



## ORGANIZATION AND OPERATION



A sound and balanced management of water resources is a prerequisite to quality of life on our planet and sustainable socio-economic development.

The issues raised by this problem are complex.

The solutions brought must allow for:

- contending with natural disasters and the risks of erosion, floods or drought, taking into account the adaptation to the effects of climate change and space and water management,
- reliably meeting the urban and rural populations' needs for good quality drinking water and sanitation, in order to improve hygiene and health and to prevent large outbreaks of disease,
- purifying farmlands and developing appropriate irrigation systems to produce enough agricultural food,
- harmoniously developing industry, energy production, recreational activities and, in some areas, tourism and waterways transport,
- preventing and controlling pollution of all kinds and origins, in order to protect species and restore aquatic ecosystems and optimize fish breeding for human consumption, to meet the requirements of various uses and more generally to preserve the biodiversity of aquatic environments.

All these issues can no longer be tackled by sector or localization, nor separately. On the contrary, the solutions must associate the national and local Authorities with the users, in an integrated approach, respecting the natural environment, organized on the scale of river basin units and aiming at the sustainable use of water resources.

It is recommended that agreements and strategies, programmes, financing and monitoring be designed at the river basin level and that cooperation agreements be formalized between riparian countries regarding large trans-boundary rivers, lakes or seas and aquifers.

## NETWORK OBJECTIVES

The International Network of Basin Organizations has the following objectives:

- to develop permanent relations with the organizations interested in comprehensive river basin management, and facilitate exchanges of experiences and expertise among them,
- to promote the principles and means of sound water management in cooperation programmes to reach sustainable development,
- to facilitate the implementation of tools for institutional and financial management, for programming, for the organization of data bases, and of models adapted to the needs,
- to promote information and training programmes for local elected officials, for users' representatives and for the different stakeholders involved in water management as well as for the executives and staffs of the member basin organizations,
- to encourage education of the population, the young in particular,
- to evaluate ongoing actions and disseminate their results.



## NETWORK MEMBERS

The Network is open to:

- Organizations managing large national, federal and transboundary river basins and the cooperation structures they have developed among them.  
The term "Basin Organizations" implies public organizations with legal existence, or pending creation according to the legislation in force in their country, having statutes and their own budget.
- Governmental administration in charge of water management in the countries applying or being interested in applying integrated water management:
  - organized through large hydrographic units (River Basins)
  - associating administrations and local authorities, as well as users from the various sectors,
  - having specific budgetary resources at their disposal, obtained by applying the "user-polluter-pays" principle.
- Bi and multilateral cooperation agencies supporting institution-building activities related to large river basins and aquifers.

The members are being so considered as soon as they have applied to belong to the Network by signing the **Declaration of Membership**.

## PERMANENT OBSERVERS

Other organizations that are interested in the Network, can apply to participate in its activities as permanent observers, provided that they are accepted by the General Assembly on proposal from the Liaison Bureau.

They can attend the General Assembly meeting without any right to vote.

## ORGANIZATION OF THE NETWORK

The Network is a flexible structure relying on its members' willingness to work together.

It has legal statute and a status of non-profit organization.

It was awarded "Special Consultative Status" by the United Nations' Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC).

## NETWORK PRESIDENT

The President is nominated by the Members hosting the meeting of the General Assembly.

He represents the Network up to the following meeting of the General Assembly.

He ascertains that the Bureau's recommendations and General Assembly's conclusions are applied up to the next Bureau meeting and organizes the work of the Permanent Technical Secretariat.

## LIAISON BUREAU

It is composed of the serving President of the Network, the two previous Presidents and the Permanent Technical Secretary, the President and Secretary of each Regional Network of INBO as well as of Member Organizations designated by the General Assembly.

Its composition may be revised at each General Assembly according to the memberships to come from each geographic region.

One to two Bureau meetings will be held for each 12 month-period between two General Assemblies.

It is chaired by the President of the Network.

It prepares the next meeting of the General Assembly.

It carries out the deliberations of the previous General Assembly.

It coordinates the shared projects.

It examines the applications of permanent observers as well as these of new members of the Network.

It adopts the recommendations by consensus between the attending members.



