



# Section 7

## International Water Organizations and Initiatives

## 7.1. 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.

During 2018 the Geneva Water Hub (GWH) acting as the Secretariat of the Global High-Level Panel on Water and Peace (GHLPP) followed up on the implementation of the recommendations of the Panel as defined in the Report "[A Matter of Survival](#)".

The report and its recommendations were presented at two global events: at the [World Water Forum](#) in March 2018 and the Stockholm World Water Week in August 2018. Special events organized by the Geneva Water Hub were held on those occasions.

The GWH organized a side-event on the "[Global Observatory on Water and Peace: Towards Effective Transboundary, Inter-Sectoral and Local Water Cooperation](#)" during the eighth session of the Meeting of the Parties of the UNECE Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes held in October 2018 in Astana.

The GWH also collaborated with French and Swiss authorities to organize an [international conference](#) to celebrate the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the world's first groundwater transboundary agreement on the Geneva aquifer. The exchanges of the conference enabled to offer promising ways to apply the institutional and technical solutions of this example to other aquifer systems of the world.

Regarding the follow-up of specific recommendations, the GWH has given particular attention to three topics: the protection of water infrastructure during and after armed conflicts, the Sahel region and the strengthening of water data.

**Protection of Water Infrastructure.** The GWH followed up to the recommendations of the GHLPP, including on strengthening respect for and implementation of International Humanitarian Law in relation to water. The Panel's findings and recommendations in relation to post-conflict

situations were discussed during the Workshop on "[Water in Post-Conflict Situations and the Role of the Security Council](#)", co-organized by the GWH's Platform for International Water Law and the Faculty of Law of Lund University in February 2018.

On the 13-14 December 2018 the GWH's Platform for International Water Law convened a round-table of experts in Geneva to discuss the "Geneva List of Principles on the Protection of Water Infrastructure During and After Armed Conflicts". The Geneva List is a reference document prepared for the use of parties to conflicts, international organizations, and practitioners working in the contexts of armed conflicts, humanitarian emergencies and in the reconstruction of infrastructure. It is the first text that systematizes the rules applicable to the protection of water infrastructure during armed conflicts as well as in pre-conflict and post-conflict situations. The drafting process of the Geneva List has been led by the GWH's Platform and included collaborations with other academic institutions such as the American University of Beirut, University of Amsterdam, Duke University, North Hampshire University, Leiden University, Lund University and the University of Trento as well as international and non-governmental organizations.

During the 2018 [Geneva Peace Week](#) the GWH in collaboration with UN Environment and Duke University presented concrete examples demonstrating the targeting of water infrastructure during armed conflicts in different regions of the world, including in South America, Middle East, Northern Africa, and Europe. Moreover, back-to-back to the Geneva Peace Week, the Environmental Peacebuilding Association and the GWH joined their forces to launch an Interest Group on Water to bring water at the forefront of reconstruction efforts.

The discussions and exchanges showed that there exists an important convergence bet-

ween different organizations and experts regarding the need to establish a document stating the principles applicable to water infrastructure during and after armed conflicts. Discussions on this topic will continue in 2019.

**Water in the Sahel region.** The GWH devoted particular attention to the African region of Sahel, which is characterized by water stress, by prolonged periods of tension and by armed conflicts. In November, the GWH organized a safe space for experts to discuss the situation and to make recommendations. The participants at the round-table agreed that water is the key to peace and development in the Sahel. The “water-peace nexus” should be at the centre of policy making for the region. Moreover, political aspects have to be an integral part of decision making on water. In areas of armed conflicts, careful balance has to be established between the basic humanitarian needs relating to water and the necessity that armed forces provide security of water resources.

**Data-driven decision making and cooperation for peace and security.** In support of the Sustainable Development Goals, the German govern-

ment with the support of Australia invited the WMO and the GWH to organize together a [mobilization for water data and peace](#) in November 2018. The aim of this event was to create a coalition of Geneva missions to help push the agenda forward through their national governments. This mobilization focuses on data regarding water quantity but also water quality and consider the additional socioeconomic factors that influence the water linked conflicts.

