



**RESEAU INTERNATIONAL DES ORGANISMES DE BASSIN
INTERNATIONAL NETWORK OF BASIN ORGANIZATIONS
RED INTERNACIONAL DE ORGANISMOS DE CUENCA**

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY
QUEBEC - (CANADA)
28 - 30 MAY 2002**

FINAL RESOLUTIONS

The 2002 General Assembly of the International Network of Basin Organizations took place in Quebec from 28 to 30 May 2002 at the invitation of the Government of Quebec.

The meeting was honored by the presence of Mrs. Ann BOURGET, Deputy Mayor of Quebec City, of Mr. André BOISCLAIR, State Minister for Municipal Affairs and Metropolis, the Environment and Water of Quebec and Mr. FORET, State Minister in charge of Water in the Belgian Walloon Region.

The Assembly gathered 184 delegates who represented 128 Organizations from 57 Countries.

The delegates thanked the Government of Quebec and Quebec City Hall for their warm welcome and the perfect organization of their Assembly and for the quality of the documentation distributed.

The General Assembly took note **that 134 Organizations from 51 countries had already expressed to the Permanent Technical Secretariat (PTS) an interest in becoming either full "Members" or "Observers"**, 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, as proven by their participation in the General Assembly.

34 Member-Organizations have paid their subscription fee in 2001 and 33 had done so in 2000. Several organizations have indicated that they encounter difficulties either budgetary or in the method of payment.

The Assembly renewed its thanks to the French Authorities for their financial support to the Secretariat since 1994, as well as the basin organizations and Governmental Authorities of Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, Guatemala, Ivory Coast, Mexico, Poland, Romania and Spain for having organized INBO, LANBO and CEENBO General Assemblies or Bureau since then.

The General Assembly, in the unanimous vote of the represented Member-Organizations, approved, within the new statutes of the Network, the following decisions:

A - STATUTORY DECISIONS

A1 - ELECTION OF THE PRESIDENT

The Assembly congratulated the Polish Authorities, and in particular **Mr. Tomasz WALCZYKIEWICZ**, for the way they have fulfilled INBO Presidency since the ZAKOPANE General Assembly of October 2000.

Upon the proposal of the Member-Organizations of Quebec, the Assembly unanimously nominated **Mr. Pierre BARIL, Sub-Deputy Minister in charge of Water**, as the **new INBO President** until next General Assembly.

The General Assembly also awarded unanimously the title of « honorary expert of INBO », for services rendered to the Network, to Messrs. Tomasz WALCZYKIEWICZ and Jean-Maurice LATULIPPE.

A2 – COMPOSITION OF THE LIAISON BUREAU

It also nominated the **members of the Liaison Bureau** proposed by the national authorities and member organizations concerned of each region:

	<u>Incumbents</u>	<u>Substitutes</u>
• <u>Africa</u> :	Mr. Ould Merzoug Mrs. Karar	Mr. Sylla Mr. Sakho
• <u>America</u> :	Mrs. Ballestero-Vargas Mr. Lloret-Zamora Mr. Benavent-Trullenque Mr. Sztern Mr. Rogers MacLean	Mr. Pinzon-Lizarraga Mr. Chavez-Zarate Mr. Brochi Mrs. Pereira Mr. Arcadia-Choza
• <u>Asia</u> :	Mr. Abeywickrema	Mr. Katato Takemura
• <u>Central Asia</u> :	Mr. Dukhovny	
• <u>Western Europe</u> :	Mr. Besème Mr. Aragones-Beltran Mr. Van Laarhoven	Mr. Roussel Mr. Llanos-Blasco Mr. Santafe-Martinez
• <u>Central and Eastern Europe</u> :	Mrs. Burakowska Mr. Badowski Mr. Papp	Mrs. Vasiu Mr. Puncochar
• <u>The Mediterranean region</u> :	Mr. Abrouk	Mr. Geanah

The General Assembly empowered the Liaison Bureau for designating, should the case arise, new members proposed by the future Regional Networks of Africa, Asia or the Mediterranean, when created.

In addition:

Mr. Raymundo SANTOS GARRIDO (Brazil) and Mr Tomasz WALCZYKIEWICZ (Poland) are ex-officio members of the Bureau as former Presidents, as well as Mrs. Madeleine JOUY DE GRANDMAISON, as next President in 2004 and Mr. Jean-François DONZIER, who represents the Permanent Technical Secretariat in the Liaison Bureau, Mr. Eduardo MESTRE for LANBO and Mrs. Daniela RADULESCU for CEENBO.

One representative of GWP and the Secretary General of the Organization Committee of the 3rd Global Water Forum will also be invited to the Liaison Bureau meetings as well as a representative of the United Nations Agencies, executing water programs associating INBO.

The President can also, if he wishes so, invite other representatives of multilateral organizations, working with INBO, to the Liaison Bureau meetings.

The next meetings of the Liaison Bureau will take place in Madrid in November 2002, in the Martinique in June 2003 and in Sri Lanka in Autumn 2003.

