



Becoming a Member: what commitments, what benefits?

The World Water Council welcomes as new members all organisations carrying out water-related activities. The membership fees requested from each member organisation are directly related to its country's economic level. Regardless of the amounts paid in fees, every Council member still receives the same rights and benefits. World Water Council membership offers the following opportunities:

- Join a unique multi-stakeholder network that federates thousands of different actors stakeholders in the water sector from all continents and offers the opportunity to exchange expertise, knowledge and experiences.
- Make your voice heard within a democratic platform that facilitates open and respectful dialogue, allowing new ideas on water policy to surface and contributing to improved understanding.
- Benefit from worldwide exposure for your organisation actions through the Council's communication efforts like its newsletters and website. Stay informed on recent water policy development and water community news.
- Influence the importance given to water issues by Governments, the way priorities are defined on international agendas and the development of water policies at the global level.
- Play an active role in determining the Council's orientations and priorities, as well as those of the World Water Forum, the world's largest water-related gathering.
- Benefit from substantial advantages such as free subscription to the Water Policy Journal and discounts on World Water Forum registration fees, among others.
- Adhere to a worldwide movement defending the cause of water and commit to supporting the World Water Council's mission.



Historic milestones

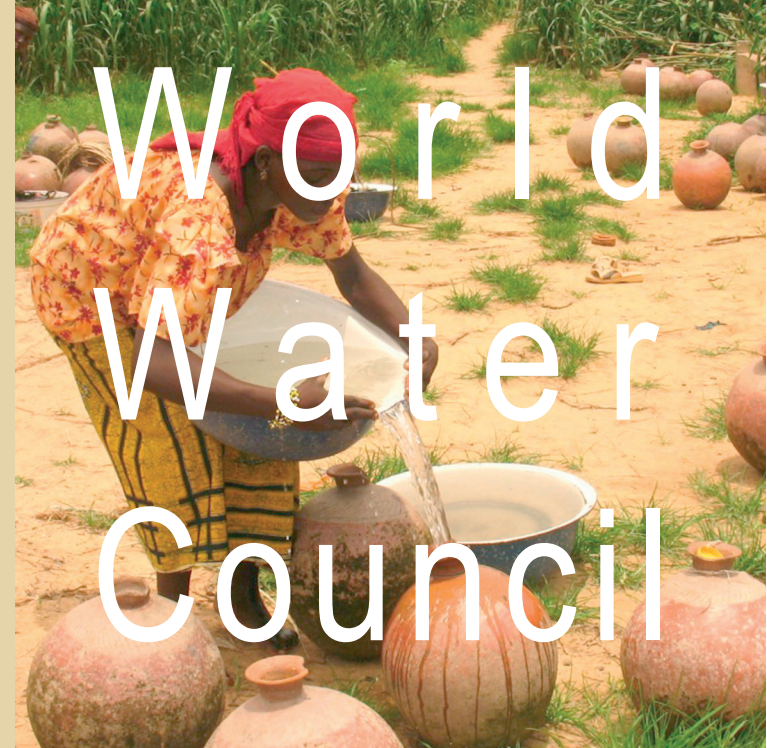
Water on the international agenda:

- 1977** UN Conference on Water, Mar del Plata (Argentina). First intergovernmental conference devoted to water.
- 1980-1990** International Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation Decade launched by the UN. Goal : "To provide every person with access to water of safe quality and adequate quantity, along with basic sanitary facilities, by 1990."
- 1992** International Conference on Water and the Environment, Dublin (Ireland); UN Conference on Environment and Development - UNCED Earth Summit, Rio de Janeiro (Brazil); establishment of the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD).
- 1996** Creation of the World Water Council
- 1997** 1st World Water Forum, Marrakech (Morocco)
- 2000** 2nd World Water Forum, The Hague (Netherlands); Establishment of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) by the Commission on Sustainable Development.
- 2002** UN World Summit on Sustainable development, (Rio + 10), Johannesburg.
- 2003** International Freshwater Year; 3rd World Water Forum, Kyoto (Japan).
- 2005-2015** International Decade for Action "Water for Life"
- 2006** 4th World Water Forum, Mexico City (Mexico)

To learn more

Visit the World Water Council's website
in English or in French
<http://www.worldwatercouncil.org>
or contact us at:

World Water Council
Espace Gaymard
2-4 place d'Arvieux
13002 Marseilles, France
Tel.: +33 (0)4 91 99 41 00 - Fax: +33 (0)4 91 99 41 01
E-mail : www@worldwatercouncil.org



World Water Council

A global water movement for a water-secure world

In its effort to contribute to the advancement of water issues, the World Water Council strives to act as a facilitator for identifying, openly debating and raising awareness on these issues. It also endeavors to convince politicians of the urgency for action. For this purpose, it organizes platforms at the global, regional and national levels, emphasizing interactions among all stakeholders, both inside and outside the water sector, from the highest decision-making level to the grass-roots level. To support these objectives, the World Water Council attracts a great diversity of member organisations.