**Education.** In January 2018 at the World Economic Forum in Davos, seven key actors in the study of water governance joined forces in order to launch the [Universities Partnership on Water Diplomacy and Cooperation](#) (University of Geneva, IHE Delft Institute for Water Education, Oregon State University, Indian Institute of Technology Guwahati, International Water Management Institute, University for Peace and German-Kazakh University). This Partnership is open and welcome every actor contributing to education on the water and peace agenda.

During 2018 the GWH also organized a number of training courses (See in Section [“Water Education”](#)).

## 7.2. 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.

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

In 2018, “Determined Steps” Report on implementation of the recommendations of the Panel was launched. Particularly, the Report suggests the following priorities for 2019:

1. Define with the available clarity the priorities relating to development of the Global Observatory on Water and Peace (in particular the existing and prospective regional centres and partners).

2. Define the short-term objectives of substantive projects such as the Geneva List of Principles on the Protection of Water Infrastructures During and After Armed Conflicts.

3. (Continue to) engage with existing (and new) partners to develop a new financing mechanism for transboundary water cooperation.

4. Engage with the research institutes and think tanks such as the International Peace Institute (New York) to ensure that water issues are present in their activities relating to the problems of international peace and security.

5. Engage closely with the EU efforts to develop more effective water diplomacy.

6. Engage with countries such as Russia, Turkey and Peru who have expressed prepa-



redness to host visits and programs of the Geneva Water Hub.

7. Define the activities within the UN system in a way that strengthens coordination among various UN organizations, organs, funds and agencies.

8. Elaborate the position of the Geneva Water Hub towards a global conference on international water cooperation proposed in the report of the GHLP-WP in light of the current activities within the UN.

9. Prepare a v (Davos, Horasis, Bled Strategic Forum, Geneva Peace Week etc.) where the participation of the Geneva Water Hub would be particularly important.

See also subsection "[Geneva Water Hub](#)" acting as the Secretariat of the Global High-Level Panel on Water and Peace (GHLPP).

For composition and tasks of the Global Panel, see [2017 Water Yearbook](#).

Source: Geneva Water Hub, [www.genevawaterhub.org/panel-water-peace](http://www.genevawaterhub.org/panel-water-peace)

## 7.3. Global Water Partnership



The Global Water Partnership (GWP) is a global network of action including over 3,000 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 transboundary water management: Achievements in 2018

GWP's transboundary work aims to contribute to water security and peace through four key components: i) facilitating regional dialogues; ii) building mechanisms for cooperation in managing shared water resources; iii) monitoring progress on SDG target 6.5; and iv) building capacity on transboundary governance and sharing knowledge. GWP facilitated numerous events around the world in 2018 in support of these activities.

In November, **GWP Mediterranean** has successfully adopted a 'stepwise' approach to building collaboration. The region worked with partners – including the Global Environment Facility and the Union for the Mediterranean – to organise a roundtable meeting on the water-energy-food-ecosystems nexus. Gathering more than 70 high-level stakeholders from the Middle East and North Africa, as well as the Mediterranean region, the event focused on building nexus considerations into national and transboundary water resources management planning. Participants explored how to enhance coordination, while also integrating gender, youth, and employment objectives.

**GWP South America** supported greater collaboration in the management of transboundary water resources through three key

regional events in 2018. A course on international water law focused on underground water resources; a seminar updated participants on implementation of SDG 6 in the region; and a workshop brought stakeholders from different sectors together to discuss these two topics.

**GWP Central and Eastern Europe** has worked hard over the past two years to create a more participatory approach to water resources management in the Tisza Basin shared by Hungary, Serbia, Slovakia, and Romania. The work consisted of a series of workshops and involved around 50 organisations and 200 decision-makers from the five riparian countries. By consulting all stakeholders on their priorities, including their current and future needs for water, the team was able to identify potential conflict areas and adopt a 'shared vision planning' tool.

**GWP facilitated cooperation over the Lancang-Mekong River** (China and Southeast Asia). Together with the Lancang-Mekong Water Resources Cooperation Centre it organized a workshop, resulting in concrete next step for joint project among 6 riparian countries for improved cooperation. In addition, GWP Technical Committee, GWP Southeast Asia, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the Mekong River

Commission jointly conducted a build capacity training on the use of collaborative modelling as a tool to facilitate multi-stakeholder engagement processes.

