

FINAL RESOLUTIONS

The 1998 General Assembly of the International Network of Basin Organizations took place in Salvador de Bahia (Brazil) from December 1st to 4th at the invitation of the Brazilian Authorities.

The works were honoured by the presence of Dr. CESAR BORGES, Governor of Bahia State, and Dr. FERNANDO ANTONIO RODRIGUEZ, Secretary for Federal Water Resources, who officially opened the debates, as well as Dr. ROBERTO MOUSSALEM and Mrs. STELA GOLDENSTEIN, Secretaries for Water Resources in the Bahia and Sao Paulo States respectively, Mr. JACEK KURNATOWSKI, Director for Water in Poland and Mr. SEKOU TOURE, High Commissioner for Water in Ivory Coast who chaired the technical workshops.

The Assembly gathered 351 delegates who represented 158 Organizations from 27 countries.

The delegates thanked the Brazilian Government, the Bahia State and the Salvador township for their warm welcome and the perfect organization of their Assembly.

The General Assembly took note **that 125 Organizations from 49 countries have already expressed an interest in becoming either full "Members" or "Observers" to the Permanent Technical Secretariat**, by signing the declaration of Membership or sending the information sheet. Several other organizations, that meet the criteria, have also shown an interest without officially becoming members.

The delegates reaffirmed their support for INBO's Charter principles and reasserted that the members of INBO must comply with the four following principles:

1. an overall, integrated and consistent management of water resources on the relevant scale of large river basins and aquifers,
2. the participation of the local Authorities concerned, the different categories of users and associations for environmental protection in decision-making within basin committees, besides the appropriate Governmental Administrations,
3. the definition of medium and long-term objectives to be achieved through master plans and priority action plans,
4. the mobilization of appropriate financial resources, based on the "user-polluter-pays" principle.

They decided that members would be subjected to the **payment of an annual subscription amounting to US\$ 1,000 or FF. 6,000 for 1999** that aims to cover the expenditures of the Network management and the publication of the "Network Newsletter" as a priority.

They reminded the Member-Organizations that the payment of this subscription is important to develop the Network's activities and requested that the members who have not yet paid their dues for 1998 should do so rapidly.

A special INBO bank account has been opened (in FF and \$) by the Permanent Technical Secretariat (PTS) to collect these dues. The payment of any expenditures requires the

agreement of the Chairman of the Network or of a delegate Member of the Liaison Bureau (Treasurer).

The Assembly particularly thanked the French Water Agencies which confirmed their commitment to financially helping the Secretariat in 1999, during this development phase when the number of subscriptions should increase. They also thanked the basin organizations and Governmental Authorities from Brazil, Guatemala and Colombia for organizing INBO and LANBO's General Assemblies in 1998.

The Assembly congratulated the Spanish Authorities, and in particular **Mr. J.M. ARAGONES BELTRAN**, President of the Jucar Hydrographic Confederation, for the way they carried out the "Chairmanship" of INBO since the Valencia General Assembly in October 1997.

Upon the proposal of the Brazilian Member-Organizations and in accordance with the Charter, the Assembly unanimously nominated **Mr. Raymundo GARRIDO**, Director of the Department for the Management of Federal Water Resources, as the **new INBO Chairman** until the next General Assembly in the Spring of 2000.

It also confirmed the following **members of the Liaison Bureau**:

* **Africa:**

- Mr. Abrouk MEKKI (Algeria)
- Mr. Amani KOUADIO (Ivory Coast),

* **America:**

- Mrs. Maureen BALLESTERO (Costa Rica),
- Mrs. Evelyn REYNA CHACON (Guatemala),
- Mr. Carlos ABIHAGGLE (Argentina),
- Mr. Carlos AGUILAR (Ecuador)
- Mr. Diego BRAVO (Colombia),
- Mr. Rafael CHONGO (Cuba),
- Mr. Dalto FAVERO BROCHI (Brazil),
- Mr. Ramón GARCIA MAYEN (Mexico),
- Mr. Jean-Maurice LATULIPPE (Quebec),

* **Asia :**

- Mr. Rusfandi USMAN (Indonesia),

* **Western Europe:**

- Messrs. José Maria SANTAFE and José Antonio LLANOS BLASCO (Spain),
- Messrs. Jean-Paul CHIROUZE and Alain DUCHEIN (France)

* **Central and Eastern Europe:**

- Mrs. Ane Marie PELIN (Romania),
- Messrs. Tomasz WALCZYKIEWICZ and Andrzej BADOWSKI (Poland),
- Mr. PUNCHOCAR (Czech Republic).

In addition:

- Mr. Juan-Manuel ARAGONES BELTRAN (Spain), Messrs. Guillermo CHAVEZ ZARATE and Eduardo MESTRE (Mexico) are ex-officio members of the Bureau as former Chairmen, as well as Mr. Jean-François DONZIER (IOW) who represents the Permanent Technical Secretariat in the Liaison Bureau and whose mandate was renewed for a new statutory period.

