



CLIMATE
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EUROPEAN ASSOCIATION
OF PUBLIC WATER OPERATORS



Coalition of Non-state Actors for Water and Climate Roadmap

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1. CONTEXT AND JUSTIFICATION

Water is at the heart of climate change(s). Water is the main channel through which societies and ecosystems will feel the impacts of climate change. Climate change impacts the hydrological cycle in every aspect: modifications in rainfall patterns and flows, rising sea levels, desertification...Such evolutions will have a tremendous impact on human development, the economy and the environment, whether it be access to water and sanitation, agriculture, food security, health, energy, preservation of ecosystems, not to mention risks pertaining to water-related natural disasters.

Water has a major role to play in climate adaptation and mitigation. As such, strategies and policies geared towards fighting climate change must consider water as a key component. In a similar way, climate change should also be considered systematically in the design of water policies and strategies. This should be true at all decision levels: national, regional, and local. Notwithstanding the fact that climate change is a global issue, the fight against climate change must also be embedded at the local level, for it is at the local level that many solutions will be implemented, through the implication of all stakeholders. Non-state actors may generate solutions and complete/complement State action (93% of Intended Nationally Determined Contributions related to adaptation mention water). Collective effort and strong ambition are key elements in fighting climate change.

This is why the water and climate non-state actors wish to gather, to pool their initiatives and skills, and thus, to strengthen and make more visible their actions in the fight against climate change.

2. COALITION'S OBJECTIVES

The objectives of the Coalition of Non-State Actors for Water and Climate are to:

- Put forward the roles and achievements of non-state actors in fighting climate change consequences on water (whether through adaptation or mitigation) by focusing on territorial approaches and behavioral changes;
- Contribute to the implementation of the Paris Agreement and reinforcing its ambition in particular through the Global Climate Action Agenda, by enhancing cross-fertilization of existing and future initiatives and by connecting water initiatives with other action areas;
- Advocate governments to hold their commitments for climate change taken within NDCs;
- Strengthen synergies among actors from the alliance through a common Roadmap.

3. GOVERNANCE OF THE COALITION

General principles:

The coalition aims to be a **multipartite and balanced international alliance** with representatives from all backgrounds: cities, companies, NGOs and CSOs, river basins, trade unions, women organizations, youth organizations... The coalition will work to include a large number of stakeholders from Southern countries.

The coalition is **inclusive** with a large member base. It relies on existing water-related initiatives either GCAA endorsed or not (Rf. to Appendix A) in order **to mutualize** them, while including actors from other sectors and thus, by cross-fertilizing initiatives and pooling the work and activities of all actors.

The coalition should continue beyond the Climate Chance Summit, to coordinate and catalyze action of the water and climate non-state actors through the implementation of a dedicated roadmap 2016-2018 and through yearly reporting. Eventually, the coalition will focus on enhancing **transparency, information sharing and dissemination**.

Composition:

Coalition's leaders: Aqua Publica Europea, Coalition Eau, French Water Partnership, International Network of Basin Organizations (INBO), Suez

Members: AGWA Policy Group, Aqua Publica Europea, ARCEAU, Butterfly Effect, CDP, City of Paris, Coalition Eau, Conseil Mondial de l'Eau, Eau de Paris, Eau Vive, Green Cross France and Territories, French Ministry of Foreign Affairs, French Water Partnership, International Network of Basin Organizations (INBO), International Office for Water, Programme Solidarité Eau (pS-Eau), SIWI, Suez, WaterAid, World Youth Parliament for Water, Public Services International, Women in Europe for a Common Future France (WECF-France)

Functioning:

The coalition will rely on existing networks in the field of water and climate and their specific workstreams and initiatives, without creating a new formal alliance. Therefore, the coalition's steering process will be flexible and light through:

- Exchanges through e-mails and Skype, at least once every trimester ;
- Meetings during main water and climate events: preparation meetings for the World Water Forum, Stockholm World Water Week, ClimateIsWater meetings, Climate Chance meetings, etc.

Challenges:

The coalition should be careful of avoiding any duplication with existing alliances related to water and climate. Moreover, it should ensure the participation of a large representation of organizations (e.g. multi-stakeholders and diversified in terms of geography). As of today, Southern countries organizations are underrepresented. Another caution point relates to the continuity of the coalition through time, and consequently of dedicated funding.

4. MESSAGES FOR COP22

The coalition is focused on four main messages, generally endorsed by the ClimateIsWater campaign:

Climate change impacts water resources first and foremost: The impacts of climate change are most dramatically felt through changes in water, changes that will severely affect humans, society and the environment. (IPCC 2013, 2014)

Water is a connector, not a sector, and it offers solutions for mitigation and adaptation: The global demand for freshwater will increase by 55 per cent between 2000 and 2050 (OECD, 2014). Given the pronounced global water scarcity it is necessary to leverage between competing water users while reducing greenhouse gas emissions. Integrating water practice in national mitigation and adaptation strategies, will allow for coherence and cost-efficiency. For instance, addressing sustainable water resources management in the Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Actions (NAMAs) would support the viability of sustainable energy provision, supporting emission reduction targets.

