

**Report on the 8th World Water Forum Kick-Off Meeting**

**Brasilia, BRAZIL – 27-28 June 2016**



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*This report has been done by* ****** *and*

**Butterfly Effect Secretariat:**

Sarah DOUSSE, International Secretariat for Water: [sdousse@sie-isw.org](mailto:sdousse@sie-isw.org)

Natalia URIBE PANDO, Action against Hunger:[nuribepando@actioncontrelafaim.org](mailto:nuribepando@actioncontrelafaim.org)

# **Summary**

* The 8th World Water Forum kick-off meeting was held on the 27 and 28 June 2016 in Brasilia, Brazil to officially launch the 8th World Water Forum and work on the Forum structure and processes. The theme of the 8th World Water Forum is ‘Sharing Water’.
* 500 – 600 people attended this meeting, 70% of whom were from Brazil. There were very few attendees from Asian and sub-Sahara African countries, with the exception of South Korea, organizer of the previous Forum, and Senegal, which has applied to host the 9th World Water Forum. There was a delegation of indigenous peoples and the youth was quite well represented.
* The 8th World Water Forum has 5 processes: Political (which includes the governmental, parliamentary and local authority sub-processes), Regional, Thematic, Sustainability (new subject introduced by Brazil) and Citizens’ Forum.
* The event proved to be open and inclusive with stimulating and interesting discussions. In general the international delegations seemed to have prepared well, Brazilian members of committees were not very visible (as yet). However, much remains to be done to ensure that the ideas put forward are properly taken into account.
* The political process wants to build better links with international platforms but no concrete plan has yet been proposed, despite this being vital for developing the World Water Forum’s political scope (first discussions on this will take place in Hungary during the Budapest Summit).
* The regional process also faces some challenges since the regions to be used were still “ up for debate” and two regions have no obvious candidates for coordination yet (Europe and Latin America).
* The thematic process does not follow the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) structure. However, all the targets of the "water goal", SDG6 and some other water-related targets like 11.5 “ disaster”, are covered by the themes developed for the Forum. The survey conducted with participants prior to the Forum highlighted the importance of the SDG and climate themes.
* The NGOs/CSOs attending were predominantly members of the Butterfly Effect, an international coalition of NGOs and CSOs that work in the water and sanitation sector. The importance of including civil society in all processes was underlined throughout the kick-off meeting.
* The effective involvement of NGOs and CSOs still needs to be assured: apart from their heavy involvement in the Citizens’ Forum (WYWP and WfWP) and participation in the ‘Sustainability’ process commission (Action contre la Faim), questions about their level of involvement in certain strategic processes, such as the political, regional and thematic processes, and the budget allocated to their participation still remain. Because of the huge budget cut by the Brazilian government the whole budget is still under debate. Another potential problem is the Brazilian banking laws; this means the Brazilians need to rely a lot on outside Brazil’ organizations to handle logistics and finance. There are two key factors for ensuring NGOs and CSOs are effectively involved in the Forum: their participation in the governance of the different Forum processes and the allocation of an adequate, transparent and timely budget to enable these organizations to prepare for and participate in the event.
* The Secretariat for the Forum is not really up-and-running yet; the support from two Brazilian agencies was obvious and highly appreciated, but the Secretariat really needs to be staffed very soon.
* It is to be noted that expectations in Brazil are high, with hopes that the Forum will lead to changes to Brazil’s water policy. However, it is possible that a dichotomy may emerge between the Brazilian national agenda and the international agenda.
* Focus has been placed on following up on the ‘Implementation Roadmaps’ adopted at the 7th World Water Forum. However, it is unclear how these are to be developed in an inclusive manner and there are questions over the reliability of the indicators used to update them.
* The next steps include the Budapest Water Summit (28-30 November 2016), during which the political will be launched, and the second 8th World Water Forum stakeholders’ meeting (Spring 2017).
* The 8th World Water Forum website address is as follows: <http://www.worldwaterforum8.org/main/en>

# **Introduction**

# 8th World Water Forum - Background

The World Water Forum is organized by the World Water Council and a host country and is held every 3 years to discuss issues surrounding access to water and sanitation for all.

Its objectives are to:

* Bring together all stakeholder to discuss water and sanitation-related issues;
* Formulate concrete solutions and encourage action;
* Build real and sustainable political commitment to water.

The 7th World Water Forum was held in Daegu, South Korea, from the 12 to 17 April 2015 ([see our articling reviewing the forum](http://www.coalition-eau.org/actualite/le-forum-des-deceptions/)  and our [assessment of the 7th Forum’s various processes](http://www.coalition-eau.org/wp-content/uploads/Bilan_Processus_FME7.pdf)), and the 8th World Water Forum is to take place in Brasilia in Brazil in the second quarter of 2018. It is to be co-hosted by the World Water Council and the Brazilian government.

