

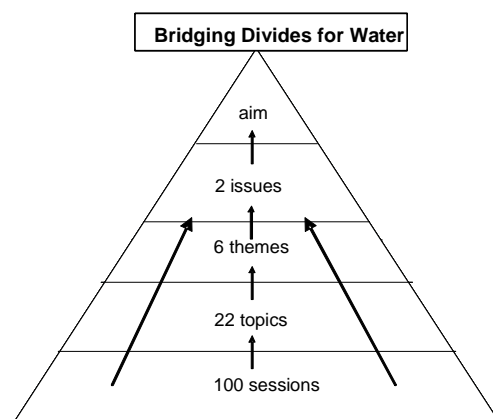
5th World Water Forum

Guidelines for Regional Coordinators

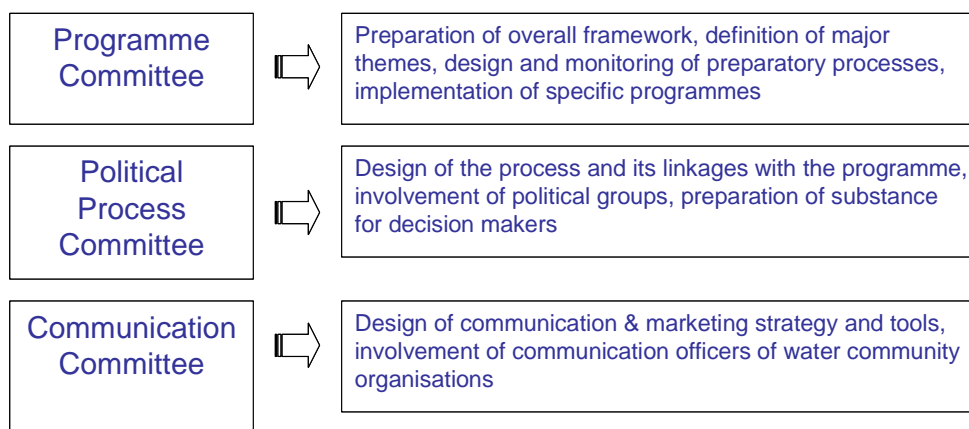
1. Background

The 5th World Water Forum, with the main theme “Bridging Divides for Water”, will be organised from March 16-22, 2009 in Istanbul, Turkey. The Forum preparation will consist of thematic, regional and political processes which will be integrated during the development of the Forum.

To build on the lessons from the previous Fora and create increased commitment from the global water community, the World Water Council and the Turkish co-organisers have worked out an improved framework for the preparation of the Forum. Indeed, the 5th Forum process is using a “pyramid” approach (see figure): all issues, themes, topics and sessions will ultimately lead to the achievement of a clear set of experiences, recommendations and commitments for action on bridging water divides among actors, sectors and among the present and future generations.



This framework relies on three committees in charge of the three strategic components of the Forum i.e. the programme, the political process and communication (see figure). These three committees are composed of an equal number of representatives of Turkish and World Water Council members. They all work with the help of a larger working group of organisations willing to contribute to the preparation of the Forum. They all report to the International Steering Committee.



2. Rationale for the Regional Process

The rationale for the regional component in the preparatory processes is threefold:

- (i) Issues differ from region to region, and all issues of the Forum's thematic framework do not bear the same importance for all regions;
- (ii) Even if the challenges are comparable in many regions, the solutions to these challenges need to be defined locally: water is and will remain a local issue;
- (iii) Regional processes contribute to mobilizing and committing worldwide action for water.

Over time, the regional contributions to the Forum have evolved and have become more and more elaborate. For the 4th Forum in Mexico, specific regional preparatory processes were implemented in five regions, namely Africa, the Americas, Asia, Europe and the Middle East and North Africa. Each of these regional processes produced a regional document that fed the thematic discussions at the Forum. Specific regional sessions were also organised at the Forum, one of them, a plenary session, presenting the main results of the regional preparatory process.

