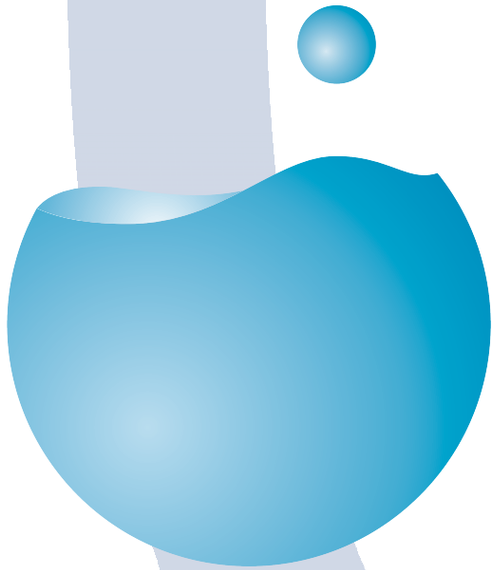
WORLD TWENTY WATER YEARS OF COUNCIL ACHIEVEMENT



WORLD TWENTY WATER YEARS OF COUNCIL ACHIEVEMENT

1996–2016

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Members of the World Water Council, 7th General Assembly, Marseille, 13 November 2015.

Introduction

The Council started its journey 20 years ago. Who thought then that water was a global priority? Indeed, we did. In the course of two decades, the need for water security in the context of rapid development has taken center stage. The Council has played a very important part in making this happen. In global debates, the Council has been exceptionally influential in putting water at the very heart of global development.

It is impossible to do justice to 20 years of work in the pages that follow. The chapters merely dip into a selection of notable efforts in policy-focused advocacy towards positive change in managing water. What is undoubtedly clear is that the Council is far greater than the sum of its parts. It is the commitment and support of all our members and partners, a group of influential, accomplished and inspirational organizations, that have contributed to putting water on the international agenda as a critical issue.

Yet the challenge of securing long-term commitment to addressing water at the highest political level has never been greater. But, with this great challenge comes great opportunities. Mobilizing political action marshals the power to provoke positive, transformational change. The Council's unique role continues to be drawing together decision makers at all levels and across all sectors around a common goal – secure, sustainable water for all.

Assuring water for all is critical for sustained socio-economic development around the world. As this anniversary book shows, when the Council brings together decision makers at all levels and across sectors to meet, discuss and take action together for water security and sustainability, the world moves towards a fairer and more secure future. In anniversaries to come, the Council aspires to celebrating its contributions towards raising our common vision for water to greater heights.

Creation of the World Water Council

In the decades before the turn of the millennium, the world's concern over environmental issues was gradually growing. In those days, water professionals were concerned that their knowledge and policies were communicated only among themselves. There was a need to reach out to the political and decision-making community. Water deserved to be given higher priority at different levels of government worldwide. The water community was scattered across a great number of associations representing various sectors and actors. Water issues required greater visibility and there was no place, either inside or outside the United Nations, where the international community could discuss issues pertaining to water. In 1996, during the IWRA World Water Congress in Cairo, several international institutions formally constituted the World Water Council.

The Council's initial role was to act as a think-tank and to organize the triennial World Water Forum. Throughout the years, the Forum has encouraged debate, challenged conventional thinking, and provided a platform for presenting and discussing issues and ways forward. The Council has evolved into an organization with wide international outreach that encompasses broad policy issues and has instigated programs and initiatives to develop policy recommendations.

Since its formation, the Council has been at the forefront of efforts to mobilize all levels of the global community to act on water. One of the most significant areas of the Council's work has been engaging high-level decision makers in the political domain. Looking back over 20 years it is clear that together with like-minds in the international community the Council has played a leading role in putting water security and sustainability on the global agenda. From the global recognition of water as a human right in 2010 to the convening of the Heads of State Panel on Water in 2016, the Council has prompted political responses to the world's growing water challenges.

In its anniversary year, the Council celebrates a membership of over 330 organizations in more than 50 countries. The Council's strength lies in the commitment of its members to the values embodied in its constitution and which manifests itself in all aspects of the Council's work: Transparency, Democracy, Dignity, Independence and Participation.

Today, thanks to this commitment, the cause of water receives much greater attention than it did 20 years ago and, thanks in part to the creation of the Council, water now has a secure place on the international agenda.

World Water Council constituent members

- Instituto Agronomico Mediterraneo
- International Commission on Irrigation and Drainage
- International Union for the Conservation of Nature
- International Water Association
- International Water Resources Association
- United Nations Development Programme
- United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
- Water Supply and Sanitation Collaborative Council
- World Bank

In an international competition in 1996, the City of Marseille was selected to host the headquarters of the World Water Council. Since then, the city and its Mayor, Jean-Claude Gaudin, have continued to renew support for the Council.

"Water is essential to all life, all ecosystems and all human activity… The effective management of the world's water resources will contribute to the strengthening of peace, security, cooperation and friendly relations among all nations in conformity with the principles of justice and equal rights."

World Water Council Constitution

World Water Forum: Galvanizing Commitment and Mobilizing Action

The World Water Council founded the World Water Forum as a triennial event where the global water community and key decision makers could come together to create joint solutions to water challenges. In its first 20 years, the Council has co-organized seven Forums with as many host countries, and has seen it grow to be the world's largest gathering for collaboration on water issues.

As an open, all-inclusive, multi-stakeholder process, the Forum has raised awareness and understanding of the importance of global water challenges and has proposed concrete solutions. Bringing together people from non-governmental organizations, business and governments who might not normally have interacted or agreed with each other, and sectors that sometimes have been at odds, the meetings have triggered for example, financial commitments, political treaties, memorandums of understanding, research and technological solutions, roadmaps, frameworks and innovative policies. Above all, Forums have built bridges among the different interests in the water community.

The two-year preparations for each event have followed three streams: political, regional and thematic. The Bureau of the World Water Council, Governors, members of the Council, an International Steering Committee, and hundreds of organizations and volunteers have contributed to the success of the Forum. Kick-off, thematic and regional coordination meetings, workshops, committees and regional summits have ensured that everyone's voice could be heard.

The Forum has created a dynamic space for debating, exchanging information, networking, learning, accepting differences and finding a common way forward. Formal sessions have catalyzed political commitment by ministers and decision makers. In parallel with the Forum, a World Water Expo and Fair, a Virtual Forum, a Village of Solutions, a Learning Center, a Youth Forum, a Women's Conference, a Film Festival and art exhibitions have been among a variety of activities that have offered avenues for expressing diverse perspectives and showcasing solutions.

Over the years, the number of people participating in the Forum has grown from a few hundred to tens of thousands, from both the international community and host countries. Building on this momentum, the Council endeavors to maintain the influence and standing of the Forum, and extend it to all regions of the globe.

World Water Forum

1997
Vision for Water, Life and Environment, Marrakesh, Morocco
The 1st Forum mandated the Council to develop a long-term Vision for Water, Life and the Environment in the 21st Century.

2000
From Vision to Action, The Hague, the Netherlands
Ministers issued the Declaration of The Hague on Water Security in the 21st Century.

2003
A Forum with a Difference, Kyoto-Shiga-Osaka, Japan
The World Water Actions report inventoried over 3,000 local water actions.

2006
Local Actions for a Global Challenge, Mexico City, Mexico
The 4th Forum established mechanisms for cooperation and co-ordination to transform the global vision into concrete action.

2009
Bridging Divides for Water, Istanbul, Turkey
Local and regional authorities pledged the Istanbul Water Consensus.

2012
The Time for Solutions, Marseille, France
A Village of Solutions displayed concrete actions from all around the world.

2015
Water for our Future, Daegu & Gyeongbuk, Republic of Korea
The 7th Forum delivered 16 Implementation Roadmaps to guide and track collective action for water.

