





Section 7

International Water Organizations and Initiatives

7.1. 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.

In 2017, the Council continued its **key initiatives**: financing water infrastructure; cities at the heart of growth; water and climate change; integrating World Water Forums; involving key political actors; and integrated water resource management.

In 2017, preparations to the **8th World Water Forum** to be held on March 18-23, 2017 in Brasilia (Brazil) were well underway. Organized every three years, 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 Forum brings together participants from all levels and areas, including politics, multilateral institutions, academia, civil society and the private sector, among others. The five processes of the 8th World Water Forum – Thematic, Regional, Political, Sustainability Focus Group and Citizen's Forum – were on track. Session coordinators have been selected and in August, the Thematic Commission launched a call for contributions to enhance the content of the Forum. In addition, the first Preparatory Committee meeting of the Ministerial Process was organized at the end of year.

Source: www.worldwatercouncil.org

7.2. 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.

In 2017, the major event of ICID activity was the **23rd ICID Congress** and 68th ICID International Executive Council Meeting. Attended by more than 832 delegates from 35 countries, this year the Congress theme was "Modernization of Irrigation and Drainage towards a New Green Revolution". Policy makers and officials from various countries unanimously voiced their support to take the world towards a path of modernization for a new green revolution through collaborative efforts and a partnership for Agriculture Water Management.

Recommendation on the first question (Question 60: Water productivity: Revisiting the concepts in light of water, energy and food nexus) mainly focus on water security, which has

environmental and social aspects. It was underlined that analysis of water laws and legal frameworks to achieve sustainable water management leading to water security was necessary.

The second question (Question 61: State of knowledge of irrigation techniques and practicalities within given socio-economic settings) considered precision agriculture, definition of which evokes different understanding amongst the community covering a wide range of options and technologies for application management at the field level and also the necessary decision support. Advances in technologies like ICT and cloud based computing models for real time decision support coupled with accurate determination of the status in the field using drones enable the application to large areas with multiple holdings.

Representatives of Central Asian countries and SIC ICWC participated in the 23rd ICID Congress.

For details see: www.icid2017.org

A publication titled 'A Roadmap to ICID Vision 2030: A Water Secure World Free of Poverty and Hunger' was unveiled during the **68th Plenary**

Session of the International Executive Council (IEC). This Roadmap depicts ICID's Mission, Vision and Goals under the global program of sustainable development, with focus on water management in agriculture to eradicate poverty and hunger. Particularly, within the Action Plan 2017-21, which forms part of the Roadmap, the work will be carried out to include the Americas, Mediterranean region and Africa in the research network supported by the current member countries' financial capabilities and aimed at broad technical support of agricultural production.

On 4-7 March 2017, the Iranian National Committee on Irrigation and Drainage successfully organized the **13th International Drainage Workshop (IDW-13)** in **Ahwaz City, Iran**. The IDW-13 was attended by some 700

delegates from 23 countries. ICID has been organizing International Drainage Workshops since 1983 when the main emphasis was on 'Land Drainage' design and construction. The emphasis moved on to 'Modern Drainage' where the concerns about disposal of the drainage water and the ways and means to reduce environmental adverse impacts were given a priority. The theme Drainage and Environmental Sustainability enabled issues related to measures to improve drainage water quality; measures to lower volume of drainage water; adaption of new design criteria in favor of the environment; and application of alternative drainage methods.

Source: I.G.Bondarik, ICID Vice-President, ICID website www.icid.org

7.3. International Network of Basin Organizations

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. In 2017, INBO actively participated in preparatory process of the 8th World Water Forum, as well as in organization of important water related events.

