



Water Action Day at COP23 High-Level engagement on water and climate report

10 November 2017

From the Water Action Day Content Group to the Champions AGWA-FWP-GAfWaC-INBO-IUCN-SIWI-WWC

***Preamble:** The organizations engaged in the MPGCA Water activities and initiatives are dedicated to working with all (parties and non-parties from all areas) in order to reach the objectives stated below and the objectives of the Paris Agreement in conjunction with the 2030 Agenda. They would like to underline that this is a collaborative partnership and it is therefore imperative that Parties respect their commitments to the Paris Agreement in order to maintain global warming under 2 ° C by 2100. This is a pre-requisite in view of the major economic, environmental and human risks related to water resources while facing the challenges of climate change.*

- 1. Provide up to three short-term (2018) and up to three mid-term (2020) priority actions that could have significant impact and deliver concrete results that are aligned with the long-term aims of the Paris Agreement and that could feed into the 2018 Facilitative Dialogue.**

Short-term priorities 2018

Scale up collaboration between Climate and Water communities in preparation of the COP 24.

Contribute to the Global Climate Action Marrakech Partnership and the overall UNFCCC process, including the Talanoa Dialogue, by showcasing how wise water management can support the delivery of the Paris Agreement and be a connecting force to the other GCA focal areas and the 2030 Agenda.

- Organize high level events, workshops and activities to raise awareness, broker and leverage cross-collaboration with the climate community, including the 2018 World Water Week, the International conference on "Megacities and sea level rise: risks and adaptation strategies," 8th World Water Forum and 3rd International Conference on Water and Climate;
- Promote sustainable water management and land use within the Framework on Water Scarcity in Agriculture, enlarging the International River Basin Agreement to mitigate climate risk by achieving food and agriculture security, and within the agriculture work programme of the UNFCCC approved at COP23;
- Engage in the Gender work streams and Indigenous platform of the UNFCCC, in order to draw attention to populations that are often most vulnerable to the adverse effects of water and climate change, including women, indigenous groups, and the urban & rural poor;
- Further strengthen the #ClimatelsWater initiative to activate and unite the water community in its engagement and actions within climate discussions and UNFCCC processes.

Disseminate lessons learned and build upon best-practice projects facilitating climate adaptation and resilient climate mitigation in national and transboundary basin organizations, municipalities, and economic sectors. Support the creation and strengthening of training capacities on basin adaptation measures that can compensate for climate uncertainty, such as for shifts in flood and drought protection. Develop targeted catalogues, manuals, and open-source training and decision



support tools. Topical areas should include resilient natural resource management, integration of ecosystems within water management systems, the support for robust and flexible approaches to water-relevant decision making processes, and stakeholder integration across sectors and administrative boundaries. A special focus should be with regional African representative institutions and donor agencies in order to enhance and facilitate implementation of the water components of the African NDCs and NAPs, but NDCs and NAPs globally are also relevant.

Unleash and accelerate access to climate finance, and mainstream resilient water management into all non-climate finance water-intensive investments. With a view towards developing projects that are both water-wise and climate-smart, support project incubation, provide technical assistance, and improve access to financial flows for all party and non-party initiatives launched since COP 21. These should include models such as the World Bank investment platform, the NDC Partnership, the GAFWaC Incubation Platform (supported by the Ministries of Environment of Italy and France, among others), NDC funding support tools, and through the continued development of innovative funding schemes such as green and blue bonds and financial blending. Development banks, cities, national governments, foundations, the private sector, and NGOs should be engaged in these processes.

Mid-term priorities 2018-2020

Enhance the visibility and contributions of Water within the Global Climate Agenda and UNFCCC. With the continued support of Morocco, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, Sweden and France, contribute to the Global Climate Action Marrakech Partnership and the overall UNFCCC process ensuring that, during COP 24 and beyond, Water Action Day discussions are carried by official high-level dialogues and the outputs will be taken into consideration in the preparation of NDCs and NAPs. Specifically:

- Working with groups including The Lima Adaptation Knowledge Initiative, Adaptation Network for Climate Resilience, Adaptation Committee and other UNFCCC initiatives and bodies to recommend effective water resilient mechanisms for technical and non-technical audiences and support prioritization of water for urban resilience, agriculture & energy-water efficiency;
- Align with the national Disaster Risk Reduction plans, due for revision in 2020, the water-related goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda, and the Sendai targets on disaster risk reduction by interlinking with the Megacities Alliance for Water and Climate, among others.

Build capacity to address climate adaptation and mitigation through the Water-focused Basin Initiatives.

- Create and strengthen regional, transboundary, national and basin Water Information Systems (WIS) using new measurement and Earth observation technologies to forecast the effect of climate change on water resources and extreme weather events to facilitate the design and decision making of best adaptation measures in a context of uncertainty;
- Support development of ongoing and upcoming initiatives including: Water For Africa, Water and Energy Hub, International Network of Parliamentarians, and others;
- Create a new network of basin Committees and Commissions members (Aquamadre-Net) in order to reinforce intersectoral cooperation and exchange between stakeholders representing local authorities, economic sectors and civil society involved in basin management.



Mobilize and increase the climate finance portfolio for water and governance. Increase water-sound climate financing by working with a broad spectrum of finance institutions – including private sector sources and investors – to ensure mechanisms are in place for water-intensive climate investments to adopt resilient water resource management in order to better respond to uncertain climate impacts. Facilitate access to climate finance to support better governance for operational programs, information systems, and managing tools initiated by non-state actors (i.e. cities, regions, national or transboundary basin organizations, economic actors, NGOs, etc.) and introduce new innovative financial mechanisms such as Green and Blue Bonds, payment for ecosystem services, user-polluter pay systems or public–private partnerships.

2. Identify new initiatives or commitments on climate action announced at COP 23.

- Official launch of **the Nature-based Solutions Declaration**, the objective of which is to create mechanisms to ensure all stakeholders include the broader ecological landscape in water resources management in order to increase the resilience of people and ecosystems to climate risks.
- The 2nd international conference on Water, Megacities and Climate Change, **EAUMEGA2019**, organized by The Megacities Alliance for Water and Climate (MAWC), was announced for 2019.
- Announced a **new target of registering 100 firms into the Business Alliance For Water And Climate (BAWaC) by 2020** - representing US\$1 trillion in revenues - that pledge to reduce their water footprint in order to realize adaptation and mitigation results.
- The Global Clean Water Desalination Alliance (GCWDA) will establish an inventory of all desalination plants, outline how to accelerate clean desalination and identify barriers to progress and develop a **2018 – 2035 roadmap for clean energy desalination**. The GCWDA also committed an additional investment of US\$100 million annually and created a trust fund.
- A new **Youth Water and Climate initiative** will support youth organizations in their action to implement adaptation and mitigation measures, build capacity, and enable them to take part in dialogue sessions so that their voices may be heard.
- Launched the **Water Resilience Framework for Cities** to develop and implement a pilot approach to working with global cities building on the City Resilience Index.
- The **Action Platform for Source-to-Sea Management** launched the **“Blue trinity initiative”** to increase knowledge and opportunities when addressing water, ocean and climate issues.
- The **Climate and Water International Summit**, under the auspices of the Ministry of Environment of Italy, will bring together, every three years, stakeholders from the main transboundary rivers to follow the implementation of their water adaptation basin management plans. The next edition will be in 2020 in Rome.