2018
Sharing Water, Brasília, Brazil

> *"During this Forum, participants will present solutions for global water-related challenges, through which we will bring forward a peaceful world."*
>
> Park Geun-hye, President of the Republic of Korea, host country of the 7th World Water Forum, Daegu & Gyeongbuk, Republic of Korea

The World Water Vision for Life and Environment for the 21st Century

As the new millennium approached, water professionals and scientists around the world were sounding the alarm about an impending water crisis. Yet attempts to address the issues or to offer solutions met with limited success. It was clear that without dramatic changes in water management, water crises would strike more frequently and severely. From its inception the Council has understood the necessity of a widely shared vision for guiding what needs to be done to tackle water challenges decisively.

The Council, as one of its very first endeavors, moved to develop a long-term vision to drive action on water. Once formally mandated by the 1st World Water Forum in 1997 to act, the Council, in partnership with nine key agencies in the United Nations and 57 organizations from around the world, embarked on a wide-ranging, collaborative visioning exercise. The aims of the exercise were to raise awareness of alarming trends in water, particularly outside the water community, to propose concrete actions for reversing damage and to encourage practices for sustainable management of water resources.

Respecting the principle of wide participation, the Council set up a Vision Management Committee to seek input at local, district, national, regional and international levels. Over 18 months, the Committee arranged 73 consultations and meetings where over 15,000 women and men shared their aspirations and developed strategies for practical action towards sustainable use and management of water resources.

Three global scenarios stimulated discussions to explore alternative futures and identify driving forces and critical uncertainties. To date, the analysis of the world's water resources undertaken to develop the World Water Vision stands as the most comprehensive ever.

The Council's approach of drawing on the experiences of professionals and stakeholders across the water community delivered not only an inspiring vision but also founded a movement to build consensus for managing water to avert further crises. By making water everybody's business, the Vision launched the move from Vison to Action that, in the Council's 20th anniversary year, is escalating worldwide.

World Water Vision

The World Commission on Water for the 21st Century presented the World Water Vision and its 11 policy recommendations for implementation at the 2nd World Water Forum in March 2000 in The Hague, the Netherlands.

"Our vision is a world in which all people have access to safe and sufficient water resources to meet their needs, including food, in ways that maintain the integrity of freshwater ecosystems."

The World Water Vision for Life and Environment for the 21st Century – Making Water Everybody's Business, 2000

"The World Water Vision is one of the most cited documents in water literature. The inclusion of its message as a water goal in the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) adopted by the UN General Assembly in September 2015 is a huge step forward. Now water resource management scientists and practitioners also must be present in discussion of the other SDGs which are dependent on water resources for their achievement."

William J. Cosgrove, President of the
World Water Council, 2003–2005

Water Policy Journal

Building capacity for integrated water management calls for a dialogue between many different private and public communities – policy making, diplomatic, administrative, financial, legal, technical and scientific. Dialogue must also embrace industrial, urban, agricultural and transportation water communities. The Council initiated the Water Policy journal to invite all these interest groups to shape and to be shaped by thinking and debate on water policy.

The Council launched the first issue of the Water Policy journal in 1998, appointing Jerome Delli Priscoli as Editor-in-Chief. Hosted by the Institute for Water Resources of the US Army Corps of Engineers, for nearly two decades the journal has covered issues and perspectives related to water and policy, finance, politics, economics, legislation, regulation, management and infrastructure.

The Water Policy journal supports the Council's objectives of creating inter-sectoral dialogue on water, raising awareness of water, and improving technical-political interchange and cooperation in water resources management. Analyses, reviews and debates cover all policy aspects of water resources. The Water Policy journal is now recognized as one of the premier journals that publish work on the political economy and policies of water resources.

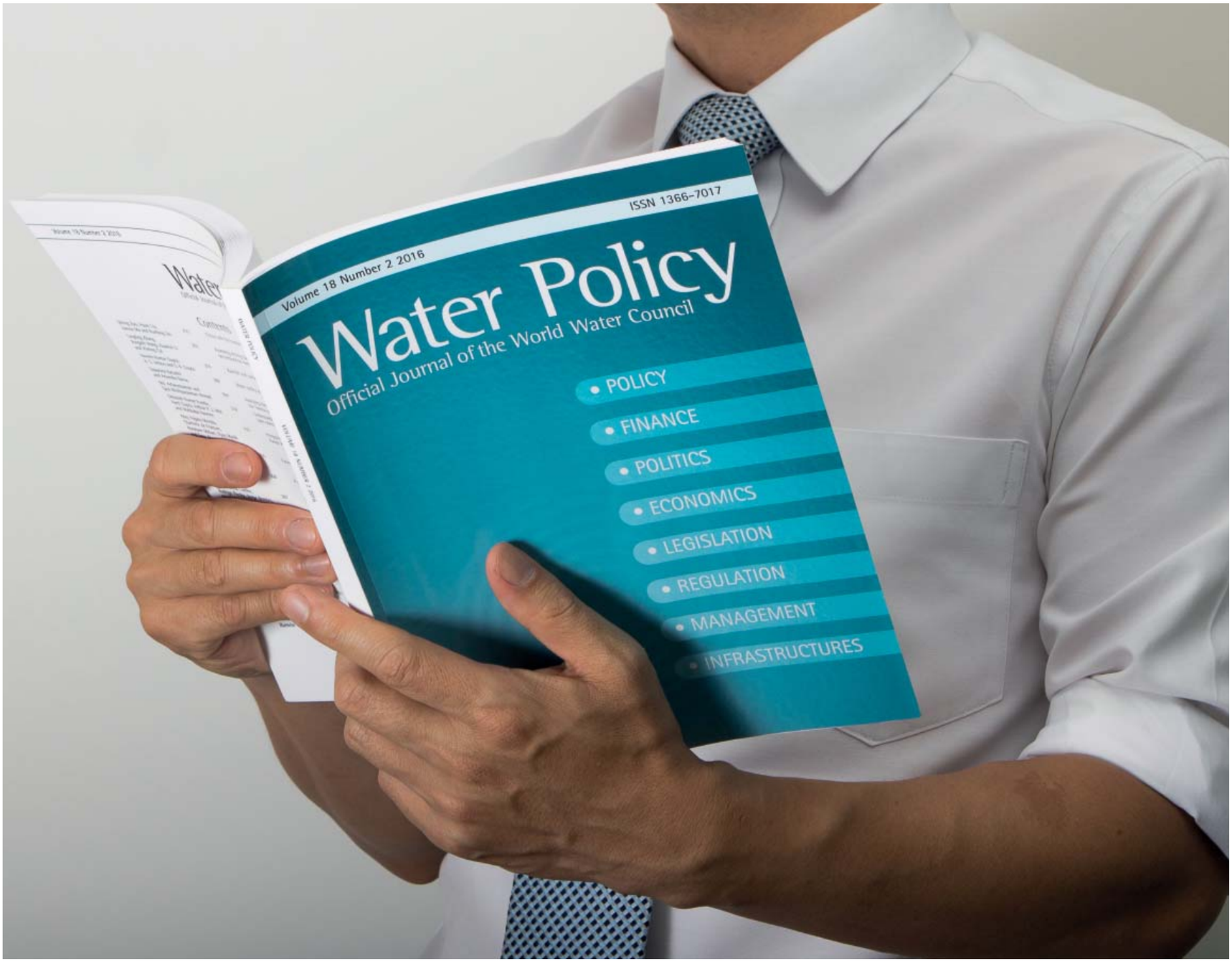
About the journal

Water Policy, now in its 18th volume, is a peer-reviewed journal published six times a year. Special issues two to three times a year cover current topics of interest. The independent editorial board comprises 32 international water experts and diplomats.

Initially supported editorially by the GeoSciences Department, Oregon State University, today eight major institutes and universities in Australia, China, India, the Netherlands, the United Kingdom, the United States of America, Greece and South Africa are involved in publishing the journal.

