



**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
MARRAKECH (MOROCCO)
30 September – 3 October 2019**

FINAL RESOLUTIONS

The 2019 statutory General Assembly of the International Network of Basin Organizations took place in Marrakech, Morocco from 30 September to 3 October 2019, at the invitation of the Ministry of Equipment, Transport, Logistics and Water of the Kingdom of Morocco. The meeting was honoured with the effective presence of 9 ministerial personalities in charge of Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) at basin level in the following countries: Burkina Faso, Finland, Guinea, Greece, Kenya, Malta, Morocco, Palestine and Romania.

The Assembly gathered more than 400 registered delegates, representing the Member Organizations, water administrations or observers from 62 Countries, as well as the representatives of several interested bi or multilateral organizations and International Commissions or Authorities of transboundary basins.

The delegates thanked the Kingdom of Morocco and all the partners of the event for their warm welcome in Marrakech, the perfect organization of their Assembly and the quality of the documentation distributed.

The Assembly renewed its thanks to the French Authorities for their political, technical and financial support to INBO Permanent Technical Secretariat since 1994, as well as to the Basin Organizations and Governmental Authorities of all the Countries that financially support the Regional Technical Secretariats or have organized the Assemblies or Bureaus of INBO, ANBO, MENBO, LANBO, CEENBO, NANBO and EECCA-NBO, as well as of the "EUROPE-INBO" Group,

The assembly also welcomed the prospect of signing a partnership agreement between the new Moroccan INBO Presidency and the permanent technical secretariat, with a view to boosting the implementation of the 2019-2021 action plan.

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 Mexico, and most especially the CONAGUA, whose successive Directors-General, Mr. Roberto Ramírez de La Parra, and then Mrs. Blanca Elena Jimenez Cisneros, for the way they have fulfilled INBO World Presidency since the Merida General Assembly in June 2016.

The Assembly unanimously confirmed HE Mr. Abdelkader Amara, Minister of Equipment, Transport, Logistics and Water of the Kingdom of Morocco, as the new INBO World President until next General Assembly which will be held during 2022. Mr. Amara will be supported operationally by Mr. Omar Benjelloun, Director of Research and Planning, who will act as INBO Executive President.

The Assembly awarded unanimously the title of "**honorary President of INBO**", to Ms. Blanca Elena Jimenez Cisneros as it is the tradition for all the former World Presidents of the Network.

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.

It is recalled that the former and current Presidents of INBO, as well as the Presidents and Secretaries of Regional Networks are ex-officio members of the World Liaison Bureau, as well as the INBO Secretary General.

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

The next Liaison Bureau meetings will be coordinated with the next events organized by INBO or the Regional Networks. Thus the next will take place in Malta, on the side-lines of the next EUROPE-INBO 2020 conference.

A3 - APPROVAL OF THE 2016 – 2017 – 2018 ACCOUNTS OF INBO AND OF THE PROVISIONAL BUDGET FOR 2019 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 2016, 2017 and 2018.

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 2016,
- the yearly statement of accounts for 2017,
- the yearly statement of accounts for 2018, 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 2016, 2017 and 2018.

It was recalled that the 2016 General Assembly in Mérida had approved the renewal of the independent Auditor's mandate, already ratified by the preceding General Assemblies of June 2007, January 2010 and August 2013, namely KPMG - 25 rue Hubert Curien - 87000 Limoges - France, represented by Mr. Sébastien GUERIT, as incumbent, for a five fiscal year duration from fiscal year 2016, i.e. from 2016 to 2021, in accordance with the French legislation.

The delegates approved the cost estimates for the Permanent Technical Secretariat (PTS) for fiscal year 2019 and empowered the World Liaison Bureau for approving the cost estimates for 2020, 2021 and 2022 and the final accounts of INBO for 2019, 2020 and 2021 at the end of the fiscal years. These accounts will be subsequently presented to the next General Assembly in 2022 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 2019-2021 Action Plan or in multilateral programmes.

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

On behalf of INBO and its partners, the PTS regularly carries out various projects, particularly with funding from the European Commission.

INBO PTS is also taking care, by delegation from the General Assembly and under the control of the World President, of the management of the bank accounts opened in the name of the network 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 2019-2022 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 in 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.

A4 – SUBSCRIPTION FEES FOR 2020-2022

The delegates maintained the **yearly subscription fee at Euro 1,000, at the same level as before, with no increase since 2007**, to partially cover the expenditures of the Network management.

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.

PTS is systematically studying with the concerned organizations the payment of subscription fees and currency exchange and looking for solutions to these problems and to adapt to the constraining rules of Public Accountancy in some Countries.