# Kick-Off Meeting

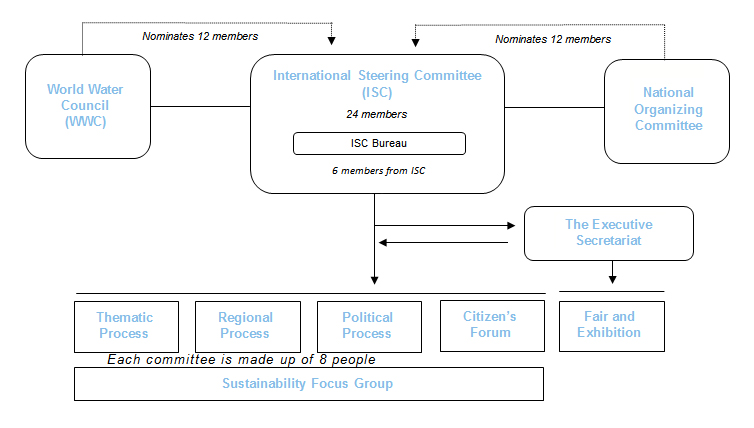
The 8th World Water Forum kick-off meeting was held on the 27 and 28 June 2016 in Brasilia, Brazil.

Its objectives were to:

* Raise public awareness on the core value of the 8th World Water Forum;
* Share the results of the 7th Forum and discuss how to link them to the 8th Forum;
* Collect ideas from participants and share other innovative proposals;
* Collect a wide range of ideas on the Thematic, Regional, Political, Citizens’ Forum and Sustainability processes and on the Forum structure and operation, etc.;
* Ensure participants are actively involved in the Forum preparation effort and work closely with their international peers.

This meeting was attended by 500 people from across the world, including representatives from public authorities, United Nations agencies, companies, NGOs, research institutes, World Water Council institutions, etc. However, it is important to note that the majority (70%) of participants were from Brazil and that there were very few attendees from Asian and African countries, with the exception of South Korea, organizer of the previous Forum, and Senegal, which has applied to host the 9th World Water Forum. There was a large delegation from France, attending under the umbrella of the French Water Partnership.

# **8th World Water Forum Organizational Structure**

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Please *see Annex* 1 for the list of committee and commission members.

The **International Steering Committee** (ISC) is composed of 24 members (12 international and 12 from Brazil) and is the Forum’s highest decision-making authority.

The **National Organizing Committee** is involved in decision-making and represents the host country.

The Forum is structured around **5 processes**:

* The Political process, which has 3 sub-processes: governmental, parliamentary, local authorities;
* The Regional process
* The Thematic process
* The Sustainability Focus Group (a process specific to the 8th World Water Forum and which has been chosen by Brazil);
* The Citizens’ Forum.

Each of these processes is overseen by a commission of two co-chairs (one international and one Brazilian) and 8 members (4 international and 4 Brazilian). The composition of the commissions is provided in *Annex 1* (and is still being finalized). Only the Sustainability Focus Group and Citizens’ Forum commissions include an NGO/CSO representative.

An **exhibition space** will also be created.

*For more information on the Forum’s organizational structure, please see:* [*http://www.worldwaterforum8.org/main/en/about/brazil-session-of-the-world-water-council-2.html*](http://www.worldwaterforum8.org/main/en/about/brazil-session-of-the-world-water-council-2.html)

# **8th World Water Forum Processes**

# General Overview of Discussions

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| **Positives** | * First Forum to be held in the southern hemisphere * Open process with a real opportunity to express ideas and positions; recommendations made were reiterated during the closing plenary * The various aspects of water are all included * Appropriate involvement of civil society, including national organizations * A wide range of stakeholders are represented * There is strong national involvement * Expectations of the 8th World Water Forum are high among Brazilian stakeholders |
| **Negatives** | * There are disagreements between the Forum’s Brazilian organizers (ANA and DASA), which are creating organizational issues * The kick-off meeting lacked preparation * The event was randomly organized * Lack of an overall vision, with the exception of the Brazilian agenda * There was no review of the lessons learned from the 7th World Water Forum in order to improve the process and overall impact of the Forum * Currently no links between the various processes * Lots of general discussion, but little focus on the main themes * Except for the thematic process, discussions on the various processes had not been prepared and thus lacked content * A relatively top-down approach has been adopted for certain processes, e.g. the political process * Civil society is not involved in the political, regional and thematic commissions or in the Forum’s strategic and traditional processes * There is a sense of general inertia among the World Water Council and World Water Forum mentors, co-chairs of most of the processes * Very few participants from Africa and Asia * No budget planning as yet |
| **To be followed up** | * To what extent will the messages and recommendations produced actually be incorporated into the Forum structure? * To what extent will the preparatory processes and the Forum itself be fully inclusive and participatory? * How are the different processes to be aligned, given that there is no real coordination between them? * What real outcome and influence will the Forum have, given that its political process has a limited impact and discussions are currently focused on implementing the SDGs and the Paris climate agreement? * Given the Brazilian stakeholders’ high domestic expectations, there is a risk that the Forum may have 2 separate agendas (international and national) * There is a risk the Citizens’ Forum may be isolated from the other processes * The regional process should inform the thematic process, which in turn should inform the political process * What are the budget allocations for each process? And for civil society involvement? * The ‘Sustainability’ Focus Group could be used to help ensure consistency between the different processes, inform the political process and ensure the inclusion of the Citizens’ Forum |