The journal has a high impact factor, a measure of a journal's importance in a discipline, and has received thousands of submissions.

> *"In 1998, after the 1st World Water Forum in Marrakesh, no one could foresee the success and visibility that Water Policy has achieved over the following two decades. …Water Policy is now an essential part the world water community and of the intellectual and policy debates concerning water that cross all sectors and regions of the world."*
>
> Jerome Delli Priscoli, Editor-in-Chief of the Water Policy journal



Water Policy, the official journal of the World Water Council, was published by Elsevier Science Ltd 1998–2002. From 2003 the International Water Association Publishing Co. has published the journal.

Water in Sustainable Development

Governments face growing challenges in managing water to advance development while safeguarding the environment. Throughout the last 20 years, the Council has striven for global recognition of effective water management as a pre-requisite for sustainable development – development that meets the needs of the present, without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

Shortly after the founding of the Council and the 1st World Water Forum, in 1998 the President of France, with the support of the Council, spearheaded the organization of the International Conference on Sustainable Development in Paris. In 2000, the World Water Vision, developed in an exercise led by the Council, and the water and sanitation targets of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) were launched, enabling much progress over the next 15 years.

In 2005, the United Nations Economic and Social Council conferred the Council with Special Consultative Status, enabling pursuit of efforts through the Commission on Sustainable Development. In addition, the Council, with various partners, developed specific, multi-phase programs, such as Water for Growth and Development in Africa, undertaken with the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs. This program produced a framework for decision-making emphasizing that wise investment in managing and developing water resources is central to growth and prosperity in Africa.

In 2012, the Council began cooperating with the Korean Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport on Water and Green Growth. The results, presented at the 7th World Water Forum, reiterated the importance of an approach to water management that contributes to economic growth and socially inclusive development, and protects the environment.

The follow-up to the MDGs led to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) during the Rio+20 United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development. The Council actively contributed to the online discussion that fueled the Sustainable Development Dialogue on Water. The President of the World Water Council presented three recommendations to a Rio+20 roundtable of heads of state and government:

- Implement the right to water
- Integrate management of water, energy and land use
- Secure water resources to preserve biodiversity and ecosystems.

Subsequently, recognizing the importance of maintaining momentum towards a dedicated Sustainable Development Goal for water and sanitation, the Council created the Task Force on Water in the Post-2015 Sustainable Development Agenda. The task force carried out analyses, drafted a position paper, and created an outreach strategy and talking points for Council members. A high-level lunch debate co-organized with the governments of Switzerland, the Netherlands and Colombia, and the United Nations Secretary-General Advisory Board and UN-Water on the margins of the United Nations 2013 General Assembly sought to reach out and influence United Nations member states favorably on the inclusion of a dedicated water goal. The 2013 Budapest Water Summit, co-organized by the Council and the Government of Hungary with the attendance of the United Nations Secretary-General, reinforced the importance of water in socio-economic development. Advocacy for a Sustainable Development Goal dedicated to water continued through the 7th World Water Forum Ministerial Process and High-Level Panel.

After many years of effort, the global water community celebrated the Sustainable Development Goal dedicated to water, announced at the 2015 United Nations General Assembly. The Council will continue to work for recognition of water in all the Sustainable Development Goals and towards tangible implementation of water aspects of the goals in the years to come.

World Water Council publications on sustainable development

- 'Water and Green Growth: Beyond the Theory for Sustainable Future.' Volumes 1 and 2. 2015. World Water Council, Ministry of Land, Transport and Infrastructure, National Committee for the 2015 World Water Forum Korea and Korea Water Resources Corporation
- 'Water is a Pre-requisite for all Development.' 2013. World Water Council Position Paper on Water and the Post-2015 Framework
- 'Water for Growth and Development in Africa: A Framework for an Effective Mosaic of Investments.' 2011. World Water Council and French Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs

"Ensuring water and sanitation for all is crucial for reducing poverty and achieving other Sustainable Development Goals."

Ban Ki-moon, Secretary-General of the United Nations

World Water Actions

At the turn of the millennium, as now, population growth and rising living standards were putting heavy pressure on water resources. Unsustainable patterns of consumption and production were degrading ecosystems and reducing their ability to provide essential goods and services to humankind. Reversing this threat and achieving sustainability required urgent action.

The absolute necessity of building bridges between all water sectors and key actors motivated the creation of the World Water Council in 1996. Since then, the Council has encouraged the water community to take concrete action on issues such as improving water management, resolving transboundary and gender issues related to water, addressing water-related risks, and financing water infrastructure and services.

At the 2nd World Water Forum, the Council announced that it had established a monitoring team to survey efforts – projects, applied research and studies, awareness-raising campaigns, and policy, legal and institutional reforms – to turn the World Water Vision into actions. The survey focused on water supply and sanitation, water for energy, water for health, water for agriculture, and water for ecosystems and biodiversity.

The team presented its report, 'World Water Actions: Making Water Flow for All', to the 3rd World Water Forum in 2003. The report documented innovative water actions by individuals and organizations whose work was related to the management and use of water, and who shared an interest in ensuring safe, reliable, sustainable water resources for current and future generations. In addition, the Actions Database – a database built with information about more than 3,000 water actions provided by the global community for sharing with the global community – enabled people across the world to learn from each other and to develop greater capacity for action.

'World Water Actions' and the Actions Database demonstrated that, all around the world, people were working to address critical water issues, often with considerable success. Many actions had been initiated, many were ongoing, but analysis showed that many more were needed. 'World Water Actions' identified gaps, including in investment, institutional reform and capacity building, and set out nine concrete recommendations for action "to move more quickly to avert a full-blown global water crisis".

By documenting actions and assessing challenges 'World Water Actions' and the Actions Database initiated change. Moreover, the report once more put the right to water firmly on the table, stressing that "the water community needs to continue to work on this issue, to persuade policy makers to implement this principle". The Council has shared the report and database widely, and in so doing, has built capacity and motivated people to continue working, on scales large and small, towards safe water for all.

> *"We need to build bridges between all of us on this planet to promote the true principles of cooperation and peaceful co-existence…We need to work together harder and smarter than ever to catch up and compensate for time lost and failed efforts of the past. Water is precious…"*
>
> Mahmoud Abu-Zeid,
> President of the World Water Council,
> 1996–2003, and Egyptian Minister of
> Water Resources and Irrigation, 1997–2009

The Water Monitoring Alliance: Making Monitoring Work for Development

As many Council members have remarked, "you can't manage what you don't measure". Measurements alone though are not sufficient. Data and information once collected need to be made accessible to all to enable better management of water resources and water services. The Council, recognizing its importance for planning and acting on water resources, has worked to promote effective monitoring.

> "you can't manage what you don't measure"

With the support of partners, the Council launched the Water Monitoring Alliance in 2005 at the 13th meeting of the United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development. The Alliance facilitated the exchange of information and knowledge, and enhanced capacities to monitor water resources. Through the website of the Alliance, a tool designed to count and analyze monitoring systems that already existed, monitoring programs throughout the world shared facts and figures with a wide variety of users. The database held information provided by hundreds of monitoring programs and featured country profiles, in particular of African countries.

As anticipated by the Council, the Alliance encouraged data sharing and enabled monitoring programs to coordinate their efforts. The reporting capacity built through the Alliance contributed substantially to the ability of national programs to track progress towards the Millennium Development Goals.

Since the Water Monitoring Alliance ceased operations, the Council has maintained pressure to standardize data and methods of gathering information. Each World Water Forum has discussed approaches, such as monitoring change over time in order to gauge the effectiveness of interventions and measure the impact of policy reforms and investment at national and sub-national scales. The 'Istanbul Water Guide', prepared for the 5th Forum, urged ministers to take stock of and improve existing monitoring systems, develop new and innovative ones, and promote cross-border monitoring and data exchange. Discussions and analyses led ministers to recognize the need for monitoring to identify trends and to call for more use of data in decision-making.