INBO was a partner of the African Great Lakes Conference, which took place on 2-5 May 2017 in Entebbe, Uganda. The conference was aimed to link science and best practices to solutions for conservation and sustainable development of the African Great Lakes region. The conference brought together leaders from government resource agencies, basin organizations and other lake basin management groups of the region's major lakes, multi-lateral agencies, academic institutions, the private sector and non-governmental organizations, to facilitate collaboration, strengthen capacity, inform policy and management with science and practice, and encourage basin-scale ecosystem management. The outcome of the conference was a resolution.⁶

INBO also co-organized the International Summit on "Water and Climate: Meeting of the Great Rivers of the World", which was held on October 23-25 in Rome (see section "[Key Water Developments in the World](#)").

The 15th International Conference "EUROPE-INBO 2017" for the Implementation of the European Water Directives was organized on 20-23 September in Dublin, Ireland. The conference was organized with the updated issues of the field Implementation of the Water Framework Directive and other European Water Directives. The workshop on "Water data management organization and electronic reporting" took place, and 4 thematic roundtables were organized: Water Framework Directive: upcoming milestones; adaptation to climate change; public participation; and new threats to aquatic environments. The outcome of the Conference was the Dublin Declaration of INBO-EUROPE.⁷

INBO took part in the 23rd session of the Conference of the Parties (COP 23) to the UN Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), held on 6-17 November in Bonn, where the Network presented two-year dynamics of the Paris Pact on Water and Adaptation to Climate Change in the Basins of Rivers, Lakes, and Water Courses already signed by 359 organizations⁸.

⁶ www.greatlakesofafrica.org

⁷ www.inbo-news.org

⁸ www.cop-23.org/

In 2017, INBO published its regular Newsletter (Issue 25 of August 2017), which highlighted key water developments within the framework of Network.

English version of the Newsletter is available on <https://www.riob.org/en/documents/inbo-newsletter-ndeq25-august-2017>

Network of the Eastern Europe, Caucasus, and Central Asia 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 developed by the Scientific-Information Center of ICWC and JSC "Vodstroy" under support of the Government of Russian Federation and the UN Economic Commission for Europe, and Network's activities are coordinated with those of the International Network of Basin Organizations (INBO).

On 18-19 May 2017, the EECCA NWO International Conference: Challenges of river

basin management in the context of climate change was held in Moscow. It brought together researchers and experts from many countries, including Russia, Belarus, Moldova, Azerbaijan, Armenia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, France, Switzerland, and Austria.

The focus areas of the Conference were: transboundary river basin cooperation; sustainable water management and adoption of information-communication technologies at basin level; adaptation of water management to climate change and anthropogenic impact; water-food production-hydropower-environment nexus; SMART-water; water supply and sanitation; and, river basin reclamation issues.

The collection of scientific papers - "Challenges of River Basin Management in the context of Climate Change" – was issued as a follow-up to the Conference. It contains articles reflecting the current state of research and efforts on climate mitigation in the EECCA countries.

Source: www.eecca-water.net/

7.4. Global Water Partnership

The Global Water Partnership (GWP) is a global network of action including over 3000 partners in 183 countries.

GWP is comprised of 13 Regional Water Partnerships (RWPs) and 86 National Water Partnerships (NWP), with the mission to advance governance and management of water resources for sustainable and equitable development.

GWP for the Countries of Caucasus and Central Asia (GWP CACENA) is one of the 13th RWPs established in 2002. It is a network that unites the national water partnerships, which in their turn unite the Partners in the regional countries. By 31 December 2017, the network is comprised of 135 acting accredited partners.

The mission of GWP CACENA is to support and assist the countries in Central Asia and Caucasus in sustainable water resources management; its ultimate goal is the implementation of IWRM principles and SDG. From 2003 to 2017, \$2.6 million €3.4 million were mobilized for GWP CACENA programs in the region.

In 2017, GWP CACENA delivered knowledge products focused on region-specific issues, such as irrigated agriculture and water for food security; transboundary aspect (water diplomacy); water-energy-food-ecosystem nexus; water and environment/ecosystems; water supply and sanitation – urban IWRM; water and climate – adaptation and mitigation.

GWP CACENA provides consultations and expert services, supports National Policy Dialogues on IWRM in all countries and facilitates coordinated process of capacity building and water diplomacy in the region.