## ORGANIZATION AND OPERATION



### GENERAL ASSEMBLY

It convenes all the members of the Network.

The General Assembly is presided over by the President of the Network.

It holds an ordinary meeting every three years and can convene extraordinary meetings.

The Ordinary General Assemblies are held in a different geographic region whenever possible.

The General Assembly:

- approves the content of the Declaration of membership and of the Charter of organization and operation as well as the changes that may be added,
- officializes the acceptance of new members proposed by the Liaison Bureau, as well as the applications to become permanent observers,
- proposes orientations to the Network activities,
- approves the shared projects proposed by the Liaison Bureau, and sets up, when necessary, operational units for their implementation,
- ensures that the Network is promoted to the concerned National Authorities and bi and multilateral Cooperation Agencies,
- defines the composition of the Liaison Bureau.

The conclusions of the General Assembly are adopted by consensus between the attending Members.

Qualified personalities or interested organizations may be invited by the host-member(s) to attend the General Assembly without participating in the debates, in the same way as permanent observers.

### PERMANENT TECHNICAL SECRETARIAT

A Permanent Technical Secretariat is chosen for four years by the General Assembly on proposal from the Liaison Bureau among the presented applications.

It is responsible for preparing the documents for the Liaison Bureau and General Assembly meetings, writing the reports under the authority of the President, periodically publishing the Network Newsletter, updating the website [www.inbo-news.org](http://www.inbo-news.org), leading the Network and following up the shared projects in close relation with the relevant operational units.

The Head of the Permanent Technical Secretariat participates in the meetings of the General Assembly and Liaison Bureau.

### NETWORK ADDRESS

It is the address of the Permanent Technical Secretariat.

### REGIONAL NETWORKS

Regional Networks may be established upon the initiative of Member Organizations belonging to the same geographic region, after approval by the General Assembly on proposal from the Liaison Bureau.

The INBO President and the representative of the Permanent Technical Secretariat are invited to the meetings and events organized within each Regional Network.

## FUNDING PRINCIPLES

The Network activities are financed as follows :

### ➤ Meetings of The Liaison Bureau and General Assembly:

- international travel and sojourn costs are borne by the participating members,
- logistics, field visits, translation and Chairmanship Secretariat are borne by the host-member(s).

### ➤ Shared Projects:

Implementation means are to be negotiated by the Liaison Bureau with bi- and multilateral funding agencies, interested governments and organizations with the help of an operational unit and of the Permanent Technical Secretariat when necessary.

### ➤ Annual Subscription fee:

The amount of the annual subscription fee paid by the Member Organizations is set by the General Assembly of the Network.

## DECLARATION OF MEMBERSHIP



Referring to the recommendations of the Constitutive Meeting in Aix-les-Bains in May 1994 and of successive General Assemblies, the members of the International Network of Basin Organizations declare that they apply or intend to apply the following common policies:

- organization, on the scale of large river basins, of integrated water resources management aimed at preventing natural hazards, at rationally and equitably meeting the various uses for sustainable economic development, controlling pollution and protecting and restoring aquatic environments;
- establishment of financing systems -based on the "user-polluter-pays" principle and the basin "common cause" concept- for multiannual development, equipment and protection programmes;
- development of partnership means to associate national Authorities and possibly competent international institutions together with local authorities, water users and concerned non-governmental organizations to the planning and management of river basin organizations
- building of information capacities for these partners' representatives to enable them to fully assume the responsibilities and missions assigned to them by the basin policy.

### PARTICIPATION TO INBO

The members of the International Network of Basin Organizations furthermore declare that they approve the arrangements given in the Statutes of the Network adopted by the General Assembly of Zakopane in 2000. They agree - within the limits of their possibilities- to pursue the objectives of the Network and to participate in its joint projects and in addition, to keep the Network regularly informed on their activities in order to develop a wider cooperation between its Members.

Furthermore, through this participation, each Network member agrees to promote the advantages of integrated river basin management as compared to a sectoral approach, thus contributing to the development of this system over the World.

Name of the Member-Organization: .....

Name and Position of the Entitled Signatory: .....

Made at: ..... On: .....

Signature:

Seal:



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