In pursuit of the aspiration for nations to work more closely together on water, build relationships and improve understanding of one another, the Council has continued to encourage the sharing and exchange of technical knowledge, data and information, and schemes for joint monitoring and data collection. Accurate information, the end product of reliable assessment and monitoring, is a powerful tool in managing water.

The monitoring cycle

Monitoring comprises three complementary activities:

- Defining policies and setting achievable targets
- Establishing a set of indicators to monitor progress toward these targets
- Analyzing results and reporting

Financing the Future of Water

Water security depends on many factors, particularly good infrastructure. But huge investments in water infrastructure are required in all regions of the world to increase water security.

In 2003, the World Panel on Financing Water Infrastructure, a major initiative supported by the Council to deal with financing in a comprehensive way, produced recommendations on how the trickle of funds for water infrastructure could be augmented. Named after the chair of the Panel, the Camdessus report was a game-changer, influencing the international agenda for the next decade and prompting changes in the policies and practices of leading development finance institutions; changes that catalyzed significant growth in the volume of funds allocated to water infrastructure. The Camdessus report focused on water supply and sanitation services. Following up in 2006, the Gurría Task Force on Financing Water for All, also supported by the Council, included irrigation and showed how national and, in particular, municipal authorities could boost financing for water.

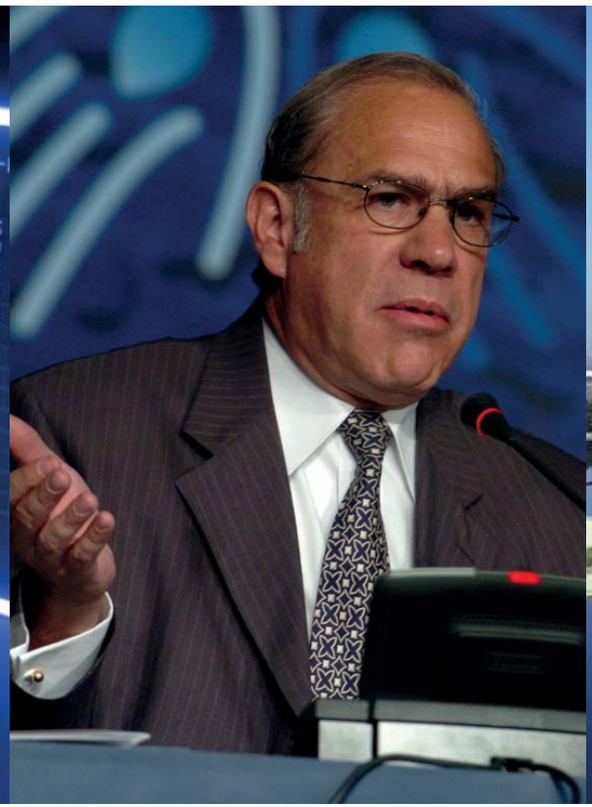
Finding funding for water security is a financial challenge that the Council, together with partners, has explored in ongoing efforts and programs. Over the years the Council has stimulated dialogue on the role of infrastructure in water security and on ways to scale up investment. The Council has contributed to a better understanding of the complex interdependencies between water and other sectors, for example food, energy and land use, and to broader recognition of the need to manage demand and to tap alternative sources of funding for water. In 2014, the Council, together with the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, created a High-Level Panel on Infrastructure Financing for a Water-Secure World to examine financing afresh.

The longstanding work of the Council has helped raise awareness among decision makers of water's role in economies and the need to spend significantly more on water by 2025. The Council has identified financing water as a 'signature' area where it believes it can harness the expertise and experience of members to work with partners to uphold the profile of water in relation to economic development, finance and investment.

Financing infrastructure for a water-secure world

The report, 'Water: Fit to Finance?', published in 2015 by the World Water Council and the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development and launched at the 7th World Water Forum, has a broad scope, both geographically and in terms of water infrastructure. The report goes beyond the question of how much finance is required for water infrastructure to address new and emerging issues. The key message was that investment in water has been, and will continue to be, the major social action that societies can take at a macro level to deliver water security to meet the future demands of the global population and global economy.

Water infrastructure needs to be multi-purpose to meet the increasing demands for water for agriculture, industry, energy and domestic use. But multi-purpose water infrastructure presents specific financing problems. To meet burgeoning demand, stakeholders need to bring together funds from new and existing sources, such as pension, water, sovereign wealth and climate funds, green bonds and insurance companies, to drive the construction of major water infrastructure schemes.



“It’s important that we get water infrastructure right. Governments need to think harder about coordinating the timing of different water investments, maximizing their efficiency and being ready to exploit new sources of financing.”

Angel Gurría, Secretary-General of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development

World Water Prizes

Global prizes attract attention and thereby secure support. Since the 3rd World Water Forum, the Council, in cooperation with members and partners, has invited nominations for world water prizes. The prizes have recognized a range of contributions in the field of water resources – scientific, economic, technical, environmental, social, institutional, cultural and political. The award ceremonies have featured in World Water Forum opening and closing events, receiving extensive media coverage.

The Council and the Government of the Kingdom of Morocco created the King Hassan II Great World Water Prize, first awarded in 2003, to recognize and promote "cooperation and solidarity in the fields of management and development in water resources". In honor of the strategic and enlightened vision of His Majesty King Hassan II, the prize has rewarded positive action for water security and sustainable management. The excellence of the winners' achievements has contributed to a steady rise in the reputation of the King Hassan II Great World Water Prize.

The Kyoto World Water Grand Prize was launched by the City of Kyoto and Soroptimist International of Kyoto in partnership with the Council in 2006. Now organized by the Japan Water Forum and the Council, the Kyoto World Water Grand Prize has encouraged successful efforts of grassroots organizations in developing countries that can serve as models for dealing with water issues.

The Council has also supported other prizes that excel in rewarding and encouraging positive action on water. In particular, the Mexico Water Prize, previously known as the Compromiso Mexico Prize, was established to reward local, public policies that have had a positive impact on services to communities.

The honors and significant financial support winners have received have endowed them with prestige, access to international networks and the means to carry forward their work. Media coverage of awards has helped to raise the profile of water issues and has made the voices of winners heard. The prizes have served as important channels for raising public awareness and focusing attention on global water issues.

○ King Hassan II Great World Water Prize laureates

2003

Mahmoud Abu-Zeid, Minister of Water Resources and Irrigation, Egypt, and Jerson Kelman, Director-President of Agencia Nacional de Aguas, Brazil, for their significant water-related achievements

2006

Torkil Jønch Clausen, Development Director and Deputy Chief Executive Officer, DHI Water and Environment, Denmark, for his outstanding contributions to advancing integrated water resources management on a global scale

2009

Abdulatif Youssef Al-Hamad, Chief Executive Officer, Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development, for his contributions to the improvement of water resources management

2012

The Sahara and Sahel Observatory, for its early warning and monitoring systems for agriculture

2015

Abdou Maman, Director, Tech-Innov Niger, for an integrated and innovative solution for remote operation of irrigation

From top left to bottom right: Laureates of the King Hassan II Great World Water Prize, the Mexico Water Prize, and the Kyoto World Water Grand Prize, at the 7th World Water Forum award ceremonies. Tele-irrigated fields, the Tech-Innov Niger solution for remote irrigation, which won the 2015 King Hassan II Great World Water Prize.

○ Kyoto World Water Grand Prize laureates

2006

Gram Vikas, India, for addressing critical water needs of communities and regions in Orissa

2009

Watershed Organization Trust, India, for Changing Lives, Saving the Future

2012

Katosi Women Development Trust, Uganda, for work to solve water problems in Uganda

2015

Environment and Public Health Organization, Nepal, for outstanding grassroots activities dealing with water problems

Water is a Political Issue

As competition for water grows, decisions about allocations and use are becoming increasingly political. Elected representatives are responsible for passing laws, shaping governance and assigning budgets for water. Promoting awareness, building commitment and catalyzing action on critical water issues in the political community have been at the forefront of the Council's international hydro-diplomacy or hydro-politics, an innovative and dynamic strategy for making water a high priority on the political agenda.