# Political Process

The aim of the political process is to mobilize stakeholders to ensure water becomes a local and international priority. Although not binding, the final declarations published for each of the sub-processes (governmental, parliamentary, local authorities) provide governments, legislative bodies and local authorities with a shared foundation and momentum for action.

The following points were highlighted during the summing up presentation:

* The need to forge links with the thematic, regional and sustainability processes, as well as with the Citizens’ Forum.
* The political declaration development process needs to be better designed and include more significant political impacts, particularly at the international level.
* Attention will mainly - but not solely - focus on the SDGs. Climate change adaptation will also be a priority.
* Dialogue with civil society organizations will be reinforced to ensure they are more involved.
* Ongoing work on global water governance will be taken into account.
* There is a need to create a Latin American Forum.
* The creation of the parliamentary helpdesk (an idea that is mooted at every Forum but has thus far never been implemented).

Key Points:

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| **Positives** | * The inclusion of the SDGs and Climate is a priority, but it remains to be seen how this will actually be carried out * Humanitarian issues have been taken into account * The process will commence shortly with the Budapest Water Summit in November this year and an initial draft of the political declaration due at the end of July |
| **Negatives** | * Extremely top-down discussions (chair and co-chair) and it was not possible to express additional ideas during the sessions |
| **To be followed up** | * There will be a political declaration, but perhaps no governmental declaration; if there is only a single political declaration, discussions will need to be held between the governmental, parliamentary and local authority levels * Integration of the SDGs and Climate * Propose a roadmap and concrete actions for the period up to the next forum (facilitate the parliamentary network, set up a local authority network, etc.) * Encourage multi-stakeholder and multi-sector involvement to build bridges * Ensure trialogues are held on the key issues (implementation of the human rights to water and sanitation, transboundary cooperation, etc.) with all policy-makers and elected officials, as well as with civil society * Advocate for the development of more integrated water policies (also taking environmental education issues into account) * Focus on incorporating the rights to water and sanitation in constitutions and legislation * Highlight financing |

For more information on the parliamentary process, led by Sophie Auconie (member of the French Water Partnership and member of the World Water Council Board of Governors) and the establishment of an international network of parliamentarians for water, *please see Annex* *2*.

# Regional Process

The aim of the regional process is to involve local and regional stakeholders in a participatory process, highlight local/regional solutions and secure strong commitments. Overall, this process is relatively weak, both in terms of organization and as regards the inclusion of all stakeholders.

The following points were highlighted during the summing up presentation:

* The need to integrate the regional process with the thematic process and Citizens’ Forum, but how? E.g. invite thematic commission members to take part in debates and thus create links.
* Also forge links with the sustainability process.
* The regions are large and varied: an action plan needs to be developed for each region with the support of regional networks.
* Develop inter and sub-regional dynamics.
* Ensure as many stakeholders as possible (of all types) are involved in the process.
* Foster inclusion using a bottom-up approach.
* Focus on the most vulnerable.
* Build capacities with a view to achieving regional integration.

Key Points:

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| **Positives** | * Willingness to develop a process that is both inter and sub-regional * Willingness to involve civil society |
| **Negatives** | * No information given on the budget * The success of the processes vary by region (the African process is weak) * The regions to be used were still “ up for debate” and two regions have no obvious candidates for coordination yet (Europe and Latin America). |
| **To be followed up** | * The inclusion of all stakeholders, including civil society * Strengthening the African process, currently being monopolized by AMCOW * Ensure there is an adequate and transparent financial process |

# Thematic Process

The aim of the thematic process is notably to encourage stakeholders to discuss and share solutions on the priority water themes. Implementation Roadmaps were introduced at the 7th World Water Forum to ensure the commitments made are effectively implemented and monitored.

The key themes highlighted in the thematic priorities survey conducted with participants prior to the kick-off meeting were the SDGs and the climate.

An initial proposal on the structure of the thematic process was presented for discussion (*see Annex 3*). Although this does not follow the same structure as the ‘water goal’, SDG6, all the themes covered are linked to the SDG water-related targets.