GWP CACENA partners contribute to accumulation and dissemination of knowledge, visit major national, regional, and international events, and conduct round tables, workshops, and trainings.

The 2018 Work Plan of GWP CACENA consists of three main components:

1. Basic activities: facilitating GWP CACENA operational network working with strategic partners and stakeholders to integrate SDGs and water security, as well as IWRM as the tools in development process;
2. Water, Climate and Development Program (WACDEP): supporting national governments in implementing the Paris Climate Agreement by supporting the development of quantitative targets as part of the National Adaptation Plans

and relevant SDGs and of project proposals to be financed through the Green Climate Fund; and

3. Increasing preparedness to achieve water-related SDGs by 2030: supporting concrete efforts for better understanding, monitoring, and financing the implications of new SDGs structure in selected countries in 2016-2019. The component will supplement other efforts made by GWP in these countries. Two countries were selected in the region, Armenia and Kazakhstan, which would be supported by GWPO.

Source: www.gwp.org/en/CACENA/

7.5. International Water Resources Association

International Water Resources Association (IWRA) is a global knowledge network of water experts. It was established in 1971. It provides a global, knowledge based forum for bridging disciplines and geographies by connecting professionals, students, individuals, corporations, and institutions who are concerned with the sustainable use of the world's water resources. Since 1973, IWRA holds a World Water Congress every three years in various locations around the world.

The **XVI World Water Congress** was held in Cancun, Mexico, from 29 May to 3 June 2017 and it was co-hosted by IWRA, the National Water Commission of Mexico (CONAGUA) and the National Association of Water and Sanitation Utilities (ANEAS). One of its major outcomes was IWRA's Cancun Declaration – A Call for Action to Bridge Science and Water Policy-Making for Sustainable Development, which stresses the following:

- Business as usual" in science, policy and implementation is not an option;
- Stronger efforts for new interdisciplinary knowledge and better knowledge sharing are crucial;
- Scientific evidence-based policy making is essential; and
- Dissemination of good practices is crucial for fostering implementation of adaptive solutions.

The Congress solemnly urged:

Policy makers and donors: to assimilate science into the decision-making process; to finance and facilitate programs and processes to build evidence-based policies;

Scientists and professionals: to respond to the needs of civil society and to make new knowledge available for public debate; to commit themselves to the implementation of adaptive solutions;

Civil society: to adapt its own behavior to new challenges; to share its knowledge of realities and take part in the design and implementation of adaptive innovative solutions.

Source: www.iwra.org/

7.6. 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. In 2017, the 2018-2021 period strategy was adopted, based on which SIWI intends to influence decision-makers, by combining its convening power with our expertise in water governance, and by building dialogue, improving policies, and changing water governance practice.

World Water Week

The World Water Week in Stockholm, organized by SIWI, is the annual focal point for the globe's water issues. In 2017, the Week was held from 27 August to 1 September 2017 and addressed the theme "Water and Waste: Reduce and reuse". It gathered policy makers, civil servants, parliamentarians, scientists, activists, environmentalists, representatives of business and academia from 133 countries, including from Afghanistan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan.

During the World Water Week, three events were organized with participation of the representatives of Central Asia and addressed such issues as water diplomacy, participation of local communities in water resource man-

agement, and involvement of regional academic community in global sustainable development processes.

The main conclusions from the Week include:

- Policy-makers want to hear what we have to say;
- Strengthened governance allows and directs vital investment;
- Young professionals are claiming their rightful place at the table;
- Interest from the private sector at World Water Week is escalating;
- We must make a new push for the Water Goal in the Agenda 2030;
- Water Cooperation is crucial in times of increased demand and scarcity, and
- We must strive to better understand the different values of water.

Professor Stephen McCaffrey received the 2017 Stockholm Water Prize for his unparalleled contribution to the evolution and progressive realization of international water law.