The Council has rallied politicians at all levels around water, developing solid partnerships with United Nations agencies, national governments, parliamentarians and elected regional and local officials, in part through the multi-level political process of the World Water Forum. From the outset, the Council has taken the initiative, supporting the inclusion of water on the 1997 agenda of the Group of Seven +1, an informal forum for debate between the heads of state and government of the world's major advanced economies. On this occasion, the French delegation picked up the initiative, leading President Jacques Chirac to make an impassioned plea to fellow world leaders for global cooperation on water. As a direct result of this plea, water was also on the agenda of the G8 in 2003, in Evian. The ensuing Evian Water Action Plan contributed to meeting the Millennium Development Goals and other internationally agreed targets on water and sanitation.

Political leaders both endorse the Council as a renowned, respected international organization for water and turn to the Council as a reference point on water. In affirmation of the political influence of the Council in water issues, United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, when welcoming a Bureau of the World Water Council delegation to the United Nations Headquarters in New York in 2010, invited the Council to become closely involved in preparations for the Rio+20 Earth Summit in 2012.

The Council is particularly proud of its involvement in the creation and continued support of a Heads of State Panel for Water, co-convened by the United Nations and the World Bank Group and co-chaired by the Presidents of Mauritius and Mexico. Results of the deliberations of the Panel are expected to be presented at the 8th World Water Forum in 2018.

Successes in hydro-diplomacy

Hydro-diplomacy by the Council and others contributed to:

- Putting water on the Group of Seven +1 agenda in 1997 and the Group of Eight agenda in 2003
- Confirming the Right to Water and Sanitation in 2010
- Achieving the Millennium Development Goal target on water ahead of the deadline
- Establishing Sustainable Development Goal 6: Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all
- Moving water in the post-2015 development agenda forward through Budapest Water Summits 2013 and 2016
- Creating the Heads of State Panel for Water

"Sustainable water management is a priority transcending borders and is a challenge that requires the combined efforts and commitment of the international community."

Enrique Peña Nieto, President of Mexico and
Co-Chair of the High-Level Panel on Water

The Right to Water and Sanitation

Water, a fundamental human need, was only recognized as a human right in 2010 when the United Nations General Assembly adopted Resolution 64/292. The grounds for discussion offered by the World Water Council were crucial in prevailing upon the international community to adopt the resolution to recognize access to water and sanitation as a human right.

Since the early 2000s, the Council has campaigned widely for recognition of the right to water. In particular, the Council, with the participation of various experts and partners, launched a landmark report at the 4th World Water Forum in 2006 that helped clarify the debate on the definition of the right to water and its conditions of implementation, leading to a less polarized dialogue on the subject and increasing public attention to the issue. Shortly thereafter, in 2008, the United Nations Human Rights Council appointed for the first time a Special Rapporteur on the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation. In 2009, the 5th World Water Forum continued to strengthen commitment to making the right to water a reality, culminating in its realization in 2010.

In 2012, the right to water and sanitation enjoyed a prominent place in the 6th World Water Forum, including, for the first time, a specific mention within the Ministerial Declaration. The organization of a high-level panel on the subject benefited from the participation of the United Nations Special Rapporteur, Catarina de Albuquerque. In addition to educational materials and a web documentary entitled 'Water has the Right', the World Water Council also edited the French version of the Special Rapporteur's book, 'On the Right Track', in which were set out good practices in realizing the rights to water and sanitation.

While many countries have adopted a human rights approach to improve their legal and policy frameworks concerning water and sanitation, the World Water Council continues to be vocal about enshrining the right to water and sanitation within national constitutions, and framing it explicitly or implicitly within national legislation so as to further its application on the ground. While much progress has been made, the main challenges to implementing the right to water and sanitation, however, remain: securing financing, mobilizing political will, deploying technology, improving governance and developing capacities.

A landmark report

In 2006, the Council launched an influential paper 'The Right to Water: From Concept to Implementation' that contributed to garnering strong support for recognition of the right to water as a fundamental human right and informed debate at the 4th World Water Forum. The debate, involving, among other experts, representatives of local authorities and parliamentarians, laid the foundation for a definition of the right to water and was a crucial part of the thrust to convince the United Nations General Assembly, four years later in 2010, to adopt resolution 64/292 that recognizes the right to water and sanitation as a basic human right.

"The right to water is… indissociable from human dignity. … For this reason, it has become and remains a moral duty to listen, to reflect on, to propose and to act…"

Loïc Fauchon, President of the World Water Council, 2006–2012

Cooperating for Increased Disaster Resilience

Every year, natural disasters, such as floods, droughts, tsunamis or earthquakes, affect millions of people worldwide. The toll is immense and rising, both in material terms but also in terms of lives and livelihoods affected. Since 2007, the Council has been actively pushing for global action to prevent, prepare for and manage water-related disasters.

Water and Disaster Action Plan: 6 Urgent Imperatives

The High-Level Expert Panel on Water and Disaster convened at the request of the United Nations Secretary-General's Advisory Board on Water and Sanitation in 2007, identified six imperatives:

- Galvanize and mobilize before disaster strikes
- Prioritize systems to forecast, inform, alert and evacuate
- Incorporate disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation as integral to development planning
- Improve disaster response
- Provide safe water and toilets quickly when disaster/conflict strikes
- Special cross-cutting initiatives

www.wateranddisaster.org

In particular, the Council has served as moderator for the High-Level Expert Panel on Water and Disaster, created by the United Nations Secretary-General's Advisory Board on Water and Sanitation. In cooperation with 21 experts, the Council contributed to developing the Water and Disaster Action Plan, launched in 2009 to improve disaster preparedness and response. The action plan stemmed from recommendations of the Hashimoto Action Plan for meeting the Millennium Development Goal target on water and sanitation and the Hyogo Framework for Action, a 10-year plan to make the world safer from natural hazards that was launched at the 4th World Water Forum. The Water and Disaster Action Plan set out six urgent imperatives and 40 actions for the global community to confront to secure a safe sustainable world and to reduce loss of life and assets.

More recently, in the wake of the March 2011 earthquake and tsunami in Japan, the Council took part in an emergency meeting of the High-Level Expert Panel on Water and Disaster that called for far greater cooperation to tackle such disasters. In response, for the first time in the history of the United Nations, Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon convened a Special Thematic Session on Water and Disasters at United Nations Headquarters.

Since 2013, the original panel has been succeeded by the High-Level Experts and Leaders Panel on Water and Disasters, of which the World Water Council is a member. As a member of the new panel, the Council continues to foster greater awareness and build a common understanding of water-related disasters among political leaders, government delegates and intergovernmental representatives. In addition, special editions of the Council's Water Policy journal to support the panel's activities were published, on water-related disasters in 2015 and on drought in 2016.

In pursuit of a safer, more sustainable world the Council continues to elaborate the concept of disaster risk reduction, based on prevention, preparedness and policy.

"The world is already facing tremendous variability in climate with devastating floods impacting the poorer and more vulnerable countries. We need to strengthen our resilience to water related disasters through prevention, preparedness and policy."

Benedito Braga, President of the World Water Council, 2013–present, 7th Meeting of the High-Level Experts and Leaders Panel on Water and Disasters, Rotterdam, 2016

Mobilizing Local and Regional Authorities

Local and regional authorities are on the frontline in dealing with water issues arising from urbanization, pollution, extreme weather events and poverty. But often these authorities aren't sufficiently involved in discussions in the international arena about how to address the challenges. The Council sought to change this, as it has always affirmed the importance of hearing from local and regional authorities when considering action that needs to be taken on the ground.