However the regional preparatory processes have so far not been homogeneous in their format, nor have they followed the same pattern: the types and diversity of stakeholders involved, as well as the linkages with decision-makers have for instance been quite different in the regions.

The Forum has triggered progressively the setting up of regional mechanisms and organisations such as the Asia-Pacific Water Forum, the Arab Water Forum or the European Water Partnership, which are active in mobilizing local actors and taking the lead in the regional processes.

Learning from the past, it can be concluded that the regional processes (the preparation and specific participation in the Forum) are an asset to the quality of the Forum, and that, in order to enhance their success, they should be better linked to other processes.

3. Objectives

The objectives of the regional processes are to:

1. Mobilize actors in the region and act as a catalyser for specific contributions from the region to the Forum;

2. Contribute to the thematic process by providing mainly their perspectives on the regional views of the issues and on priority action required;
3. Contribute to the political process by organising the political mobilisation in the region and providing inputs into the political processes of the Forum.

4. Roles and Tasks of Regional Coordinators

The overall role of the regional coordinator is to identify within a region and in partnership with a regional consortium specific priority areas related to the specified themes, topics and sessions of the Forum. They should identify and share experiences and actions bridging the gaps between stakeholders, actors, sectors, sub-regions and generations of relevance for the themes and formulate recommendations for policy improvement and for action that can be submitted to the regional politicians.

More specifically, regional coordinators should work along the following lines.

4.1. Facilitate regional participation through

- (i) *Establishment of a regional consortium of institutions which:*
 - a. has knowledge and is representative of the various perceptions and interests in the region (local and central governments, water professionals, user associations, civil society);
 - b. is equity balanced (stakeholders, gender, youth, etc);
 - c. has the knowledge, willingness, capacity and resources to organise the regional process.
- (ii) *Organise or participate in regional meetings*

4.2. Contribute to the thematic process of the Forum through

- (i) *the selection of regional priorities* along the thematic guidelines as prepared by the thematic coordinators for theme development.
- (ii) *the liaison with the topic and theme coordinators* to ensure that the regional priorities are well taken into account in the session development (under responsibility of the topic coordinators) and that contributions to the sessions from the regions are well taken into account by the topic coordinators.
- (iii) *the organisation of regional-thematic encounters* during relevant key regional events to formulate regional views on selected themes/topics.

4.3. Organize reporting during and after the Forum week.

- (i) *Preparation of consolidated regional inputs* into the thematic and political processes, and incorporation of thematic and political process inputs in the regional process.
- (ii) *Preparation of the regional session* and of contributions to the thematic sessions under the responsibility of the thematic and topic coordinators based on the feedback on the thematic guidelines from thematic, regional and political preparatory meetings
- (iii) *Contribute to reporting and synthesis during the Forum.* The regional session convenors will be responsible for reporting the findings of their session to the thematic coordinators.

- (iv) *Production of a Regional Document* that describes how the region developed the preparatory process towards to 5th World Water Forum to share the experiences and actions that have been implemented locally.
- (v) *Contribute to final Forum report.* A final report of the Forum will be prepared by the 5th Forum Secretariat and the WWC based on the thematic as well as the political and regional synthesis reports. Regional coordinators and their consortium members will be invited to comment on the draft version.

4.4. Contribute to the political process of the Forum

- (i) Organize and/or participate in *regional political summits* with high level politicians/decision makers that can subsequently report during the Ministerial component of the Forum¹
- (ii) *Disseminate information* on the political process in the Region
- (iii) *Mobilize the three levels:* local authorities, ministerial and parliamentarian through the organisation of –or participation in- regional meetings and help their participation in the preparatory meetings organised
- (iv) *Ensure the results of the regional meetings are well transferred* and included in the global political processes

5. Implementation

The regional contributions to the Forum will be implemented through specific regional preparatory processes in 4 “continent” based regions, namely Africa, the Americas, Asia-Pacific, Europe, as well as three specific sub-regions (In/around Turkey, Mediterranean and MENA/Arab countries). Given the diversity within these regions, sub-regional activities may be required, and should be encouraged.