A3 – CREATION OF A MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

The General Assembly unanimously approved the creation of a Management Committee (whose members will be designated among the members of the Liaison Bureau) to be next to the President in order to assist and support him in his tasks, to represent him when he is committed elsewhere and participate in the Steering Committee of INBO/GWP Associated Program.

This committee will be composed of 5 or 6 members, designated by the Bureau among its members, in addition to the current President, the two former Presidents, the next President and the secretaries of INBO and of the Regional Networks.

A4 - APPROBATION OF BUDGETS FOR 2001 – 2002 – 2003 OF THE PERMANENT TECHNICAL SECRETARIAT

The delegates examined and approved the progress report and accounts of the Permanent Technical Secretariat for year 2001.

They approved the cost estimates for current fiscal year (2002) and for next fiscal year (2003).

At this stage, the estimates only deal with the direct expenditures of the Secretariat and do not include either the expenses directly borne by the members for organizing, or participating in, statutory activities or the possible financing of projects that INBO could be granted with for the implementation of some general projects, included in the 1st phase of the Associated Program or in multilateral programs.

A5 – SUBSCRIPTION FEES FOR 2002 and 2003

The delegates decided that the **yearly subscription fee would amount to US\$ 1,000 or Euro 1,150 for 2002 and 2003**, as in 2001, to cover the expenditures of the Network management and the publication of the "Network Newsletter" as a priority.

It was suggested that the Regional Networks, within the framework of their statutes and of those of INBO, could decided to set a reasonable yearly subscription fee which would be added to that paid to the PTS for INBO. The total amount would then be equally shared by INBO and the Regional Network concerned.

As concerns the member organizations that also belong to LANBO, the yearly subscription fee amounts to US\$ 1,800 or Euro 2,070. This fee will be paid to INBO/PTS and equally split between INBO and LANBO.

They reminded the Member-Organizations that the payment of this subscription fee is important to develop the Network's activities and requested that the members pay their fee promptly or inform the Liaison Bureau of any encountered difficulties.

The Member Organizations which directly finance, with a significant amount, the Permanent Technical Secretariat are exempt of paying their subscription to INBO.

The Permanent Technical Secretariat (PTS) has opened a special INBO bank account (in Euro and USD) to collect these dues. The payment of expenditures requires the agreement of the President of the Network or of a delegate Member of the Liaison Bureau.

The next Bureau meeting will also designate an independent Auditor to examine INBO accounts for 2002, first real fiscal year of the Association.

A6 –STRENGTHENING OF DIALOGUE AND COMMUNICATION

The General Assembly was pleased with the success achieved by INBO, less than two years after the adoption of the new statutes, regarding activities carried out and international recognition, especially within the framework of its Associated Program with GWP and the creation and development of Regional Networks.

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

It decided to continue with the publication of the "Network Newsletter" n° 11 in 2002.

It stressed the great advantage for the Member-Organizations of contributing to the "newsletter" by timely sending their articles to the PTS and expanding the Website by providing any interesting information.

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 «**virtual discussion forums** » on the WEB, especially on the following topics:

- « financing of Basin Organizations »;
- « masterplans for water development and management »;
- « participation of users in sustainable water resource management » by developing an appropriate social engineering approach, in particular, in cooperation with the International Water Secretariat of Montreal;
- « management of shared rivers »;
- « control of natural hazards and accidental risks »;
- « information needed for decision-making »;
- « relations of basin organizations with the administrations »;
- « protection of wetlands and groundwater ».

This Virtual Forum will be linked to the website of the Kyoto WWF to enrich discussion.

The Assembly adopted the recommendations presented at the end of **the technical seminars of Quebec General Assembly** and mandated the President and PTS to ensure their wide dissemination to the Members and to the interested International Cooperation Organizations, especially with their publishing in the Virtual Forum.

The Assembly was pleased with the development of the « AQUADOC-International » project in France, Hungary, Poland, Czech Republic and Romania, as well of its development in the English, Spanish and Portuguese languages.

It approved the cooperation agreement to be signed with EMWIS to disseminate the information on river basin management in the Mediterranean region within the creation of « MED-INBO ».

B - PROGRESS REPORT OF REGIONAL NETWORKS

The General Assembly was pleased with:

B1 – The progress report of LANBO in Latin America and of its Brazilian Network of Basin Organizations (REBOB).

B2 – The creation, in Sinaï a (Romania) in February 2002, of the Central and Eastern European Network of Basin Organizations (CEENBO), after the constitutive meeting of Warsaw in 2001.

CEENBO is taking the legal form of an association under Romanian law and its secretariat is carried out by the National Company APELE ROMANE.

Its President is Mr. Costica SOFRONIE.

CEENBO provisional work program for 2002-2003 focuses on the implementation of the European Framework Directive in the region.

B3 – The constitutive meeting of the West African Network of Basin Organizations which took place in DAKAR in March 2002, after a feasibility study was carried out by the GWP/WATAC.

The Assembly wished that this new regional network quickly organizes its first official General Assembly before summer 2002, if possible on 10 and 11 July in DAKAR (Senegal) as planned.