Source: www.siwi.org

7.7. High Level Panel on Water

Achieving SDGs will require governments, societies, and the private sector to change the way they use and manage water. To accelerate this transformation the UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon and World Bank Group President Jim Kim have convened a High Level Panel on Water (HLPW) in 2016. The Panel, consisting of 11 Heads of State and Government, is to provide the leadership required in championing a comprehensive, inclusive and collaborative way of developing and managing water resources, and improving water and sanitation related services.

Members of the Panel

- H.E. Mrs. Ameenah Gurib-Fakim, President of Mauritius (Co-Chair);
- H.E. Mr. Enrique Peña Nieto, President of Mexico (Co-Chair);
- H.E. Mr. Malcolm Turnbull, Prime Minister of Australia;
- H.E. Mrs. Sheikh Hasina, Prime Minister of Bangladesh;
- H.E. Mr. János Áder, President of Hungary;
- H.E. Mr. Hani Mulki, Prime Minister of Jordan;
- H.E. Mr. Mark Rutte, Prime Minister of Netherlands;

H.E. Pedro Pablo Kuczynski Godard,
President of Peru;

H. E. Mr. Jacob Zuma, President of South
Africa;

H.E. Mr. Macky Sall, President of Senegal;

H.E. Emomali Rahmon, Tajikistan President;
and

Special Advisor Dr. Han Seung-soo, Former
prime Minister of the Republic of Korea.

Mandate and focus

Over the 2 years of its mandate, the Panel aims to mobilize support for a new approach to water that will underpin a more sustainable approach to global development – as outlined in the 17 Sustainable Development Goals, and in particular SDG 6 which focuses on ensuring the availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all. To achieve this, the Panel will motivate efficient actions and promote efforts to mobilize and target financial resources, scale-up investment, and encourage innovation and partnerships.

Action Plan

On 21 September 2016, the HLPW called for a fundamental shift in the way the world deals with water and launched its Action Plan on new approach to water management, achievement of which is stipulated by the 2030 Global Agenda. It is built around the following key areas:

- Catalyzing Changes, Building Partnerships and International Cooperation;
- Resilient Economies and Societies, and Disaster Risk Reduction;
- Universal Access to Safe Water and Sanitation;
- Sustainable Cities and Human Settlements;
- Water and the Environment;
- Infrastructure and Investments;
- Water Governance;
- Water Data; and
- Valuing Water.

Leadership Initiatives of the Panel members

Following an initiative led by the President of Tajikistan H.E. Mr. Emomali Rahmon, UN has adopted resolution no.A/RES/71/222 calling for a new **International Decade for Action on "Water for Sustainable Development" 2018-2028**. The main goal of the Decade is to increase awareness of water resources and its role in the global development agenda, as well as to promote the implementation of the water related SDGs. Tajikistan proposed the Concept note on the implementation of the Decade, including a set of activities under the Panel. It will work at its implementation and intends to adopt a Plan of action on the implementation of the Decade. Tajikistan is going to establish under the Government of Tajikistan a Special Centre and Preparatory Committee for monitoring the implementation of the Decade.

Recognizing that water is life, but also a cause of 90% of disasters, Panel Co-Chair, H.E. Mr. Enrique Pena Nieto, President of Mexico, is promoting **an initiative on water and disaster risk reduction**. Special Adviser to the Panel Dr. Han Seung-soo, former Prime Minister of the Republic of Korea, also works on the issues related to water resources and disasters.

To address the goal of 10 billion people with access to water and sanitation by 2030, President of South Africa H.E. Mr Jacob Zuma launched the World Water Development Report focused on the theme **"Wastewater: the untapped resource"**.

President of Hungary H.E. Mr. János Áder has initiated a dialogue with multilateral development banks and other stakeholders to increase **investment in the sector**.

H.E. Mrs. Ameenah Gurib, President of Mauritius, H.E. Mr. Macky Sall, President of Senegal and H.E. Mr. Pedro Pablo Kuczynski, President of Peru, are taking action in their own countries to accelerate the achievement of **universal access** through new service delivery and sector financing models.