The following points were highlighted during the summing up presentation:

* Include cross-cutting issues (clarification required on what is meant by this).
* Importance of interconnections.
* Need to ensure all stakeholders are involved; improve stakeholder communication.
* Reference made to environmental education, water security, (knowledge and practice) sharing, infrastructure, financing, etc.
* Consider issues in a holistic and integrated manner.
* Importance of the climate theme.

Key Points:

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| **Positives** | * This is the most well-structured process * Process that reflects the SDG framework * Participatory approach; we were able to express our views on each of the themes * Process to be launched in October this year |
| **Negatives** | * Few updates provided on previous topics/commitments (key elements already covered at previous Forums, current key issues, review of the Implementation Roadmaps, etc.) * The monitoring & evaluation process for the Implementation Roadmaps is not clear: lack of coordination by some of the Implementation Roadmap leaders, lack of inclusion, insufficiently robust indicators |
| **To be followed up** | * Ensure that our feedback and messages are properly incorporated into the process structure * Ensure improvements are made to the Implementation Roadmap monitoring & evaluation process * Consolidate the link between the regional and thematic processes * Forge links between the Sustainability Focus Group and thematic process by ensuring that the thematic process messages include sustainability / sustainable development aspects and that these feed into the political process * Ensure CSOs and NGOs, particularly the Butterfly Effect members, are included in the different themes’ design groups |

# ‘Sustainability’ Focus Group

The aim of the Sustainability Focus Group process, a process specifically chosen by Brazil, is to promote the compliance of political policies and actions with (social, economic and environmental) sustainable development principles using a cross-cutting approach that covers all processes.

An overview of the Sustainability Focus Group is provided in *Annex* *4*.

The following points were highlighted during the summing up presentation:

* Need to have a continuous responsibility handover process with an end result.
* Sustainability must be included in all processes to produce a convergence of ideas.
* Inclusion.
* Role to include harmonizing and facilitating between the different processes (proposal to set up platforms, etc.).
* Contribute to drafting the political declaration, focusing on sustainability and a bottom-up approach, while also creating links with COP21, the SDGs and Habitat III.

Key Points:

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| **Positives** | * High attendance at the session * Process supported by Brazilian stakeholders * Opportunity to develop this into a strategic process to help coordinate the other processes, ensure messages are incorporated into the political declaration and that all stakeholders are involved * Process is being led by Maria Silvia Rossi, the Federal District Under-Secretary of the Environment, who is highly motivated and active * Jean Lapègue from Action contre la Faim is a member of the steering committee |
| **Negatives** | * Process was prepared relatively late on and thus the outline was (and still is) somewhat unclear * Discussions frequently went off-track, need to prioritize the ideas raised |
| **To be followed up** | * The Sustainability Focus Group needs to be cross-cutting and Forum-wide. It should provide a bridge between the different processes, ensure sustainable development is incorporated into all processes and into the political declaration and make sure all stakeholders are included in the processes * Ensure that it is not perceived as (and is not) a process that overlaps with and duplicates the work of other processes * Need for financial resources to complete the process and planned actions |

# Citizens’ Forum

The aim of the Citizens’ Forum is to stimulate organized civil society’s involvement in discussions and in the various Forum processes, foster the sharing of experiences and create links with the general public.

Whereas the Roots and Citizenship process initiated at the 6th World Water Forum was a success, the 7th World Water Forum’s Citizens’ Forum failed as it did not enable civil society’s full inclusion in the processes nor did it help showcase grassroots water-related initiatives. As civil society is particularly active in Brazil and with inclusion being the watchword of the 8th Forum kick-off meeting organizers, there are huge expectations resting on the 8th World Water Forum, as well as challenges it needs to address.

The following points were highlighted during the summing up presentation:

* Work together with the other processes of the 8th Forum (especially the political, regional, and sustainability processes, as involvement in the thematic process is more substantial), to build an integrated vision of this Citizens’ Forum:
* Work with the political process, e.g. to improve governance and ensure citizens’ voices are heard;
* Stimulate citizens’ involvement in the regional process (regional meetings);
* Adopt a ‘sustainability’ angle.
* Foster broader participation in the Citizens’ Forum, for which an intense communication and information process will need to be developed. Explore the idea of setting up digital platforms.
* Stimulate countries’ participation to increase their involvement and that of their civil society.
* There are a multitude of grassroots and cultural activities that could be developed to improve citizens’ inclusion in the Forum (films, folklore, etc.). Focus on children and young people.
* Need to showcase and develop the activities carried out at this Forum, notably through a platform that could also be used for the 9th World Water Forum and which includes a continuous stakeholder integration process.

