



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

**WORLD GENERAL ASSEMBLY
FORTALEZA (BRAZIL)
13 – 15 AUGUST 2013**



FINAL RESOLUTIONS

FINAL

The 2013 statutory General Assembly of the International Network of Basin Organizations took place in Fortaleza in Brazil from 13 to 15 August 2013, at the invitation of the National Water Agency (ANA) and the Brazilian Network of Basin Organizations (REBOB).

The meeting was honored with the effective presence of Messrs. **Ney MARANHÃO**, National Secretary for Water Resources, Brazil, **Benedito BRAGA**, President of the World Water Council, **César PINHEIROQ**, Water Resources Secretary of the Ceara State, representing **Cid GOMES**, Governor of the Ceara State and **Vicente ANDREU GUILLO**, President of the National Water Agency (ANA) of Brazil, the representative of Ms. **Isabela TEIXEIRA**, Federal Minister for the Environment of Brazil, as well as Ms. **Lucia VARGA**, Minister for Water, Forestry and Fisheries of Romania.

The Assembly gathered 319 delegates, representing the Member Organizations, water administrations or observers coming from 49 Countries, as well as the representatives of several interested bi or multilateral cooperation organizations and International Commissions or Authorities for transboundary basins.

The delegates thanked the Federal Ministry of the Environment of Brazil, the National Water Agency (ANA), the Brazilian Network of Basin Organizations, the National Forum of Basin Committees, the Ceara State, the City of Fortaleza and all donors of this event for their warm welcome in Fortaleza, the perfect organization of their Assembly and for the quality of the documentation distributed.

They regretted that more than 100 potential foreign participants could not take part to the assembly due to lack of time to complete their visa procedure.

The Assembly renewed its thanks to the French Authorities for their financial support to the Permanent Technical Secretariat since 1994, as well as to the Basin Organizations and Government of all the Countries having supported financially the regional technical secretariats or organized Assemblies or Bureaus of INBO, ANBO, MENBO, LANBO, CEENBO, NANBO and EECCA-NBO, as well as of the "EUROPE-INBO" Group, especially Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada – Quebec, China, Colombia, France, Georgia, Lebanon, Panama, Portugal, Romania, the Russian Federation, Senegal (OMVS), Spain, Turkey, etc, since last General Assembly in Dakar (Senegal).

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

A - STATUTORY DECISIONS

A1 - ELECTION OF THE PRESIDENT

The Assembly congratulated **OMVS, Organization for the Development of the Senegal River**, and in particular its two successive High Commissioners, respectively in 2013 and between 2010 and 2012, **H.E. Mr. Kabiné KOMARA** and **H.E. Mr. Mohamed Salem Ould MERZOUG**, for the way they have fulfilled INBO World Presidency since the Dakar General Assembly in January 2010.

The Assembly unanimously nominated Mr. **Lupercio ZIROLDO ANTONIO**, Regional Director of the Department of Water and Electricity of the Tiete River Basin, Government of the São Paulo State - Brazil, President of the Brazilian Network of Basin Organizations (REBOB) and Technical Secretary of the Latin-American Network of Basin Organizations (LANBO) as the **new INBO World President** up to the next General Assembly which will take place in 2016 in Mexico. **The new President will be supported by the National Water Agency (ANA) of Brazil to achieve its mandate.**

The Assembly awarded unanimously the title of "**honorary Presidents of INBO**", to **Messrs. Kabiné KOMARA and Mohamed Salem Ould MERZOUG**, as it is the tradition for all the former World Presidents of the Network.

It awarded the title of "**INBO expert**", for services rendered to the Network, to **Ms. Tracy Sithabile MOLEFI, Daniela RADULESCU, Atanaska TUNTOVA, Maria Ángeles UREÑA, and to Messrs. Javier FERRER, Dalto FAVERO BROCHI, Luis FIRMINO PEREIRA, Vicente ANDREU, Paulo VARELLA, Edgar BEJARANO MENDEZ, Adama SANOGO, Laurent FAYEIN, Daniel CHOMET and Ahmet Mete SAATÇI.**

The Assembly made a point of congratulating **Mr. Victor DUKHOVNY**, Secretary of EECCA-NBO, for the World Irrigation and Drainage Prize 2013 he has just received from ICID.

A2 – COMPOSITION OF THE LIAISON BUREAU

It also nominated the **Members of the World Liaison Bureau** proposed by the national Authorities and Member Organizations concerned in each region having a Regional Network (see ANNEX 1).