To make a space for these political actors to express their concerns and propose solutions, in 2006, the Council launched the first of the International Conferences of Local and Regional Authorities on Water, now held during each World Water Forum. The conferences bring together mayors, governors, city officials, urban planners, water and sanitation service personnel, and representatives of international organizations to examine topics such as governance, decentralization, budgets, integrated urban water resources management, urban planning, capacity, disasters and climate change.

The conferences, which are the largest entirely dedicated to water issues concerning local governments, are pivotal in giving voice to local and regional leaders. The Local Government Declaration on Water, the statement from the first conference in 2006, called for partnerships between local and regional authorities and national governments to manage water and sanitation. Building on the declaration and additional dialogues conducted with mayors, notably in Africa, the second conference in 2009 delivered the Istanbul Water Consensus, a compact that has become the cornerstone of efforts to mobilize local and regional authorities.

The success of this ongoing political process is, in large part, a result of the Council's strategy of partnering with organizations that represent the interests of local and regional governments on the world stage. Together with United Cities and Local Governments, ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability, the UN-Habitat Global Water Operators' Partnerships Alliance and Forum host countries, the Council works to reinforce the capacities of decision makers to deal with local water challenges. Indeed, each conference has delivered commitments from local and regional authorities to scale up progress towards sustainable water management.

Istanbul Water Consensus

The Istanbul Water Consensus is a voluntary, global compact launched in March 2008 that was concretized in 2009 at the conclusion of the 1st International Conference of Local and Regional Authorities on Water, held during the 5th World Water Forum. Under the compact, mayors, and representatives of local and regional authorities commit to developing water management strategies to address global challenges.

The Istanbul Water Consensus has around 1,100 signatories in 58 countries.

"We call on our national governments…to… Establish a dialogue to ensure that Local and Regional Authorities, through an effective transfer of competencies and means, have the legal authority, financial resources, institutional capacity and adequate human and technical skills to manage water supply and sanitation locally and regionally. Respecting the principle of subsidiarity, local governments, in consultation with all stakeholders, should have the option to choose between various management models."

Istanbul Water Consensus, established at the 5th World Water Forum, Istanbul, Turkey

Water and Climate

The first and foremost impact of climate change is on water. Early on, the Council had directed serious attention to water and climate. Recognizing the importance of translating technically sound priorities into political decisions, water and climate was already on the Council's agenda at the time of the formulation of the World Water Vision in 1998–2000.

In 2001, the Council, as part of a consortium supported by the Government of the Netherlands, launched the Dialogue on Water and Climate as a first step towards entrenching water issues in the climate debate. The World Water Forum was key to enabling the dialogue. By the 5th Forum, the Cooperative Program on Water and Climate had engaged both scientific and political communities in multi-stakeholder conversations and high-level panels. From these exchanges, the Council together with other members of the consortium prepared 16 Perspective Documents to establish water at the heart of scientific and political debate on climate change.

The Council has targeted emerging messages and lessons on water and climate change at United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change deliberations. Since the 15th Conference of the Parties the Council has been active in facilitating multi-stakeholder processes. The Council has contributed scientific reports and publications to raise awareness of how to build resilience, take measures to assist adaptation, and the role of governance and infrastructure.

Following the adoption of the post-2015 agenda and the Paris Agreement, the Council joined forces with others in the #ClimateIsWater initiative to rally the climate community around efforts to ensure that climate discussions continue to consider water seriously. In the run-up to the 22nd Conference of the Parties in Marrakesh, in 2016, the Council and members of #ClimateIsWater are targeting Conference of the Parties presidencies, as those in the best position to put water at the core of the climate debate.

The Rabat Call 'Water for Africa'

The Rabat Call for Water for Africa appealed to the international community to pay equal attention to measures to mitigate and to adapt to climate change. Issued at the close of Water Security for Climate Justice, the international conference on water and climate co-organized by the Government of Morocco, the Government of France and the World Water Council in Rabat, July 2016, the plea called specifically for developing ways to finance water security across Africa in the face of climate change.

Informing the debate

In 2009, the Council collaborated in 16 Perspective Documents to inform the debate on the role of water in addressing climate change.

In 2016, the World Water Council, in collaboration with the Government of Mexico, published 'Increasing Resilience to Climate Variability and Change: The Role of Infrastructure and Governance in the Context of Adaptation'. The analysis examined the roles that storage and water management systems, now and in the future, can play in mitigating the impacts of climate change and variability, and in adapting to them. Case studies of the arid Americas, Australia, Brazil, China, Egypt, France, Nepal, Mexico, Pakistan, Turkey and South Africa present policy and governance implications, decision-making alternatives for water storage and management practices, and identify activities that increase water management flexibility and extend climate change adaptation efforts.

#ClimateIsWater

“Water [resources] ... are the most affected by global warming and at the same time absolutely crucial for development.”

“It is through water that we can measure both the severity and the acceleration of global warming; however we can also see that, through water, solutions can be found.”

Ségolène Royal, Minister of Ecology, Sustainable Development and Energy, France, at COP21, Paris, 2015

Water in the Public Eye

Twenty years ago, few people grasped the significance of water. Yet an understanding of issues concerning water, not only at high levels but among the public in general, is fundamental for socio-economic development and the consequent improvement of people's quality of life.

Recognizing the need for further understanding, the Council made raising awareness in all tiers of society, from top leaders and politicians to the general public, an objective of its constitution. Pursuing this objective, the Council, with the support of partner organizations, has tirelessly worked to engage the media and the general public through events, special programs, and countless other channels and activities.

The role the media plays in shaping perceptions, discourse and action is significant. Building on the success of the Water Media Network, which was created by the Government of the Netherlands in 2004, implemented by the World Bank Institute and subsequently transferred to the Council, a Water Media Program was set up in the mid-2000s. The program aimed to build the capacity of journalists worldwide to better understand and report on water-related issues. Activities have included training and providing a water media center, a database of information for journalists.

Reaching out widely to a global audience, the Council has worked closely with members and partner organizations to create visibility for water at international events. At the World Water Pavilion created for the Shanghai Expo 2010, over six months, special events and activities for children explained how to successfully manage water in cities to 4,000 visitors a day. The World Water Forum and its Fair and Expos have provided a perfect platform for informing the general public and raising awareness about water issues. Since the 6th World Water Forum in 2012, each Forum has integrated special activities and specific outreach to citizens.

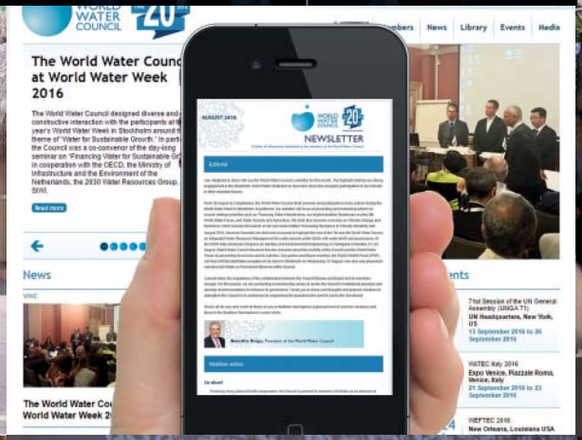
Today, 20 years after the World Water Council Constitution was framed, citizens worldwide have a growing understanding and interest in water issues. The coverage of water issues in general has had a long-term impact on improving the transparency of policies and reforms and the understanding of the public at large. As a result, press interest in water as the lifeblood of society has escalated. Water is now a hot topic, and more and more journalists are now capable of examining and appreciating the social, environmental, regulatory and financial complexities of managing water.

Reaching out

As part of its myriad of awareness-raising activities, the Council has organized or supported a diversity of ways to reach out with messages about water.

