



Conseil Mondial de l'Eau
World Water Council

THE WORLD WATER COUNCIL

The World Water Council (WWC), of which the General Directorate of State Hydraulic Works has been a member since 2000, is an international organisation generating opinions and thought on the subject of water policies. It was decided to set up the World Water Council at the 8th World Water Congress, held in Cairo in 1994. The Council was to be a "think tank" for formation of world water policies. As a result of work carried out by a commission of experts from the world's leading water organisations, the establishment of the World Water Council was announced on 22nd March, which is World Water Day, in the French city of Marseille in 1996.

In 2005 forty three new members were admitted to the World Water Council, which was established in 1996 with more than 160 members. At present the World Water Council boasts 340 members from 65 countries.

The activities of this international council, which pursues its organisation and activities within the framework of the "Law and Regulations of the World Water Council", do not depend on any particular country. Its membership pattern consists of public and private sector bodies and organisations, bodies attached to the United Nations and non-government organisations.

Between 1996 and 2002 the World Water Council was chaired by Dr Mahmud Abu-Zeid, Egypt's Minister of Water Resources and Irrigation, followed by William Cosgrove in the 2002-2004 period. Loic Fauchon has been Chairman of the WWC since March 2005.

Among the aims of the World Water Council in its role as a "think tank" are preparation of various action programmes for sustainable use of water resources, development of different scenarios for the state of water resources and the environment in the future and organisation of a number of activities on a global basis in a way that will deal with subjects relating to water in a wider context and in the longer term.

The Purpose of the World Water Council

The purpose of the World Water Council, which sees itself as a determinant of water-related perspectives/visions on international platforms and whose work is supported by governments at the highest level is to identify critical matters relating to water on local, regional and global levels, to increase awareness of water-related topics at all levels, to reach a joint, strategic water vision concerning water resources by means of forums, to ensure that ideas based on equity and knowledge are conveyed to institutions and decision-makers.

The Fundamental Mission of the World Water Council

The fundamental mission of the World Water Council is to increase sensitivity and awareness of critical water-related issues at all levels, including the top-level decision-makers and to ensure the effective protection, use, development and planning of water in a way which will benefit all living creatures in all the dimensions of water usage and on a basis of environmental sustainability.

Management of the World Water Council

The Headquarters of the World Water Council are in the city of Marseille in France, and there are regional offices in Canada, Egypt and Bari. Membership is open to all organisations related to water which accept the mission and objectives set out in the Rules and Regulations of the World Water Council. Members are entitled to participate in the activities of the Council. Members attend general and extraordinary meetings of the Council. General Board meetings are held every three years. All members of the Council express their opinions on management and activities, elect the Board of Management, put forward proposals relating to action plans for the years to come and may also realise work directed at election to the Board of Management.

All member-organisations which have paid their annual subscriptions by the date of the General Board meeting are entitled to one vote each. In order to acquire the right to vote, new members must have been admitted to membership three months before the General Board meeting. Any member whose subscription has been paid up to one month before the General Board meeting can be elected to the Board of Management. Members can also obtain information about the management of the World Water Council, that is, about decisions taken at meetings of the Board of Management and the annual budget.

According to the Regulations of the World Water Council, all members of the Board of Management except representatives of the city hosting the meeting are elected to office. Board of Management: members are classed according to the five different and mutually complementary election groups (categories) of the water sector set out below. Elections take place according to this classification:

- International Organisations
- Public Bodies
- Companies
- Non-Government Organisations
- Research and Development Organisations

Each election group consists of a minimum of 4 and a maximum of 9 members. In order to be elected to the Board of Management a member must receive at least 10% of the total number of votes cast by members.

The Work of the World Water Council

The Council carries out its work by means of commissions set up within the organisation. The commissions of the World Water Council are as follows; programme, regional centres and membership, publishing and communications.

The WWC General Board, which consists of WWC members, meets every three years to elect the Board of Governors. The Board of Governors, membership of which must not exceed 36 persons, consists of one representative of each of the founder organisations (9), those elected at the General Board meeting and then of persons subsequently elected, bearing in mind regions and genders not represented by the Board of Governors.

Forty one organisations in Turkey are members of the World Water Council, which places this country in third place behind Japan and France in terms of the number of members.

Thirteen per cent of World Water Council members are Turkish organisations.



THE WORLD WATER FORUM

One of the principal activities of the World Water Council, which engages in a range of activities aimed at effective management of water resources and their use in such a way that a contribution will be made to peace, security and cooperation between all countries on the basis of principles of justice and equity, is the World Water Forum, held every three years.

The World Water Forum is the biggest international event devoted to water, and it aims to serve four principal objectives, which are as follows:

- To enhance the importance of water on the political agenda,
- To formulate concrete proposals and to draw the attention of world public opinion to their importance,
- To form political guarantees.
- Efficient use of water resources

The Forum and accompanying exhibition, which enable member-countries to share their knowledge and experience, are held in a different country each time. The Forum provides a platform for presentation and discussion of research that has made an important contribution to identification and solution of water-related problems and to the development of solution strategies. The World Water Forum deals with a different aspect of water usage each time and brings together experts and professionals from all over the world as well as international companies and representatives of countries.

