



French
water
partnership



Memo on the role of water and water organisations and networks in the accomplishment of the Global Action Agenda

Organizations:	SIWI in collaboration with AGWA ¹ , ClimateisWater initiative ² and the FWP INBO, UNESCO, CDP: leading actors of the three key declaration of engagements (alliances and coalitions) from the water community
Destination of the Memo	HE Salaheddine Mezouar, COP22 Presidency HE Ségolène Royal, COP21 Presidency HE Manuel Pulgar Vidal, COP20 Presidency HE Dr Hakima El Haite, Minister Delegate to the Minister of Energy, Mines, Water and environment of Morocco, in charge of Environment HE Ms Laurence Tubiana, French Ambassador for Climate Change
Date:	July 8 th 2016
Subject	Climate Change and Water /UNFCCC processes/Global Action Agenda (ex-LPAA)

Within the framework of the Global Action Agenda, and following the successful launch of the *First Global Forum Alliances and Coalitions – Global Climate Action Agenda from COP21-COP22*, June 23-24th in Rabat, the present memo's objective is to share with the leading COP Presidencies and the two Champions the willingness and engagement of the water community to the accomplishment of the Global Action Agenda.

The authors of this memo welcome the implementation of this important and innovative commitment that recognizes and involves non-state actors within the UNFCCC in order to attain the goals of the Paris Agreement. We are looking forward to engage with HE Dr Hakima El Haite and HE Ms Laurence Tubiana, in their role of champions of the global climate action and contribute to their objectives of being the interface between the action on the ground and the UNFCCC negotiation process, between non party stakeholders and Parties; as well as finding the right mechanisms to ensure strong and transparent governance, track implementation of existing initiatives to demonstrate credibility, promote best practices and enhance delivery that are truly consistent with the long term goals of the Paris Agreement.

Given the importance of sustainable water resources management to implement the Paris Agreement and noting that 93% of the Adaptation chapters of NDCs mention water, the water community is committed to jointly contribute to the success of the Paris agreement and its Action Agenda. It will build up from its experience at COP21 in accomplishing successful events in the official and public zone, in proposing strong declaration of engagements, in engaging with different Party delegations and other stakeholders and structuring itself in order to continue the momentum, dynamics and implement its engagements. As a starting point the water community will support and reinforce the three key alliances and coalitions built around the declaration of engagements, maintain a momentum with key events that will allow exchange, follow ups and consolidation of alliances and continue engaging to produce content and collaborative work through the AGWA policy group and ClimateisWater initiative.

The authors of this memo would appreciate furthering the discussions and identify how strong alliances and coalitions, that support the Global Climate Action Agenda, can provide input and convey expertise and experiences to the UNFCCC process. It is also a goal for the community that water will once more have a

¹ **Members of the AGWA policy group:** AGWA currently (as of 2016) consists of about 200 organizations from all regions around the globe. It is co-chaired by SIWI and the World Bank; other members are ARUP, Both Ends, Cap-Net, CDP, Coalition Eau, Conservation, Deltares, EIB, FANCA, FanMex, FWP, Gates Foundation, GIZ, GCI, GWP, IUCN, IWA, LEAD, OECD, Seattle Public Utilities, Stakeholder Forum, TNC, UNECE, UNESCO, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Institute for Water Resources, WaterAid, WWF,

² **Members of the Climate is Water initiative:** AGWA policy group, ARUP, BORDA, CDP, French Water Partnership, Gates Foundation, Green Cross International, Global Water Partnership, INBO-International Network of Bassin Organisations, IUCN, IWRA, Moroccan ministry of Water – international cooperation unit, Nile Bassin Discourse, SIWI, UNESCO-PHI, Water Academy, WaterAid, World Resources Institute, World Youth Parliament for Water, Woman for Water Partnership, World Water Council, WWF US



special dedicated focus day during the action agenda days at COP22 and that it is given the opportunity to illustrate its contribution to adaptation and mitigation measures. Seeing water's key role in sustainable development, it is hoped that the COP Presidencies and the Champions will select this Focus area in order to give it a political response and support as a High Level Event.

Please find below a few key elements on how and when the water community will engage in promoting the Global Climate Action Agenda and the Paris Agreement.

For the alliances and declaration of engagements: The three (3) key alliances: Paris Pact- Basin Alliance, the Megacities Alliance on Water under Climate Change and the Business Alliance for Water and Climate have a strong support and commitment from the water community as a whole and beyond.

The "Paris Pact on water and adaptation to the effects of climate change in the basins of lakes, rivers and aquifers" synthesizes principles and actions that need to be carried out for adaptation in basins. It now gathers a community of 348 signatory organizations from 87 countries. As an indication, 10 of its pilot projects undertaken in 28 countries represent a total amount of more than 1 billion Euros. The management of the community is ensured by International Network of Basin Organisations (INBO) and UNECE³ as the Water Convention Secretariat, on the basis of their Global network of basins. This platform promotes exchange of good practices and the development, monitoring and promotion of adaptation projects to climate change in basins.

