

Interstate Commission for Water Coordination of Central Asia	BULLETIN № 3 (62)	September 2013
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CONTENTS

DECISION OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE INTERNATIONAL FUND FOR SAVING THE ARAL SEA "ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE INTERNATIONAL FUND FOR SAVING THE ARAL SEA"	3
DECISION OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE INTERNATIONAL FUND FOR SAVING THE ARAL SEA "ON THE ASSIGNMENT OF THE CHAIRMAN OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE INTERNATIONAL FUND FOR SAVING THE ARAL SEA"	11
INTERNATIONAL HIGH-LEVEL CONFERENCE ON WATER COOPERATION	12
DECLARATION OF THE HIGH LEVEL INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON WATER COOPERATION.....	13
9th WORLD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE INTERNATIONAL NETWORK OF BASIN ORGANIZATIONS "BETTER WATER MANAGEMENT AT RIVER BASIN LEVEL TO FACE THE LARGE WORLD CHALLENGES"	15
9th WORLD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE INTERNATIONAL NETWORK OF BASIN ORGANIZATIONS FINAL RESOLUTIONS	20

DECISION OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE INTERNATIONAL FUND FOR SAVING THE ARAL SEA

”ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE INTERNATIONAL FUND FOR SAVING THE ARAL SEA”

In accordance with the Regulation of the International Fund for Saving the Aral Sea approved by the Decision of the Heads of IFAS founders-states on April 9th, 1999 in the city of Ashgabat:

1. Establish the Executive Committee of the International Fund for Saving the Aral Sea (hereinafter referred to as the EC IFAS).

2. Approve the Regulation of the Executive Committee of IFAS, its structure and membership in accordance with the Appendices # 1, 2.

The President of the International Fund
for Saving the Aral Sea,
The President of the Republic of Uzbekistan

I. Karimov

Tashkent city

1-854

August 2nd, 2013

REGULATION OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE INTERNATIONAL FUND FOR SAVING THE ARAL SEA

I. GENERAL PROVISION

1. The Executive Committee (hereinafter referred to as EC) of the International Fund for Saving the Aral Sea (hereinafter referred to as IFAS or Fund) was established by the Decision of the IFAS President, the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan as of August 2nd, 2013, and is a permanent acting executive body of Fund.

2. The EC IFAS is an assignee of regulations, property and other assets of previous ECs IFAS.

3. The EC IFAS fulfils its activities in accordance with the Regulation of the International Fund for Saving the Aral Sea (hereinafter referred to as the Regulation of IFAS) and the Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Kazakhstan, the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic, the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan, the Government of Turkmenistan, and the Government of the Republic of Uzbekistan on the Status of the International Fund for Saving the Aral Sea and Its Organizations (hereinafter referred to as the Agreement on the Status of IFAS and Its Organizations), approved by the Heads of the IFAS founders-states on April 9th, 1999 in the city of Ashgabat, and in accordance with the present Regulation.

4. The activities of EC are organized on the basis of the principal IFAS management scheme approved by the Decision of the Heads of the Fund founders-states on February 28th, 1997 in the city of Almaty.

5. The EC IFAS represents a juridical entity with the status of an international intergovernmental organization, and immunities and privileges provided for by the Agreement on the Status of IFAS and Its Organizations.

6. The legal address of EC IFAS: 100070, the Republic of Uzbekistan, Tashkent city, Str Shota Rustaveli, 15.

The official name of the EC IFAS:

in the Russian language - Исполнительный Комитет Международного Фонда спасения Арала (ИК МФСА);

in the English language - Executive Committee of the International Fund for Saving the Aral Sea (EC IFAS).

II. MAIN OBJECTIVES, FUNCTIONS AND RIGHTS OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The EC is established to accomplish the following objectives:

- Ensure practical implementation of decisions of the Council of the Heads of the founders-states, the President and the Board of IFAS on the Aral Sea basin challenges;
- Implement programmes and projects aimed at eradicating the subsequences of the Aral Sea drying;
- Coordinate activities of EC branches, special agencies and foundations for improvement of the social and environmental situation in the Aral Sea basin, which are situated on the territories of the Fund founders-states;
- Facilitate activities of the Interstate Commission for Water Coordination (ICWC) and Interstate Commission for Sustainable Development (ICSD);
- Expand collaboration with international organizations, donors-states, ecological and other funds to enhance activities on environmental protection and rehabilitate environmentally unfriendly areas.