For each region, “Regional Coordinators” have been approached based on their capacity, willingness, representativity and preparedness. A preliminary list of coordinators is given in Table 1 below.

Table 1. The Regions and Regional Coordinators

Region	Organization	Contact Persons	E-mail address
Africa	AMCOW, African Development Bank	Adrian Rakatobe or Tefera Woudeneh	a.rakatobe@afdb.org t.woudeneh@afdb.org
Americas	ANEAS	Roberto Olivares	roberto.olivares@aneas.com.mx
Asia-Pacific	Asia Pacific Water Forum	Taeko Yokota	yokota@waterforum.jp
Europe	European Water Partnership	Harro Riedstra	h.riedstra@ewp.eu
Special sub-Regions			
In/around Turkey	DSI (State Hydraulics Works, Turkey)	Hamza Ozguler	hozguler@worldwaterforum5.org
Mediterranean	Mediterranean Water Institute	Hachmi Kennou	hkennou@ime-eau.org
MENA/Arab Countries	Arab Water Council	Safwat Abdel Dayem	safwat@mwri.gov.eg

¹ To get a complete description of the political process, see http://www.worldwaterforum5.org/fileadmin/WWF5/Library/Publications/Depliant_po_process.pdf

With respect to the regional process, the following approach could be considered:

- After the regional kick-off, in each region, water related issues are identified and contact is established with topic coordinators to include them in the topic documents. The starting point for these regional issues is the work carried out for the 4th World Water Forum, as well as the program framework.
- As a second step, the long list is shortened to the most important issues, translated into key questions and transferred to topic coordinators.
- Regional perspectives on these questions are developed (what needs to be done, what is debated, what types of solutions can be imagined) and contact is established/facilitated with topic coordinators to ensure participation of the regional actors in session consortia.
- Possible solutions to the identified problems are reported for the purpose of discussion in the various sessions of the Forum as well as in a regional session during the Forum week.

The regional processes will produce regional documents that are fed by and that will feed the thematic and political preparatory processes and the discussions in the Forum.

6. Interaction with other processes

Although homogeneity is not necessarily required, similar outputs and contributions to the Forum are desirable from the regional process and these initiatives need to be better linked to the other Forum processes in a more structured way.

Thematic Processes

The regional processes will therefore base their work on the Forum programme framework (Annex 1) that has been developed by the Programme Committee and which specifies the aim, issues, themes and topics for the Forum.

Two coordination meetings were organised along the thematic process to ensure exchange of regional and thematic inputs.

Political Processes

The Regional Process is intricately linked to and drives the Political Process, feeding policy recommendations from a region perspective as substance to the discussions within and between political groups.

The regional processes therefore need to be well coordinated with the political processes. For this purpose, it is important that the regional processes be supported by Ministers in the regions. The envisaged product of the political process is a global water agenda.

Other major ongoing processes at a regional level will also provide input into the 5th Forum Political Process. Major water summits are being convened around the world whose policy-oriented output will also be material used in formulation of the Political Process products.

Some of the important water summits (e.g. the Asia-Pacific Water Summit, African Water Summit, European Water Summit, Forum of the Americas) involving key political actors of the regions may be linked and feed into the political processes. Where the political process is organised around "PrepCom" meetings, the regions may be invited to represent their organization.