Key Points:

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| **Positives** | * Process led by civil society * Open and constructive process initiated by the international members of the Citizens’ Forum steering committee * Lesha Witmer from Women for Water Partnership / the Butterfly Effect and Asma Bachikh, President World Youth Parliament for Water, are members of the steering committee * Young people are strongly represented (WYWF) * In-depth discussion on civil society inclusion during the kick-off meeting * Various civil society organizations and stakeholders are represented |
| **Negatives** | * The summing up presentation did not reflect the discussions held during the workshops * Disagreements between the international and Brazilian steering committee members is making working together difficult * Strong Brazilian agenda that focuses on their country and local people * Creation of a ‘Citizens’ Forum’ rather than a citizen-led process * Confusion over the difference between NGO/CSO inclusion in all the different processes and citizen-led mobilization during the Forum |
| **To be followed up** | * Ensure the Brazilian civil society mobilization agenda does not take precedence over the international agenda * Ensure civil society representatives are included in all Forum process commissions (as observers) * Clearly distinguish between NGO/CSO presence and involvement in the different Forum processes and the organization of public awareness-raising/ mobilization activities * Ensure sufficient funding is provided to enable civil society involvement prior to and during the Forum; this funding should be set out in a clear and transparent budget program * Ensure sufficient communication and information campaigns are implemented prior to the Forum * Launch the process as soon as possible |

# **Conclusion and outlook for Coalition Eau, in coordination with the Butterfly Effect (international coalition of water sector NGOs and CSOs)**

In general, the structure and organization of the World Water Forums need to be improved. Civil society needs to be fully included and involved in the Forums, and in the Forums’ governance bodies. It would be useful to review and assess previous Forums and their processes.

More specifically, it is necessary to:

* Promote the links between processes; the regional process (which needs to be improved) should feed into the thematic process, which should in turn feed into the political process. The Sustainability Focus Group is cross-cutting and ensures the overarching theme of sustainability is included in all processes. The Citizens’ Forum should also be integrated into all the processes.
* Ensure NGO/CSO inclusion in each process’s governance bodies, as well as in the thematic process design groups. Advocate for NGOs and CSOs to be systematically included in the International Steering Committee and in the process commissions for future World Water Forums.
* Ensure there is a link between the Brazilian agenda and international agenda.
* Ensure there is balanced international representation.
* Confirm civil society’s involvement in formulating the political declaration (key step: the Budapest Water Summit in November 2016), ensure our messages are heard and foster links with international platforms.
* Ensure our messages are incorporated into the thematic process structure.
* Take an active role in the Sustainability Focus Group, as this is cross-cutting, fully defined and led by Brazilian stakeholders so could prove to be highly strategic.
* Work to ensure there is robust, transparent and inclusive monitoring & evaluation of all declarations / commitments made and action taken during the Forums (e.g. the Implementation Roadmaps).
* Propose a concrete road map and key actions for each process that cover the period up to the next Forum.
* Ensure an adequate and transparent budget is set sufficiently in advance of the Forum to enable civil society to participate in activities prior to and during the Forum.
* Ensure there is a sufficient and large-scale communication and information campaign launched in the run up to the Forum.
* Ensure a robust Citizens’ Forum is set up that is linked to the other processes.

# **Annex 1: Composition of the Forum Commissions and Bodies (to be completed)**

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| **ISC Members** | Co-chairs: Rodrigo Rollemberg (Governor of the Federal District of Brasilia) and President Braga  WWC: Imane Abd El Al (Association of the Friends of Ibrahim Abd El Al), Dogan Altinbilek (Turkish Contractors Association), José Carrera (CAF), Mohamed El Azizi (AfDB), Torkil Jonch Clausen (Danish Water Forum), David Korenfeld Federman (Mexican Hydraulic Association), Karin Krchnak (WWF-US), Patrick Lavarde (Ministry of Ecology – France), Soontak Lee (International Hydrologic Environmental Society), Rabi Mohtar (Texas A&M), Andras Szöllösi-Nagy (Ministry of Interior - Hungary)  Brazilian: Paulo Sergio B. de Almeida Salles (ADASA), Raphael Azeredo (Ministry of Foreign Affairs), Osvaldo Garcia (National Integration Ministry), Marina Grossi (CEBEDS), Carlos Klink (Ministry of Environment); Jorge Werneck (EMBRAPA), Newton de Lima Azevedo (ABDIB), Ney Maranhao (ANA), Ricardo Medeiros Andrade (SIP-ANA), Maria Silvia Rossi (Environmental Secretariat), Lupercio Zirolodo Antonio (REBOB) |
| **ISC Bureau** | Dogan Altinbilek, Karin Krchnak and Patrick Lavarde  Paulo Salles, Newton Azevedo and Ricardo Andrade |
| **Political Process Commission** | WWC: Co-chair: Andras Szöllösi-Nagy (Ministry of Interior - Hungary); Sophie Auconie, Kanupryia Harish and Bai-mas Tal  Brazilian: TBC |
| **Thematic Process Commission** | WWC: Chair: Torkil Jonch Clausen; Members: Zhiguang Liu (MWR China), Laila Oualkacha (Ministry of Water, Morocco), Mark Smith (IUCN)  Brazilian: Vice-Chair: Jorge Werneck (EMBRAPA); Members TBC |
| **Regional Process Commission** | WWC: Chair: Mohamed El Azizi (AfDB); Kazuhisa Ito (Japan Water Forum), Blanca Jimenez Cisneros (UNESCO), Abdeslam Ziyad (Ministry of Water, Kingdom of Morocco)  Brazilian: Co-chair: Ney Maranhão (ANA); Members TBC |
| **Sustainability Focus Group** | WWC: Co-chair: Karin Krchnak (WWF-US); Members: Jean Lapegue (French Water Partnership); Pierre-Alain Roche (ASTEE), Mariano Montero Zubillaga (FEMSA Foundation)  Brazilian: Chair: Marina Grossi (BCSD); Members TBC |
| **Citizens’ Forum** | WWC: Vice-Chair: Imane Abdel Al (Friends of Ibrahim Abdel Al Association); Members (To be confirmed by electronic vote in the coming weeks): Lesha Witmer (Women for Water Partnership), Nidal Salim (Global Institute for Water Environment & Health (Giweh)); Asma Bachikh, President World Youth Parliament for Water  Brazilian: Chair: Lupercio Antonio (REBOB); Members TBC |

