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**WATER ACTION DAY**  
High-Level engagement on water and climate  
Report

**Provisional draft working paper**

**DATE**

**14 November 2017**

**From the Water Action Day Content Group to the Champions**

1. Provide up to three short-term (2018) and up to three mid-term (2020) priority actions that could have significant impact and deliver concrete results that are aligned with the long-term aims of the Paris Agreement and that could feed into the 2018 Facilitative Dialogue.

[Half-page. These would then be captured and the [Impact and Priority Tracker](#) would be revised accordingly]

### **Short-term 2018**

1. In the context of the **Marrakech Partnership**, enhance collaboration between the Water and Climate communities through the mechanism of transparency on adaptation, the Facilitative Dialogue in the perspective of the NDC's revision, and the Adaptation Committee, and by promoting existing projects on the ground. This will be attained by an enhanced and continued multi-stakeholder and multi-sectoral dialogue and engagement including:
  - 1.1 supporting and engaging in MPCGA non-state actor mechanism, the Water Day and other action days and focus groups in upcoming CoPs.
  - 1.2 raising awareness, brokering and leveraging partnerships and cross-collaboration through the organization of high level panels, conferences, workshops and activities during the 8<sup>th</sup> World Water Forum in Brasilia in March, World Water Week 2018 (August), the 3<sup>rd</sup> International Conference on Water and Climate Change and through Global Alliances for Water and Climate (GafWaC) and #ClimatelsWater (not exhaustive).
  - 1.3 drawing attention to vulnerable populations, in particular women, indigenous groups, and the urban & rural poor by engaging the Gender work streams and the Indigenous platform of UNFCCC and mainstreaming their research and recommendations.
  - 1.4 continued engagement of the water and agricultural community in order to reach sustainable water management and consumption in agriculture and food production processes by partnering up with FAO and contributing to the Framework on Water Scarcity in Agriculture in order to address adaptation and mitigation objectives.



## **2. Global Alliances for Water and Climate – GafWaC - actions of alliances:**

- 2.1 Increase the number of organization participating in the Transboundary Basins Platform to implement adaptation measures (under aegis of UNECE- UNESCO and INBO) and disseminate the cases in order to enhance implementation
- 2.2 Dissemination in all the Latin American Countries of the lessons learned in the framework of the pilot project “Eco cuencas” testing economical instruments to facilitate adaptation in national and transboundary basins.
- 2.3 Support the new Latin America training center, created in 2017 in Brasilia, in launching in 2018 its first catalogue of training courses on adaptation measures to be implemented at basin level to prevent and protect against floods and droughts and develop training tools such as two new manuals for broadly disseminating new useful knowledge to all basins’ actors in adaptation projects.
- 2.4 The Megacities Alliance for Water and Climate (MAWC) will open an access GIS based database regrouping information at Megacities level on water (resources, services, policies etc.), on urban data (population, policies, land use), climate, and any other relevant information is under preparation and will be implemented on UNESCO-IHP WINS platform, such as a portfolio of [ongoing water cooperation projects existing between Megacities of the Alliance](#). In 2018, MAWC will also organize an international conference on "Megacities and sea level rise: risks and adaptation strategies" in New York.
- 2.5 Launch of the BAFWAC collaborative peer learning platform to facilitate exchange of experiences between its actual 47 business firms Members (650 M\$ cumulative revenues) and reinforce the new Italian national section and the previous one also created in Morocco as part of the COALMA.
- 2.6 Enlarge the International River Basin Agreement to mitigate climate risk by achieving food and agriculture security and increase the number of food - producing river Basins sustaining this agreement.
- 2.7 In 2018, create a network of basin Committees and Commissions members (Aquamadre-Net) in order to reinforce the intersectoral cooperation and exchange of experiences between field stakeholders representing local authorities, economic sectors and the civil society involved in basin management for adaptation to the effects of climate changes.
- 2.8 Promote the GAFWaC Incubation Platform to facilitate the preparation of better water adaptation projects in order to fulfil donors’ requirements and advocate for greater consideration of both infrastructure projects as well as projects that create and strengthen governance institutions and tools adapted to new situations created by climate change in both transboundary and national basins.



- 2.9 Follow-up of the implementation of the flagship projects initiated at COP21 and finance the first 6 projects incubated in 2017 and facilitate their implementation in the concerned basins and allow this experience to continue with 6 new projects to be incubated in 2018.
- 2.10 The Ministry of Environment of Italy, following the International Summit of Rome on Water and Climate, pledged to finance a second phase of the Incubation Platform and the implementation of three projects incubated in 2017 for the transboundary basins of the Senegal River, of the Sava River and of the Congo River.