The Business Alliance for Water and Climate Change (BAFWAC), lead by CDP, CEO Water Mandate, World Business Council for Sustainable Development and SUEZ, aims to commit companies so that they analyze and report water-related risks, implement collaborative response strategies and report on water use data and thirdly reduce their impacts on water availability and quality in direct operations and along the value chain. For the COPs, the Alliance will track progress from the committed companies as to their progress on each of the three actions and by 2020 report on the total number of companies that committed to action, the number of actions committed too and progress on each action. Presently 30 international and leading companies have joined the alliance. This work will drive the private sector into action in order to improve water security in a range of countries. The BAFWAC steering committee will also aim to review the recommendations of the UNFCCC following the consultation related to paragraph 133 of the Paris Agreement when available.

The Megacities Alliance on Water under Climate Change, recently endorsed by the UNESCO intergovernmental programme the IHP, and supported by ICLEI's network of Local Governments and Arceau, has started establishing an International Platform for Cooperation to facilitate a dialogue on water, with the aim of helping Megacities and fast growing cities, to learn and exchange from each other's experience, partner with appropriate technical, academic, CSO and financial institutions, as well as design and implement their responses to the challenges of climate change in order to adapt and mitigate the effects of climate change. The platform will be free of access and open to relevant International Institutions such as other UN agencies, cooperation financing institutions, NGOs, etc. Currently, 15 megacities, representing 300 million inhabitants, have prepared their monographs on water and climate change. This content will be shared online in different languages and a synthesised version will be launched at UNHABITAT III in Quito.

These three alliances are working from within and with other stakeholders in order to engage and implement the commitments made and gain momentum.

³ (https://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/env/documents/2014/WAT/10Oct_1315_Geneva/7th_Task_Force/presentations/Koepfel_network.pdf) and for the plateforme : <https://www2.unece.org/ehlml/platform/display/ClimateChange/Welcome>



Key events and networks

The water community as a whole is organised around key moments that gives it a momentum for action and engagements and has the support of leading networks that have engaged themselves in interlinking water and climate issues.

SIWI with its annual *World Water Week* enables the water community to meet, exchange, analyse and monitor, as well as launch initiatives and partnerships on an annual basis. The World Water Week could become a key stepping stone in the current political dynamics and global calendar for the action agenda pertaining to the water and climate coalitions and alliances. The annual conference is well positioned in the calendar between the HLPF and the COPs and therefore presents a possibility to take stock annually on the progress of the 2030 agenda and the Paris agreement from a multiple stakeholder and sectorial perspective. *'The High Level Session Building a Resilient Future through Water'* will this year constitute one of the highlights and attract a large audience. It will link up with the High Level Panel on Water activities and bring together a vision on the interlinkages between the SDG and Climate Change agenda (vision and implementation).

The AGWA *policy group* has undertaken a working group on Water in the NDC's and Water and Climate finance. The policy group is following closely the UNFCCC processes and are prepared to provide input to the Adaptation committee, the Paris agreement committee and the technical expert meetings to report on water's key role as a connector; it's strategic place in the adaptation but also mitigation solutions; and one of the first elements in ensuring climate justice.

The UNESCO Water Family is a network of more than 1500 experts based on UNESCO's International Hydrological Programme and includes UNESCO's Regional and Cluster Offices, 39 Water-related Chairs, the UNESCO-IHE Institute for Water Education, 36 Water-related Institutes and Centers and the World Water Assessment Programme. IHP is the only intergovernmental programme of the UN system devoted to water research, water resources management, and education and capacity building.

The French Water Partnership (FWP) is not only engaged in mobilising the French water and climate community but also has strongly and willingly contributed to the Moroccan and World Water Council organisation of the upcoming *"International Conference on Water and Climate Change - Water security for climate justice"* that the Moroccan and French government announced at COP21 11-12th of July. A report of this session will be prepared for COP22. The FWP is also one of the pillars of the *Water Forum* that will take place during the *Climate Chance Summit*, 26-28th of September in Nantes, and will ensure that clear and strong action plans and messages pertaining to water will be ready for the Champions and COP22.

The *Climate is Water initiative (#CIW)* is co-coordinated by the World Water Council and the French Water Partnership. The #CIW initiative aims to mobilize governments and key policy makers to ensure water is considered within the Climate agenda and engage a follow up on the declaration of engagements of the Global Climate Action Agenda. #CIW will be engaged in COP22 and will aim to contribute to other key international events such as the XVth World Water Congress that will take place in May 2017 in Cancun and the 8th World Water Forum that will take place in Brasilia in March 2018. The kick off meeting that took place in Brasilia on the 27-28th of June confirmed the mobilisation of the water community when it comes to engaging action and policy to combat climate change. Thematic, regional, political, citizen and sustainability processes are being launched as of now and the preparatory process will run up until the Forum with key moments.

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