

NEWS AND ACTIVITIES

APRIL-JUNE 2019

Report to the 69th Board of Governors Meeting



Loic Fauchon, President of the World Water Council, speaks during the high-level panel on water at UNESCO 's International Conference on Water and Peace, 13 May, Paris, France.

WATER SECURITY TAKES CENTER STAGE AT UNESCO CONFERENCE

On 13 May, the World Water Council participated in UNESCO's International Water Conference "Leveraging Intersectorality for Sustainable Water Security and Peace." Speaking to participants during the opening high-level panel on water, President Loic Fauchon revealed the Council's four overarching priorities for the coming years. The priorities are complementary to WWC's triennial strategy and will steer the organization's activities throughout the next two years.

"We must increase the availability of water by building storage space, developing desalination and encouraging water reuse. Engaging in active hydro-diplomacy through the prisms of knowledge, finance and governance will be key to our success." He added that Africa will be an important player in providing visible and concrete answers to global water challenges during the 9th World Water Forum in Dakar, Senegal.

Echoing the theme of the conference, President Fauchon referred to the five-finger alliance: "Technical solutions exist. We must now convince national governments, parliamentarians, and local authorities to adopt an intersectoral and horizontal approach in managing this precious resource."

The Conference was opened by Director-General of UNESCO Audrey Azoulay and Minister of Water of Senegal Serine Thiam. It brought together international stakeholders, decision makers and political representatives to provide economic, social and environmental solutions to help achieve water for all by 2030.

"I look very much forward to the 9th World Water Forum in Senegal in 2021, with its very relevant focus on the theme of water security. It will be another milestone in the global mobilization towards access to water and sanitation for all."

Audrey Azoulay,
Director-General of UNESCO





Far left: Signature of the UNESCO/Council Agreement with Xing Qu, Deputy Director General of UNESCO, 13 May. Left: Signature of the UNESCO/Forum/Council Agreement with then UNESCO Director, a.i. Maria C. Donoso and ISC co-Chair Abdoulaye Sene, 13 May

SIGNATURE OF AGREEMENTS

The UNESCO Conference was also the occasion to reconfirm the long-standing partnership between UNESCO and the WWC.

On 13 May, a Partnership Agreement was signed between both organizations agreeing to carry out joint projects to strengthen science-policy interface. In addition, a letter of intent was signed between UNESCO, WWC and the the 9th World Water Forum Secretariat to collaborate towards the preparation of the Forum in Dakar in 2021.



WWC President and ISC co-Chairs meet with Minister of Water of Senegal, Serine Thiam, Paris, UNESCO headquarters, 14 May

BRINGING DOWN BARRIERS TO CLIMATE AND WATER FINANCING

Access to finance for climate and water projects can be unlocked by strengthening country understanding financing tools and improving institutional coordination. On 17 June, the Council and Global Water Partnership (GWP) co-convoked a side-event on 'Scaling Up Access to Climate Finance for Water Investments: GCF & innovative funding models' at the official UNFCCC Intersessional Climate Change Conference in Bonn.

The event included an exchange on the report co-published by the Council and GWP 'Scaling up financing: innovative funding models for water infrastructure for climate adaptation.' The report provides an overview of existing innovative financing tools for water infrastructure, to help increase funding for adaptation and achieve global climate ambitions.

RAISING CLIMATE AMBITIONS FOR WATER

On 13 June in Bonn, Germany, the World Water Council organized the High-level Strategic Workshop on Water and Climate "Raising Ambitions on the Road to CoP25."

Bridging the outcomes of CoP24 with CoP25, 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.



INTERNATIONAL STEERING COMMITTEE MEETINGS

The 9th World Water Forum International Steering Committee (ISC) Bureau meeting, which took place on 14 May at UNESCO headquarters, decided to convene the first full ISC meeting on 17 June in Dakar. Following the ISC Bureau, President Fauchon officially nominated Paulo Salles, Rui Godinho and Youssef Filali-Meknassi as members of the ISC Bureau. At the same time, he invited Qiuchi Shi, Yoonjin Kim, Aziza Akhmouch and Rabi Mohtar to be part of the ISC as Co-Chairs of the Water Security, Cooperation, Means and Tools and Rural Development Priorities, respectively. Safaa Bahije and Mbaruku Vyakweli will also represent the Council in the Committee as members at large.

During the first ISC meeting, in Dakar, Patrick Lavarde and Abdoulaye Sene and all members will set preparations for the 9th World Water Forum in motion and discuss the details of the Kick-Off meeting.



ISC co-Chair Patrick Lavarde presents the 9th World Water Forum at the UNESCO conference in Paris, 13 May

9TH WORLD WATER FORUM SIDE EVENT AT UNESCO

On 13 May, ISC co-Chairs Patrick Lavarde and Abdoulaye Sene, and the Minister of Water of Senegal, Serigne Thiam, presented the 9th World Water Forum to participants during UNESCO's International Water Conference.

NEWS IN SHORT

The power of water to sustainably grow enough food for our world



Jennifer Sara, Senior Director for the World Bank Group's Water Global Practice, speaks at the Water for Food conference in Nebraska, USA. 29 May. Photo: Chuck Zimmerman

Some 400 participants - including many WWC members - from more than 15 countries gathered in Nebraska, U.S.A., at the ninth Water for Food Global Conference, held April 29-30 at the University of Nebraska and organized by Council member the Daugherty Water for Food Global Institute (DWFI).

The conference title, "Water for a Hungry World: Innovation in Water and Food Security," highlighted the focus on emerging breakthroughs in research and technology that are fuelling the future of agricultural water management and increased productivity.

American students visit WWC HQ



On 22 May, the Council headquarters staff welcomed students from the University of Indiana (US) who were visiting via their program at Polytech Marseille summer school on the theme of water and sustainable development. HQ staff presented the WWC and gave them information on the Council's climate work.

MEDIA AND COMMUNICATIONS

PICS FROM THE LATEST BOARD MEETING

See more and download from our Flickr account
[flickr.com/photos/worldwatercouncil](https://www.flickr.com/photos/worldwatercouncil)



From top: 68th Board of Governors meeting, Beirut, Lebanon, 9-10 April 2019



WWC Bureau members meet Prime Minister of Lebanon, Saad Hariri, at Government Headquarters in Beirut, Lebanon, 8 April 2019

ENHANCING WWC MEMBERSHIP

The World Water Council's communications department has been working on the development of a communications strategy focused on membership development. A series of communication assets have been prepared in digital format to provide Governors and members with appropriate means to reach out to potential members. The assets include a first version of the members directory, a PowerPoint presentation and the WWC's video, among many other tools.

WORLDWIDE LAUNCH OF WWC VIDEO

On 13 May, the World Water Council made the international launch of a new video presenting its priorities for the coming years. The video entitled "What are you doing for water?" calls upon decision makers to get involved in the cause for water. It is available on all the Council's digital platforms in both English and French.

LATEST COMMUNICATIONS FIGURES

SOCIAL MEDIA

 6,867 followers (+308)

 1,824 followers (+152)

 5,237 followers (+130)

 163 subscribed (+5)

MEMBERS UPDATE

MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS

377

GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION

| | | | | |
|-----|----------|-----|---------------|-----|
| 12% | Africa | 20% | Europe | 23% |
| 15% | Americas | 7% | International | 21% |
| 45% | Asia | 1% | Oceania | 31% |

COLLEGE DISTRIBUTION

| | |
|-----|---|
| 4% | Intergovernmental organizations |
| 21% | Governments and government promoted organizations |
| | Commercial organizations |
| | Civil society organizations |
| | Professional and academic organizations |

All data as of 6 June 2019



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