The General Assembly empowered the Liaison Bureau for designating, should the case arise, new members proposed by the Regional Networks according to their new developments.

Under the presidency of **Lupercio ZIROLDO ANTONIO**, President of the Brazilian Network of Basin Organization (REBOB), **Mr. László KOTHAY** (Hungary), **Messrs. Kabiné KOMARA**, OMVS High Commissioner, and **Mohamed Salem Ould Merzoug** are ex-officio members of the Liaison Bureau as former World Presidents, as well as **Dr. David KORENFELD FEDERMAN**, General Director of CONAGUA, as next President in 2016-2019.

The following representatives of the Permanent Technical Secretariats (PTS) are as well considered as full members of the Liaison Bureau: **Mr. Jean-François Donzier** for INBO and EUROPE-INBO, **Ms. Daniela RADULESCU** for CEENBO, **Mr. Mauri Cesar BARBOSA PEREIRA** for LANBO, **Mr. Luiz FIRMINO PEREIRA** for REBOB, **Mr. Lamine NDIAYE**, for ANBO, **Mr. Teodoro ESTRELA** for MENBO, **Mr. Normand CAZELAIS** for NANBO and **Mr. Vadim SOKOLOV** for EECCA-NBO.

All the Presidents of the Regional Networks are also Members of the World Liaison Bureau.

A representative of the Global Water Partnership, the World Water Council and the President of the Organization Committee of the 7th World Water Forum of Daegu (South Korea) will also be invited to the Liaison Bureau meetings as well as representatives of the United Nations Agencies, executing water programs associating INBO, the European Commission, OECD or OSCE, in particular.

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

The next Liaison Bureau meetings will be coordinated with the next events organized by INBO or the Regional Networks

A3 – MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

The General Assembly reminded that a Management Committee was nominated (among the members of the World Liaison Bureau) to assist and support the President in his tasks, to represent him when he is committed elsewhere and participate in the Steering Committee of INBO Multiyear Action Plan.

In addition to the current President, this Committee is composed of the two former Presidents, the future proposed President as organizer of the next General Assembly and the Secretaries of INBO and of the Regional Networks

A4 - APPROVAL OF THE 2010 – 2011 – 2012 ACCOUNTS OF INBO AND OF THE PROVISIONAL BUDGET FOR 2013 OF THE PERMANENT TECHNICAL SECRETARIAT

The delegates examined the progress report and accounts of INBO as such, regarding its direct income and expenditure in years 2010, 2011 and 2012.

After hearing the progress and financial reports as well as those of the Statutory Auditor, the General Assembly approved:

- the yearly statement of accounts for 2010,
- the yearly statement of accounts for 2011,
- the yearly statement of accounts for 2012, and the allocation of the results of these fiscal years to the new budget.

The General Assembly also approved the Auditor's special reports for the fiscal years 2010, 2011 and 2012.

The General Assembly approved the renewal of the independent Auditor's mandate, already ratified by the preceding General Assemblies of June 2007 and January 2010, namely KPMG - 25 rue Hubert Curien - 87000 Limoges - France, represented by **Mr. Henri LIMOUZINEAU**, as incumbent, and **Mr. François LAMBERT**, as substitute, for a six fiscal year duration from fiscal year 2010, i.e. from 2010 to 2016, in accordance with the French legislation. This mandate will have to be renewed by the General Assembly in 2016.

The delegates approved the cost estimates for the Permanent Technical Secretariat (PTS) for fiscal year 2013 and empowered the World Liaison Bureau for approving the cost estimates for 2014, 2015 and 2016 and the final accounts of INBO for 2013, 2014 and 2015 at the end of the fiscal years. These accounts will be subsequently presented to the next General Assembly in 2016 for approval.

These budgets do not include the expenses directly borne by the members for organizing, or participating in, statutory activities or the possible new financing of projects that INBO could be granted with for the implementation of some general projects, included in INBO Multiyear Action Plan or in multilateral programs.

PTS will keep a watch on the international projects and programs that could concern INBO or its Members' objectives and responsibilities. It is empowered to submit offers in this field and sign on behalf of the General Assembly the corresponding contracts, should these offers be retained and benefit from bi- or multilateral financing. PTS will regularly report to the World Liaison Bureau.