B4 – The preliminary document for the creation of a South Asian Regional Network of Basin Organizations (SASNET-RBO) for which support has been requested to the Dutch cooperation.

B5 – The preliminary program for the creation of a Mediterranean Network of Basin Organizations (MED-INBO), jointly organized with GWP/MEDTAC, and the three-year project for assistance to the basin organizations of this region presented by INBO to the European Commission within the MEDAll-Water invitations to bid.

The General Assembly drew the attention of the European Commission on the strategic advantage of this document.

A first meeting of MED-INBO is planned in Marseilles (France) on 4 and 5 July 2002 and the following meeting will take place in Madrid (Spain) on next 7 November.

INBO members wish that an international initiative coordinates the bi and multilateral donors who would focus Official Development Aid on projects dealing with Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM), based on the creation and strengthening of River Basin Organizations (RBOs).

In particular, they are ready to involve themselves for fostering such an initiative in Africa, the principle of which could be decided upon during the Johannesburg Conference.

C - CREATION OF A SPECIALIZED NETWORK OF ORGANIZATIONS FOR TRANSBOUNDARY RIVER BASINS

As there is a great number of transboundary rivers, lakes and aquifers throughout the world, and account taking that specific means are needed to ensure their sustainable management, the INBO General Assembly proposed to the organizations concerned that they support the creation of a specialized Network, based on the conclusions of the specialized international conferences of Petersberg and Washington, as well as on the studies of the United Nations, the Water Academy, Green Cross International or of GWP/WATAC in West Africa.

The Assembly thanked the International Commission for the Protection of Lake Geneva (CIPEL) and the Rhone-Mediterranean-Corsica Water Agency for their invitation to host the constitutive assembly of this Network on the shores of Geneva Lake on 25 and 26 November 2002.

The Assembly especially underlined the importance of the European Framework Directive, and of the United Nations and Helsinki Conventions on the management of shared waters.

D - APPROBATION OF THE 1st PHASE 2002 OF INBO/GWP ASSOCIATED PROGRAM

It was reminded that the previous INBO General Assembly of ZAKOPANE in October 2000, had approved the overall framework of the Associated Program « assistance with the creation and development of basin organizations over the world » jointly prepared by GWP and INBO.

The joint steering committee of the Associated Program was then created and met in Paris on 29 and 30 April 2002 at INBO head office for the first time.

This committee studied 61 projects, meeting the conditions set by the Associated Program and coming from all the regions of the world. They were received after the call for proposals sent by INBO Permanent Technical Secretariat, in close collaboration with the LANBO and CEENBO secretariats and with the regional TACs of GWP.

The General Assembly was pleased with the outstanding mobilization of INBO members to achieve the objectives of the Associated Program.

It approved the selection, made by the Steering Committee, of the projects that can be prioritized within the Associated Program.

The Assembly draw the attention of the bi and multilateral cooperation agencies on the interest of these projects and wish for their priority financing within reinforced actions, undertaken by donors for integrated management and best governance of water resources worldwide.

It wished that the actions planned in the Associated Program start as soon as possible.

New meetings could be organized with the concerned regional TACs of GWP for presenting the Associated Program.

E - APPROVAL OF THE « DECLARATION OF QUEBEC »

The General Assembly unanimously approved the « **Declaration of Quebec** », appended to these final resolutions.

It requested the Presidents and Permanent Technical Secretariats of INBO, LANBO and CEENBO, and the members and observers of the Network to ensure its wide dissemination in any event to all the organizations concerned.

It wishes that this « Declaration of Quebec » contribute to the preparation of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development of Johannesburg and of the 3rd World Water Forum of Kyoto.

F - INBO PARTICIPATION IN THE 3rd WORLD WATER FORUM

The Assembly wished that INBO continue the reflections started since the WWF of the Hague and propose its own «vision » on the evolution of water management during the coming years, with the prospect of the 3rd WWF in Japan.

The General Assembly reiterated its request to the organizers of the 3rd WWF that INBO may organize a workshop on «the creation and stengthening of Basin Organizations over the World » in collaboration with the other relevant and representative organizations concerned.

The Assembly mandated the Liaison Bureau for preparing INBO participation in the 3rd World Water Forum and for also planning active partnerships with the organizers of specific events, such as the United Nations Agencies or the International Water Secretariat.

It reminded all the members and observers of INBO that this 3rd World Water Forum is of prime importance as well as their prior and active participation in the «VIRTUAL DISCUSSION FORUM» opened on the website (www.riob-info.org) for preparing orientations.

The General Assembly also approved the Diary of international events in which INBO will be officially involved in 2002/2003.

It requested that the Liaison Bureau study the additional diary of events to approve for 2003/2004 and the organization of INBO workshop in the 3rd WWF.

G - NEXT GENERAL ASSEMBLY IN 2004

The Assembly gratefully received the invitation from the Basin Committee and Local Authorities of the Martinique, in liaison with the Loire-Brittany Water Agency, to host next INBO General Assembly in the Martinique in Spring 2004.