8. EC executes the following functions:

- Participates in development and implementation of projects and programmes on the Aral Sea basin problems;
- Collaborates with ministries, agencies, public ecological organizations of the founders-states of the Fund;
- Ensures the IFAS mission in international organizations;
- Organizes expertise of concepts, programmes and projects on the Aral Sea basin problems and make adequate conclusions;
- Accumulates financial and other assets, ensures their targeted use;
- Provides the IFAS founders-states with information analytical support on the matters of IFAS activities;
- Carries on information and editorial and publishing activities;
- Provides safety of IFAS documentation;
- Prepares materials and organizes meetings of the Council of the Heads of the founders-states and the Board of IFAS;
- Organizes thematic conferences, symposiums and workshops on matters related to activities of IFAS;
- Promotes collaboration with foreign states and international organizations on IFAS reserved matters.

9. EC has the right to:

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- define priority areas for allocation of IFAS assets within the frameworks programmes and projects on eradicating the subsequences of the Aral Sea drying;
 - participate together with interested ministries, agencies of the IFAS founders-states, business entities to determine procedures for involvement of organizations and individuals to implement programmes and projects on solution of the Aral Sea basin problems;
 - involve experts, and conclude agreements with organizations, institutions and individuals;
 - organize and hold biddings (tenders), place funds into deposit accounts in banking institutions;
 - request and receive data required to accomplish objectives and functions vested in the EC IFAS, from ministries, agencies, statistical offices and other structures of the IFAS founders-states, in accordance with procedures established;
 - conduct a check of documentation submitted by branches, states and results of their activities;
 - acquire and dispose of property, be a claimant and defendant in a court.

10. The EC IFAS has bank accounts in national and foreign currency to support its activity and accumulate contributions of the Fund founders-states, international organizations, donors-countries, grants, charitable and other donations from juridical entities and individuals in order to implement projects, programmes and render an emergency assistance to population in the Aral Sea basin.

EC has its standard forms, seal and stamps with its name.

11. EC activities of and property are exempt from all direct taxes and charges. Contributions of the founders-states, donors-countries, international organizations, grants, donations of juridical entities and individuals, foreign states, as well as assistance in a form of equipment, facilities, materials, food, and medicine are exempt from taxes, charges and customs duties.

EC and its officials are exempt from customs duties when bringing in and carriage their personal stuff, items, materials, equipment intended for personal and official use, as well as for providing functions vested in them. Exemption from customs duties does not apply to EC officials who are citizens of EC host country.

12. Financing of EC activities is provided at the expense of contributions of the IFAS founders-states, international organizations, donors-countries, grants, and charitable donations from individuals and juridical entities, foreign states as well.

13. EC keeps books and accounts in accordance with laws of the host state.

14. The IFAS founders-states are not liable for duties of EC, and EC, in its turn, is not liable for those of the Fund founders-states.

15. Official languages of EC are Russian and English languages.

III. ACTIVITY ARRANGEMENT OF EC IFAS

16. EC includes the Chairman, his/her Deputy, Secretariat, Information-Analytical, Administration and Accounting departments.

17. Governments of the founders-states delegate their two authorized representatives (EC members) to ensure EC operation. Leadership and management of their activities are vested in the Chairman.

18. EC is headed by the Chairman assigned to and discharged from the post by the IFAS President in consultation with the Heads of the IFAS founders-states.

19. The Chairman:

- performs management of the EC in accordance with decisions of the Council of the Heads of the founders-states, the President and the Board of IFAS, and personally liable for accomplishment of objectives vested in EC;

- undertakes arrangements on preparation and organization of meetings of the Council of the Heads of the founders-states and the Board of IFAS;

- coordinates activities of ICWC, ICSD on all issues related to implementation of programmes and projects for eradicating the subsequences of the Aral Sea drying;

- acts on behalf of IFAS, represents its interests, disposes of funds and property of EC, concludes contracts (agreements), hires and discharges employees of the EC apparatus and heads of its structural subdivisions;

- addresses to the IFAS President, the governments of the founders-states the views of competence and qualification of authorized representatives delegated to work for EC;

- within his/her competence, issues orders, regulations, and decisions and, guided by commissions of the President and the Board of IFAS, gives instructions subject to compulsory accomplishment by the branches and other bodies of IFAS;

- approves a staff schedule of EC, regulations of structural subdivisions and other regulatory documents prescribing the rights and duties of officials of the EC IFAS;

- assigns leaders to regional projects, and approves their estimate and financial and program documents as well;

- submits to the IFAS Board a report on EC activities on the outcomes of a fiscal year;

- fulfils other functions vested in him/her by the Council of the Heads of the founders-states, the President and the Board of IFAS.