**GWP Central Africa** worked with the Economic Community of West African States and other partners to convene a workshop aiming to improve understanding of the SDG 6 framework, with particular focus on SDG indicator 6.5.2 determining the proportion of a transboundary basin area having an operational arrangement for water cooperation. Stakeholders from seven countries, two river basin organisations, and research and development agencies attended the meeting. Working together, they formulated a set of recommendations to advance transboundary water cooperation throughout the region.

In 2018, **training workshops and an online course** took place on water governance, international water law, and multi-stakeholder processes.

These were targeted at government institutions that have responsibilities for management of shared waters, and non-governmental stakeholders actively engaged in transboundary water governance.

Workshops were held in Africa, Asia, and Latin America and provided useful opportunities for the exchange of knowledge and ideas among a wide range of practitioners.

*Source:* Global Water Partnership, Stockholm

**GWP for the Countries of Caucasus and Central Asia** (GWP CACENA) is one of the 13 RWPs established in 2002. The network unites 9 national water partnerships, including Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan.

### Activity in 2018

A **series of events** (meetings, roundtables, workshops, interviews) to strengthen understanding on key water development priorities were held in CACENA region where CWPs were either an organizer or active contributor. National water related authorities, local administration, water specialists, regional/international organizations, financial institutions, academia, NGOs and various stakeholders, attended these events.

**The following knowledge products were produced:** publication "Leaving no one behind: Meeting the SDGs through IWRM in rural communities in Armenia"; the short film "Climate Change through the eyes of Young People"(ARM); publication "Innovative solutions to support reforms in the water sector of Uzbekistan", etc.

**GWP CACENA conducted the following training events:** "Possible effective investments and technological solutions for municipal treatment facilities"(Kyrgyzstan); three-day training "Use of modern methods of drinking water investigation in accordance with international standards"(Kazakhstan); seminar-training within the "Partnership to increase participation in researches" programme (Uzbekistan); on-site seminar "Transboundary cooperation and joint management of water resources"(Kazakhstan); roundtable on Strengthening the Civil Society Role in Decision Making (Georgia); practical seminar on methods for cleaning the collector-drainage network (Kyrgyzstan); training "Application of water security indicators in the decision-making in the Kyrgyz Republic"; roundtable "Problems of irrigated agriculture in the context of climate change and adaptation measures"(Tajikistan); discussion on new water law (Georgia); the political dialogue of Armenian stakeholders on 2030 Agenda for sustainable development, etc.

**Some of international events that GWP CACENA took part and contributed:** The Central Asia Climate Change Conference; Regional Process towards the 8<sup>th</sup> World Water Forum; International Conference "Joint actions to mitigate the consequences of the Aral catastrophe: new approaches, innovative solutions, investments"(Uzbekistan); North and Central Asian Forum on Implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals.

During the year almost all nine CWPs were requested to provide consultations to national and local authorities, and commenting of water policy related documents.

Most of events during 2018 at country level supported by CWPs were focusing on awareness raising for IWRM and water security (water security dialogues), and they were welcomed and supported by the governments.

*Source:* [www.gwp.org/en/CACENA/](http://www.gwp.org/en/CACENA/)



## 7.4. High-Level Panel on Water



The High-Level Panel on Water (HLPW) consisting of 11 Heads of State and Government was convened in 2016 by the UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon and World Bank Group President Jim Kim. Members of the Panel included also H.E. Emomali Rahmon, President of the Republic of Tajikistan.

Over the 2 years of its mandate, the Panel aimed to mobilize support for a new approach to water that would underpin a more sustainable approach to global development.

On 14 March 2018 in New York the High-Level Panel on Water presented an outcome document “Making Every Drop Count: An Agenda for Water Action”, which offered recommendations for key lines of action as listed below.

See also details on members, mandate, action plan and some leadership initiatives of the Panel members in [2017 Water Yearbook](#).