The Assembly also decided that Mr. OSTOJSKI would be an "**Honorary Adviser**" of INBO as former Chairman as well as Mr. BENEVIDES (Brazil) as former member of the Liaison Bureau, thus acknowledging their efforts to widen the scope of the Network.

The Honorary Advisers will be invited to the General Assemblies, under the same terms as the representatives of each Member-Organization.

The Assembly was pleased with the unquestionable success of the "**Network Newsletter**" publication and of the **Internet site**: "<http://www.riob.org/>".

It decided to continue with the dissemination of the newsletter n° 7 that has just been published and the publication of the newsletter n° 8 in October 1999.

It stressed the great advantage for the Member-Organizations of contributing to the "newsletter" by sending their articles to the PTS in time and extending the Web site with the requested information:

- information sheet concerning the "Member-Organizations"
- agenda of events and seminars,
- identification of educational materials and available information,
 - inventory of competent consulting firms and service providers,
 - inventory of new Member-Organizations capable of mobilizing experts at international level for missions of general interest to INBO as well as a list of these experts (International College).

It recommended that the Member-Organizations quickly acquire an **electronic mail address (E.mail)** in order to facilitate contacts and the dissemination of the information inside the Network and to send these particulars to the Permanent Technical Secretariat.

It requested that the PTS direct "**discussion forums**" on the WEB, especially on the topics already dealt with by INBO during the Salvador meeting:

- "financing of Basin Organizations",
- "masterplans for water development and management"
- "participation of users in the sustainable management of water resources", by developing, in particular, an appropriate <<social engineering>> approach as well as on other important topics such as "the information necessary for decision making".

The Assembly adopted the recommendations presented at the end of **the technical seminars of December 3 and 4, 1998** and mandated the Chairman and PTS to ensure their wide dissemination to the Members and to the interested International Cooperation Organizations.

In particular, the General Assembly wished that a **Working Group on the management of shared waters** be created which would, in liaison with the existing International Commissions or Authorities concerned with this topic, propose draft recommendations for the management of shared waters to be presented during the Ministerial Conference in The Hague in 2000.

INBO should look for a wider participation of these International Commissions in the network.

After the management Committee which took place in Salvador on 1st December 1998, the delegates reviewed the progress of the "[AQUADOC-INTER](#)" project, for the dissemination of institutional documentation between the Member Organizations and attended a demonstration of the model of this service given by the PTS. Work on the Internet can start in 1999.

They insisted that the Organizations of the Countries quickly nominate **their "National Relay Documentation Centre" (NRDC)**, if they have not already done so, and on the importance of participating in the **next Aquadoc-Inter Management Committee** in 1999.

The Chairman and the PTS will have to ensure considerable promotion of the " Aquadoc-Inter " project among the Members as well as among the bi- and multilateral cooperation Organizations, so that they can consider giving financial support to the project.

In particular, the General Assembly thanked the French Government for its support of the feasibility study of the AQUADOC INTER network carried out in 1998 and mandated the PTS for submitting documents for its implementation in Latin America and Central Europe to the French Ministry for Foreign Affairs.

The delegates were sorry that the organization of the first "**INBO international training course** " on the topic of "**the Creation of Basin Organizations** " which was considered during the Valencia General Assembly, didn't materialize in 1998.

They were, however, very pleased with the organization, in Brazil by the MMA/DGRH, with the support of the PTS, the French Water Agencies and Cooperation, of four seminars on basin management which gathered more than 180 participants from Brazil and other Latin American countries, held respectively in Rio de Janeiro, Mato Grosso, Minas Gerais and Salvador.

They wished that this kind of activity be developed in 1999 with the support of other countries and organizations.

The Assembly gratefully received the invitation from the Polish Authorities to hold the next INBO General Assembly in Krakow during the Spring of 2000. It also made a note of the proposals from Quebec and Colombia for 2001 and 2003.

The General Assembly is pleased with the success of INBO, four years after its creation, as regards the activities carried out and its international recognition.

The General Assembly considered that it is now necessary to start a prospect study for strengthening and developing the network.

It requested that the Liaison Bureau organize itself in order to present proposals to the next General Assembly on the three following strategic topics:

- priority actions for the next few years;
- financial resources and means to be envisaged;
- evolution of the structural organization of the network.

It also wished that the Bureau consider an active participation of INBO in the preparation of the Ministerial Conference in The Hague (The Netherlands) planned for March 2000.

Moreover, it was pleased with the creation, within INBO, thanks to the support of the Basin Organizations and Governmental Authorities of Brazil and Colombia, of the first Regional Network of Latin American Basin Organizations (RELOC-RRLA/RIOC), following the Constitutive Assembly in Brasilia (Brazil), on 9th and 10th July 1997 and the first General Assembly in Bogota (Colombia) from 4th to 6th August 1998. It was also pleased with the meeting of the Member Organizations from Central America and the Caribbean that was held in Guatemala from 29th to 31th July 1998 under the Chairmanship of Mrs. E. REYNA CHACON and with the support of the Authorities and Organizations of this country.

Finally, the General Assembly congratulated Mr. D. BRAVO BORDA (Colombia) who was elected LANBO Chairman.

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