

# NEWS AND ACTIVITIES

## MARCH-JUNE 2018

Report to the 65<sup>th</sup> Board of Governors Meeting



Opening of the 8<sup>th</sup> World Water Forum. President of Brazil Michel Temer (center) welcomes Heads of State and the President of the World Water Council at Itamaraty Palace, 19 March

### 8<sup>TH</sup> WORLD WATER FORUM DELIVERS MAJOR OUTCOMES, STRENGTHENS FORUM ROLE AS CATALYZER FOR POSITIVE CHANGE

From 18 to 23 March, over 10,000 delegates from 172 different countries came together in Brasilia at the 8<sup>th</sup> World Water Forum to stimulate solutions to the world's most pressing water challenges and map out the future of water security.

Twelve heads of state, 56 government ministers and 14 deputy ministers, 134 parliamentarians, 180 city mayors, governors and state legislators, 83 judges and prosecutors and representatives of 525 institutions travelled to the Brazilian capital to engage in more than 350 sessions and events.

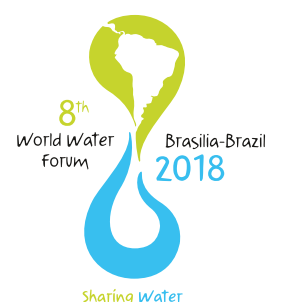
An additional 109,600 visitors, including over 50,000 children and 3,585 teachers, were present at the Citizen's Village, a record for this 8<sup>th</sup> edition of the world's largest event on water, held for the first time in the Southern hemisphere under the umbrella of "Sharing Water".

World Water Council President Benedito Braga made his opening remarks at Itamaraty Palace. Honorary President Loïc Fauchon spoke at the Opening in Ulysses Guimarães Convention Center, 19 March.



*"The 8<sup>th</sup> World Water Forum has again demonstrated the importance of reinforcing political commitment to advance the water agenda worldwide"*

Benedito Braga,  
President,  
World Water Council





*Top:* High-Level Panel “Revitalizing IWRM for the 2030 Agenda”, 20 March; *Center:* Council Vice-President Dogan Altinbilek opens the #ClimateIsWater event on the Council pavilion, 21 March; *Bottom:* Participants in the International Conference of Local and Regional Authorities on Water share the Call for Action on Water and Sanitation, 21 March

For more photos of the 8<sup>th</sup> World Water Forum go to <https://www.flickr.com/photos/worldwatercouncil/albums>

## COOPERATION FOR THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

During the World Water Forum, five major institutions comprising the World Bank Global Practice, 2030 Water Resources Group, the Global Water Partnership, the World Water Council and the UN Global Compact’s CEO Water Mandate released a statement reflecting their intention to work together more closely to achieve the SDGs, in the spirit of SDG 17 on creating partnerships. In particular, they committed to exploring how to more efficiently coordinate sets of actions towards increased water security in line with the SDGs.

## WATER AND DISASTERS

On 3 May, President Braga attended the 11<sup>th</sup> meeting of the High-level Experts and Leaders Panel on Water and Disasters (HELP) in Geneva, where he presented to the audience the main outcomes and achievements of the 8<sup>th</sup> World Water Forum and the High Level Panel on Water. He emphasized the commitments of the Council to the advancement of the water and disasters agenda in the face of threats from climate variability and change.

## PROGRESS CONTINUES ON COUNCIL PROGRAMS

The 8<sup>th</sup> World Water Forum provided an opportunity for the Council to showcase the great progress it has made on its key programs, engaging on multiple levels in sessions, at bilateral meetings and at its pavilion. The Council is now fine-tuning Forum outcome messages in cooperation with the Forum Secretariat, as well as continuing to produce new products in view of major 2018 milestones, such as the upcoming High-Level Political Forum, Singapore International Water Week, World Water Week in Stockholm and CoP24. The Council has also started to reflect on orientations for the strategy and workplan for the next triennium in view of the upcoming General Assembly.