20. Maintenance of the EC apparatus and payments for labour to the employees are made on the conditions and at the expense of contributions of the IFAS founders-states, grants of donors-countries and funds of international organizations.

21. A first fiscal year of EC is a period since a day of approval of the Regulation of EC and till the end of a respective calendar year. Further, a fiscal year of

EC starts on January 1st and ends on December 31st of each year.

22. By results of every financial year, EC provides audit of its financial activity.

IV. BRANCHES OF EC IFAS

23. EC, in accordance with the approved IFAS principal management scheme, has its branches in the founders-states of the Fund.

24. The branches of EC are the territorial bodies.

25. The branches act in accordance with the laws of the IFAS founders-states, on which territories they are located, decisions of the President and the Board of the Fund, orders, instructions of EC, the present Regulation and the Regulation of a relevant branch.

26. EC branches are juridical entities, have banking accounts in national and foreign currency.

27. The branches collaborate with state, public organizations, juridical entities and individuals, as well as with structures of different patterns of ownership, and facilitate expansion of cooperation on issues of eradicating the subsequences of the Aral Sea drying.

28. EC branches are financed at the expense of contributions of the IFAS founders-states, on which territory they are located.

29. The EC Chairman assigns and discharges directors of branches who have been delegated by governments of the IFAS founders-states, on which territory the branches are located.

30. A branch is headed by a director, who is personally liable for activity management, performance of duties vested in him.

31. A staff schedule of a branch is agreed with the government of an IFAS founder-state, on which territory it is located, or a body authorized by it, and approved by the EC Chairman.

32. A fiscal year is fixed from January 1st to December 31st of a calendar year. A branch submits a report to the EC quarterly.

33. Accounting and reporting are kept in accordance with procedures established by laws of a state, on which territory the branch is located.

34. Organizational and financial activities of a branch to be monitored by EC.

35. Introduction of changes and supplements to activities, rules and procedures of a branch falls within the competence of EC.

36. Activity of EC branch to be terminated in accordance with a decision of EC, on a proposal of the government of a founder-state of the IFAS.

