



**RESEAU INTERNATIONAL DES ORGANISMES DE BASSIN
INTERNATIONAL NETWORK OF BASIN ORGANIZATIONS
RED INTERNACIONAL DE ORGANISMOS DE CUENCA**

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY
DEBRECEN (HUNGARY)
7 – 9 JUNE 2007**

FINAL VERSION

FINAL RESOLUTIONS

The 2007 statutory General Assembly of the International Network of Basin Organizations took place in Debrecen en Hungary from 7 to 9 June 2007 at the invitation of the Hungarian Ministry and Regional Directorates of the Environment and Water.

The meeting was held under the auspices of His Excellency the President of the Hungarian Republic and honored with the presence of Dr. Miklos VARGA, Hungarian State Secretary for the Environment and Water.

The Assembly gathered 217 delegates who represented the Member Organizations, water administrations or observers from 46 Countries, as well as representatives from several interested multilateral institutions and International Commissions or Authorities of transboundary basins.

The delegates thanked the Hungarian Ministry and Regional Directorates of the Environment and Water and the City of Debrecen for their warm welcome and the perfect organization of their Assembly and for the quality of the documentation distributed.

They however regretted that many other delegates, who had been registered to participate in the General Assembly, could not join them in Hungary, for not having been able to obtain the necessary entry visa within the deadlines.

The Assembly renewed its thanks to the French Authorities for their financial support to the Secretariat since 1994, as well as to the Basin Organizations and Governmental Authorities of all the countries, Belgium – Walloon Region, Czech Republic, France, Hungary, Morocco, Mexico, Poland, Romania, Saint Vincent, Senegal, South Africa, Turkey, for having organized INBO, ANBO, MENBO, LANBO and CEENBO Assemblies or Bureaus, and those of the Network of International Commissions and Transboundary Basin Organizations since last General Assembly in the Martinique.

The General Assembly, in the unanimous vote of the represented Member-Organizations, approved, within the statutes of the Network, the following decisions:

A - STATUTORY DECISIONS

A1 - ELECTION OF THE PRESIDENT

The Assembly congratulated the French Authorities and those of the Martinique, and in particular **Mrs. Madeleine Jouye de Grandmaison**, President of the Martinique Basin Committee, for the way they have fulfilled INBO world Presidency since the General Assembly in Trois Ilets in January 2004.

Upon the proposal of the Hungarian Member-Organizations, the Assembly unanimously nominated **Mr. László Kóthay, Director of Trans-Tisza Environment and Water (TIKÓVIZIG)**, as the **new INBO world President** until next General Assembly, which will be held in Spring 2010, due to the World Water Forum taking place in Istanbul in 2009.

The Assembly unanimously awarded the title of « INBO honorary expert », for services rendered to the Network, to **Mrs. Madeleine Jouye de Grandmaison, Messrs. Kalman PAPP, Juan José MORAGUES and Florian STADIU**.

The Assembly made a point of honoring the memory of Mr. STADIU, founder member of INBO, unfortunately deceased this 8 June in the morning in Romania.

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: (see ANNEX 1)

The General Assembly empowered the Liaison Bureau for designating, should the case arise, new members proposed by the Regional Networks of North America, Asia or of Russian-speaking Countries when finally created or consolidated.

In addition:

Mrs. Madeleine Jouye de Grandmaison (France) and **Mr. Pierre BARIL, Deputy Sub-Minister for Water** in Quebec are ex-officio members of the Bureau as former Presidents, and **Mr. Salem Ould Merzoug (OMVS) and Mr. José Machado (Brazil)**, as **next Presidents in 2010 and 2013**, as well as **Mr. Jean-François DONZIER**, who represents the Permanent Technical Secretariat in the Liaison Bureau, **Mr. Oscar de Moraes Cordeiro Netto for the provisional Secretariat of RELOC**, **Mr. Luiz Firmino Pereira for REBOB**, **Mrs. Daniela RADULESCU** for CEENBO, **Mr. Adama SANOGO** for ANBO and **Mr. Teodoro ESTRELA MONREAL** for MENBO.

The Presidents and Secretaries of the Networks of North America and Russian-speaking Countries will join the Bureau when nominated.

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

One representative of GWP, of the World Water Council and the Secretary General of the Organization Committee of the 5th World Water Forum in Istanbul will also be invited to the Liaison Bureau meetings as well as representatives of the United Nations Agencies, executing water-related programs associating INBO, of the European Commission, OECD or OSCE.

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

The next meetings of the Liaison Bureau 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 multi-year Action Plan.

This Committee is composed of some members, who will be designated by the new Bureau among its members during its next meeting, in addition to the current President, the two former Presidents, the next President and the Secretaries of INBO and of the Regional Networks.