It was reminded that within this framework, PTS has already implemented during past years, on behalf of INBO, and with its partners the TWIN BASIN project, WFD-Community and IWRM-Net, INECO or MELIA projects, with the European Commission in particular. In addition to those projects, there are the AWIS and "Performance Indicators" projects with ANBO, assistance to the International Commissions of the Congo (CICOS) and Volta (VBA) with financial support from the European Water Facility and interested French and British Bilateral Cooperation Agencies in particular. It is involved in the Water-Diss et Water RtoM projects, etc.

INBO PTS is also taking care, by delegation of the General Assembly and under the control of the World President, the management of the bank accounts opened at the Société Générale Bank in France where INBO home office is registered and established.

The Assembly also renewed the International Office for Water's mission for a new four-year 2013-2016 period, for carrying out the tasks of the Network's Permanent Technical Secretariat according to the Convention signed in December 2003 between INBO and IOWater.

The General Assembly gives permanent delegation of signature to the INBO Permanent Technical Secretariat representative, General Manager of the International Office for Water in Paris, who may delegate his assistants, to:

- On one hand, make proposals, sign all bids, contracts and service agreements on behalf of the International Network of Basin Organizations and request all public assistance grants and establish the corresponding invoices;

- On the other, open, manage bank accounts of the Network, perform all operations, involve all forms of expenditure and make the corresponding payments.

A5 – SUBSCRIPTION FEES FOR 2013, 2014, 2015 and 2016

Only 32 Members Organizations paid their contribution in 2012, because several members indicated that they encounter difficulties either budgetary, or of public accounting rules, of currency exchange or modes of payment.

PTS is systematically studying with the concerned organizations the possible solutions to these problems, in particular to adapt to the constraining rules of Public Accountancy in some Countries.

The delegates decided that the **yearly subscription fee would amount to Euro 1,000 for 2013, 2014, 2015 and 2016, without any increase since 2007**, to cover the expenditures of the Network management, the publication of the "INBO Newsletter" and management of the www.inbo-news.org website as a priority.

The Regional Networks, within their statutes and those of INBO, may decide to set their own yearly subscription fee at an acceptable amount, which is added to the one paid to the PTS for INBO.

The delegates 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 Permanent Technical Secretariat (PTS) opened an INBO bank account (in Euro and USD) at the "Société Générale" Bank in Grasse (France) to collect these dues.

A6 – STRENGTHENING COMMUNICATION AND THE EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION

The General Assembly was pleased with the success achieved by INBO, since the adoption of the new statutes in 2000, both in its activities and international recognition, especially within the framework of its Associated Program with GWP, which later became INBO Multi-year Action Plan, in the 3rd, 4th, 5th and 6th World Water Forums of Kyoto, Mexico, Istanbul and Marseilles and in the creation and development of the Regional Networks.

It was reminded that INBO was awarded the "**Special Advisory Status**" under "Major Groups" by the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) and in this respect is allowed to attend all events organized in its field of competence by the United Nations Agencies and Programs.

The Assembly was pleased with the unquestionable success of the "INBO Newsletter", "Network's e-Newsletter" publication and of the **Website**: <http://www.inbo-news.org>.

It decided to continue in this way, within the multi-year communication plan presented by PTS, especially with the publication of the "INBO Newsletter" in 2014, 2015 and 2016.

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

It recommended that the Member-Organizations **immediately inform PTS of any change in their electronic mail address (E-mail)**, in order to facilitate contacts and the dissemination of the information inside the Network, especially by way of the new "INBO e-newsletter".

The Assembly underlined the great interest of publishing the series of "**Handbooks on Basin Management**" which is a great success ... already translated into many foreign languages!

The first two Handbooks (Handbook on IWRM in basins and handbook on IWRM in transboundary basin) were officially presented during the World Water Forums in Istanbul in March 2009 and in Marseilles in March 2012.

The publication, associating INBO with the Water Academy, BRGM and UNESCO, of a guidebook on transboundary aquifer management, financed by the French Development Agency, should also be reminded.

With our partners, we are preparing for 2014 and 2015 a third and fourth handbooks on the adaptation to the effects of climatic change and on the protection and restoration of aquatic ecosystems in basins.

The Assembly was pleased with the development of the Euro-Mediterranean Water Information and Documentation System (SEMIDE/EMWIS), to which INBO is associated, to disseminate information on basin management in the Mediterranean, within MENBO in particular, as well as the project for a Mediterranean Water Observation System with the voluntary Countries of this area, and with the progress of the African Water Information and Documentation System (SADIEau / AWIS), managed by ANBO.