Prime Minister of Australia H.E. Mr. Malcolm Turnbull announced **Water Data** initiative, with a focus on innovation and harmonization to improve access to water-related data.

To strengthen sustainable water management and water use, Prime Minister of the Netherlands H.E. Mr. Mark Rutte invites all stakeholders in dialogue on the approach and

principles for **valuing water**. This dialogue aims at developing a set of shared principles to motivate and encourage governments, business and civil society to consider water's multiple values.

Prime Minister of Bangladesh H.E. Ms. Sheikh Hasina hosts a meeting of South and East Asian leaders in Dhaka to discuss **cross-border**

collaboration and improved access to safe drinking water and sanitation in Asia.

The report of HLPW will be launched in March 2018.

Source:

<https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/HLPWater>

7.8. Global High-level Panel on Water and Peace

The Global High-Level Panel on Water and Peace was launched in November 2015 upon the initiative of Switzerland. 15 countries have co-convened the Panel: Cambodia, Colombia, Costa Rica, Estonia, France, Ghana, Hungary, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Morocco, Oman, Senegal, Slovenia, Spain, and Switzerland.

Panel Members serving in their individual capacity:

Prof. Danilo Türk, former President of the Republic of Slovenia (Chairman);

H.E. Mr. Mansour Faye, Minister of Hydraulics and Sanitation of the Republic of Senegal (Vice-Chair)

Dr. Alvaro Umaña Quesado, former Minister of Energy and Environment of Costa Rica (Vice-Chair);

Mr. Abdelaaziz Ameziane, adviser to the General Secretariat of the Ministry of Water of Morocco;

Prof. Laurence Boisson de Chazournes, Professor at the Law Faculty at the University of Geneva;

Mr. Franck Galland, founder and CEO of Environmental Emergency and Security Services for the French Republic;

His Royal Highness Prince Hassan bin Talal of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan;

Dr Claudia Patricia Mora, former Vice Minister of Water and Sanitation of the Republic of Colombia;

Mr. Yerlan Nysanbayev, Vice Minister of Agriculture of the Republic of Kazakhstan;

Mr. Ciaran O'Cuinn, Center Director of the Middle East Desalination Research Center of the Sultanate of Oman;

Dr Andres Tarand, nominated by Estonia, former Prime Minister of the Republic of Estonia;

Dr Pascual Fernandez, former State Secretary for Water and Seashore of Spain;

Hon. Mike Hammah, former Minister for Land and Natural Resources of the Republic of Ghana;

H.E. Mr. Thor Chetha, State Secretary of the Minister of Water Resources and Meteorology of the Kingdom of Cambodia;

Prof. Andras Szöllösi-Nagy, former Rector for the UNESCO-IHE Institute for Water Education in Delft.

Tasks

The Global High-Level Panel on Water and Peace was asked to study the nexus between water and peace, in light of the experiences of our era and to make recommendations for water as an instrument of peace. The issue of "Water and Peace" has many facets. The Panel was asked to focus on four main themes:

- Identify legal, economic, financial and institutional mechanisms to incentivize multi-sectoral and transboundary water cooperation;
- Examine how to cope with and prevent water-related conflicts, namely transboundary and inter-sectoral – possibly exploring potential mechanisms to promote hydro-diplomacy;
- Promote effective implementation of the global water conventions;
- Promote best practices in water cooperation.

Outcomes

Between November 2015 and May 2017, the Panel met four times and conducted a series of consultations with experts, decision makers, and civil society organizations.

Two years of work resulted in the report “A Matter of Survival” presented on 14 September 2017.

The Panel recommendations include: monitoring and data sharing should be prioritized; the UN Global Compact should be signed to develop an appropriate voluntary code of private companies of practice on water management; the Blue Fund should be created for concessional and preferential funding of transboundary water cooperation

projects; and a new mechanism should be established - Global Observatory for Water and Peace – to facilitate assistance to governments in using water as an instrument of cooperation and to build peace.