## FINANCING PANEL DRAWS HIGH-LEVEL PARTICIPATION

Co-convened by the World Water Council, the High-Level Panel of the Roundtable on Financing Water brought together governments, development finance institutions, private financiers and NGOs. The Roundtable helped disseminate key messages released by the High Level Panel on Water (HLPW) on valuing water and identifying solutions to overcome the barriers to adequate financing. High-level participation included Janos Ader, President of Hungary and member of the HLPW. The Council presented its report “Ten Actions for Financing Water Infrastructure” and two accompanying documents on typologies, which supported discussions and garnered further input. Within the framework of the Roundtable, two events will be co-convened at the World Water Week, one on blended finance and one to follow up on the work of the HLPW on financing and valuing. The Council is planning to release a third paper on blended finance at that time.

## WATER FOR A SUSTAINABLE URBAN FUTURE

During the 8<sup>th</sup> Forum, the Council launched the “Start with Water” guide with the organizing partners of the International Conference of Local and Regional Authorities for Water, which was very well received by the mayors in attendance. In addition, a report policy brief and case studies on “Increasing Financial Flows for Urban Sanitation” were released, serving as a basis for discussions at the High-Level Panel on Increasing Financial Flows for Sanitation and Wastewater Management. The publications, currently in English

and Portuguese, were widely disseminated throughout the Forum and will soon be available in French and Spanish.

In Brasilia, the Council also signed an MoU with K-water to collaborate on a new program examining “Water, Energy and Land Interdependencies”, which will focus on the concepts of the water supply value chain, smart cities and water-sensitive urban design.

## BUILDING MOMENTUM ON WATER IN THE CLIMATE AGENDA

The High-Level Panel “Bridging Water and Climate” spoke to a packed room in Brasilia and saw the launch of a Working Group on Water and Climate (WCWG) which proposes an informal collaboration among a few key countries to bring water firmly into the climate negotiations, such as at the upcoming CoP24. In May, the WCWG convened for their first meeting during the Climate Conference in Bonn and identified a number of potential areas for future cooperation. Plans are also underway for the 3<sup>rd</sup> annual International Conference on Water and Climate, to be held in Marseille in October 2018.

## REPORTING ON PROGRESS FROM THE 7<sup>TH</sup> TO THE 8<sup>TH</sup> WORLD WATER FORUM

During a dedicated Special Session, the World Water Council, Korea Water Forum and the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport of South Korea released their Implementation Roadmaps synthesis report to reveal the progress made on water since the 7<sup>th</sup> World Water Forum and discuss the way forward. By catalyzing collective action and contributing to global processes, the synthesis report also seeks to provide recommendations to the upcoming High-Level Political Forum in July 2018.

## INTEGRATED WATER RESOURCES MANAGEMENT

At the 8<sup>th</sup> Forum, the Council co-organized a high-level panel and three dedicated thematic sessions on IWRM. The Challenge Paper released for the event aims to trigger the revitalization of IWRM and galvanize the required political support for action on SDG 6.

## GLOBAL WATER SECURITY

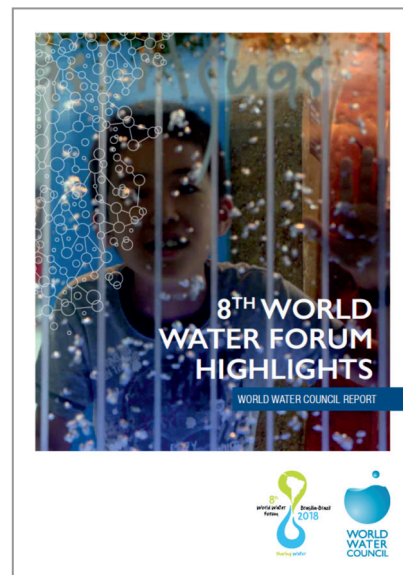
The Council and Ministry of Water Resources of China jointly released their publication “Global Water Security” and its policy recommendations during a dedicated high-level event which was followed with a signing session at the Council pavilion. Water security was also the subject of a workshop convened by GDP at the end of May in which the Council participated.

## MEMBER-LED INITIATIVES

During the Forum, the FAO and the World Water Council jointly released a white paper on water accounting for water governance and sustainable development and its accompanying policy brief.

The ICID-led World Water Systems Heritage member initiative awarded recognition to its first three projects during a dedicated event at the World Water Council pavilion in Brasilia.