# **Annex 2: Focus on the Parliamentary Process and Establishment of an International Network of Parliamentarians for Water**

The 5th and 6th World Water Forums, held in Istanbul (2009) and Marseille (2012), formally organized a gathering of more than 250 parliamentarians, showing that globally, they must contribute to the debate on water for three major reasons:

1. **Their role in the vote of the national budget of each country:** to date in developing countries, up to 90% of wastewater flows without treatment into rivers, lakes coastal areas, threatening health and food security. The sanitation infrastructures funding should be included in national budgets. For their part, developed countries also have a role to play through decentralized cooperation mechanisms: as underlined by UNDP, they should devote at least 1% of the national budget to water to meet the challenges of access water, sanitation, environmental issues and public health.
2. **Their legislative role:** The lack of coordination mechanisms of inter-ministerial decisions as well as the articulation between sectorial interdependencies is one of the major obstacles to effective national water governance. Furthermore, the recognition and the challenges posed by the implementation of the right to water as a Human right in national legislation has reinforced the need to involve parliamentarians on water issues.
3. **Their role in the ratification of international treaties**, including on international cooperation on water sharing or in preventing cross-border pollution.

 The recognized need for appropriate legislative framework and budgets dedicated to water policies has placed parliamentarians at the heart of the latest global Water Forum process. During these meetings, parliamentarians were encouraged to anticipate, prepare for, take responsibility and act regarding different challenges such as decentralization of authority, global changes, governance and transboundary cooperation.

**A text was adopted at the Forum in Korea: "7th World Water Forum - Conference of Parliamentarians for Water - Parliamentarian Statement":**

<http://www.worldwatercouncil.org/fileadmin/world_water_council/documents/publications/forum_documents/Parliamentarian%20Statement.pdf>

**Current debates on the international network of parliamentarians for water**

Since 2009, discussions have been carried out by the World Water Council (WWC) and several partner stakeholders on the feasibility of a parliamentary helpdesk and a real international parliamentary network. In Marseille in March 2012, a website prototype was presented. From this model, a multi-stakeholder working group (IUCN, FAO, IPU, OECD, WaterLex and Cercle Français de l’Eau) is currently conducting a debate on the development of this project, coordinated by Sophie Auconie.

Several regional meetings, since 2012, helped to initiate a dynamic and to constitute a database of parliamentarians who are interested and motivated by water issues.

A study launched in April 2014 by the WWC of parliamentarians regarding their needs in this area, confirmed the interest of parliamentarians for water issues and for assistance through an internet tool in this area.

**Currently, stakeholders are moving beyond a simple web tool to create a real and lasting initiative parliamentary network coordinated by a steering committee consisting solely of elected parliamentarians by the network.**

The steering committee would be supported on one hand by a Scientific Advisory Board that would bring together all partners of the initiative (FAO, IUCN, AFD, SDC), and secondly, by a joint Secretariat between WWC and WaterLex. The latter would be responsible for the activities, promotional activities and content in the field, and the WWC would be in charge of running the initiative on its website and at the World Water Forums.