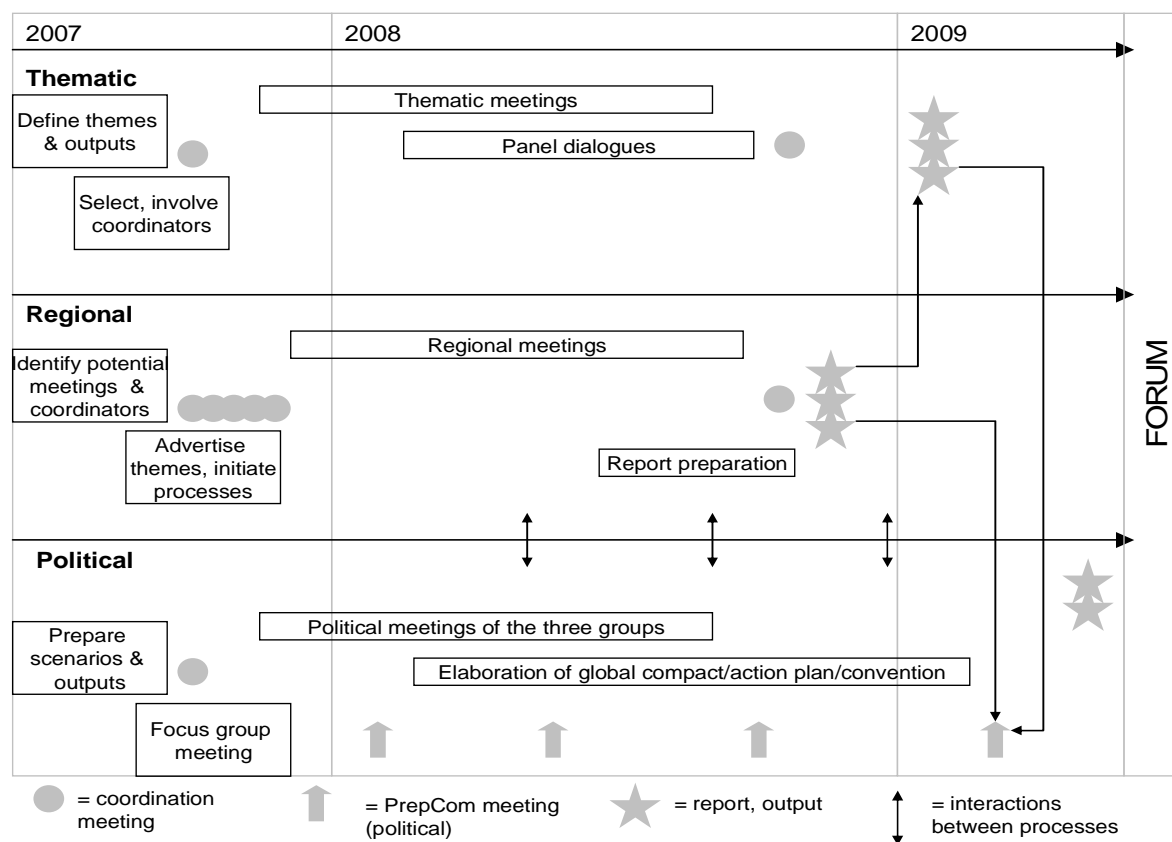
These meetings are scheduled as follows:

PrepCom Agenda:

- PrepCom I: 11-12 Sept.2008 (Paris-UNESCO)
- PrepCom II: 5 Dec.2008 (Geneva, UNO)
- PrepCom III: 21-23 Jan.2009 (Rome, FAO)
- PrepCom IV: 18-20 Feb. 2009 (Istanbul)



The chart below depicts the relationship between the three main processes. Coordination between these three processes started during the 2007 Stockholm meeting and will continue until the Forum.



The Forum week is planned to cover 7 days: an opening day, 5 days in which the themes will be developed, and a closing day. Plenary sessions will be held in the morning covering, as well as

the regional reports, the key-notes, feedback from previous day and panel reports. Topic sessions with regional contributions will be concentrated in the afternoon.