The first World Water Forum was held in Morocco in 1997, the second taking place in Holland in 2000. Japan hosted the third Forum in 2003, with Mexico playing host this year. It was envisaged that the 5th Forum, to be held in 2009, would be held in a country of south or south-west Asia.

In a word, the World Water Forum provides a suitable environment for the views of all categories of users to be put forward and discussed separately.

THE FIRST WORLD WATER FORUM

The First World Water Forum was held on 21-22 March 1997 in Marrakesh, Morocco. The theme of the first Forum, in which 500 delegates participated, was "Water – the World's Common Heritage" and with the Marrakesh Communication an assignation embracing development of "A Long-Term Water Vision for Life and the Environment" was given to the Council.

As a result of discussions at the Forum it was decided to recommend that clean water be acknowledged as a fundamental human right, that effective mechanisms be developed for joint management of water and that steps be taken to ensure efficient use of water.

THE SECOND WORLD WATER FORUM

With a total of 5,700 participants the Second World Water Forum took place in the Hague on 17-22 March 2000. Work related to formation of a world water vision (put forward at the first Forum) was evaluated and a joint communication issued.

At the Conference of Ministers held during the second Forum, where the matter of privatisation of water was discussed in depth, the main item on the agenda was "From Vision to Action".

The delegation participating in the Forum, which was led by Prof Dr Doğan Altınbilek, former General Director of State Hydraulic Works (DSI), presented a report entitled "GAP - Turkey's Southeast Anatolia Project; Water and Life in the 21st Century" at the Forum's Regional Subjects session. An exhibition of photographs of the GAP Region was opened during the session, where it was emphasised that GAP was an important innovative model in terms of efforts directed at water-related sustainable human development in the context of the project's fundamental philosophy of participatory human development.

THE THIRD WORLD WATER FORUM

The Third World Water Forum was held in the cities of Nara and Kyoto in Japan on 16-23 March 2003. At the Forum, where matters such as water, health, food, the ecosystem, cities, industries, risk management, evaluation of water, sharing of resources, development of a joint approach and management were on the agenda of the Forum. An Action Group was set up to discuss and evaluate work done since the Second World Water Forum.

THE FOURTH WORLD WATER FORUM

A total of 150 sessions were held during the five days of the Fourth World Water Forum, which took place in Mexico on 16-22 March 2006. Various sub-regions of the Asia-Pacific Region were set up within the context of regional preparation for the Fourth World Water Forum and meetings were held. Within the framework of preparations for Europe, Africa, Asia-Pacific, America and Middle East days the countries of the European Region organised a "European Water Solidarity Week" in Strasbourg. Formation of two bodies, namely the European Consultation Network (ECN) and European Operational Committee (EOC), was envisaged.

As a result of the European Region meetings the following five themes which were broadly in accordance with the themes of the Forum were selected: Hydro/water solidarity, Integrated Water Resources Management, Risk Management, New Technologies and their Application on Local Levels, Health Services.

THE FIFTH WORLD WATER FORUM

The Fifth World Water Forum and Ministers' Meeting will be held in Istanbul in 2009 with the support and joint efforts of relevant bodies and organisations in Turkey and with the cooperation of the WWC. The General Directorate of State Hydraulic Works is aware of the importance of water and all themes related to water and will do everything in its power to spread this awareness to all parts of the world.

In terms of its being a fundamental activity organised in order to ensure progress towards global cooperation in matters relating to water and to arouse public interest in the subject, the fifth of these World Water Forums, held every 3 years, will take place in 2009.

In the light of this information, the benefits of holding the Fifth World Water Forum in Istanbul are set out below:

- The status of Istanbul as an international congress centre will be further strengthened by hosting the Forum.
- In this connection it is vital that Turkey, as host to the Fifth World Water Forum, be able to take the initiative.
- Turkey will also be able to have a major say in communications issued by the Forum, organisation of sessions, announcements and determination of dispositions.
- Due to the Conference of Ministers to be held within the framework of the Forum, more than 100 ministers with an interest in water will be coming to Turkey. Thus, Turkey will also have an important say in the agenda for this conference.
- In this period, when hydroelectric power has begun to regain its former prestige, when emphasis is being placed on the war on poverty and when public interest is focussed on environmental problems Turkey will acquire a better opportunity to describe implementations in this country.
- This Forum will also enable Turkey to be included in or influence a number of ongoing processes.
- The "World Summit" nature of the World Water Forum means that the large number of participants and observers (6,000 in the Netherlands 24.000, in Japan and 20.665 in Mexico) in the event in Istanbul will make a major contribution to the economy and provide publicity for the host country and the city where it is held.
- It will enable Turkey to counter actions aimed at preventing realisation of its water-related projects.