- 2006: International Water and Film Encounters inaugurated to underscore the role of film and culture in the search for solutions to water problems
- 2010: Live Earth concerts and fun runs to fund water projects and get people involved through entertainment
- 2010 and 2011: Photographic competitions to raise wider awareness of the many facets of water
- 2012: 'Water has the Right' web documentary and 'Message in a Bottle' DVD to sensitize the public to the Right to Water

World
Water
Pavilion 世界水展馆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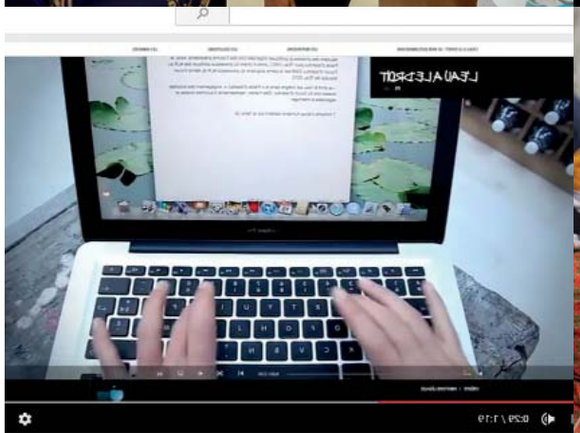

Access to Water for All

Water and sanitation for all will only be possible when global priorities trigger action locally. In 2012, the International Forum Committee of the 6th World Water Forum launched the 'Access to Water for All' initiative. The initiative directed the funds remaining after closing out the Committee's accounts, over one million euros, to supporting projects on the ground that promoted access to water and sanitation for all.

The 16 projects maintained the spirit of the 6th World Water Forum, 'Time for Solutions' by applying practical solutions to tangible problems. Projects had different aims and adapted approaches to local contexts, but all involved ensuring access to basic human needs for water and sanitation. Important aspects of projects were training and building the capacity of communities to manage facilities.

Through the 'Access to Water for All' initiative, the Council, in collaboration with Forum partners, helped nearly 100,000 people in developing regions to better their living conditions. The initiative contributed significantly to implementing the Council's strategy by improving access to safe drinking water and sanitation – a basic human need and recognized human right. The Council further pursued its objective of making access to water a reality worldwide by raising awareness for water within the post-2015 development agenda, successfully contributing to the adoption of Sustainable Development Goal 6: Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all.

Access to Water for All projects

- Water supply and uptake of collective sanitation practices, Madagascar
- Extension of water supply network in rural community, Senegal
- Improvement of access to drinking water and sanitation in ten schools, Togo
- Improvement of water and health in Seam Reap Province, Cambodia
- Access to water and sanitation in six rural technical medical schools, Mexico
- For a comprehensive water management in Tierra Muscady, Haiti
- Children are agents of change: WASH in schools in Kerala, India
- Community-based small water treatment plants, Bangladesh
- Reducing the vulnerability of Cechi communities: establishing a system of access to public water, Ivory Coast
- Access to water in rural communities with citizen participation and gender approach, Nicaragua
- Providing access to clean water and sanitation, Nicaragua
- Smart water for green schools, Ukraine
- Boreholes, latrines and water rooms, Mongolia
- Potable water for Delta's schools, Argentina
- Community access to safe water and basic sanitation, Guatemala
- Community water management strengthening in Central America, five countries in Central America

Boreholes, latrines and water rooms, Mongolia.

Raising the Profile of Water Security

Water security will become a reality when all people at all times have access to water, both physically and financially, in sufficient quality and quantity to lead an active, healthy life. The concept of water security derives from the three pillars of sustainable development, meeting essential human needs, ensuring economic security and safeguarding the environment. Assuring water security in the face of increasing pressures, such as from changes in demography and climate change, requires departing from business-as-usual and taking approaches that build multi-purpose infrastructure, adapt institutions and develop technical innovations.

Early in its history, the Council began striving to raise the profile of water security politically, advocating for multi-pronged strategies. In 2000, the World Water Vision Commission Report, developed by the Council in collaboration with others, integrated these ideas in for creating a "water-secure world". A decade or so later, the Council's 2013–2015 strategy incorporated thrusts to strengthen work to contribute to new policies for water security worldwide.

As sustainable development is founded on water security, the Council has been particularly active in contributing to the elaboration of the Sustainable Development Goals to ensure a water-secure future. The Sustainable Development Goal 6 dedicated to water, 'Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all', testifies to the efforts of the Council and of many others in the water community, to put water security at the very core of sustainable development.

The Pact for Water Security

The World Water Council launched the Pact for Water Security at a side event on water and food security during the 67th United Nations General Assembly in 2012. Present at the launch were Ban Ki-moon, United Nations Secretary-General, Khaled bin Mohamed Al-Attiyah, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, Qatar, and José Graziano da Silva, Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. The President urged the 30 governments present to embed water in political and budgetary priorities by:

- Enshrining the Right to Water in constitutions
- Raising the political priority of water and sanitation at every level
- Developing policies to regulate demand for water
- Recognizing the interdependencies between water, energy, food and health
- Committing to provide water and sanitation in schools
- Supporting the creation of a Sustainable Development Goal for water

“Our agenda for global water security is to make populations and human activities less vulnerable to the wide-ranging impacts of global changes across sectors and across continents. As the times are changing, our approach must be adapted to new challenges imposed by new realities.”

Benedito Braga, President of the World Water Council, 2013–present

Water and Energy

Water and energy are intertwined because while generating and transmitting energy require water, pumping, treating and transporting water require energy. This means that there are intrinsic links between ensuring water security and managing the world's growing demand for energy that need to be tackled.

The 5th World Water Forum dealt extensively with the need to integrate policies on energy and water. In 2011, to draw attention to the need for integration, the Council partnered with Electricité de France and the International Forum Committee to inform discussions of the High-Level Panel on Water, Food and Energy at the 6th World Water Forum. The partners focused on bringing two issues to the Forum, water for energy and energy for water, and multi-purpose hydropower reservoirs. As a result, the Forum launched an ambitious project to establish a conceptual and analytical framework to evaluate and report on the impact of energy production on water. The framework was presented at the 7th World Water Forum.

In addition, in 2012, after the 6th World Water Forum, the Council and the World Energy Council signed a Memorandum of Understanding to facilitate cross-sector dialogue.

Throughout 2014, and on the occasion of World Water Day, which featured the theme of water and energy, the Council drew attention to the relationships between the two sectors. Electricité de France and the Council organized a number of sessions on the links between water and energy around the launch of the World Water Development Report 2014 and World Water Week 2014, which focused on the same theme. President Benedito Braga spoke on water and energy during a panel discussion at the World Bank at the 2014 Annual Meeting of the International Monetary Fund. The Council also supported the International Water and Energy Conference Preserving the Flow of Life in October 2014, in Lyon, France. The outcomes of the conference were integrated into the 7th World Water Forum in 2015.

The Council's new triennial strategy 2016–2018, 'Secure, Adapt, Sustain', continues to address water and energy, both in terms of the interrelationships between the sectors, and as water and energy relate to other issues such as food production and climate change.

> *"Managing risk does not mean doing nothing. Given the scale of the world's unmet need for electricity, the mounting water scarcity in so many countries, and the climate threats we all face, we simply must support countries in safely developing their hydropower potential."*
>
> Jim Yong Kim,
> President of the World Bank, opening the Rising to the Renewable Energy Challenge, Washington DC, 2014

Water and energy

Roughly 75% of all industrial water withdrawals are used for energy production. Hydroelectricity is the largest renewable source for power generation and its share in total electricity generation is expected to remain around 16% through 2035.

Source: UN World Water Day 2014 Water & Energy
www.unwater.org/wwd14/

Water for Food

As much as 70% of the world's available freshwater is used for irrigated agriculture. This brings great responsibility in improving the efficiency of the use of water to produce food.