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.

A5 – 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 under its Multi-year Action Plan, in the World Water Forums 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), as well as with UNFCCC's COPs, UNECE and UNEP in 2015, and in this respect is allowed to attend all events organized in its field of competence by the United Nations Agencies and Programmes.

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 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 "**INBO e-newsletter**".

The Assembly underlined the great interest of publishing the series of "**Handbooks on Basin Management**" already translated into many foreign languages. This collection of INBO handbooks now contains 6 books:

- Handbook on IWRM in basins (2009);
- Handbook on IWRM in transboundary basins (2012);
- Handbook on adaptation to climate change in transboundary basins: Lessons learned and good practices (2015);
- Handbook on the Protection and Restoration of Aquatic Ecosystems in basins (2015);
- Handbook on Water Information Systems. Administration, Processing and Exploitation of Water-related Data (2018);

- Handbook for stakeholder and civil society participation in river basins, lakes and aquifers (2018).

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.

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

INBO will get involved and support any initiative that would lead to the setting up of **Water Information Systems** promoting, especially in a context of climate change, the sharing of and access to reliable, updated and consistent data in each basin and each country and also among countries interested in exchanging information on water, either at the regional level or at transboundary basin level, especially within actions supported by the Secretariat of the Water Convention of the UN Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE), but also in federal countries encountering the same problems.

The Assembly was also an opportunity to present a first assessment of the implementation of the commitments of the **"Paris Pact on water and adaptation to climate change in the basins of rivers, lakes and aquifers"**, already signed by more than 350 organizations from all over the world on the occasion of the COP21 in Paris in December 2015. It confirmed the network's commitment in future meetings, especially as early as the COP25 scheduled for December 2019 in Chile.

It was reminded that INBO General Assemblies in Dakar and Fortaleza had already been entirely devoted to the 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 Assembly renewed its invitation to all INBO members and all other interested organizations to sign the "Paris Pact", if they have not already done so.

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 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 relying on the creation and strengthening of Basin Organizations and of their Basin Information Systems, especially in the context of the necessary adaptation to the effects of climatic change on water resources all over the World.

As a result of the "Peer-to-Peer Review" projects, aimed at facilitating the implementation of the Basin Management Plans of the Water Framework Directive in the 28 Member States of the European Union, it was agreed to propose new initiatives of this kind, expanding the possibilities of involvement of the Voluntary Basin Authorities on a global scale.

The "Afri-Alliance" project (Afri-EU Innovation Alliance for Water and Climate), a 2016-2021 European H2020 Project with 16 partners, aims to enable African and European stakeholders in the water world to work together on themes of innovation, political science interface to build Africa's capacity to meet the climate change challenges.

The Assembly thanks the **Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD)** for associating INBO in the Steering Committee of the Water Governance Initiative, launched at the 2012 World Water Forum in Marseilles. INBO is maintaining its commitment, especially for the development of "governance indicators" in voluntary basin organizations, but also for the implementation of the new "Water Security in Africa" programme initiated in 2018 as part of the Hassan II Prize awarded to the Initiative.

It was pleased with the continuation of the work of the **"Platform of pilot Transboundary Basins for testing measures for adaptation to the effects of climate change on water resources"**, initiated in partnership by **UNECE** and INBO. It calls for a broad mobilization of International Commissions or Transboundary Basin Authorities from around the world to join this strategic initiative given the very short-term challenges of adaptation, especially for the practical implementation of the commitments of the " Paris Pact".

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, whose reports are published on INBO website.

- **The Latin-American Network of Basin Organizations (LANBO)**
- **The African Network of Basin Organizations (ANBO)**
- **The Mediterranean Network of Basin Organizations (MENBO)**
- **The "EUROPE - INBO" Group of European Basin Organizations for the implementation of the European Water Framework Directive,**
- **The North-American Network of Basin Organizations (NANBO),**
- **The Network of Russian-speaking Basin Organizations of Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia (EECCA-NBO)**

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.

C - INBO MULTI-YEAR ACTION PLAN

It was reminded that successive INBO General Assemblies have since 2000 called for the development and adoption of action plans to globally support the creation and strengthening of basin organizations worldwide.

The General Assembly of Marrakech therefore wished to approve a new **INBO "Multi-year Action Plan"** for the 2019-2021 period. Developed by the PTS with network members and many partners, the draft action plan was submitted to INBO's World Liaison Bureau at its successive meetings in Seville (November 2018), Lahti (June 2019), then Marrakech (September 2019). The final document is attached as Annex 2.