Using these real and successful experiences, INBO will get involved and support any initiative that would lead to the setting up, in the long term, of Water Information and Documentation Systems promoting the sharing and access to reliable, updated and consistent data among interested Countries, either at regional level or at transboundary basin level, especially within actions supported for this purpose by the Secretariat of the Convention on international waters of the UN Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE), but also in federal countries encountering the same problems or for the development of Water Information Systems at the national or basin level.

The Assembly also wished that the lessons learned from the project on Performance Indicators for Integrated Management in African transboundary river basins (KPI) developed by ANBO and its partners in 10 pilot African River Basins, thanks to financial support from France and the European Union, could be widely disseminated to be adapted to the situation of all the basins which would wish so.

The World General Assembly of Fortaleza was organized around large strategic topics to ensure, **in the basins of local, national or transboundary rivers, lakes and aquifers, the necessary implementation of adaptation programs for facing large world challenges that are essentially population growth, food and energy demand or adaption to the effects of Climate Change**, which were dealt with in five round tables:

- **Water management should be a top priority of the new post 2015 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the UN,**
- **Adaptation to the effects of climate change and prevention of extreme phenomena of floods and droughts,**
- **Institutional frameworks for action of the Basin Organizations, participation of local authorities, water users and the public, role of the Basin Committees,**
- **Management of transboundary rivers, lakes and aquifers,**
- **Financing of water management and of basin organizations.**

It was reminded that INBO General Assembly in Dakar had already been entirely devoted to the large strategic topic of **"the necessary adaptation to the consequences of Climate Change on the hydrological cycles in the basins of rivers, lakes and aquifers, either local, national or transboundary"**,

The General Assembly mandated the President and PTS to ensure a wide dissemination of their conclusions to the Members and to the interested International Cooperation Organizations, especially with their publishing on the Network website.

INBO will propose to the International Organization Committee of the next 7th World Water Forum in Daegu its contribution in facilitating the topics on the adaptation to climate change, IWRM, and of course on transboundary water management.

In addition, "the Round Table of Bi and multilateral cooperation Institutions" allowed the participants of the Assembly of Fortaleza to discuss with these organizations about their vision of adaptation programs essential to face the new world challenges of water management.

INBO Member Organizations reiterated their wishes of a coordinated international initiative of the Bi and Multilateral Donors which would focus the Official Development Aid on Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) projects supported by the creation and strengthening of Basin Organizations.

To define their orientations, these projects could rely on the outcomes of the projects financed under the strengthening of "**Science-Policy Interface**", supported by the DG Research and Innovation of the European Commission, to which INBO is associated with the partners of the European "IWRM-Net" project, and which propose operational orientations for research programs on water resources and foster the dissemination of research outcomes (Water Diss or Water RtoM), from which basin organizations could benefit to carry out more effective actions.

The World General Assembly of INBO firmly reminded to all the international authorities concerned that water resources management was to be imperatively recognized as one of the post 2015 Sustainable Development Goals of the United Nations. It hopes for support from all the governments of the whole World to come to a unanimous decision in this direction, as water is already and will become in an immediate future, an essential limiting factor for economic and social development of Humanity.

Of course, the Assembly pointed out the success, during the closing ceremony of the World Water Forum of Marseilles, of the signature by 71 represented basin organizations of the "**World Pact for better basin management**", which gives recommendations and good practices to face the great global challenges.

To date, the "Pact" has already been signed by 128 Organizations concerned over the World.

The Assembly renewed its invitation to all the members of INBO and other interested bodies to sign the "Pact", if not already done.

B - PROGRESS REPORTS OF THE REGIONAL NETWORKS

The General Assembly was much pleased with the progress reports of the Regional Networks of Basin Organizations (RNBO), created within INBO.

The Latin-American Network of Basin Organizations (LANBO) was dynamically fostered with the Brazilian Network of Basin Organizations (REBOB) especially at the initiative of the National Water Agency of Brazil and the CAR of Cundinamarca of Colombia and the National Environment Authority (ANAM) of Panamá. The President is now His Excellency **Silvano VERGA**, Minister for the Environment of Panama, who succeeded to **Ms. Lucia CHANDECK** and **Mr. Edgar Alfonso BEJARANO MENDEZ**, Director General of CAR Cundinamarca (Colombia), and the Secretary is **Mr. Lupercio ZIROLDO ANTONIO**, Regional Director of the Department of Water and Electricity of the Tiete River Basin, Government of the São Paulo State - Brazil, President of the Brazilian Network of Basin Organization (REBOB), who took the continuation of **Mr. Dalto FAVERO BROCHI**, former Executive Secretary of PCJ Consortium (Brazil). The last General Assembly took place in November 2011 in Panama.