Climate change being water change, water should be a priority of climate funds: Implementing the Paris agreement, including the NDCs will mean knowledge reinforcing, investments, technology transfer and capacity building. Funding channels such as the Green Climate Fund, the Adaptation Fund, the Least Developed Countries Fund and the Clean Development Mechanism will need to provide new and additional funding, in a coherent approach to ensure that investments are sufficiently allocated to water and complementary.

Non-state actors are part of the solution: Notwithstanding the fact that climate change is a global issue, the fight against climate change must also be embedded at the local level, for it is at the local level that solutions will be implemented, through the implication of all stakeholders. Indeed, non-state actors may generate solutions and complete state action (93% of Intended Nationally Determined Contributions related to adaptation mention water). Collective effort and strong ambition are key elements in fighting climate change.

5. ROADMAP 2016-2018

Advocate:

- Advocate at the international, regional and national levels for the acknowledgement of water as a key topic of negotiations (UNFCCC, including within the Adaptation Committee meetings and the Conference of Parties, Paris Agreement), strategies and policies related to climate, and vice-versa
- Point out to other sectors the common benefices of water in fighting climate change
- Ensure that the implementation of the Paris Agreement is made possible, through: implementation of State commitments; ownership and implementation of NDCs;

accounting for water in the NAPs; implementation of the Global Climate Action Agenda's commitments; and implementation at the local level

- Advocate for greater ambitions at State level in the reassessment of NDCs in 2018
- Contribute to reinforcing the Global Climate Action Agenda on aspects related to governance, transparency and participation
- Ensure coherence and complementarity in the implementation of the SDGs and the Paris Agreements on Climate
- Advocate for inclusive and participatory process, with a focus on the vulnerable groups
- Ensuring that Climate funds are targeted towards water and vulnerable populations, with a focus on adaptation
- Highlight the importance of territory-based approaches to water in the fight against climate change

Build capacities and knowledge, and share good practices:

- Empower and inform stakeholders, decision-makers and citizens on water-related risks, opportunities related to climate change (advocacy, training, publication) as well as on mitigation and adaptation strategies ; disseminate information
- Identify water components in NDCs and contribute to their strengthening whenever necessary
- Define and promote climate-accounting criteria for water projects
- Develop the knowledge on climate change and its impacts on water, in particular through reliable and available data
- Promote and share solutions and initiatives of non-state actors
- Encourage behavior changes in terms of water use from all actors (citizens, NGOs, private sector etc.), for instance through the monitoring and reduction of their water footprint

Catalyze Action, Follow-up and Report:

- Reinforce and follow-up with the water initiatives included in GCAA (*see annex*), create new ones (e.g. youth, women) and establish connections with other areas of the GCAA;
- Incentivize cross-fertilization between existing and new water initiatives;
- Encourage non-state actors synergies for water and climate
- Report on the results of the GCAA water action area in a consistent way;

Monitoring and evaluation of actions:

The roadmap progresses will be yearly monitored and assessed by each contributing organization involved in the coalition's activities. A global annual report will be realized by the leaders of the alliance of non-state actors for water and climate, before each Climate Chance Summit.

Milestones:

- COP and inter-negotiation meetings in Bonn
- UNFCCC meetings
- Water high level events: World Water Weeks, Budapest Water Summit, World Water Forums and preparatory meetings
- Meetings and events of the networks and of the contributors organizations

Communication and information:

Through existing communication tools, i.e. members of the coalition.

Annex 1: Focus on structuring and tangible actions, with a view to scaling them up: the examples of the water initiatives of the Global Climate Action Agenda

1. The “Paris Pact on water and adaptation to the effects of climate change in the basins of lakes, rivers and aquifers” synthesizes principles and actions that need to be carried out for adaptation in basins. It now gathers a community of 348 signatory organizations from 87 countries. As an indication, 10 of its pilot projects undertaken in 28 countries represent a total amount of more than 1 billion Euros. The management of the community is ensured by International Network of Basin Organisations (INBO) and UNECE as the Water Convention Secretariat, on the basis of their Global network of basins. This platform promotes exchange of good practices and the development, monitoring and promotion of adaptation projects to climate change in basins.
2. The Business Alliance for Water and Climate Change (BAFWAC), led by CDP, CEO Water Mandate, World Business Council for Sustainable Development and SUEZ, aims to commit companies so that they analyze and report water-related risks, implement collaborative response strategies and report on water use data and thirdly reduce their impacts on water availability and quality in direct operations and along the value chain. For the COPs, the Alliance will track progress from the committed companies as to their progress on each of the three actions and by 2020 report on the total number of companies that committed to action, the number of actions committed too and progress on each action. Presently 30 international and leading companies have joined the alliance. This work will drive the private sector into action in order to improve water security in a range of countries. The BAFWAC steering committee will also aim to review the recommendations of the UNFCCC following the consultation related to paragraph 133 of the Paris Agreement when available.
3. The Megacities Alliance on Water under Climate Change, recently endorsed by the UNESCO intergovernmental program, the IHP and ARCEAU, and supported by ICLEI’s network of Local Governments, has started establishing an International Platform for Cooperation to facilitate a dialogue on water, with the aim of helping Megacities and fast growing cities, to learn and exchange from each other’s experience, partner with appropriate technical, academic, CSO and financial institutions, as well as design and implement their responses to the challenges of climate change in order to adapt and mitigate the effects of climate change. The platform will be free of access and open to relevant International Institutions such as other UN agencies, cooperation financing institutions, NGOs, etc. Currently, 15 megacities, representing 300 million inhabitants, have prepared their monographs on water and climate change. This content will be shared online in different languages and a synthesized version will be launched at UNHABITAT III in Quito.