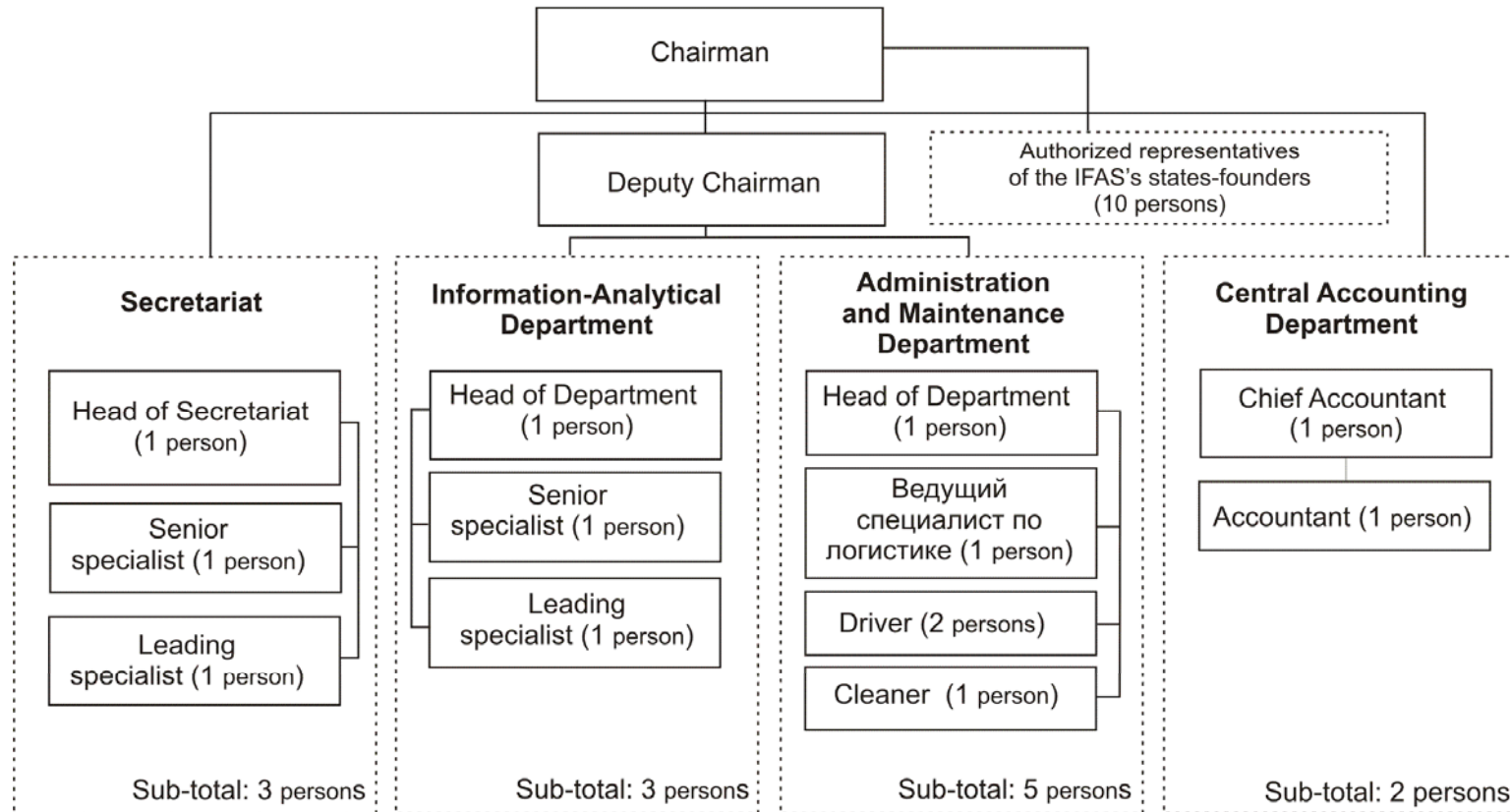
V. FINAL PROVISIONS

37. Liquidation or reorganization of EC is made on a decision of the President of IFAS.

38. Provided the decision on liquidation of EC has been made, the Chairman of EC makes the order on appointment of a liquidation commission and ensures its execution in accordance with laws in force in a host country.

39. EC loses the right of a juridical entity and considered as ceased to exist since the date a respective decision on approval of results of the liquidation commission has been issued.

STRUCTURE of the Executive Committee of the International Fund for Aral Sea saving



Total: 15 employees
of the apparatus, including
3 persons of support staff

**DECISION OF THE PRESIDENT
OF THE INTERNATIONAL FUND FOR SAVING
THE ARAL SEA**

**”ON THE ASSIGNMENT OF THE CHAIRMAN
OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
OF THE INTERNATIONAL FUND FOR SAVING
THE ARAL SEA”**

Since the Republic of Uzbekistan undertakes chairmanship in the International Fund For Saving the Aral Sea, as well to pursue timely activity arrangement of the Executive Committee of IFAS in the city of Tashkent:

1. Assign Khamraev Shavkat Rakhimovich the acting Chairman of the Executive Committee of the International Fund for Saving the Aral Sea.

2. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Uzbekistan is committed to inform the IFAS founders-states on the Decision made.

The President of the International Fund
for Saving the Aral Sea ,
The President of the Republic of Uzbekistan

I. Karimov

Tashkent city

1-855

August 2nd, 2013

INTERNATIONAL HIGH-LEVEL CONFERENCE ON WATER COOPERATION

On August 20-21, 2013, International High-Level Conference on Water Cooperation organized by the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan (RT) together with UN institutions was held in Dushanbe.

More than 1000 participants from about 100 countries of the world participated in the conference. UN institutions, as well as other international organizations dealing with water issues (World Water Council, Global Water Partnership, International Water Management Institute, etc.) were represented. Heads of national delegations from the countries of Central Asia included the Minister of Environmental Protection of the Republic of Kazakhstan, Prime-Minister of the Kyrgyz Republic, Deputy Minister of Agriculture and Water Resources of Uzbekistan and Deputy Minister of Water Resources of Turkmenistan.

The main goal of the conference was stated as contribution to improved water cooperation, particularly, in a transboundary context, through sharing best practices, distribution of environmental-friendly technologies and know-how, ensuring the participation of all stakeholders, encouragement of leaders on promoting water cooperation at all levels to reach water goals coordinated at the international level.

The four main themes were proposed to discuss at the conference: (1) human development, (2) economic benefits, (3) ecosystems, (4) transboundary water cooperation; and the four cross issues included (A) gender issues, (B) capacity building, (C) sectoral synergies, and (D) triggers and catalysts for water cooperation. Two High-Level Plenary Meetings, eight High-Level Panels (HLPs) and nineteen Special Focused Events (SFEs) were organized to discuss these themes and issues.