**The Network's tasks could be:**

* 1. **Facilitate consultation of legislations on water from a "unified source." The platform could allow to access to decentralized databases, or different compendium of water best practices and solutions;**
  2. **Facilitate the organization of debates, exchanges of work and analysis, best practices and knowledge sharing through national, regional or international meetings;**
  3. **Ensure personalized help to parliaments and elected members by creating a service with a panel of experts for consultation on specific requests;**
  4. **Produce reports and briefings on water and sanitation policies for parliamentarians, according to available resources.**

# At the 58th meeting of the Board, the idea of the Helpdesk has been challenged in its original form.

**Potential partners**

Several partners involved in the debate have already expressed their interest to support and assist the functioning of the parliamentary platform (the platform rather than the network though). These include the SDC (Swiss Cooperation), via their partner WaterLex and FAO - United Nations Fund for Food and Agriculture - already has a legal database and whose work of analysis can be shared with parliamentarians. France could also be requested via the French Development Agency (AFD).

# **Annex 3: Proposed Structure of the Thematic Process (for Discussion)**

**PROPOSED THEMES AND TOPICS**

*Linking to SDGs/2030 Agenda and 7th* World Water Forum *Implementation Roadmaps (IR)*

With linkages to COP, Sendai and Habitat

**1. *PEOPLE* - Water, sanitation and health**

*(SDG links: Water targets 6.1, 6.2, 6.3, and targets 1.4, 3.3, 3.9, 4a*

a) Enough safe water for all – *IR 1.1*

b) Integrated sanitation for all – *IR 1.2*

c) Water and public health

d) Water and cities – *IR 2.3*

*e)* Water in humanitarian contexts

***2. CLIMATE* - Water security and climate change**

*(SDG links: SDG 13.1, SDG 11.5, COP 21-22, Sendai DRR Summit)*

a) Managing risk and uncertainty for resilience and disaster preparedness – *IR 1.3*

b) Water and adaptation to climate change

c) Water and climate change mitigation

d) Climate science and water management: the communication between science and decision/policy making

**3. *GROWTH -* Water for sustainable production**

*(SDG links: Water target 6.4 and SDG’s 2, 7, 8, 11 and 12)*

a) Water, energy and food security nexus – *IR 2.1, IR 2.2*

b) Inclusive and sustainable growth, water stewardship and industry – *IR 3.1*

c) Efficient use of surface water and groundwater

d) Infrastructure for sustainable water resource management and services – *IR 1.4*

**4. *QUALITY -* Water quality, wastewater and reuse**

*(SDG links: Water target 6.3 and SDG 14.1)*

a) Ensuring water quality from ridge to reef – *IR 3.3*

b) The circular economy – reduce, reuse, recycle

c) Treatment and reuse technologies

**5. *ECOSYSTEMS -* Water and ecosystems**

*(SDG links: Water target 6.6 and target 15.1)*

a) Managing and restoring ecosystems for water services and biodiversity – *IR 3.2*

b) Natural and engineered hydrological systems

c) Water and land use

d) Ensuring sustainable withdrawals of water resources

**6. *GOVERNANCE -* Water governance**

*(SDG link: Water target 6.5)*

a) SMART implementation of IWRM - *IR 3.4*

b) Cooperation for reducing conflict and improving transboundary water management – *IR 4.3*

c) Effective governance: Enhanced political decisions, stakeholder participation and Technical information – *IR 4.2*

**POSSIBLE CROSS-CUTTING ISSUES:**

**A. *SHARING* - Involving stakeholders at all levels for sharing water benefits**

*(SDG link: Water target 6.b and SDG’s 3, 15 and 17)*

a) Replicating solutions and good practices

b) Involving **all, in an effective way**: public, private, civil society – women and men – young and old

c) Bridging levels: bottom up and top down

d) Collaborative Actions – empowering sustainable solutions by connecting multiple stakeholders

e) Platform for sharing business solutions & creating links between initiatives and stakeholders

f) Water cultures, justice and equity – *IR 4.4*

**B. *CAPACITY* - Education, capacity building and technology transfer**

*(SDG link: Water target 6.a and SDG’s 4 and 17)*

a) Enhancing education and capacity building – *IR 4.5*

b) Science and technology – *7th WORLD WATER FORUM S&T Process*

c) ICT and monitoring

d) International cooperation

**C. *FINANCING* – Implementing solutions**

*(SDG link: water target 6a and SDG 17)*

a) Economics and financing for innovative investments – IR 4.1

b) Implementation of water SDGs

c) Financing for water infrastructure

d) Financing adaptation to climate change and to climatic extremes

e) Finance for sustainable development – supporting water-friendly business

# **Annex 4: Overview of the ‘Sustainability’ Process**

**Rationale**

* Mapping Sustainability Process;
* Facilitation and interlink between the different process towards sustainability (multilog, arena);
* Convey the messages of sustainability into the political agenda through focal points.