During the 9th INBO General Assembly in Fortaleza, a LANBO extraordinary assembly was organized with Mr. **Gerardo GONZALES (ANAM)**, representing the President, and with **Edgard BEJARANO**, Vice-president, **Mr. Lupercio ZIROLDO**, Permanent Technical Secretary, and **Mr. Paulo VARELLA**, Director of ANA, honorary member of LANBO.

It was decided to host a technical event in Foz do Iguazu, Paraná – Brazil in May 2014 and that LANBO next General Assembly would take place In November 2014 in Panama City (Panama)

In addition, it was decided to change LANBO statutes to add the function of Deputy Technical Secretary covered by Mr. **Mauri Cesar BARBOSA PEREIRA** (Brazil).

www.reloc-relob.org

The African Network of Basin Organizations (ANBO) is continuing its development on the whole African continent. It adopted the statute of an association under Senegalese law and its home office is established in Dakar. Its Secretariat is taken care of by the **Organization for the Development of the Senegal River (OMVS)**. Its President is **Mrs. Tracy Sithabile MOLEFI**, Director in the Ministry of Minerals, Energy and Water Resources of Botswana, who succeeded to **Mr. Reginald TEKATEKA**, President of AMCOW-TAC. Its Secretary is now Mr. Lamine NDIAYE, Director at OMVS.

ANBO is granted a financing of € 3,000,000 by the European Commission under the “SITWA” (Strengthening the Institutions for Transboundary Water management in Africa) project, coordinated by Mr. Innocent KABENGA, and whose executive agency is the GWPO, intended to reinforce and develop ANBO actions in this direction.

The Mediterranean Network of Basin Organizations (MENBO) is normally continuing its activities as an association under Spanish and European law. The **Jucar River Basin Authority**, whose home office is located in Valencia in Spain, has been taking care of its Secretariat since its creation in 2003. MENBO held its last General Assembly in Oporto, Portugal, in autumn 2011. Its President is **Mr. Nuno LACASTA**, President of the new Portuguese Environment Agency, who succeeded to **Mr. Antonio GUERREIRO BRITO**, and its Secretary is **Mr. Teodoro ESTRELA**, who also succeeded to **Mr. Javier FERRER**, both from the Jucar River Basin Authority.

MEMBO held its statutory Liaison Bureau in Fortaleza on Tuesday 13 August, and made the assessment, inter alia, of the main activities, either completed or underway. Among these, it underlined its implication in the Steering Committee for the drafting of the White Paper on Water in the Mediterranean, ambitious project which continues a regional assessment of the use of water resources based on noted national realities. The request for institutional support from the Union for the Mediterranean is currently in hand, in close coordination with the initiative launched by EMWIS on the regional water documentation system.

The “EUROPE - INBO” Group of European Basin Organizations for the implementation of the European Water Framework Directive, created within INBO after the international meeting of Valencia in November 2003, held its first plenary sessions in Krakow in Poland (2004). Namur in Wallonia (2005), Megève in France (2006), Rome in Italy (2007), Sibiu in Romania (2008) and in Stockholm in Sweden (2009), and INBO PTS is taking care of its secretariat.

It can be reminded that in 2008, after the meeting in Sibiu in Romania, the EUROPE-INBO Group drafted a progress report on the implementation of the Water Framework Directive in the European transboundary basins, which was submitted to the European Water Directors and the European Commission in November 2008.

In 2009, the EUROPE-INBO Group prepared the chapter dedicated to basin management included in the regional report for Europe presented at the World Water Forum in Istanbul.

The last “EUROPE-INBO” meetings were held in 2010 in Megève (France), jointly with the third International Conference on Water in Mountains, then in 2011 in Oporto in Portugal, simultaneously with MENBO General Assembly and in 2012 in Istanbul in Turkey.

Every year, the group is formulating recommendations for better account taking of the field experiments undertaken by the “District Authorities” under the Common Implementation Strategy (CIS) of the Directive. INBO, like CEENBO and MENBO are members of the Strategic Coordination Group (SCG), led by the European Commission and the Water Directors.