General conclusions

Issues of water cooperation were discussed at the Conference on a broad scale, including issues of human development and gender. Issues of water and energy resources use in Central Asia were also raised but not escalated during the meetings. Interests of the countries were expressed in some interviews of participants from Central Asia. The participants talked about available problems and fundamental differences in interests in water resources use, but also mentioned the need for cooperation, strengthening of trust and finding of ways to reduce excessive politicization of the issues in order to find practical decisions.

Practically, all the HLPs stated a key role of data sharing and improvement of their reliability, as this can facilitate strengthening of trust between the countries. Issues of capacity building were another cooperation mechanism mentioned often. Finally, it was stated repeatedly that cooperation is a commitment of countries to international law, therefore countries should find concrete mechanisms to ensure it.

DECLARATION OF THE HIGH LEVEL INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON WATER COOPERATION

Dushanbe, Tajikistan

20-21 August 2013

We, representatives of governments, international and regional organizations and civil society met in Dushanbe, Tajikistan, on 20 and 21 August 2013, at the High Level International Conference on Water Cooperation (HLICWC) to support the implementation of United Nations General Assembly Resolution A/67/204 “Implementation of the International Year of Water Cooperation, 2013,” and to promote actions at all levels to advance cooperation on water. In doing so,

We recognize that the cooperative development and management of transboundary water resources at the basin level is essential for broad-based sustainable social and economic growth, overall human development, poverty and hunger eradication, public health, food security, energy security, environmental protection, disaster prevention, sustainable urban and rural development, resilience to climate change and, importantly, peace and stability, and reaffirm our commitment to water as a driver of development and means for promoting trust and cooperation.

We acknowledge that governments play a key role in managing water across competing demands and encourage stronger dialogue, as appropriate, at the local, national and regional levels to promote the cooperative development and management of water across boundaries and sectors for the benefit of all stakeholders, in accordance with the norms of international law.

We encourage governments and communities that share surface or groundwater resources to consider the outcomes from high-level panel discussions and technical sessions at the High Level International Conference on Water Cooperation, to be reported in the Chair’s Summary, including specific steps to cooperatively manage these resources, such as institutional arrangements, involving joint assessment, planning, monitoring and information-sharing mechanisms, legal frameworks, river basin organizations, mediation and dispute settlement; creating incentives for cooperation, including financing and investments, cost and benefit sharing; and capacity building, including strengthening the scientific understanding of the water cycle through cooperation in joint observation and research and the voluntary sharing of knowledge and technology on mutually agreed terms and conditions. We particularly note the importance of indigenous knowledge and of all stakeholders including women and children as leaders of change. We also underline the importance of dialogue on water and disasters at various levels.

We highlight the importance of timely achieving the Millennium Development Goals and other internationally agreed development goals, and noting the International Decade for Action “Water for Life, 2005-2015,” and call for the acceleration and

focusing of development cooperation and efforts on the areas and countries that face challenges to achieve the MDGs.

We note the discussions and recommendations of the Global Thematic Consultations on Water in the post-2015 development agenda and recognize the importance of managing the multiple uses of water resources for human well-being, sustainable socio-economic development, in increasing resilience to extreme events and in maintaining ecological integrity. We also recognize the importance of sustainable access to adequate provisioning of sanitation and adequate quantities of acceptable quality water for sustaining livelihoods, ensuring protection from pollution, and for public health. We recommend that issues of water resources, drinking water and sanitation, and wastewater be given due consideration in the elaboration of the post-2015 development agenda.

We note with appreciation that many actions have been suggested during the Conference, which includes voluntary commitments to advance water cooperation. We encourage stakeholders at all levels to consider additional steps they might take to ensure the benefits of water are fully realized by all in an equitable, cooperative and sustainable manner. We encourage the Conference Organizers to compile the outcomes of the panels, sessions and plenaries and make them available.

Finally, *we express* our sincere appreciation to the Government of Tajikistan for hosting the Conference and for the warm welcome and generous hospitality extended to all participants. We also appreciate the assistance and support provided by all international and regional organizations including several UN agencies.