Making the voice of water heard

Established in 1996, the Council currently brings together more than 300 member organisations in 62 countries. It represents a network of hundreds of thousands of people working for the cause of water.

To allow for a good representation, member organisations are classified into 5 different colleges each being represented in the WWC Board of Governors.

These colleges are intergovernmental organisations (including several United Nations agencies), Governments and local authorities, civil society stakeholders including non-governmental organisations, public and private firms and research centers and professional organisations.



From awareness to action

The successive editions of the World Water Forum, which was created by the Council in 1997, have served as stepping-stones towards global collaboration on water problems. They are part of a continuous process.

The Forum offers the water community and policy-and decision-makers from all over the world the unique opportunity to come together to create links, debate and attempt to find solutions to achieve water security.

Organized once every three years in close collaboration with the authorities of the host country, the Forum constitutes the largest water-related event in the world.

At the 1st Forum held in 1997, the Council received the mandate to produce a World Water Vision, a unique prospective exercise on the future of global water resources and their use, whose results were discussed at the 2nd Forum, in 2000.



Quick facts

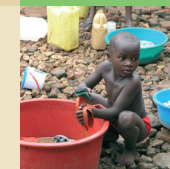
- The World Water Council Headquarters has operated from Marseilles, France since its founding in 1996.
- The World Water Council functions entirely through financing from membership fees and through the auspices of the City of Marseilles. Other funds are raised from Governments and non-governmental organisations for specific projects and programmes.
- The World Water Council has obtained special consultative status with UNESCO and the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC).
- The President of the World Water Council is currently Loïc Fauchon, a citizen of France.



Water in numbers :

- Freshwater represents only 2,5% of the world's water
- 1,4 billion people do not have access to clean water

- 2,4 billion people do not have basic sanitation
- Each minute, 15 deaths occur due to water-related illnesses



The World Water Council's main goal is to promote and facilitate the efficient conservation, protection, development, management and use of water at all levels on an environmentally sustainable basis. To do so, it reaches out to three groups of actors whose awareness is raised through the motto, "Water is everybody's business.": (i) the water community, which it aims to federate; (ii) political decision-makers who are endowed with the responsibility of making water a priority on political agendas at the local, national and international levels; (iii) and civil society, i.e. mainly users.

By providing a platform for debates and exchange of experiences, the Council seeks to attain a vision shared by the whole water community on the main principles for sound management of the resource and related services. In addition, the Council plays the role of catalyst in action and reflection, which feed large international meetings, including the World Water Forum, the flagship event of the Council.

With the aim of ensuring continuity, the Council set-up an action-monitoring programme featuring what was done and what remained to be done to bring the World Water Vision to reality. The final report was presented at the 3rd Forum, in 2003.

In 2001, the Council also raised the issue of financing to the top of its priorities by establishing, together with the Global Water Partnership, the Panel on Financing Water Infrastructure, also known as the Camdessus Panel. The Panel's mandate was to look for new ways and sources of funding for water to avoid the 2025 "water scarcity" scenario of the World Water Vision. In 2005, the continuation of this panel was implemented by the Gurria Task Force, which gave priority to financing local action.

At the 4th Forum, the theme was "Local Actions for a Global Challenge". Participants focused on how to establish new cooperation mechanisms to transform the global vision into concrete actions while integrating local knowledge, in order to achieve the water-related Millennium Development Goals by the 2015.

- Published in partnership with IWA Publishing, the Water Policy Journal is an official publication of the Council, featuring peer-reviewed analyses, reviews and debates on all policy aspects of water.



The logo of the World Water Council was designed by Mrs. Hiroko Fukumori, a 20 year-old student from Akitat Municipal Junior College of Arts and Crafts in Yamanashi, Japan, in 2003.

The larger part of the logo represents the quantity of salty water on the planet, namely 97.5% of total water resources. Out of the remaining 2.5%, three-quarters is ice. Only the little suspended drop provides freshwater for humankind.