It is chaired by **Mr. Ahmet Mete SAATÇI**, President of the Turkish Water Institute SUEN, Turkey.

INBO General Assembly, given the strong mobilization of the members of the European Network for the successful implementation of the Water Framework Directive, asked the PTS to approach the authorities responsible for water resources management in the Member Countries, which are not yet members of the "EUROPE-INBO" group, to present them the undeniable advantage of exchanging experiences between river basin authorities to facilitate a more effective field implementation of the Directive.

It proposes to the European Commission that INBO, under the former's authority and that of the Water Directors, to facilitate a real European network of River Basin Authorities and report to the Strategic Coordination Group (SCG) the best practices and issues raised by these authorities.

The next Assembly of the "EUROPE-INBO" Group will take place on 13, 14 and 15 November 2013 in Plovdiv in Bulgaria at the invitation of the Bulgarian Government.

The Central and Eastern European Network of Basin Organizations (CEENBO) is continuing its activities in close relationship with "EUROPE - INBO", as an association under Rumanian law chaired by **Ms. Atanaska TUNTOVA**, Director General of the Directorate of the East Aegean Basin, Bulgaria, and its secretariat, led by **Ms. Daniela RADULESCU**, is taken care of by **APELE ROMANE National Water Company**. It fosters the implementation of the European Water Framework Directive and of its associated Directives in the area, and also provides support to Countries of the Balkans and of the Neighborhood Area of the European Union.

The Network of International Commissions and Transboundary Basin Organizations, whose secretariat is taken care of by INBO PTS, played a key role in the preparation of official sessions co-organized by INBO and UNESCO, on the one hand, on topic 3.1 on "basin management and transboundary cooperation" of the World Water Forum in Istanbul in March 2009 and, on the other, of the nine sessions on "Cooperation and Peace" of the last World Water Forum in Marseilles in March 2012.

It is associated with the pilot transboundary basins platform to test the measures for adaptation to climate change impacts on water resources initiated by the UNECE in partnership with INBO.

The new North-American Network of Basin Organizations (NANBO) was created during the constitutive Assembly of its partners from Canada, Mexico and the USA, held on 15 October 2009 in Quebec (CANADA), where it established its head office and its new secretariat. It is continuing developing its activities, especially in relationship with the Regrouping of the River Basin Organizations of Quebec (ROBVQ) and the Alliance of Great Lakes and St. Lawrence. Its President is **Mr. Hubert CHAMBERLAND**, President of COVABAR.

The Network of Russian-speaking Basin Organizations of Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia (EECCA-NBO) was created after its constitutive meeting, in Moscow on 11 and 12 December 2008 at **Mr. Victor DUKHOVNY's** initiative. Its President is **Mr. POLAD-ZADE**. Its secretariat is taken care of by **SIC - ICWC in Tashkent**.

The General Assembly encouraged building close relations with the **Regional Asian Network of Basin Organizations (NARBO)**, created with the support of Japanese Cooperation and the Asian Development Bank.

The Assembly also wished for closer relations between the INBO Regional Networks and the corresponding "Regional Water Partnerships of GWP" (RWPs) in the same geographical areas, to work together to the implementation of Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) on the particularly suitable geographical scale of river basins.

C - INBO MULTI-YEAR ACTION PLAN

It was reminded that the previous INBO General Assemblies of ZAKOPANE and QUEBEC 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. This program was the subject of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed by INBO and GWP in June 2003.

Since the General Assembly of Dakar in 2010, it has been extended in the present form of **"INBO Multi-Year Action Plan."**

Within the calls for proposals of the European Union in particular, INBO PTS has presented significant offers since 2003, which led to financing agreements with the European Commission with joint financing from bilateral Cooperation, in particular for projects such as TWIN BASIN (target 1. Twinning arrangements), WFD-NET and IWRM-Net, "Performance Indicators - KPI", INECO and MELIA (target 3. Training and Research), and AWIS (target 4.), etc.

Under the last call for proposals of the European Water Facility in ACP countries, INBO also provides support to the International Commissions of the Congo (CICOS) and Volta (VBA)

The Assembly warmly welcomed new initiatives as regards capacity building and training for executives and technicians of basin organizations as well as for representatives of water users in Basin Committees or Councils.