9th WORLD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE INTERNATIONAL NETWORK OF BASIN ORGANIZATIONS “BETTER WATER MANAGEMENT AT RIVER BASIN LEVEL TO FACE THE LARGE WORLD CHALLENGES”

13 - 16 August, 2013 Fortaleza-Seara, Brazil

The International Network of Basin Organizations (INBO) was established in 1992 with the support of the Government of France and currently covers more than 200 organizations from 49 countries. The Permanent Technical Secretariat (PTS) of INBO is in Paris, the unchallenged Executive Secretary is Mr. Jean-François Donzier. The governing body is the Liaison Bureau, which is elected for 3 years and consists of three representatives from all regional organizations.

INBO is supported by 8 regional networks: the Group of European Basin Organizations (EUROPE-INBO), the Network of Russian-speaking Basin Organizations of Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia (EECCA-NBO), the Mediterranean Network of Basin Organizations (MENBO), the new North-American Network of Basin Organizations (NANBO), the Latin- American Network of Basin Organizations (LANBO), the Central and Eastern European Network of Basin Organizations (CEENBO), the Brazilian Network of Basin Organizations (REBOB).

The Assembly was jointly organized by the INBO PTS, REBOB Secretariat and the Organization for the Development of the Senegal River, which High Commissioner H.E., Mr. Mohamed Salem Ould Merzoug, is the President-in-Office of the INBO.

The Assembly followed the Liaison Bureau Meeting, where the progress report of the Executive Secretary, the financial report as well as the supposed Plan of Activities for the period to 2015 were listened to.

The official opening of the Assembly took place on August 13, and the welcoming addresses of the President of the National Water Agency (ANA) of Brazil, the President-in-Office, as well as presidents of all the regional networks were listened to. Prof. Dukhovny V.A. read out the welcoming address on behalf of Academician P. Polad-Zade, President of EECCA-NBO.

The morning meeting on August 14 started with the report “Water security in the world” of Prof. Benedito Braga, President of the World Water Council. It voiced concerns for various readiness degrees of countries and basins in the world to a growing water crisis. Ethiopia and Australia, Nepal and USA are located in similar geographic conditions, but degrees of their provision with infrastructure and their levels of resources management distinguish critically. In some countries, the situation with water security systems, which are often beyond the government view, is even

worse. Well-known that it is water security that determines productive, energy and social security, particularly in countries with a higher share of rural population. To this end, both governments and the public should pay their attention to water governance, creation and development of water potential, and this, in turn, as feedback, will impact sustainability of the natural complex. Mr. Benedito Braga paid a special attention to the problem of reservoirs. He strongly objected to popular belief that “dams create the dirty world”. The example of successful functioning of hydroengineering complexes is the largest hydroscheme Bkhakra Nangal in India, which irrigates 7 mln ha in several states and produces 2800 bln kW-hour of electric power. The problem is rooted not in dams but in skills at their management for the benefit of the whole basin, particularly taking into account interests of nature and agriculture. The main condition is availability of the political will of leaders of neighbouring countries and provinces. As a positive factor in global development of water management, the rapporteur mentioned strengthening MFO’s attention to significance of the water factor, and that had an effect on the growth of investments in water management, irrigated agriculture and hydropower industry starting since 2004.



The report on a state of water resources management and use in Brazil was delivered by Mr. Vicente Andreu Guillo, President of the National Water Agency (ANA) of Brazil. Water management in the country is a prerogative of the Federal Government that directly governs 12 river basins, which drastically distinguish with their high water content. Along with the Amazon River basin of very high water content, there are basins of extremely limited water contents, for instant the North-East Atlantic. 200 basin committees for rivers and tributaries, small sources function within

the basins, where planning of development and management policy is the main tool for them. At that, the Government affords ample scope to decentralized administrations, while counting on global involvement of all stakeholders. Local bodies consider social mobilization of water users and different interested entities as their main commitment. At the same time, the weakness of the committees is lack of well-prepared staff, as well as insufficient provision of facilities and mechanisms.

The Assembly listened to the report for 2010-2012 of Mr. Donzier, the Executive Secretary, and that of the Statutory Auditor, a presentation of the Director for Communication and Publication, as well as those of all regional networks.

Further discussions were held in form of round tables on the following issues:

- Adaptation to the effects of climate change and prevention of extreme phenomena of floods and droughts.
- Participation of local authorities, water users and the public, role of the basin committees.
- Management of transboundary rivers, lakes and aquifers.
- Financing of water management and of basin organizations

The results of the discussions provided the basis of the Assembly Declaration of Fortaleza.





