

World Water Council

5th Forum Update
16 October 2007

Please find below an update of the situation regarding the preparation of the 5th World Water Forum.

Situation in Turkey

After a few months of uncertainty, the political situation has stabilised with a new Government announced roughly one month ago. After being elected to the Parliament, Professor Eroglu has been appointed Minister of Environment and Forestry. Subsequently, Professor Eroglu has appointed Prof. Hasan Suhuri Sarikaya as co-chair of the ISC of the Forum.

We have received confirmation of the commitment of the new Turkish Government for the Forum preparation. This commitment was made official when Prime Minister Erdogan invited his peers to the Forum in Istanbul during the last UN General Assembly in New York.

Progress in the organisation of the Forum

Programme Committee

The thematic framework of the Forum following the pyramidal structure on themes & topics was validated in Stockholm (see Annex). The Committee anticipates that sessions will be organised based principally on a model of interactive roundtable discussions around a series of specific questions that are central to each topic.

The next steps include:

- Establishment of consortia of thematic coordinators: this is the main purpose of our next meeting in Istanbul on the 5 and 6 of November, to which you are invited and for which you will find a number of important documents here-attached;
- These consortia will create workplans on how to further develop each theme and involve a wider constituency of organisations to represent differing perspectives;
- Further elaboration of the regional processes and of their linkages with the thematic process;
- Continued input to and from the other committees;
- Definition of a list of key questions on which sessions can be based.

Political Process Committee

In Stockholm, a major breakthrough was achieved in that an agreement was reached with the Turkish Ministry of Foreign Affairs on two basic principles of the political process:

1. There will be a joint process where National Governments, Local Governments and Parliamentarians will interact; this process should lead to a common product still to be defined
2. In order to be concrete, the political process will focus on one important topic that should revolve around the topic "adaptation of water management to climate change."

Moreover, the Committee agreed to the principle of establishing a Focus Group of politicians willing to contribute to the elaboration of the process. A preliminary brainstorming session involving a smaller group of these politicians is being organised in mid-November in order to prepare the framework of the process, including objectives, tentative outputs and related timeline. After validation by the Committee, this framework will then be submitted to the

larger Focus Group and the ISC. Any suggestion from the Governors of Politicians to involve in the process would be welcome.

In addition, the WWC and the 5th Forum Secretariat are working closely together to bring forth inputs to the 5th Forum from UCLG's Second World Congress in October in Korea and from the Asia-Pacific Water Summit in December in Japan, where side events are both planned.

Communication Committee

So far, the main task has been the preparation of the First Announcement, which is currently available on both the Council website and the Forum website. The First Announcement was released during a side event at the Stockholm World Water Week, which was massively attended. A "Public Service Announcement" has also been prepared by IUCN and should be aired by the BBC in the coming months. Finally, the committee is preparing a list of Frequently Asked Questions relative to the Forum, so that everyone involved may supply a similar response when questioned about the Forum.

Secretariat and Logistics

One of the main difficulties encountered in the past months is related to the funding of the 5th Forum Secretariat in Turkey, which is growing and which has been furnished with very good facilities by DSI in Istanbul. However, it is not yet a legal entity, which makes its receiving and spending money difficult. A law is being prepared for the Parliament, which should be passed in the coming months. In accordance with past agreements, however, the Council has received the appropriate amounts of funding agreed upon to date from DSI.

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A solution has been found with the help of the Istanbul Metropolitan Municipality through the delegation of a number of activities to a consortium of PCOs (Professional Conference Organisers). This consortium is currently being selected following a call for tender launched by the municipality, which required a great deal of work to prepare a bid document on all aspects of the Forum. Through this process, a significant payment will be made to the Secretariat to enable its proper functioning.

Pending validation of the ISC, the following prices have been proposed for the 5th Forum Registration Fees:

Category/Type	Early-Bird (Non-WWC members)	Early-bird (WWC members)	On-site (Non-WWC members)	On-site (WWC members)
Developed Countries/UN	800€	600€	1,000€	800€
Developing Countries	480€	360€	600€	480€
Least Developed Countries	320€	240€	400€	320€
Students	80€	60€	100€	80€
Group registration	720€	720€	1,000€	1,000€
3-day registration	400€	300€	500€	400€
1-day registration	160€	120€	200€	160€

Cost to visitors to the Fair/Expo: 5€

In addition, one of the important activities carried out by the HQs in Marseille is the preparation of an IT platform for the preparation of the Forum (also in the tender). The specifications of this IT platform are being developed closely with the Secretariat.

Regarding the staff of the HQs the following changes occurred:

- Danielle Gaillard-Picher is now our Forum Coordinator. She is in charge of facilitating the preparatory work and processes of the 3 committees and ensuring an overall coordination between Turkey and the Council.
- Colin Herron has been hired jointly by the Council and the Secretariat. He is in charge of facilitating the coordination especially for logistical aspects of the Forum preparation (IT platform for instance) and will transmit his experience of past Fora to the Secretariat.
- Michelle Fezzani-Slater has recently joined the team in Marseilles. She will be involved primarily in institutional relations with Bureau and the Board.

New Extranet

The WWC HQ is working on a new Extranet that should be operational before the end of this year. Specific news for members and Governors will be available regularly when this tool is up and running. One part of it will be dedicated for use by the Forum Committees.

ANNEXE I - PROGRAMME FRAMEWORK

Topic	Theme	Issue	Aim
Adapting to climate change: understanding the impact of climate change, vulnerability assessments and adaptation measures	Global Changes & Risk Management	Providing water for sustainable development	Bridging Divides for Water
Water, changing land uses and mitigating impacts of migration and human settlements.			
Water related hazards and water in disaster areas – mitigating impacts			
Ensuring water, sanitation and hygiene for all <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ensuring adequate infrastructure protecting public health in the near term 	Advancing Human Development and the MDGs		
Water for energy and energy for water			
Water and agriculture for ending poverty and hunger			
Optimizing multiple uses of water systems e.g. water supply and irrigation.			
Basin Management and Trans-boundary water cooperation: institutional frameworks and benefit sharing	Managing and protecting water resources to meet human and environmental needs		
Ensuring adequate water resources and storage infrastructure to meet rural, urban and energy needs			
Preserving natural ecosystems in catchments and coastal zones			
Managing and protecting surface, ground and rainwater			
Implementing the Right to Water and Sanitation for improved access	Governance and management		
Improving performance of water service provision through regulatory approaches			
Elevating ethics, transparency, and empowerment of stakeholders in water services management.			
Optimizing public and private roles in water services.			
Institutional arrangements for efficient and effective water management			
Sustainable means of financing local water authorities and systems.	Finance	Enabling Mechanisms for development	
Pricing strategies to ensure fairness and sustainability in water service delivery			
Pro-poor financing policies and strategies to enhance access to water and sanitation			
Education and capacity-building strategies for sustainable water use and service provision.	Education, Knowledge and Capacity Building		
Water science and technology: appropriate and innovative solutions for the 21 st Century			
Using professional networks and associations to strengthen the water sector			