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

## 7.5. International Commission on Irrigation and Drainage



**ICID•CIID**

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 Activities in 2018

**The Baltic Regional Conference** “Digitization of land improvement activities and opportunities for future development” was organized by the Estonian Ministry of Rural Affairs in cooperation with the International Commission on Irrigation and Drainage on 23-25 May 2018 in Laulasmaa. More than 150 experts participated in the Conference. Mr Marko Gorban, Deputy Secretary General for Agricultural and Rural Life Policies, Ministry of Rural Affairs of the Republic of Estonia opened the meeting. The main theme of the Conference was dedicated to new digital technology in the land improvement sector. The President of ICID Mr. Felix Britz Reinders in his welcome speech underlined the importance and relevance of this theme in irrigation and drainage development. Each country presented a plenary paper. This way, the Conference addressed various innovation

technologies in construction and reconstruction of drainage systems and the participants exchanged on application of digital technology in land improvement activities.

Source: [www.agri.ee/en/history/digitization-land-improvement-activities-and-opportunities-future-development](http://www.agri.ee/en/history/digitization-land-improvement-activities-and-opportunities-future-development)

The **8<sup>th</sup> Asian Regional Conference** was held from 2-4 May 2018 in Kathmandu, Nepal on the theme “Irrigation in Support of an Evergreen Revolution”. The conference was hosted by the Nepal National Committee of ICID jointly with the Department of Irrigation, Government of Nepal and other partners. More than 700 participants had attended the meeting. Major attention was paid to five sub-themes: Enabling small holders' capacity to obviate farmers' distress; coping with recurring droughts and floods in the context of climate change; modernizing irrigation systems for better servi-

## Recommendations of the High-Level Panel on Water

### FOUNDATIONS FOR ACTION

- **UNDERSTAND WATER.** Commit to making evidence-based decisions about water, and cooperate to strengthen water data, such as through the HLPW World Water Data Initiative.
- **VALUE WATER.** Use the HLPW Principles on Valuing Water to sustainably, efficiently, and inclusively allocate and manage water resources and deliver and price water services accordingly
- **MANAGE WATER.** Implement integrated approaches to water management at local, national, and transboundary levels, strengthen water governance, and ensure gender equality and social inclusion.

### AT THE LOCAL, COUNTRY AND REGIONAL LEVELS: LEADING AN INTEGRATED AGENDA

- **ENSURE UNIVERSAL ACCESS TO SAFE WATER & SANITATION.** Address gaps in service delivery models, technology and behavior change which limit access to sustainable drinking water and sanitation for all – including the needs of women, girls, people with disabilities, and communities in vulnerable situations, recognizing access to safe drinking water and sanitation services as a fundamental human right.
- **BUILD RESILIENT SOCIETIES AND ECONOMIES, REDUCING DISASTER RISK.**
  - Shift the focus of disaster management from response to preparedness and resilience.
  - Create incentives for water users, including irrigators, to use water efficiently, to not pollute water, and to promote its reuse.
  - Take action where water-related risks may exacerbate fragility, conflict, or forced displacement, and affect peace and security.
- **INCREASE WATER INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENT.** Improve the enabling environment for investment in sustainable water-related infrastructure and services, in order to at least double current levels of investment.
- **NURTURE ENVIRONMENTAL WATER.** Value environmental contributions to water management, prevent degradation and pollution of watersheds, rivers, lakes and aquifers, and where necessary, restore and maintain acceptable environmental conditions and water quality.
- **DEVELOP SUSTAINABLE CITIES.** Implement an integrated approach to urban water management in line with the Habitat III New Urban Agenda, aiming at more adaptable and resilient infrastructure.

### AT THE GLOBAL LEVEL: CATALYZING CHANGE, BUILDING PARTNERSHIPS & INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

- **PROMOTE INNOVATION.** Support programs, such as the HLPW Water Innovation Engine, which foster the uptake of new water-related business models and technologies.
- **STRENGTHEN PARTNERSHIPS.** Motivate all water use sectors to value water, embrace water stewardship, strengthen their collaboration, and participate in integrated water resource management.
- **INCREASE GLOBAL WATER COOPERATION.** Strengthen the UN system's support to member states and its coordination of water matters by establishing UN meetings on water at the highest possible level, consider a scientific panel on water and promote international cooperation. Using the UNGA Water Action Decade as a platform for policy dialogue, exchanges of best practices, and building global partnerships.

ces; enabling Water Users Institutions for sustainability of irrigation systems; irrigation, ecosystem services, and aquatic biodiversity. During the inaugural ceremony a publication titled "[Contribution of Agricultural Water to the Rural Development in Asia](#)" was released by President Felix Reinders. The publication is a Technical Report of the Asian Regional Working Group (available for download from [www.icid.org/asrwg\\_report\\_2018.pdf](http://www.icid.org/asrwg_report_2018.pdf)). The conference provided a valuable networking opportunity and set the stage for further co-operation.