At the “Transboundary waters” panel, Dr. Vadim Sokolov clearly emphasized the role of observance of UN 1992 and 1997 Water Conventions by all the neighboring countries. He provided examples of when non-observance of the Conventions damages much neighboring countries, by the example of the Syrdarya River. At that, he underlined harmfulness of tendencies for establishment of new regional Conventions and critical necessity for general accession to the UN 1992 and 1997 Conventions, and ensuring of public support and monitoring of observance of regulations in these documents. He condemned the aspiration of some countries within the upper catchments not to accede to these Conventions but draw up a special regional convention. Simultaneously, the following example provided by the Minister of Botswana is of interest: having acceded to the UN Convention, all the countries within one basin specified the tying its principles to their basin conditions through signing of a special protocol for application of the Convention.

The panel discussion on financial issues showed complexity of their solutions in the global practice and rather various approaches. In Brazil, for instant, the greatest contribution to financing of the basin organizations is given by HPPs, which receive most income from water use. Water supply and irrigation use cross subsidies, which amounts are approved by the Parliament. In Lesotho, hydropower companies allot 50% of their profits to water management. In France, all water users pay single-rate charges for water as a resource regardless of a consuming sector. In France, as well as in the whole Europe, “polluter-pays” (charges for pollution) present the most complexity because of difficulty in identifying who and in what extent pollutes a watercourse. The way out is to establish “polluter-pays” by municipalities, within areas of which pollution takes place, and thus, a source of and a person responsible for pollution are identified by municipalities within their mandates. Italian regulations are oriented to preventive construction of treatment, erosion-preventive and collector-

drainage facilities with use of public contributions proportionally to water amount used. Those contributions include funds for protective belts and forest plantation. In Argentina, financing of expenditures for water management is regulated based on needs as primary ones by the Parliament, which clearly regulates allocation of contributions between different sector ministries, municipalities and water users themselves, while supervising implementation of this system. Central and South Africa is characterized with big problems with financing of expenditures for water management, and therefore putting an effect on a state of waterworks facilities and the situation with water use. Here, a burden of water supply bears mainly on donors.

On August 15, the final meeting was held where the INBO World Presidency was transferred from Senegal to Brazil. Mr. Lupercio Zirolto Antonio was elected as the INBO World President for the following three years. The General Assembly also approved the “Declaration of Fortaleza”.

The foundation of the “Declaration of Fortaleza”

1. Floods, droughts, water-borne diseases, pollution, wastage and destruction of aquatic ecosystems: in many countries in the world, the seriousness of the situation requires the implementation of a comprehensive, consistent and integrated water resources management, focusing on upstream and downstream solidarity between all countries and all users.

2. IWRM at basin level is important for everyone. Water does not have administrative and national boundaries. Though the first experiments in integrated river basin management were carried out more than fifty years ago and have many advantages, all the problems cannot be solved overnight.

3. At first, basin management should be based on integrated information systems, knowledge hub on resources and their uses, needs, polluting pressures, risk management, definition of short- and long-term forecasts. They should be impartially accessible to all users, equally as water managers and decision-makers.

4. Basin management plans or master plans and schemes for Complex Water Resources Use and Conservation, development measures, established through dialogue with all the stakeholders, should identify boundaries and time-frames for implementing different measures on development, including required amount of capital investments. As the experience of the European countries shows, these plans should include all water types, take particularly into account the effects of climate change, need for restoration of hydro-morphology of rivers, including restoration of wetlands, migratory fishways, as well as future buffer grass and forested strips along watercourses.

5. Conditions of financing of water resources management and the water organizations development must be guaranteed regarding combined state and private investments, tariff systems and the application of the “polluter pays” principles, taking into account cross-sectoral subsidies among all categories of users.

6. Active participation in decision-making of the local authorities concerned,

including municipalities, representatives of different categories of users and associations for environmental protection or of public interest should be organized and combined with decisions at governmental, regional and local levels.

9th WORLD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE INTERNATIONAL NETWORK OF BASIN ORGANIZATIONS FINAL RESOLUTIONS

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

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

The Assembly gathered 285 delegates, representing the Member Organizations, water administrations or observers from 46 Countries, as well as the representatives of several interested bi or multilateral organizations and International Commissions or Authorities for transboundary basins.