To address the links between water and food production, the Council has forged enduring partnerships with influential global players such as the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the International Commission on Irrigation and Drainage, the International Water Management Institute and, more recently, with the Robert B. Daugherty Water for Food Global Institute at the University of Nebraska, USA. In 2000, at the 2nd World Water Forum, the Council collaborated with some of these internationally renowned organizations on the theme of Water for Food, an issue pursued through the following 3rd and 4th World Water Forums.

Globally there is sufficient water for growing food but it is unevenly distributed. Many countries will continue to depend on international trade to secure food. The Council organized a special session on the implications of trade in virtual water for water and food at the 3rd World Water Forum, in 2003. The session was a huge success in stimulating debate and discussions, considering different views and enhancing understanding.

The Council has also put the spotlight on the urgent issue of rising competition for water resources between food and bio-fuel production. For the 5th World Water Forum, the Council organized a High-Level Panel on Water, Food and Energy to elucidate the impact of the food and energy sectors on water resources.

Addressing the scarcity of water in many regions, the Council has advocated unceasingly for exploring opportunities to increase water-use efficiency. Its partnership with the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) culminated in the High- Level Panel on Water and Food Security: How can we achieve a water and food secure future? during the 7th World Water Forum.

As competition for finite water resources has escalated and demand for food has grown, the Council has contributed to raising awareness of innovative policies to encourage efficient use of water in agriculture. Leaders and policy makers have a much better appreciation of the need to take a sustainable approach to managing water than they did 20 years ago.

Water perspectives publications

The Council organized an e-conference to follow up on the session on trade in virtual water at the 3rd World Water Forum. In 2004, the Council published 'E-Conference Synthesis: Virtual Water Trade – Conscious Choices', a report of the debate among the 300 subscribers and contributors.

As organizations sharing the same views on the importance of water for agriculture, in 2015, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the Council collaborated on 'Towards a Water and Food Secure Future – Critical Perspectives for Policy-makers'. The white paper, an authoritative examination of the complex links between water and food, concluded with recommendations for innovative policy solutions and informed debate on water and food security at the 7th World Water Forum.

“Agriculture today faces complex challenges, in particular that of producing more food while using less water and less land and adapting to changes in climate. … It is our duty to act now. Water – and its sound management – must be central in our response to these challenges.”

José Graziano da Silva, Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

Integrated Water Resources Management

Problems presented by fragmented water management and administration systems prompted the rise of integrated water resources management (IWRM). In the 1990s, IWRM emerged as an approach to coordinate development and management of water, land and related resources in order to maximize economic and social welfare in an equitable manner, but implementation has lagged.

Since its establishment, the Council has repeatedly stressed the importance of IWRM. Following up on Agenda 21, agreed at the World Summit on Sustainable Development in 1992, the Council advocated strongly for recognition of IWRM as an approach that countries need to adopt to manage water effectively and harmoniously. The Council has engaged in extensive consultations to help put IWRM into practice and the topic has been included as a recurring theme at the triennial World Water Forums.

The Forums have served as a platform for developing a common vision for sustainable IWRM, providing a space for key players to confer on policies and strategies, draw on existing tools and learn from each other's experiences. Analyses contributed by the Council in cooperation with other expert organizations have deepened understanding of IWRM.

In a crucial step to create momentum for action, the Council embedded IWRM and good water governance in the 'World Water Council 2013–2015 Strategy: A Pact for Water Security'. The dedicated Task Force on IWRM created by the Council to promote IWRM policies and strategies worldwide opened a dialogue on the need for a renovated policy agenda for IWRM, focusing on the 2030 Goals. In 2015, a paper by the Task Force presented innovative approaches to realizing IWRM, with particular emphasis on achieving the Sustainable Development Goals related to water.

The Council, through its members and the World Water Forums, has advanced global recognition and furthered understanding of IWRM, what it means in practice and how to apply it locally, nationally and across borders. Sustained involvement of the Council in advocacy and advisory processes has highlighted the crucial importance of IWRM and contributed to framing Sustainable Development Goal Target 6.5, which specifically addresses IWRM.

> *"The world's freshwater resources will be managed in an integrated manner at all levels, from the individual to the international, to serve the interests of humankind and planet earth – effectively, efficiently, and equitably."*
>
> World Water Vision: Making Water Everybody's Business

Creating a place for integrated water resources management in the Sustainable Development Goals

The Council contributed to the process of creating a dedicated Sustainable Development Goal on water, in particular, target 6.5 dedicated to IWRM.

Sustainable Development Goal Target 6.5: By 2030, implement integrated water resources management at all levels, including through transboundary cooperation as appropriate.

Thank you

The World Water Council would like to express its appreciation to all those who have contributed to the work of the Council during the past 20 years, including those who have helped in the realization of this 20th anniversary book.

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Kyoto World Water Grand Prize ceremony at the 5th World Water Forum, Istanbul, Turkey: World Water Forum secretariat
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Flags of the 2010 World Expo – Shanghai Expo: World Water Council/Danielle Gaillard-Picher

Cooperating Beyond Borders Conference at the European Parliament in Strasbourg, December 2013: Cercle Français de l'Eau/Rémy Gauderat

Joint press conference on water and climate at COP21, December 2015, in Paris, France: World Water Council/Kata Molnar

Prince of Japan attending the World Water Council Pavilion, Shanghai Expo, 2010: Japan Water Forum

Video message from Jacques Chirac, President of the Republic of France, at the 3rd World Water Forum, Kyoto, Japan, 2003: World Water Council

World Water Council President with President of Mexico, host of the 52nd Board of Governors Meeting: World Water Council

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Water for People/Nancy Haws

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Water and disasters: World Water Council/Camille Moirenc

Boy crouching on cracked earth: World Water Council/Rlyad Mohammed

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Local and regional authorities mobilize to sign a common "Local Government Declaration on Water", 4th World Water Forum, Mexico City, Mexico: World Water Forum secretariat

Signature of a Memorandum of Understanding with UN-Habitat, UCLG, ICLEI and Gwopa at the 53rd Board of Governors meeting, Marseille 27–28 October 2014: World Water Council/JM Huron

Aerial view looking south across Istanbul across the Golden Horn waterway towards the old city and the Marmara Sea beyond: BasPhoto/Shutterstock

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Site of Bimont, France: Société du Canal de Provence/Camille Moirenc

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Educational kit 'Message in a Bottle' launched at the 6th World Water Forum, Marseille, France: World Water Council/E-graine d'Images

World Water Pavilion at the 2010 World Expo – Shanghai Expo: World Water Council

Water Media Network Workshop, Ciudad Valles, Mexico 2005, on the road to the 4th World Water Forum, Mexico City, Mexico: World Water Council

World Water Council website and mobile responsive newsletter: Scriptoria and World Water Council/Fabien Canale

Wishing Wall at the World Water Pavilion, 7th World Water Forum, Daegu & Gyeongbuk, Republic of Korea: World Water Council

Children's choir opening the 6th World Water Forum, Marseille, France: International Forum Committee/Christophe Taamourte

Commitment at the Village of Solutions, 6th World Water Forum, Marseille, France: International Forum Committee/Christophe Taamourte

'Water has the Right' webdoc, www.water-has-the-right.com: World Water Council/E-graine d'Images

Water Globes exhibition at the 6th World Water Forum, Marseille, France: World Water Council/JM Huron

Reporters photographing and filming High Level officials arriving at the 6th World Water Forum, Marseille, France: International Forum Committee/Christophe Taamourte

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Access to Water for All initiative in Mongolia, "Prevention of water, hygiene and sanitation related diseases": Fondation Sentier d'Action

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Water being released from a dam: Deborah Lee Rossiter/Shutterstock

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Local farmers harvesting wheat to make bread in Sudan: Tom Allen

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Green river valley canyon wide summer panorama Alpine mountain landscape: Ivan Aleshin/Shutterstock

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