Source: [www.icid.org/8tharc\\_nepal2018/8arc%20brfreport\\_2018.pdf](http://www.icid.org/8tharc_nepal2018/8arc%20brfreport_2018.pdf)

More than 500 experts from around the world gathered in Saskatoon, the heart of the Canadian Prairies to attend the **International Conference and 69<sup>th</sup> IEC Meeting of ICID** from 12-17 August 2018. Under the main theme of the conference "Innovation and Sustainable Agri-water Management: Adapting to a Variable and Changing Climate" the following three sub-themes: Competing Water Demands; Resilient Agriculture – Adapting Agriculture to Climate Change; and Irrigation and Drainage in Perspective were discussed in details.

President Honorary Dr. Chandra A. Madramootoo conducted the opening ceremony and on behalf of the Government of Canada Honorable Ralph Goodale, Minister of Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness welcomed the audience. Honorable Goodale remarked that water is critical to agriculture in arid climates and to realize that potential in the face of frequent severe floods and droughts caused by climate change, better water management is essential.

Two main concerns were highlighted during the conference: the growing challenges of climate change leading to extreme flood and drought and, secondly, the food security threat for the growing population stemming from unsustainable water use globally,

Organizers of the conference held special sessions for young professionals and farmers, as well as workshops and symposiums, where the participants discussed the socio-economic value of irrigation, water-food-energy nexus, climate change mitigation and water quality management.

Source: ICID News, 2018, Third Quarter, [www.icid.org/69iec\\_canada\\_2018.html](http://www.icid.org/69iec_canada_2018.html)

## 7.6. 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 2018, INBO coordinated about ten thematic sessions of the 8<sup>th</sup> World Water Forum. These sessions allowed addressing the issues of integrated management and governance of transboundary river, lake and aquifer basins, the adaptation, which is now essential, to the effects of climate change on water resources and the information and training of all stakeholders concerned. Two Special Sessions, among the most attended throughout the Forum, were devoted to "Strengthening Citizen Participation in Basin Management" and to "Water Information Systems: Data and Tools for Water Management and for Making the Right Decisions".

On the occasion of the Brasilia Forum, INBO, the International Office for Water (IOWater) and their partners, with the support of the French Agency for Biodiversity issued two Handbooks: "Water Information Systems: Administration, Processing and Exploitation of Water-Related Data", and "Participation of Stakeholders and the Civil Society in the Basins of Rivers, Lakes and Aquifers".

The 16<sup>th</sup> International Conference of the "EUROPE-INBO" took place from 17 to 20 October in Seville, Spain. It gathered 215 representatives of national administrations and



authorities, basin organizations, NGOs, international and regional institutions and academia from 42 countries. The work of the conference was organized around a workshop on Invasive Alien Species and 4 roundtables:

- Prevention of drought: Adaptation planning at the basin level, reuse and desalination;
- Efficiency and multiple benefits: The interest of combining hydraulic infrastructure and nature-based solutions to face the issues of climate change;
- International cooperation: Twinning and peer-to-peer exchanges, neighborhood area, transboundary waters;

- Revision of the Water Framework Directive: Improve coordination with other European Directives (Marine, Flood, Renewable Energy...)

The conference concluded with adoption of the Seville Declaration and passing of the INBO chairmanship from Ireland to Spain until the next conference in Lahti, Finland in 2019.

INBO published the new issue of "INBO Newsletter" (No.26, March 2018) 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.

The International Conference of EECCA NWO on "Water for Land Reclamation, Economic Sectors and Natural Environment in the context of Climate Change" was held on 6-7 November in Tashkent. The conference brought together 57 participants from Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Russia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, France, Swiss, and Switzerland. Summarizing the discussions, the participants have adopted a resolution focusing on future plan of activity of the Network.