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

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

The Assembly renewed its thanks to the French Authorities for their financial support to the Permanent Technical Secretariat since 1994, as well as to the Basin Organizations and Government of all the Countries having supported financially the regional technical secretariats or organized Assemblies or Bureaus of INBO, ANBO, MENBO, LANBO, CEENBO, NANBO and EECCA-NBO, as well as of the "EUROPE-INBO" Group, especially Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada – Quebec, China,

Colombia, France, Georgia, Lebanon, Panama, Portugal, Romania, the Russian Federation, Senegal (OMVS), Spain, Turkey, etc, since last General Assembly in Dakar (Senegal).

Organizations, approved, according to the statutes of the Network, the following decisions:

A - STATUTORY DECISIONS

A1 - ELECTION OF THE PRESIDENT

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

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

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

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

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

A2 – COMPOSITION OF THE LIAISON BUREAU

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

A3 – MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The Assembly also renewed the International Office for Water's mission for a new four-year 2013-2016 period, for carrying out the tasks of the Network's

Permanent Technical Secretariat according to the Convention signed in December 2003 between INBO and IOWater.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The delegates reminded the Member-Organizations that the payment of this subscription fee is important to develop the Network's activities and requested that the members pay their fee promptly or inform the Liaison Bureau of any encountered difficulties.

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

A6 – STRENGTHENING COMMUNICATION AND THE EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION

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

development of the Regional Networks.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Using these real and successful experiences, INBO will get involved and support any initiative that would lead to the setting up, in the long term, of Water Information and Documentation Systems promoting the sharing and access to reliable, updated and consistent data among interested Countries, either at the regional level or

at transboundary basin level, especially within actions supported for this purpose by the Secretariat of the Convention on international waters of the UN Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE), but also in federal countries encountering the same problems or for the development of Water Information Systems at the national or basin level.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

B - PROGRESS REPORTS OF THE REGIONAL NETWORKS

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

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

place in November 2011 in Panama.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

the European Water Directors and the European Commission in November 2008.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

on "Cooperation and Peace" of the last World Water Forum in Marseilles in March 2012.

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

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

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

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

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

C - INBO MULTI-YEAR ACTION PLAN

It was reminded that the previous INBO General Assemblies of ZAKOPANE and QUEBEC had approved the overall framework of the Associated Program "assistance with the creation and development of basin organizations over the world" jointly prepared by GWP and INBO. This program was the subject of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed by INBO and GWP in June 2003.

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

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

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

The Assembly 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.

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

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

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

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

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

CI – NEW INITIATIVES AND PARTNERSHIPS

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

The main idea of this project is to organize international meetings between

members of Basin Committees on the topic "Rivers for Men" in order to strengthen the exchange of experiences on the role and importance of culture and human activities in river basin management, including support to the "National Water Dialogues".

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The General Assembly accepted the invitation of the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP) to INBO to be a partner and participate in the "1st

International Environment Forum for Basin Organizations" to be held in Bangkok, Thailand, from 26 to 28 November 2014, as the first initiative had to be canceled in 2012 due to floods.

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

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

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

D - INBO INVOLVEMENT IN THE 7th WORLD WATER FORUM

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

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

The General Assembly proposed to the organizers of the 7th World Water Forum that INBO organizes preparatory work on adaptation to climate change in the basins as well as on the "creation and strengthening of Basin Organizations for Integrated Water Resources Management and transboundary cooperation over the World" in collaboration with all the other relevant and representative organizations

concerned, such as UNESCO, UNCCD and UNECE, the GEF, Green Cross International, TNC, IUCN, WWF and others.

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

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

E - APPROVAL OF THE "DECLARATION OF FORTALEZA"

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

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

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

F - NEXT GENERAL ASSEMBLY IN 2016

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

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

The Final Declaration, photographs and presentations are published on the website: www.inbo-news.org

Approved in Fortaleza – Brazil on 15 August 2013.

List of the 46 represented countries:

ALGERIA, ARGENTINA, BELGIUM, BOLIVIA, BOTSWANA, BRAZIL, BULGARIA, BURKINA FASO, CAMBODIA, CAMEROON, CANADA, CHAD, COLOMBIA, DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO, ESTONIA, FINLAND, FRANCE, GERMANY, GHANA, GUINEA, GUYANA, INDIA, ISRAEL, ITALY, KAZAKHSTAN, KENYA, LAO PDR, LESOTHO, MALI, MOROCCO, MEXICO, MOZAMBIQUE, THE NETHERLANDS, NIGER, PANAMA, PORTUGAL, ROMANIA, RUSSIA, SENEGAL, SPAIN, SWITZERLAND, TOGO, TURKEY, URUGUAY, USA, UZBEKISTAN.

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