Beyond and with regard to the future, the Assembly calls the attention of bilateral and multilateral cooperation bodies to the value of **projects approved** by its **Multi-year Action Plan (INBO ACTION PLAN)**, and wishes that these projects can be financed by priority within the reinforced actions that the donors develop for integrated management and better governance of water resources (IWRM) in the world, at the appropriate geographic level of the basins

The Assembly wished that new initiatives be taken 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.

It is especially important to improve knowledge worldwide of the implementation of the European Water Directives, the Water Framework Directive and Flood Directive in particular.

It is the same for the UN Convention of 1992 for transboundary water management in Europe, called Helsinki Convention, which is from now on open to the ratification of all the Member States of the United Nations around the world, and which deals 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. The Assembly noted with satisfaction in this regard the growing commitment of African countries.

It is also the case of the United Nations Convention on the uses other than navigation on international watercourses (21 May 1997). This Convention came into force in summer 2014.

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.

C1 – NEW INITIATIVES AND PARTNERSHIPS.

INBO has now engaged in closer dialogue with the International Water Association. The General Assembly supports the prospect of joint actions, considering that the strengthening of the city-basin dialogue is an important challenge to improve water resources management in the years to come, especially under the new pressures related to climate change.

The Assembly noted the partnership between the PTS and the Global Clean Water Desalination Alliance and supports the implementation of a committed action plan. The intersection of approaches between water and energy stakeholders is indeed an indispensable lever for the effective and coherent consideration of desalination in the future mix of water resources.

The General Assembly entrusted the Liaison Bureau with the study of the additional agenda of international events in which INBO could officially get involved from 2019 to 2022.

C2 -INBO INVOLVEMENT IN THE 9th WORLD WATER FORUM

The Assembly wished that INBO continue the thinking started in the World Water Forums of The Hague, Kyoto, Mexico, Istanbul, Marseilles, Daegu and Brasilia, to propose its own "vision" on the evolution of water management in the coming years, and present its proposals to go to practical field actions with the prospect of the 9th Forum in Dakar in Senegal in March 2021.

It thanked the co-organizers of the 9th Forum: Senegal and the World Water Council, for the proposal made to INBO to be part of the steering group for the Cooperation priority. The results of the workshop held on 30 September, organized as a side event of the 11th General Assembly of the Network, showed the daily commitment of the basin organizations in cooperation practices, between stakeholders or transboundary, for example. The Assembly is pleased that the basin scale is retained as one of the major focus of the preparatory work of the Dakar Forum.

D - APPROVAL OF THE "DECLARATION OF MARRAKECH"

The General Assembly unanimously approved the "**Declaration of Marrakech**" and the reports of the four round tables, 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 Marrakech**" contributes to the preparation of international initiatives that aim to promote Integrated Water Resource Management (IWRM) at the level of river basins.

E - NEXT GENERAL ASSEMBLY IN 2022

The Assembly confirmed the call for candidates for the venue of the next General Assembly to be planned in 2022. It entrusted to the PTS the continuation of the exchanges with the countries having declared themselves interested, and gives mandate to INBO World Liaison Bureau to finalize a choice as soon as possible

All delegates warmly thanked again the Moroccan authorities for their excellent hospitality and organization of the World General Assembly of INBO in Morocco.

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

www.inbo-news.org

Approved in Marrakech, Morocco on 2 October 2019.



List of the 62 represented countries:

ALGERIA ; ARGENTINA ; ARMENIA ; BRAZIL ; BURKINA FASO ; BURUNDI ; CAMEROON ; CANADA ; CHILE ; COLOMBIA ; CROATIA ; DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO (DRC) ; ECUADOR ; EGYPT ; ETHIOPIA ; EUROPEAN UNION ; FINLAND ; FRANCE ; GAMBIA ; GERMANY ; GHANA ; GREECE ; GUINEA CONAKRY ; HUNGARY ; INDIA ; IRAQ ; ITALY ; IVORY COAST ; KENYA ; LAOS ; MADAGASCAR ; MALI ; MALTA ; MAURITANIA ; MEXICO ; MOROCCO ; NEW ZEALAND ; NIGER ; NIGERIA ; NORTH MACEDONIA ; PAKISTAN ; PALESTINE ; PERU ; ROMANIA ; RUSSIA ; RWANDA ; SENEGAL ; SERBIA ; SLOVAKIA ; SOUTH AFRICA ; SPAIN ; SUDAN ; SWISS ; TAJIKISTAN ; TUNISIA ; TURKEY ; UGANDA ; UK ; UNITED STATES ; ZAMBIA ; ZIMBABWE