A4 - APPROBATION OF THE 2004 – 2005 – 2006 ACCOUNTS OF INBO AND OF THE 2007 BUDGET ESTIMATE FOR THE PERMANENT TECHNICAL SECRETARIAT

The delegates examined INBO progress report and accounts, regarding its direct income and expenditure in years 2004, 2005 and 2006.

They heard the official report of Mr. Henri Limouzineau, Statutory Auditor of KPMG, who certified that the accounts were reliable and true.

Consequently, they approved the financial statement at 12/31/2006 and the profit and loss statements for 2004, 2005 and 2006 and decided to allocate the positive result to the new budget.

They approved the cost estimates for the PTS for fiscal year 2007 and empowered the World Liaison Bureau for approving the cost estimates for 2008 and 2009 and INBO final accounts for 2007 and 2008 at the end of the fiscal years. Those will be subsequently presented to the next 2010 General Assembly for their 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 multi-year Action Plan or in multilateral programs. PST 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 the corresponding contracts on behalf of the President, should these offers be retained and benefit from bi- or multilateral financing. PTS will regularly report to the World Liaison Bureau.

It is to be reminded that, within this framework, PTS has already signed audit agreements, on behalf of INBO, with the World Bank for the Niger Basin Authority and the Mahawelli Authority of Sri Lanka and with the European Commission for the TWINBASIN, WFD-Community and IWRM-Net, INECO or MELIA projects. This should be continued, especially for AWIS or « Performance Indicators » with LANBO on financing from the European Water Facility and British and French cooperation agencies.

The Assembly also renewed the International Office for Water in its mission for carrying out the tasks of the Network's Permanent Technical Secretariat for a new 4-year period, within the agreement signed by INBO and IOWater in December 2003.

A5 – SUBSCRIPTION FEES FOR 2007, 2008 and 2009

Only 40 Members Organizations paid their contribution in 2006 and 34 had done so in 2005, because most members indicated that they encounter difficulties either budgetary, or of public accounting rules, of currency exchange or modes of payment.

The PTS will study 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 US\$ 1,000 or Euro 1,000 for 2007, 2008 and 2009, as in 2006**, 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, decided to set a reasonable yearly subscription fee which would be 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 a special INBO bank account (in Euro and USD) at the « Société Générale » Bank in Grasse (France) to collect these dues. The payment of expenditures requires the agreement of the President of the Network or of a delegate Member of the World Liaison Bureau.

It was reminded that an independent Statutory Auditor was designated to examine INBO accounts. The General Assembly confirmed the designation of KPMG – Mr Henri Limouzineau as incumbent Auditor and Mr Lambert as substitute - as Statutory Auditor for a six-year mandate, starting in 2004, according to French legislation. This mandate will have to be renewed by the 2010 General Assembly.

The General Assembly asked the PTS, under the control of the Liaison Bureau, to draw up an updated list of the Members Organizations and permanent observers in order to clarify the statute of the various organizations which wish to participate in INBO events and activities.

A6 – STRENGTHENING DIALOGUE, 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, regarding its activities and its international recognition, especially within the framework of its Associated Program with GWP, which later became INBO multi-year Action Plan, in the 3rd and 4th World Water Forums of Kyoto and Mexico and in the creation and development of Regional Networks.

The Assembly was pleased with the unquestionable success of the « **INBO 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 2007, 2008 and 2009.

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 « **E-INBO electronic newsletter** ».

It requested the PTS to continue directing the « **virtual discussion forum** » on the WEB, especially on priority topics for the creation and strengthening of Basin Organizations over the world:

- ⇒ « Financing of Basin Organizations »;
- ⇒ « Management plans and basin action plans »;
- ⇒ « Integrated information and monitoring systems »;
- ⇒ « Participation of users in sustainable water resource management »
- ⇒ « Management of transboundary rivers »;
- ⇒ « Prevention of natural hazards and accidental risks »;
- ⇒ « Anticipation of the effect of the climate change »;
- ⇒ « Information needed for decision-making »;
- ⇒ « Relations of basin organizations with the administrations »;
- ⇒ « Protection of wetlands and groundwater ».

The implementation of the European Framework Directive is also a priority topic for the mobilization of the Network members concerned, within the enlarged European Union or in any other Country which would be interested.

The Assembly was pleased with the implementation of the cooperation agreement signed in Marrakech with EMWIS to disseminate information on basin management in the Mediterranean within MENBO, and with the AWIS project (African Water Information and Documentation System) supported by ANBO, which has just been launched with the financial support from France and the European Union in particular.

It proposes that, using real and successful experiences, INBO get involved and support all initiatives that would lead to the setting up, in the long term, of a consistent Worldwide Water Information and Documentation System, especially by planning the continuation of EMWIS in the Mediterranean and new developments in Latin America and Central Europe, in the Caucasus and Central Asia in particular, within the corresponding components of the European Water Initiative.