Several activities were organized with Korean partners in Brazil around smart water management and green growth. In addition, a new MoU was signed with Asia Water Council to initiate collaborative work on water security and capacity development in developing countries.



Read all about the Forum in the Highlights publication

## 9<sup>TH</sup> WORLD WATER FORUM NEGOTIATIONS

On 22–23 May, the Council's negotiation team travelled to Dakar, Senegal to finalize the Framework Agreement for the organization of the 9<sup>th</sup> World Water Forum scheduled for 2021, which is expected to be signed during the 65<sup>th</sup> Board of Governors meeting. A small strategic workshop will be held following the Board meeting to discuss some initial orientations for the preparatory work. It's expected that the approach to organizing the 9<sup>th</sup> Forum will break with tradition in order to produce a more focused and integrated event with anticipated outcomes that are politically stronger.

## GOVERNANCE

The World Water Council organized two Extraordinary General Assemblies in Brasilia on 17 March and in Marseille on 18 June for members to cast their votes on the resolutions put forward by the Governance Commission. The Council is currently preparing for its triennial General Assembly, which will be held from 30 November to 1 December 2018.

## INTENSE MEDIA EFFORTS DURING FORUM WEEK

Documenting panels and meetings throughout the 8<sup>th</sup> Forum, the Council and its PR partner Marco de Comunicación produced **11 press releases** which were distributed globally to over **12,000 relevant media contacts**. A special World Water Day/8<sup>th</sup> Forum **video news release** was unveiled during the final press conference. The Council shared daily press advisories via email and on the ground and organized **four press briefings** at its pavilion about the Council's priority areas, with simultaneous Portuguese translation. Outreach efforts at the Forum generated thousands of news pieces with specific mention of the Council. A number of international TV news pieces, radio pieces and print articles were also reported.

## TWO PRESTIGIOUS WATER PRIZES AWARDED

Recognizing excellence in “cooperation and sound management in the development and use of water resources”, the King Hassan II Great World Water Prize was awarded to OECD and handed to Secretary-General Angel Gurría during a special ceremony. The Kyoto World Water Grand Prize was awarded to Charité Chrétienne pour Personnes en Détresse (CCPD) for its outstanding grassroots activities related to water issues worldwide.

## COUNCIL STAGES MULTIPLE ACTIVITIES AT PAVILION

To showcase its programs, the World Water Council engaged in multiple ways with Forum participants and visitors at its pavilion with special events, presentations, debates, press briefings and evening receptions.

## WORLD WATER DAY CELEBRATIONS

On 22 March, the World Water Day 2018 Special Session and evening reception at the Council pavilion in Brasília celebrated nature-based solutions for water, with a special lookout for the 9<sup>th</sup> World Water Forum in Dakar.

## MEDIA STATISTICS

- **28 interviews** with Tier 1 media including Al Jazeera TV, AFP, Reuters and The Guardian
- **3,694** news pieces mentioning the Council (43% in international media outlets) with real reach of **224.5 million**
- **3,238** news pieces mentioning World Water Forum
- **44** international TV news pieces
- **7** radio pieces
- **14** international articles reported
- **11** TV news pieces on Moroccan TV
- **2** full-page reports in Colombia's leading national daily, El Espectador, and Argentina's top tier daily, La Nación
- **36** print articles in Brazilian newspapers reported

Major outlets include:

Jornal do Brasil, Moroccan TV, CBS, Europa Press, RTBF, Nhan Ban, Yahoo, Reuters, Bloomberg, AFP, Xinhua, le Monde, Le Point Afrique, The Guardian, The Japan Times, New Delhi TV, and many others ...



Journalists attend a press briefing at the Council pavilion

## MEMBERS UPDATE

### MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS

# 320

#### GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION

10%	Africa	22%	Europe
16%	Americas	9%	International
42%	Asia	1%	Oceania

### COLLEGE DISTRIBUTION

4%	Intergovernmental institutions
21%	Governments and government authorities
25%	Enterprises and facilities
19%	Civil society organizations and water user associations
31%	Professional associations and academic institutions

\* Membership figures as of 23 May 2018



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