**Members**

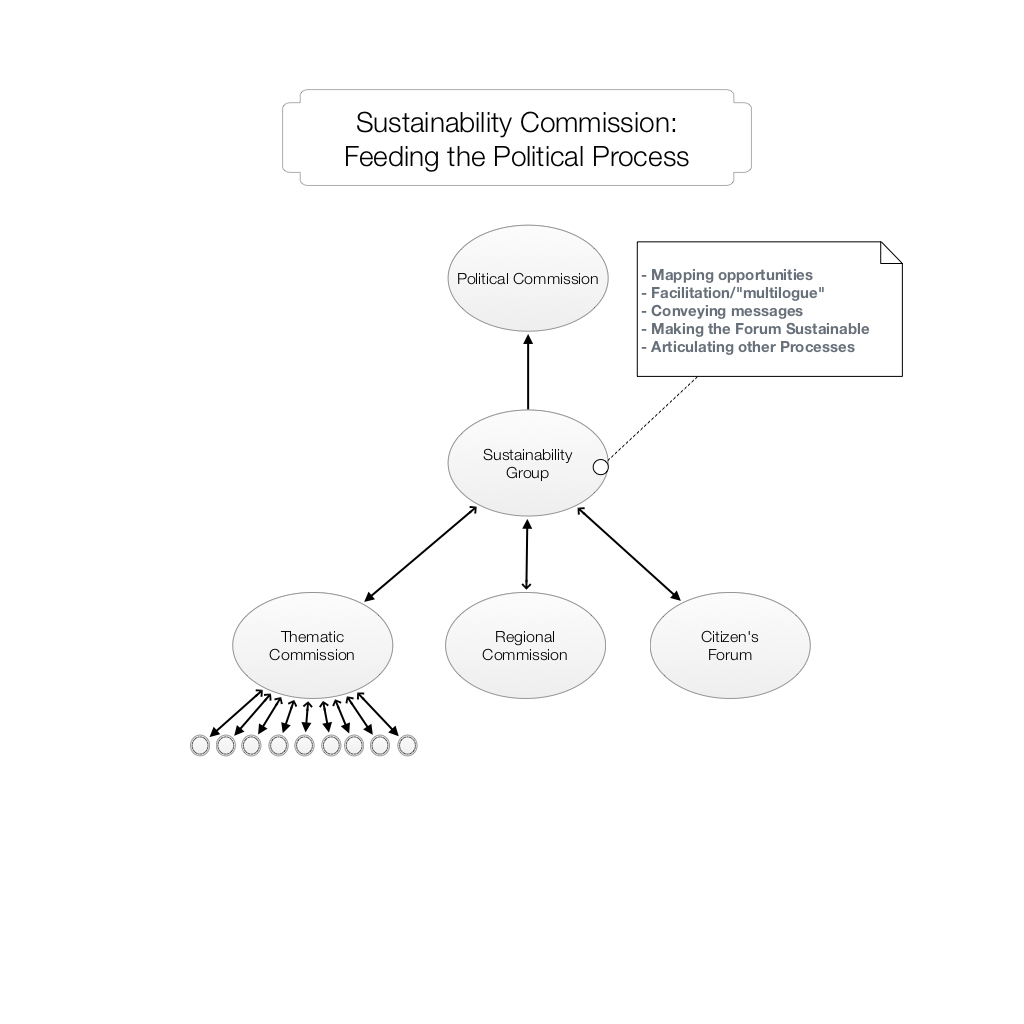
Brazil:

* CHAIR Marina Grossi, CEBDS President; Support – André Ramalho (CEBDS);
* Maria Silvia Rossi, Undersecretary of Environment from the Federal District;
* Simone Veltri, CEBDS Water Working Group President and CSR Manager at AMBEV;
* Jorge Soto, BRASKEM Sustainability Director.

WWC:

* CO-CHAIR – Karin Krchnak, Director, Freshwater for the WWF; Support - Camille Giscard (WWC);
* Jean Lapeque, WASH Senior Advisor at ACF-France;
* Mariano Montero Zubillaga, Director of FEMSA Foundation;
* Pierre-Alain Roche, General Counselor of the Ministry of Environment, Sustainable Development and Energy of France.

**Structure**



**Core functions and specific features**

* Process from Brazil
* The process will not overlap but facilitate other processes
* A strategic process to gather all sustainability good practices to the political declaration
* A process to facilitate exchanges inter processes (Regional, Thematic and Citizen)
* A process focused on sustainability:
  + Through good operational and technical practices
  + Through the nexus inter-sectors
  + Through the continuum emergency response, recovery and development
  + Through integrated resource management at all levels
  + Through the continuity (Marseille, Daegu, Brasilia, Dakar)
  + Through links with international agendas (SDG, COP 22, Habitat 3)
  + Through environmental considerations and nature-based solutions
* Practical outcomes:
  + Sustainability mapping
  + Sustainability guidelines
  + Carbon footprint of the forum
  + Trialogue sessions and high level panels
  + Proposition of sustainability key recommendations to inform political declaration (annex)
  + Etc.