The Assembly adopted the recommendations presented at the end of **the five round tables** organized during this General Assembly of DEBRECEN to deal with the large following topics, which are strategic for the good implementation of river, lake and aquifer basin management:

- **Prevention and management of the extreme climate phenomena of floods and droughts,**
- **Transboundary basin management,**
- **Monitoring, monitoring networks, reporting, inter-calibration,**
- **Preparation of action plans for basin organizations and their financing, etc.**
- **Public and water users' participation.**

It mandated the President and PTS to ensure their wide dissemination to the Members and to the interested International Cooperation Organizations, especially with their publishing on the Network website.

B - PROGRESS REPORTS OF REGIONAL NETWORKS

The General Assembly was pleased with:

B1 – The prospect of restructuring the **Latin American Network of Basin Organizations – LANBO** in Latin America and with the dynamism shown by the Brazilian Network of Basin Organizations (REBOB). **LANBO Secretariat will be provisionally taken care of by ANA, under the responsibility of Oscar Cordeiro Netto, with the prospect of organizing the next general assembly before Summer 2008.**

B2 - The progress report of the **Central and Eastern European Network of Basin Organizations (CEENBO).**

CEENBO took the legal form of an association under Romanian law and its secretariat is carried out by the National Company APELE ROMANE.

Its President is **Mr. Petr KUBALA**, Director of Povodi Vltavy – Czech Republic and its Secretary is **Mrs. Daniela RADULESCU.**

CEENBO's provisional work program focuses on the implementation of the European Framework Directive in the region.

B3 - The progress report of the **African Network of Basin Organizations (ANBO)** after the last General Assembly held in Johannesburg in South Africa in March 2007.

The new President is **Mr. Jabulani SINDANE**, Director General of DWAF in South Africa and the secretary is **Mr. Adama SANOGO** of OMVS.

The Assembly particularly thanked **Mr. Ould ALY** of NBA for the way he has fulfilled ANBO presidency since its creation in Dakar in 2002.

B4 – The progress report of the **Mediterranean Network of Basin Organizations (MENBO)**, which took the legal form of an association under Spanish law and whose secretariat is carried out by the **JUCAR River Basin Authority.**

The President is **Mr. MOHAMED ELYAZGHI**, Minister for Regional Planning, Water and the Environment of Morocco and the secretary is **Mr. Teodoro ESTRELA-MONTREAL**, from the Spanish Ministry of the Environment.

MENBO currently gathers 28 Members from 13 Mediterranean Countries. It leads various projects for supporting integrated water resources management and twinning agreements between its members in the Mediterranean Basin.

The next MENBO General Assembly will take place in Rome (Italy) on 8 and 9 November 2007, at the invitation of the Italian Authorities.

B5 – The progress report of the **Group of European Basin Organizations for the implementation of the Water Framework Directive « EUROPE – INBO »**, created within INBO after the international meeting of Valencia in November 2003, and which already held three plenary sessions in Krakow in Poland in Autumn 2004, in Namur in the Walloon Region in 2005 and in Megève in France in 2006.

The President is **Mr. Jacky COTTET**, President of the Rhone-Mediterranean and Corsica Basin Agency – France and the secretariat is taken care of by INBO PTS.

The next meeting will take place in Rome, Italy, on 8 and 9 November 2007.

B6 - The progress report of the **Network of International Commissions and Transboundary Basin Organizations**, two General Assemblies of which were held in November 2004 in DAKAR, at the invitation of OMVS, and in March 2007 in Johannesburg within ANBO General Assembly.

Indeed, the great number of transboundary rivers, lakes and aquifers throughout the world requires specific means to ensure their sustainable management.

The Constitutive Assembly of this Network took place in Thonon-les-Bains (France) on 25 and 26 November 2002, at the invitation of the International Commission for the Protection of Lemman Lake (CIPEL) and the Rhone-Mediterranean and Corsica Water Agency.

The Assembly underlined the significance of the European Water Framework Directive as well as of the United Nations Convention and Helsinki Convention for the management of shared waters.

It reminded that INBO, in partnership with several large NGOs concerned, especially drew the attention of the G8 Heads of State and Government to increase the means of International Cooperation in this field.

The President is **Mr. SALEM OULD MERZOUG**, High Commissioner of OMVS, the secretariat is taken care of by INBO PTS.

The OMVS High Commissioner invited INBO to hold its next world General Assembly in DAKAR in 1010. It will be the first time that such a GA is held in Africa.

B7 - It wished for more dynamic relations with the **Regional Network of Asian Basin Organizations (NARBO)**, created with the support from Japanese Cooperation and the Asian Development Bank.

B8 – It supports the initiative of creating a **Russian-Speaking Network of Basin Organizations**, in Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia, as well as a **Network of North American Basin Organizations (ROBAN)**, at the initiative of the Richelieu River Basin Committee – COVABAR.