The key topics addressed at the conference were as follows:

- strategy of survival in the face of imminent water scarcity;
- transboundary water cooperation: how to ensure irrigation-energy-nature nexus in the context of climate change;
- water conservation and rational nature use;
- cooperation of regional organizations in the Aral Sea Basin (IFAS-ICWC-ICSD) in searching for additional water reserves,
- building capacities of water-management, basin and land reclamation organizations.

Based on presentations and papers of the conference, two volumes of a collection of scientific papers titled "Water for Land Reclamation, Economic Sectors and Natural Environment in the context of Climate Change" were issued.

Source: [www.eecca-water.net/](http://www.eecca-water.net/)

## 7.7. International Water Resources Association and World Water Congress



International Water Resources Association (IWRA) is a global knowledge network of water experts. In 2018, it celebrated its 47th anniversary. 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.

Since 1973, IWRA holds a World Water Congress every three years in various locations around the world. In 2018, IWRA launched the organisation of the [XVII World Water Congress](#) to be held in Daegu, Korea (11-15 May, 2020). The theme for the Congress - "Foundations for Global Water Security and Resilience: Knowledge, Technology and Policy".

A new dedicated member space "[IWRA Community](#)" was opened online. In addition to the current tools on IWRA's old member space, IWRA members also have access now to new features including: news feed with up-to-date announcements on new publications, policy briefs, upcoming events and webinars, calls for abstracts/papers/project proposals, etc.; posting and searching for professional opportunities, services and calls for contributions from across the IWRA Community.

Eight issues of its flagship journal [Water International](#) and a new [IWRA Policy Briefs Green Series](#) (exclusively for members) were published.

The Association kept networking at multiple scales, including the World Water Forum, the Korea International Water Week in September and eight IWRA webinars.

IWRA has regional and national chapters in China, India, Japan, and Oceania. These chapters provide an opportunity for extensive regional and local networking among IWRA members and a platform for them to exchange knowledge and experiences, as well as discussing specific regional and local issues. The Association hosted a webinar for its China Chapter on "China's Water Resources Management in the New Age" (December 11<sup>th</sup>).

The dedicated member-led task forces prepared two main reports on Water quality and Smart water management (SWM). The latter report showcases 10 SWM case studies from around the world from both developed and developing countries, to demonstrate the enabling factors and potential barriers faced in implementation of SWM.

*Source:* IWRA Communication Division, 2018 IWRA Activity Report

## 7.8. OECD Initiative on Water Governance



The Water Governance Initiative of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) is an international multistakeholder 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 nonprofit 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.

**The Survey: Taking stock of the use and dissemination of the OECD principles** was carri-

ed out between 15 and 24 January 2018 to collect inputs on: the use of the OECD Principles, in particular on how they guide and inform activities and practices; to what extent and how the OECD Principles have been disseminated; perceived needs for improving the uptake and dissemination of the OECD principles. The survey targeted the members of the OECD Water Governance Initiative and the broader Global Coalition for Good Water Governance. By the date of the survey, the OECD principles have been endorsed by more than 170 stakeholder groups or governments. The survey indicated to growing attendance in the WGI plenary meetings and increased contribution to preparation and dissemination of WGI materials. As a whole, most of respondents expressed a high level of satisfaction with the overall WGI and Working Groups and considered that the WGI should pursue its activities.

The OECD Water Governance Initiative and the Global Coalition for Good Water Governance handed over to the OECD Secretary-General the **Brasilia Multistakeholder Pledge** to Implement the OECD Principles on Water Governance (March 21<sup>st</sup>). The Pledge

emphasizes the urgent need to implement improved water governance as set out in the OECD Principles on Water Governance. The Pledge is an important water governance outcome of the 8<sup>th</sup> World Water Forum in Brasilia and will build momentum for policy implementation and improved decision-making in water leading up to the 9<sup>th</sup> World Water Forum in Senegal, 2021. It will also serve as a contribution to achieve the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

On 12-13 November 2018, the OECD Water Governance Initiative held its 11<sup>th</sup> meeting in Zaragoza, Spain. The meeting gathered more than 80 practitioners, policymakers and representatives from major stakeholder groups.

