Dakar World Water Forum](http://www.worldwaterforum.org) in March 2021. It is important to note that previous editions of the World Water Forum

included three major processes: thematic, political and regional. The 9th World Water Forum in Dakar will mark a break with the institutional organization of past Forums. It focuses on an integrated preparation based on quality exchanges, multiactors around a limited number of priorities integrating the previous tools of the processes: thematic, political, regional, citizen. The Dakar 2021 Forum will focus on four SDG-related priorities: (1) Water Security and Sanitation; (2) Cooperation; (3) Water and Rural Development; (4) Means and Tools, including Finance, Governance, Knowledge Management and Innovations, each of which will be coordinated by a Pilot Group. In December, a call for participation in Action Groups was launched to identify ways to move the water agenda forward in specific areas in an ongoing way. In this way, the Forum will be more than a series of sessions, but a commitment to getting things done together. The action groups will also draw from a broader Consultative Group, which can act as a broader community of practice encompassing a variety of stakeholders. The Consultative Groups are formed through an open call process and operate on a voluntary basis. December also saw the release of the First Announcement (a brochure).

Activities in 2019

The 1st WASAG International Forum on Water Scarcity in Agriculture was supported by WWC, FAO, IFAD, and the Governments of Italy and Switzerland (19-22 March, Praia, Cabo Verde). Discussions addressed challenges related to WASAG's six working areas: (1) Water and migration; (2) Drought preparedness; (3) Water and nutrition; (4) Financial mechanisms; (5) Sustainable agricultural water use; and (6) 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.

WWC organized the High-level Strategic Workshop on Water and Climate "Raising Ambitions on the Road to COP 25" (13 June, Bonn,

Germany). The meeting met its objective of mobilizing and encouraging a range of political, governmental, institutional, technical, and scientific stakeholders, as well as NGOs and CSOs, to work together to keep water as an important element of climate discussions. The agenda of the workshop aligned with the broader goal of implementing the Paris Agreement and focused on water as a cross-cutting solution to raise climate ambitions within the UNFCCC framework. The [outcomes document](#) of the workshop "Raising Ambitions on the Road to CoP25" was published. The Council was actively involved in the UN Climate Change Conference in Madrid in December. Joining forces with key partners, the Council co-organized and supported several events, including the Water Action Event "Just Add Water: Solutions for the 2020 NDCs and beyond" co-convened under the Marrakech Partnership for Global Climate Action (MPGCA).

At Stockholm World Water Week, WWC President Loïc Fauchon opened the seminar on "[Transforming Societies to meet the SDGs: The Role of Finance](#)" co-organized by WWC, where he called for political leaders to help unlock capital for investments for ambitious water projects. "A strong signal of commitment needs to come from all levels of political governance to create the right environment that will reassure investors and attract capital" (27 August). WWC proposed ten practical responses to improve financing for water. During the World Water Week, a special members event was organized around the Council's four newly created Task Forces. This meeting allowed members to associate their efforts with the WWC's four priority areas: (1) Water Security, (2) Financing, (3) Global Changes, and (4) IWRM – Transversality (28 August). All participants were invited to share their views on activities to be led and the Task Forces they wish to engage in. Members' meetings provide unique networking opportunities with fellow Council members.

Source: www.worldwaterforum.org/en; World Water Council's activities reports No. 68-71

