



PRESS RELEASE

COP22: The Action Agenda creates a Day dedicated to water and climate issues to support the implementation of the Paris Agreement and promote Climate Justice

Marrakech, Morocco, 9 Nov 2016 – Organized for the first time in the history of the COP, the full official Action Day for Water created through the Global Climate Action Agenda aims to call more attention to water as providing solutions for the implementation of the Paris Agreement.

Indeed, countries have identified water as a key to adaptation in 93% of their Intended Nationally Determined Contributions (INDCs) to the UNFCCC Framework. As water is fundamental for food security, human health, energy production, industrial productivity, biodiversity, in addition to basic human needs and its availability, ensuring water security means ensuring security in all these domains.

In addition, water is critical for successful climate change mitigation, as many efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions depend on reliable access to water resources.

Systematically addressing these challenges is, therefore, key to adapting to climate change and reducing the negative impacts of water-related disasters.

As part of the Global Climate Action Agenda – GCAA (successor of the Lima-Paris Action Agenda – LPAA), **the International Network of Basin Organizations (INBO)** was designated by the two climate champions, the Environment Minister of the Kingdom of Morocco, Ms. Hakima El Haite, and the French Ambassador for the negotiations on climate change, Ms. Laurence Tubiana, as facilitator of the official events dedicated to water and climate, in partnership with the WWC and the Moroccan Delegate Ministry in charge of water.

Two official events have been organized on 9 November: a **"Water Showcase"**, in the morning, dedicated to promoting practical initiatives and a **"Water Dialogue"**, in the afternoon, built as a high-level debate on major water and climate policy issues.

On this occasion, the **"Blue Book on Water and Climate"** was launched by the Moroccan Government and its partners as a concrete outcome of its interim International Conference on Water and Climate, hosted in Rabat in July 2016, in cooperation with the Government of France, INBO and the WWC.

The publication collects the orientations and recommendations brought forth by the international water community to support the implementation of climate commitments, and proposes a variety of concrete and applicable solutions related to adaptation and resilience through water management.

"This aligns perfectly with COP22, which is striving to be a COP for action!" remarked **Mrs. Charafat AFAILAL**, Minister Delegate in charge of Water in Morocco. "Now, we need to realize what is at stake, since water insecurity leads to increased conflicts, tension between populations, and also provokes migrations that threaten overall stability."

Climate justice is also a priority of the Water Action Day, as evidenced by the launching of the “Water for Africa” initiative, established by the Kingdom of Morocco and supported by the African Development Bank. This initiative aims to render justice to Africa through the adoption of a specific action plan that will mobilize different international political, financial and institutional partners to improve water and sanitation services and management in Africa, for those most affected by climate change.

In addition, the four “Alliances” (*) for basins (Paris Pact), megacities, desalinization and business, created at the COP21 in Paris and strongly engaged in water and climate action, which today represent more than 450 organizations worldwide, signed a common commitment to mobilize jointly their partners, identify and disseminate good practices and support the development of new projects by actors on the ground engaged in adaptation and resilience of the water sector.

These “Alliances” reported, in particular, during the Water Showcase on the positive progresses made with the Flagship Projects on water adaptation launched at the COP21, such as the Hydrological information system of the transboundary Congo River, the integrated management of the Hai River in China, the strengthening of the new Mexico Metropolitan Organization for Urban flooding drainage or the “Eco-cuenca” Climate adapt cooperation project between European and Andean countries and on new adaptation projects announced at COP22 Water day, for example, the Sebou River management in Morocco, the creation of the Water Adapt Training Center in Brasilia or the future use of the SWOT satellite for Hydrological observations, inter alia”.

“Adaptation of water resources to climate change must be organized at the natural level of national or transboundary basins of Rivers, lakes and aquifers, where water is flowing from up-stream to down-stream, and mobilize all actors in the field, including local authorities, economic sectors and civil society, to achieve, through dialogue and in due time, a common vision to face the climate change challenges”, said **Mr. Roberto RAMIREZ de la PARRA**, President of the International Network of Basin Organizations.

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1. The Alliance of the 357 signatories of [the Paris Pact on water and adaptation to climate change in the basins of rivers, lakes and aquifers](#), in 94 Countries, facilitated by INBO in partnership with UNECE,
2. [The Business Alliance for Water And Climate Change - BAFWAC](#), launched by the Carbon Disclosure Project - CDP, the CEO Water Mandate, the World Business Council for Sustainable Development and SUEZ, which has now 44 member organizations, including 30 leading companies,
3. [The Alliance of Megacities for Water and Climate](#), facilitated by UNESCO, ICLEI, SIAAP and Arceau-IDF, gathering 16 Megacities for a total population of 300 million inhabitants

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