The participants were updated on WGI contribution to global agendas, discussed the 2019-2021 WGI Programme of Work and the objectives, content and outputs of the Working Groups, shared knowledge and experience on recent water governance reforms, research and events, learned from Spain's water governance, etc.

Source: [www.oecd.org/cfe/regionalpolicy/water-governance-initiative.html](http://www.oecd.org/cfe/regionalpolicy/water-governance-initiative.html)

## 7.9. 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 World Water Week in Stockholm is organized by SIWI annually to share opinions and lessons globally. The 2018 edition of World Water Week gathered more than 3,600 participants from 133 countries and addressed the theme "Water, Ecosystems and Human Development", with the focus on nature-based solutions. An obvious conclusion was drawn on a need for wise blending of green and grey solutions for the current problems.

### SIWI Activity in Central Asia

During the 2018 World Water Week, SIWI convened an event in partnership with IHE Delft and CAREC entitled "Leveraging informal water diplomacy in high level processes". The event served to elevate knowledge and discussion around informal water diplomacy as a key component for international water agreements, opportunities for informal initiatives to contribute to the enabling environment of official processes, as well as the remaining challenges to establish and maintain linkages between informal and formal water diplomacy processes. Participating invited basin represen-

tatives shared their experience of engaging and promoting informal processes in the context of acute challenges to water cooperation in their respective regions with a focus on knowledge sharing, trust building, and benefit and cost assessments.

SIWI also organized and contributed to water diplomacy sessions in the course of various regional events, such as the capacity building training in water diplomacy for small basin councils (24-25 April, Uzbekistan), second Central Asian International Environmental Forum (8 June, Uzbekistan), International High-Level Conference on the International Decade for Action "Water for Sustainable Development" (20-21 June, Tajikistan), and the training for officials in environmental management for sustainable development (September, Kazakhstan). SIWI facilitated a side event entitled

"Opportunities for Water Diplomacy in Conflict-prone Regions" at the Eighth session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Water Convention (October, Kazakhstan). The event sought to elevate discussion around the role of shared water resources as a tangible entry point for sustained dialogue and conflict prevention in regions prone to political tensions and armed violence. Representatives of Somali, Iraq and Afghanistan reflected on the evidence base for lessons learnt about cooperation and conflict between riparian countries from diverse water diplomacy processes. Key themes focused on how water dialogues have benefitted their countries - technically, socially, environmentally and economically, creating opportunities 'beyond water' to enhance mutual understanding.

Source: [www.siwi.org](http://www.siwi.org)

## 7.10. 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 2018, 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;
- integrated water resource management.

### 8<sup>th</sup> World Water Forum

Organized every three years by the World Water Council with a host country, the Forum is the world's largest event on water.

The Forum brings together the whole international community to promote awareness, build political commitment and trigger action on critical water issues at all levels. The 8<sup>th</sup> edition was held in Brasilia, Brazil from 18-23 March 2018 under the overarching theme – Sharing Water.

The Brazilian partners of the Forum were the Ministry of Environment of Brazil, represented by the National Water Agency (ANA), the Government of the Federal District, represented by the Regulatory Agency of Water, Energy and Sanitation (ADASA) and the Brazilian Association of Infrastructure and Base Industry (ABDIB). The 8<sup>th</sup> World Water Forum marked the largest edition in history of the event, bringing water to the top of the political and societal agendas.



## The 8<sup>th</sup> Forum in numbers



Over **10,600** participants registered in the main conference



**109,581** registered visitors to the Citizens Village, including **37,829** children, **20,410** youth and **3,585** teachers



**172** countries represented • **12** heads of state  
**56** government ministers and over **100** delegations



**134** parliamentarians • **180** local authorities  
**83** judges and prosecutors



Nearly **2,000** press professionals; the Forum was featured more than **15,000** times in the media during the Forum week



Over **350** sessions and events in the main conference.  
More than **350** activities in the Citizens Village and the Expo



**97** exhibitors from **19** countries in the Fair and Expo area



**846** volunteers



**2 500** direct jobs and **5,500** indirect jobs were created by the Forum

Source: [8<sup>th</sup> World Water Forum Highlights](#)

The Ministerial conference was held as part of the Forum. From Central Asia, Minister of energy and water resources of Tajikistan U.Usmonzoda, Minister of water management of Uzbekistan Sh.Khamraev, and Director General of the Department for water management and land reclamation of the Kyrgyz Republic K.Tashtanaliyev made official statements during the event. Finally, The Ministerial conference approved the declaration "An urgent call for decisive action on water".