For this purpose, the **"INBO Academy"** was launched in 2010 to organize training courses for executives of Basin Organizations or of their partners, focusing on exchange of best practices among peers and the transfer of research results will be increased. Three e-training sessions were held in Spanish in partnership with the European Center for River Restoration (ECRR) and with the support of CIREF (Centro Ibérico de Restauración Fluvial), which included each three sessions of two hours scheduled over 3 weeks. The only equipment required to participate is a conventional computer and a fast Web connection.

The **"INBO Academy"** especially offers e-learning sessions "live" on the Web, and recorded sessions, a formula for flexibility to adapt the training to the needs and constraints of practitioners. A partnership with IOWater will allow opening these training courses to local elected representatives of INBO Member countries.

More traditional training courses or seminars could also be organized, especially in the great events of the network (General Assembly, meeting of the Regional Networks), according to partnerships which could be created with bi or multilateral cooperation organizations for this purpose.

It is especially important to improve knowledge worldwide of the implementation of the European Water Framework Directive and the UN Convention of 1992 for transboundary water management in Europe, called Helsinki Convention, which deal with significant topics for the mobilization of the Network members concerned, either within the enlarged European Union or in any other Country which would be interested. It is also the case of the United Nations Convention on the uses other than navigation on international watercourses (21 May 1997). This Convention did not yet come into force, but its main provisions are already part of international law. Finally, the Resolution A/RES/63/124, adopted by the General Assembly of the United Nations, offers to the States the framework for joint management of their transboundary aquifers.

Contacts are also underway with the "UN-Decade Program on Capacity Development" which launches initiatives on water management in the context of the United Nations University in Bonn, Germany

C1 – NEW INITIATIVES AND PARTNERSHIPS.

The "**AQUAMADRE**" project aims to increase awareness of the fundamental role of rivers and catchment areas for life and economic development.

The main idea of this project is to organize international meetings between members of Basin Committees on the topic "Rivers for Men" in order to strengthen the exchange of experiences on the role and importance of culture and human activities in river basin management, including support to the "National Water Dialogues".

The General Assembly welcomed with great interest the initiative of the International Secretariat for Water in Montreal to jointly promote with INBO a "**Blue Passport for basin citizens**" so that local decision-makers, economic partners and the population develop a stronger sense of belonging to this basic geographical unit for water management which is the river basin. It offers interested Basin Organizations, on a voluntary basis of course, to join the project and develop their own passport adapted to the situation of their river basin.

It thanked the **Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD)** to have agreed that INBO take charge jointly with UNESCO of facilitating the "IWRM basin" panel (including aquifers) of the Initiative on Water Governance, launched at the last World Water Forum 2012 in Marseilles. The network will get mobilized to propose examples of good practices and recommendations in this context for the next World Forum of Daegu.

It supports the project for the establishment of a "**transboundary basins platform to test measures for adaptation to the climate change impacts on water resources**", initiated by the **UNECE** in partnership with INBO. It calls for the mobilization of International Commissions or Transboundary Basins Authorities around the world to join this strategic initiative given the short-term adaptation challenges.

Again with the **UNECE**, INBO will participate in two events planned after the Geneva workshop on legal and institutional aspects of transboundary cooperation and the Working Group on IWRM, from 23 to 26 September 2013.

INBO is associated to the Organizing Committee and will be represented at the **International Conference in Dushanbe in Tajikistan** late August 2013 on international cooperation on water.

INBO will be partner in the "**ERRC 2013**" event to be held in Vienna next September in which will be awarded the first European Rivers prize. Closer relations with the **European Centre for River Restoration (ERRC)** are highly advisable given the challenges of good ecological status of rivers in overall strategies for river basin planning

INBO is also invited to participate in the organizing committee and facilitation of the "**Civil Forum of the Budapest Water Summit**" from 9 to 11 October 2013, and will chair the No. 3 roundtable entitled "Good water governance: international cooperation, transboundary river basin and aquifer management, integrated institutional strategy in planning and implementation, stakeholders' participation in the preparation of water policies, capacity building, education, research, data, monitoring and assessment ... ", whose findings will be reported to the plenary sessions to stimulate discussion on the future UN post 2015 Sustainable Development Goals.

The General Assembly accepted the invitation of **the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP)** to INBO to be a partner and participate in the "**1st International Environment Forum for Basin Organizations**" to be held in Bangkok, Thailand, from 26 to 28 November 2014, as the first initiative had to be canceled in 2012 due to floods.