The Assembly wishes that the constitutive assemblies of these two new networks be held as soon as possible, with PTS support.

INBO will participate as such in the ROBAN constitutive meeting planned for 15 and 16 September 2007 in Quebec.

In addition, INBO Member Organizations wish for a coordinated international initiative of the bi and multilateral donors which would focus Official Development Aid on **projects dealing with Integrated Water Resource Management (IWRM), based on the creation and strengthening of Basin Organizations**, especially after the decisions made at the G8 of Evian, and particularly support the **European Water Initiative (EUWI)**, especially regarding the African transboundary rivers and the corresponding components on basin management in the regional components for Latin America, the Mediterranean and the New Independent States (EECCA).

It reminded that INBO has been an official partner in this European initiative since its launching in Johannesburg in August 2002.

The President and PTS will propose to the European Commission and to the Member States, leaders of each component of this Initiative, that INBO plays a role in organizing and supporting the basin organizations and regional Networks concerned.

The Assembly also wished for closer relations between INBO Regional Networks and the corresponding « Regional Water Partnerships of GWP » (RWPs) in the same geographical areas, to jointly work to the implementation of Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) on the particularly suitable geographical scales, which are the 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.

A convention (MoU) was signed by INBO and GWP in June 2003 regarding this program.

More than 60 projects, meeting the conditions set by the Associated Program and coming from all the regions of the world, were received after the call for proposals sent by INBO Permanent Technical Secretariat, in close collaboration with the LANBO and CEENBO secretariats and with the regional « RWPs » of GWP.

Within the calls for proposals of the European Union, mentioned in the above § A4, INBO PTS had already presented significant offers in 2003 that resulted in financial agreements with the European Commission for projects, also co-financed by several bilateral cooperation agencies, such as TWINBASIN (objective 1. Twinning agreements), WFD-NET and IWRM-Net, « Indicators » or INECO and MELIA (objective 3. Training and Research), AWIS (objective 4.), etc.

INBO was also involved in the « WEST » (Water Economic Training) and « Rhine Network » (INTERREG) projects for the implementation of the Framework Directive.

As regards the World Bank, in addition to an enquiry involving the Basin Organizations, INBO was entrusted, via PTS, with audits of the Niger Basin Authority and the Mahawelli Authority in Sri Lanka.

Beyond that, the Assembly draws the attention of the bi and multilateral Cooperation Agencies to the interest of the projects included in this **INBO multi-year ACTION PLAN**, and wish that they can be financed as a priority within the 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 the basins.

Following the GWPO decision not to continue its involvement at the global level in the various Associated Programs, in which it was partner, the General Assembly wished a brain storming with the GWP on the methods for financing the practical actions of **INBO Action Plan**, which could be implemented, within the Memorandum, **jointly with the INBO Regional Networks and « RWPs »** in each region of the world and to ensure their start as soon as possible.

In particular, the very close cooperation which already exists between INBO/ANBO and the African « RWPs », and firstly the « GWP/WATAC, will be reinforced to jointly work to support the European Water Initiative in Africa (IWRM component), especially within the « National Dialogues for Water », and their components on river basin management in particular, in the management of the African transboundary rivers and aquifers.

D - INBO PARTICIPATION IN THE 5th WORLD WATER FORUM

The Assembly wished that INBO continue the reflections started since the World Water Forums of The Hague, Kyoto and Mexico and propose its own « vision » on the evolution of water management during the coming years, with the prospect of the 5th WWF in Istanbul in March 2009.

The General Assembly proposed to the organizers of the 5th World Water Forum that INBO organizes preparatory work on « the creation and strengthening of Basin Organizations over the World and basin management » in collaboration with the other relevant and representative organizations concerned.

The Assembly mandated the World Liaison Bureau for preparing INBO participation in the 5th World Water Forum of Istanbul and for also planning active partnerships with the organizers of specific events on this occasion. **It entrusted Messrs. Guy FRADIN and Victor DUKOVNY, 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 Forum organizers.**

It reminded all INBO members and observers that their active participation in the « VIRTUAL DISCUSSION FORUM » opened on the website (www.riob-info.org) is important.

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 2007, 2008 and 2009.

E - APPROVAL OF THE « DECLARATION OF DEBRECEN »

The General Assembly unanimously approved the « **Declaration of Debrecen** », 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 Debrecen » contribute to the preparation of international initiatives that aim to promote Integrated Water Resource Management (IWRM) at the level of river basins, especially the « European Initiative for water and life » in which INBO is partner.

F - NEXT GENERAL ASSEMBLY IN 2010

The Assembly gratefully received the invitation of OMVS and of the Brazilian Authorities to respectively host the 8th and 9th INBO General Assemblies in DAKAR in 2010 and in Brazil in 2013.

Drawn up in Debrecen – Hungary, on 8 June 2007.