95 sessions were held as part of the thematic process. The main topics included Climate, People, Development, Urban, Ecosystems, and Finance, and cross-cutting themes, such as Sharing, Capacity, and Governance. Many sessions brought attention to Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) and to how to transform water management process to achieve these Goals successfully. The Parliamentary Conference brought together 134 parliamentarians from 20 countries. The central theme of the conference was – The Role of Parliaments and the Right to Water. The Parliamentary Declaration was issued finally.

One of features of the Forum was the participation of the judiciary. As a result, judges, prosecutors, and experts issued the "Charter of Brasilia".

A mock water justice court was held for the first time in the Forum. The experiment was attended by judges from six different countries. The Global Institute of the Public Prosecutors Office, which brings together members of public prosecution offices of the various nations of the world around topics related to the protection of natural resources, also drew up the "Declaration of the Public Prosecutor Office on the Right to Water", which was signed by nine countries.

Representatives of local and regional authorities presented at the Forum released a Call for Action that encouraged all stakeholders to promote sensitive integrated water practices, taking into account basic human rights and services and gender approaches; bring forward legislation that enables fair, efficient and sustainable use of water resources; strengthen and increase decentralized funding and innovative finance mechanisms; promote urban water resilience through planning out risk and climate change adaptation; strengthen the capacity of local governments and citizens in water sensitive governance.

Source: [Report by SIC ICWC on participation in the 8WWF](#)



## Extraordinary General Assembly of the World Water Council

The World Water Council organized its Extraordinary General Assembly on 17<sup>th</sup> of March in Brazil. The General Assembly considered work progress of a special task-force, which drafted recommendations on improvement of Council's performance and governance. They proposed amendments to the Constitution and regulatory documents regarding names and

quantity of colleges, gender representation, cancellation of pre-election 'bids', organization of work and representation in the Board and the Bureau, as well as changes in the selection procedure and terms of the Council's President. Delegates, by the majority of vote, approved the procedure of e-voting, which was approbated for making the above changes in May 2018.

## 8<sup>th</sup> General Assembly: Election of the new President

The 8<sup>th</sup> WWC GA brought together 250 members from 35 countries (30 November – 1 December, Marseilles, France). GA elected the new Board of Governors and the President – Mr. Loic Fauchon – for a term from 2019 to 2021. The

Assembly also approved the triennial budget and adopted the work program and amendments to the By-Laws.

Source: [www.worldwatercouncil.org](http://www.worldwatercouncil.org)

## Visit of the World Water Council's President to Uzbekistan



The President of the World Water Council Professor Benedito Braga visited Uzbekistan on 4-7 June 2018. During the visit, the President Braga met with representatives of state agencies and international organizations in Uzbekistan. In particular, meetings were held at the Legislative House of the Uzbek Parliament

(Oliy Majlis), MWM, TIAME, GEF Agency of IFAS, SIC ICWC, and the OSCE Office in Uzbekistan.

President Braga took part in the Central Asian International Environmental Forum "Strengthening Cooperation on Environment and Sustainable Development" and the International Conference "Joint Actions to Mitigate the Consequences of the Aral Catastrophe: New Approaches, Innovative Solutions, and Investments".

Ben Braga made a trip to the Aral Sea area (Prearalie), particularly to the cities of Nukus and Muynak, where he together with other guests visited a graveyard of ships and got acquainted with environmental situation in this region. President Braga also visited Samarkand, where he had the opportunity to see historical and cultural sites of this ancient oasis. In the course of the visit, he was also presented the water management system in the Zeravshan Valley.

Source: [www.cawater-info.net/int\\_org/wwc/braga\\_uzbekistan.htm](http://www.cawater-info.net/int_org/wwc/braga_uzbekistan.htm)