Annex 2: Key events and networks for water and climate

The water community as a whole is organized around key moments that gives it a momentum for action and engagements and has the support of leading networks that have engaged themselves in interlinking water and climate issues.

The Stockholm International Water Institute (SIWI) with its annual World Water Week enables the water community to meet, exchange, analyze and monitor, as well as launch initiatives and partnerships on an annual basis. The World Water Week could become a key stepping stone in the current political dynamics and global calendar for the action agenda pertaining to the water and climate coalitions and alliances. The annual conference is well positioned in the calendar between the HLPF and the COPs and therefore presents a possibility to take stock annually on the progress of the 2030 agenda and the Paris agreement from a multiple stakeholder and sectorial perspective. ‘The High Level Session Building a Resilient Future through Water’ will this year constitute one of the highlights and attract a large audience. It will link up with the High Level Panel on Water activities and bring together a vision on the interlinkages between the SDG and Climate Change agenda (vision and implementation).

The AGWA policy group has undertaken a working group on Water in the NDC’s and Water and Climate finance. The policy group is following closely the UNFCCC processes and are prepared to provide input to the Adaptation committee, the Paris agreement committee and the technical expert meetings to report on water’s key role as a connector; its strategic place in the adaptation but also mitigation solutions; and one of the first elements in ensuring climate justice.

The UNESCO Water Family is a network of more than 1500 experts based on UNESCO’s International Hydrological Program and includes UNESCO’s Regional and Cluster Offices, 39 Water-related Chairs, the UNESCO-IHE Institute for Water Education, 36 Water-related Institutes and Centers and the World Water Assessment Program. IHP is the only intergovernmental program of the UN system devoted to water research, water resources management, and education and capacity building.

The French Water Partnership (FWP) is not only engaged in mobilizing the French water and climate community but also has strongly and willingly contributed to the Moroccan and World Water Council organization of the upcoming “International Conference on Water and Climate Change - Water security for climate justice” that the Moroccan and French government announced at COP21 11-12th of July. A report of this session will be prepared for COP22. The FWP is also one of the pillars of the Water Forum that will take place during the Climate Chance Summit, 26-28th of September in Nantes, and will ensure that clear and strong action plans and messages pertaining to water will be ready for the Champions and COP22.

The ClimateIsWater initiative (#CIW) is co-coordinated by the World Water Council and the French Water Partnership. The #CIW initiative aims to mobilize governments and key policy makers to ensure water is considered within the Climate agenda and engage a follow up on the declaration of engagements of the Global Climate Action Agenda. #CIW will be engaged in COP22 and will aim to contribute to other key international events such as the XVIth World Water Congress that will take place in May 2017 in Cancun and the 8th World Water Forum that will take place in Brasilia in March 2018. The kick off meeting that took place in Brasilia on the 27-28th of June confirmed the mobilization of the water community when it comes to engaging action and policy to combat climate change. Thematic, regional, political, citizen and sustainability processes are being launched as of now and the preparatory process will run up until the Forum with key moments.

The International Network of Basin Organizations (INBO)

INBO is a network of its 192 members from 70 countries dedicated to upgrade and support the development of organizational initiatives for IWRM in river basins/lake basins/aquifer level. Adaptation to climate change in the management of freshwater resources is one of its priority areas of work. INBO is managing the global network of pilot basin working on climate change adaptation, in partnership with UNECE. It has launched during COP21 the *Paris Pact on water and adaptation to climate change in the basins of lakes, rivers and aquifers*, a document which synthesizes principles and actions that need to be implemented for adaptation in basins, signed by more than 350 signatory organizations from 94 countries (as of September 2016) which have also submitted project, with the objective of sharing good practices internationally, strengthening knowledge and enhancing the mobilization of donors and governments for this priority issue of basin adaptation. The Paris Pact community is now managed jointly by INBO and UNECE. INBO was in charge of the basin adaptation session of the high level water day of COP21 and a member of the steering committee of the International Conference on Water and Climate organized by the Moroccan Government "Water Security for Climate Justice", Rabat, 11 - 12 July, 2016. It will facilitate the official high level event dedicated to freshwater and adaptation to climate change that will be held at COP 22 on 9 November 2016 in Marrakech.