The Geneva Water Hub acted as Secretariat of the Panel with support of the Strategic Foresight Group (Mumbai).

Source: Geneva Water Hub,
www.genevawaterhub.org/panel-water-peace

7.9. Geneva Water Hub

The Geneva Water Hub is a joint Project of the Swiss Confederation (Agency for Development and Cooperation, Global Program Water) 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.

A Platform of international water law was established under the Geneva Water Hub on the base of the Faculty of Law. It leads a coalition of universities on international humanitarian law related to protection of water infrastructure during and after armed conflicts.

In 2017, the Geneva Water Hub acted as Secretariat of the Global High-Level Panel on Water and Peace (see section [Global High-Level Panel on Water and Peace](#)).

Other events of the Hub in 2017 included:

On 3 February 2017, the Geneva Water Hub organized a Think-Tank Round Table on “Refugees and Access to Water: Challenges and Responses” in Geneva. Representatives from international organizations and non-governmental organizations participated in the event, including ICRC, IOM, UNHCR, UNICEF, UNEP, and others. Some of the key recommendations are:

- 1) Prevent forced forms of migration by identifying water and security hotspots and by supporting protection activities connected to the WASH sector;
- 2) Ensure that WASH needs of the most vulnerable displaced populations such as refugees and internally displaced people (IDPs) are considered in the

implementation of SDGs in host countries in order to promote the co-development of displaced populations and host communities;

- 3) Promote the right of refugees, IDPs and other displaced population to work. The event was supported by the Global Water Program of the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation.

Online courses were organized on International water law (see section [Water Education](#)).

7.10. OECD Initiative on Water Governance

The Water Governance Initiative of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) is an international multi-stakeholder network of members from the public, private and non-for-profit sectors gathering regularly to share good practices in support of better governance in the water sector. The Water Governance Initiative (WGI) provides a multi-stakeholder technical platform to share knowledge, experience and best practices on water governance across levels of government; advises governments in taking the needed steps for effective water reforms through peer-to-peer dialogue and stakeholder engagement across public, private and non-profit sectors; provides a consultation mechanism to raise the profile of governance in the Global Water Agenda; supports the implementation of the OECD Principles on Water Governance in interested member and non-member countries, basins and cities by scaling up best practices and developing indicators.

In 2017, several meetings of the OECD Initiative were organized.

The 8th meeting of the OECD Water Governance Initiative (12-13 January 2017, Rabat, Morocco) gathered more than 75 representatives from major stakeholder groups. Delegates shared key messages from recent global water-relevant events (COP 22, Habitat III, and Budapest Water Summit) and welcomed the efforts towards water governance indicators as a self-assessment tool for dialogue on the OECD Principles on Water Governance. Ways forward to set up an online platform of water governance practices were discussed. A session was devoted to water governance in Morocco.

At the 9th meeting of the OECD Water Governance Initiative (3-4 July 2017, Paris, France), the members welcomed the revised water governance indicator framework and the 69 water governance stories that were collected to illustrate how the OECD Principles can be implemented at different levels, as well as results achieved and lessons learned during policy and reform processes. A session was devoted to water governance in France.

At the 10th meeting of the OECD Water Governance Initiative (20-21 November 2017, Vienna, Austria), a special issue on the OECD

Principles on Water Governance of the journal *Water International* was presented as a joint OECD/IWRA initiative to help bridge the science-policy gap through a series of articles co-authored by WGI members. Delegates discussed the results of the four peer-learning webinars on “water governance stories”. A knowledge sharing session was devoted to water governance in Austria.

In addition, WGI members held active consultations to shape the session topics under the theme “Governance” of the 8th World Water Forum coordinated by OECD together with other organizations and to organize discussions at the Forum.

Source: <http://www.oecd.org/cfe/regional-policy/water-governance-initiative.htm>