7. Principles

In organising the regional process for the Forum, the following principles should be followed:

- *Bridging the divides*: all activities should be multi-stakeholder and focussed on narrowing the gaps between actors, sectors, regions and generations.
- *Impact oriented*: the ensemble of sessions should have a measurable impact on the achievement of the MDGs
- *Inclusiveness*: no stakeholders can be excluded from the Forum process;
- *Freedom of expression*: all actors and interest groups have the right to express themselves;
- *Participation: Themes, topics and sessions are developed in a participatory manner*

8. Expected Outputs

1. Regional Perspective Documents
2. Contribution to Ministerial Agenda, to Parliamentary process and to Local Authorities process
3. Regional session presenting issues
4. Contribution to session/questions

9. Support from the Forum Secretariat

1. The Forum Secretariat sends an official invitation to the agreed regional coordinators with the Guidelines documents, and they will be approached by Secretariat or WWC staff to together establish the process and conditions.
2. The regional coordinators will identify relevant regional meetings for the themes and region, prepare a regional preparation plan (including linkages with the thematic and political process), if necessary carry out fundraising activities and organize a regional kick-off.
3. The regional coordinators will be assigned contact persons from the Forum Secretariat to provide guidance on the preparatory steps.
4. The Forum Secretariat-WWC will attend the regional kick-off to explain the processes, answer questions and try to keep the process focused on the main themes and outputs of the Forum.

ANNEX I Programme Framework: Issues, Themes and Topics

Topic	Theme	Issue	Aim
Adapting to Climate Change	Global Changes & Risk Management	Providing Water for Sustainable Development	Bridging Divides: Water for a sustainable 21 st century
Water-related migration, changing land use and human settlements			
Mitigating Disasters			
Ensuring water, sanitation and hygiene for all	Advancing Human Development and the MDGs		
Water for energy, energy for water			
Water and food for ending poverty and hunger			
Multiple use and functions of water services			
Basin management and Transboundary cooperation	Managing and Protecting Water Resources and their supply systems to Meet Human and Environmental Needs		
Ensuring adequate water resources and storage infrastructure to meet agricultural, energy and urban needs			
Preserving natural ecosystems			
Managing and protecting surface, ground,soil and rainwater			
Implementing the Right to Water and Sanitation for improved access	Governance and Management	Enabling Mechanisms for Development	
Improving performance through regulatory approaches			
Ethics, transparency, and empowerment of stakeholders			
Optimizing public and private roles in water services.			
Institutional arrangements for efficient and effective water resources management			
Sustainable means of financing for water sector	Finance		
Pricing strategies as a tool for a sustainable water sector			
Pro-poor policies and strategies			
Education ,knowledge and capacity development strategies	Education, Knowledge and Capacity Development		
Water science and technology: appropriate and innovative solutions for the 21 st Century to address the needs of society			
Using the assets of professional associations and networks to achieve the MDGs			
Data for All			
Water and Culture			

ANNEX II. PRELIMINARY PROGRAMME OF FORUM WEEK

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	
	March 16	March 17	March 18	March 19	March 20	March 21	22/3 World Water Day	
	Plenary Sessions							
Morning 1	Registration	Key 1 Speech 1 Region 1	Key 2 Speech 2 Region 2	Key 3 Speech 3 Region 3	Key 4 Speech 4 Region 4	Key 5 Speech 5 Region 5	Report Theme 1+2+3	
Morning 2	Opening Ceremony	Panel 1 Report day 1	Panel 2 Report day 2	Panel 3 Report day 3	Panel 4 Report day 4	Panel 5 Report Day 5	Report Theme 4+5+6	
Lunch Break								
	<div>Parallel Sessions</div> <div>Theme 1 – 6 in parallel</div>							
Afternoon 1	UN Day WWD Report	Parallel Sessions	Parallel Sessions	Parallel Sessions	Parallel Sessions	Parallel Sessions	Final Report	
Afternoon 2		Parallel Sessions	Parallel Sessions	Parallel Sessions	Parallel Sessions	Parallel Sessions	Closing Ceremony	
		Political Processes				Ministerial Conference		
All Day	Fair and Expo							
	Social and Cultural Events/ Preparatory Daily Reports/Synthesis							

(subject to change)/