## Mid-term 2020

1. Work with Parties and their implementing partners to support action on water in order to review their NDC's and delivery targets identified in NDCs and NAPs. These include:
  - a. cross-sector cooperation
  - b. transboundary and basin-level cooperation
  - c. disaster preparedness and resilience
  - d. Joint management of surface and ground water
  - e. Reinforcing linkages between national and local-level decision making and supporting the prioritization of water for urban resilience and agriculture water efficiency.
  - f. Creation and strengthening of regional, transboundary, national and basin Water Information Systems to forecast the effect of climate change on water resources and extreme phenomenons and design best adaptation measure
  - g. Harmonizing efforts with the 2030 Development Agenda
  - h. Work to support enabling mechanisms through project development and capacity groups such as the NDCP to ensure that water-intensive investments are robust and flexible to deal with uncertainty in climate impacts and reflect emerging best practices
  - i. Develop a bilateral, multilateral and NGO team to provide technical support for NAP implementation and planning for resilient integrated resource water planning and management.
  - j. Work with groups such as LAKI, Adaptation Network for Climate resilience, and the Nairobi Work Programme to ensure that these channels are reaching out to and recommending effective water resilient mechanisms for both technical and non-technical audiences and targets.
  - k. Seeking mechanisms and processes within existing UNFCCC initiatives such as Loss and Damage and the SBSTA to ensure that water-risks are assessed and reduced and cross-sectoral integration and commitments related to water are considered through UNFCCC institutions and processes.



2. Continue to support specific attention and action for Africa, including:
  - a. Water for Africa initiative
  - b. Water and Energy hub
  - c. Work to establish regional knowledge hubs to share technical and non-technical expertise and examples on resilient water knowledge.
  
3. Increase water-sound climate Financing, including through:
  - a. Working with a broad spectrum of finance institutions, including but not limited to climate finance, to ensure that mechanisms are in place for water-intensive investments to use resilient water resources management in order to support the implementation of the NDC's. Target partners would include the Green Climate Fund, GEF, and global and regional development banks.
  - b. Working with private sector funding sources and investor representative groups to ensure that water-climate risks are effectively represented within existing and emerging water-intensive investment
  - c. Facilitating access to climate finance for better governance as well for new field projects initiated by non-state actors (i.e. cities, regions, national or transboundary basin organizations, economic actors, NGOs...), whose actions are essential to achieve the objectives of the Paris Agreement, and introduce new innovating financial mechanisms such as Blue Bond, payment for ecologic services, users-polluters pay systems or public-private partnerships. .

## 2. Identify new initiatives or commitments on climate action announced at COP 23.

**Nature-based solutions Declaration:** Promote the Declaration on Nature Based Solutions and increase the number of signatories organizations. Support the dissemination of case studies and best practices to all stakeholders interested, mainly passing by new training courses dedicated to decision makers and water users and dissemination of good practices. Specifically call for NBS in adaptation finance guidance — and support, in complementarity with grey solutions, the development of green and hybrid solutions for increasing the resilience of the territories to climate risks, protecting biodiversity and soils and developing safe drinking water, food security, human health, land degradation neutrality and sustainable cities. Working a broad set of state and non-state actors to create mechanisms to ensure that the broader ecological landscape can be formally included in water resources management through nature-based solutions. Recognize that environmental water-related resources are stakeholders.

**The Megacities Alliance for Water and Climate (MAWC)** has committed to organized a second edition of the international conference on “Water, Megacities and Climate Change” in 2019 called “EAUMEGA2019” and will organize the launch of Regional platforms in order to facilitate membership of new City Members and support them to envisage their water adaptation strategies.

**Business Alliance For Water And Climate (BAWaC) operational objective:** Achieving 100 firms’ signatories by 2020 representing \$1 trillion revenues who pledge to reduce their water footprint in order to implement adaptation and mitigation results.



Marrakech  
Partnership



**The Global Clean Water Desalination Alliance (GCWDA)** will establish an inventory of all desalination plants, outline how to accelerate clean desalination and identify barriers (regulatory, financial, RD&D needs) to progress in clean desalination. It will develop a roadmap 2018 – 2035 for clean energy desalination. The GCWDA has also pledged to add an additional investment of US\$100 million annually in order to develop innovative solutions to increasing energy efficiency, renewable energy use, and promoting the development, demonstration and training of new low-carbon desalination technologies. It starts to formulate a trust fund which will enable its members to accomplish their planned tasks.

**Youth Water and Climate initiative.** Work with universities and regional and global professional organizations to establish resource platforms to mainstream emerging best practices and support to upscale water resilience projects. Support youth organizations in their action to implement adaptation and mitigation measures, reinforce the capacities of youth and enable them to take part in dialogue sessions so that their voices may be heard.

**Water Resilience Framework for Cities** - develop and implement a pilot approach to working with global cities building on the City Resilience Index

Establish an integrated **Source to Sea governance** in conformity with the SDG's and reinforce sciences (notably social and human)-policy dialogues in the objective to address the upstream and downstream activities in a holistic manner.

The **Climate and Water International Summit**, under the auspice of the Ministry of Environment of Italy, will be organized every three years: Next edition 2020 in Rome. It will mobilize each 3 years the main transboundary rivers of the world to follow the implementation of their water adaptation basin management plans.