Finally, the Assembly welcomed the signing by INBO of an agreement (**Memorandum of Understanding**) with the **International RiverFoundation**, the **International Commission for the Protection of the Danube**, the **Global Environment Facility's International Waters Learning Exchange and Research Network (IW: LEARN)** and the **Great Rivers Partnership**, led by the **Nature Conservancy**, to better collaborate with these organizations pursuing similar objectives and converging in our common efforts with the aim of creating a Global Network for Integrated River Basin Management (**Global Network for IRBM**).

The General Assembly entrusted the Liaison Bureau with the study of the additional diary of international events in which INBO could officially get involved in 2013 and 2016.

Beyond that and in the future, the Assembly draws the attention of the bi and multilateral Cooperation Agencies to the interest of the **label projects** included in its **INBO multi-year ACTION PLAN**, and wishes that these projects can be financed as a priority under consolidated actions that the donors carry out for Integrated Management and better governance of water resources over the world (IWRM), at the suited geographical levels, which are river basins.

D - INBO INVOLVEMENT IN THE 7th WORLD WATER FORUM

The Assembly wished that INBO continue the thinking started in the World Water Forums of The Hague, Kyoto, Mexico, Istanbul and Marseilles, and propose its own "vision" on the evolution of water management during the coming years, and presents its proposals to go to practical field actions with the prospect of the 7th Forum in Daegu in South Korea in April 2015.

The Assembly reminded the efforts made by the PTS and all the members of the Network to strongly and actively take part in the exchanges during the World Water Forum that took place in Marseilles in March 2012; INBO has thus widely participated in the organization of many sessions on transboundary cooperation, river basin management, good water governance, information systems and training and research. This mobilization reached its "peak point" at the closing of the Forum with the signing by 71 represented basin organizations of the "**World Pact for better river basin management**", which gives a set of recommendations and good practices to cope with global challenges.

The General Assembly proposed to the organizers of the 7th World Water Forum that INBO organizes preparatory work on adaptation to climate change in the basins as well as on the "creation and strengthening of Basin Organizations for Integrated Water Resources Management and transboundary cooperation over the World" in collaboration with all the other relevant and representative organizations concerned, such as UNESCO, UNCCD and UNECE, OECD, the GEF, Green Cross International, TNC, IUCN, WWF and others.

The Assembly mandated the World Liaison Bureau for preparing INBO participation to the 7th World Water Forum of Daegu and for also planning active partnerships with the organizers of specific events on this occasion.

It entrusted Messrs. **Guy FRADIN**, **Lupercio ZIROLDO ANTONIO**, **Paulo VARELLA** and **Victor DUKHOVNY**, as Governors of the World Water Council and Members of INBO World Liaison Bureau, and JF DONZIER from PTS, to ensure a permanent liaison with the organizers of the next Forum in Daegu.

E - APPROVAL OF THE "DECLARATION OF FORTALEZA"

The General Assembly unanimously approved the "**Declaration of Fortaleza**", appended to these final resolutions.

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

It wishes that this "**Declaration of Fortaleza**" contributes to the preparation of international initiatives that aim to promote Integrated Water Resource Management (IWRM) at the level of river basins.

F - NEXT GENERAL ASSEMBLY IN 2016

The Assembly gratefully received the invitation of the National Water Commission – CONAGUA and of the Mexican Authorities for hosting the 10th INBO General Assembly in Mexico in 2016.

All delegates warmly thanked again the Brazilian authorities, the municipality of Fortaleza, the State of Ceara and the Federal Government, including the National Water Agency (ANA), the Brazilian Network of Basin Organization (REBOB) and the National Forum of Basin Committees and all other administrations and organizations in Brazil, and especially **Mr. Lupercio ZIROLDO ANTONIO**, REBOB President and **Mr. Vicente ANDREU GUILLO**, ANA President, for their excellent hospitality and for the excellent organization of the World General Assembly of INBO.

The Final Declaration, photographs and presentations are published on the website:

www.inbo-news.org

Approved in Fortaleza – Brazil on 15 August 2013.



List of the 49 countries of origin of attending delegates:

Algeria, Argentina, Belgium, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Chad, Colombia, Democratic Republic of Congo, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Ghana, Guinea, Guyana, India, Israel, Italy, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Lao PDR, Lesotho, Mali, Mauritania, Morocco, Mexico, Mozambique, the Netherlands, Niger, Panama, Peru, Portugal, Romania, Russia, Senegal, Spain, Switzerland, Togo, Turkey, Uruguay, USA, Uzbekistan.