



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



**RESEAU MEDITERRANEEN DES ORGANISMES DE BASSIN
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**RESEAU AFRICAIN DES ORGANISMES DE BASSIN
AFRICAN NETWORK OF BASIN ORGANIZATIONS
RED AFRICANA DE ORGANISMOS DE CUENCA**

**3rd GENERAL ASSEMBLY
OF THE MEDITERRANEAN NETWORK OF BASIN ORGANIZATIONS,
INTERNATIONAL BUREAU
OF THE INTERNATIONAL NETWORK OF BASIN ORGANIZATIONS
AND
COORDINATION COMMITTEE
OF THE AFRICAN NETWORK OF BASIN ORGANIZATIONS**

**INTERNATIONAL TECHNICAL SEMINAR ON IWRM
IN THE MEDITERRANEAN REGIONS AND AFRICA**

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MARRAKECH (MOROCCO) - 23 - 25 MAY 2005

FINAL 2

FINAL RESOLUTIONS

The last meetings of INBO's World Liaison Bureau, of the 3rd General Assembly of the Mediterranean Network of Basin Organizations (MENBO) and of the Coordination Committee of the African Network of Basin Organizations (ANBO), were held at the same time in Marrakech (Morocco), from Monday 23 May to Wednesday 25 May 2005, at the invitation of the Moroccan Authorities and Basin Agencies and under the presidency of Mrs. Madeleine Jouye de Grandmaison (INBO), and Messrs. Juan Jose Moragues (MENBO) and Ould Aly (ANBO) respectively.

With the support of



and



An international seminar on IWRM in the Mediterranean Regions and Africa was organized on this occasion.

His Excellency, Mr. Mohamed EL YAZGHI, Moroccan Minister for Regional Planning, Water and the Environment, honored the conference with his effective presence and officially opened the meeting.

158 top-level representatives coming from 31 countries (Albania, Algeria, Belgium, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Canada, Chad, Congo, Egypt, France, Greece, Guinea, Italy, Mali, Mexico, Morocco, Niger, Palestinian Authority, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Senegal, South Africa, Spain, Swaziland, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Uzbekistan) as well as representatives of the NBA, International Commission of the Scheldt, WWC, IME, European Commission, FAO, JRC, OMVS, of the Secretariat of the 4th WWF of Mexico and of the WSSCC, participated in the works.

PREAMBLE

It was reminded that many represented organizations are already members or observers of the International Network of Basin Organizations (INBO), currently present in 52 Countries over the world and created in 1994 in Aix-les-Bains to enable the mobilization of the real and practical experience of decision-makers and professionals of the administrations and organizations concerned, directly responsible for the effective implementation of integrated water resource management at the level of river basins or wishing to implement it in their respective countries or regions, and to enable them to meet and exchange their field experiences and compare their approaches and methods and thus facilitate the creation and strengthening of the best suited organizations.

INBO is open to all relevant organizations that wish to become members. All are all welcomed: International Commissions and organizations responsible for integrated management of river basins and aquifers, in particular the transboundary ones, governmental administrations in charge of water in the countries involved and interested in implementing basin management, bi or multilateral cooperation organizations and United Nations Agencies supporting activities to establish institutional structures at the level of large river basins or aquifers, especially transboundary ones.

Non Governmental Organizations or Research, Information and Training Centers may participate in the Network activities as Observers.

INBO now relies on Regional Networks in Africa, Latin America, Asia, Central and Eastern Europe and in the Mediterranean, on the Network of International Commissions and Transboundary Basin Organizations and on the « EURO-INBO » Group of European Basin Organizations for the implementation of the Water Framework Directive. It supports the creation of NARBO in Asia.

Several international organizations have fortunately taken initiatives, during the past few years, and more recently on the occasion of the World Summit on Sustainable Development of Johannesburg, to promote and facilitate the creation or strengthening of basin authorities and thus generate significant scientific, technical, economic or institutional cooperation for this purpose. The INBO members were pleased with this.

Generally speaking, the application of the principles of integrated water resource management at the level of river basins, which are the basis of INBO action, has very widely progressed for the past ten years, in particular with the European Framework Directive, and it is thus very significant to disseminate our results to make known all advantages and to propose new bases for cooperation.

This is the reason why the INBO members marked their disappointment not to have seen these principles included in the conclusions of the 13th CSD of the United Nations, which was held last April in New York, in spite of the proposals especially made by the Countries and the Commission of the European Union in this direction, and they considered that it was a step backward as compared to the former progresses.

They hope that the next World Water Forum of Mexico will be the occasion of reaffirming the obvious advantage of integrated management at the level of river basins.

Two twinning agreements were signed in Marrakech by the French Rhone-Mediterranean and Corsica Water Agency with the two Moroccan River Basin Agencies of Tensift and Souss Massa during the conference on 23 May 2005, in the presence of the Minister.

A cooperation agreement was also signed on this occasion by the respective presidents of EMWIS, INBO and MENBO.

The two days of Technical Workshops allowed exchanges on issues related to floods and droughts and on the management of groundwater in the Mediterranean basin.

The recommendations of these workshops are as follows:

☐ **As regards the prevention and control of floods and droughts,** which heavily affect many countries of the Mediterranean region, the delegates confirmed that a better exchange of information and know-how was needed.

They were interested in the presentation of the European Water Directors' Initiative for the creation of the European Circle for exchanges on flood forecasting, EXCIFF, and its planned future activities.

They support the proposal to initiate other circles of exchanges on other flood control components: In particular the mapping of flood hazards is a current topic which should be taken into account.

In addition, creating a specific circle of exchanges devoted to flood control in the Mediterranean countries should be considered.

Consistency of the water monitoring and information systems, harmonization of data and Geographic Information Systems and the use of common models are essential for sharing information and following up actions.

In particular, the participants recommended to install reliable and effective systems for quick warning against floods and droughts and to establish prevention and intervention mechanisms to face the natural disasters caused by water and to protect human lives and properties.

It is essential to harmonize the flood control plans between the countries of transboundary basins.

☐ **With regard to aquifer management**, the delegates insisted on the importance of having knowledge on aquifers: capacity, uses, recharge, fragility, measurement networks, models, studies, etc.

They underlined the irreversibility of the degradation that may affect some aquifers (such as pollution, sea water intrusion or overexploitation) and thus the need for concerted and comprehensive long-term management, involving all the stakeholders.

It is essential to inform the partners and organize an in-depth dialogue so that each one knows its responsibilities regarding the actions to be carried out together with the methods for financing them.

Among the other priority topics, one should include the establishment of networks for «monitoring» the aquifers to ascertain their sustainable use, especially in the Mediterranean region, knowing that the natural recharge regimes are insufficient. This would enable the taking of measures to avoid overexploitation. In coastal areas, which face a high concentration of populations and activities, these networks would also be used for knowing and controlling the status of sea water intrusions in the aquifers, while allowing the establishment of criteria for diversifying the exploitation of the groundwater resources of these areas, with guarantees of continuity and quality of the water supply.

☐ **Regarding the European Water Initiative (EUWI) / European Water Framework Directive (WFD) Joint Process:**

Some time was devoted to the overall presentation of EUWI and of its regional components, especially in the Mediterranean region.

Reminders of the general principles of the WFD and of its implementation timetable as well as the water-related research programs also contributed to the participants' general information.

The session focused on the Mediterranean working group on groundwater, created within the EUWI/WFD joint process in the Mediterranean. This joint process, which, in its technical part, focuses on 3 topics (water scarcity, groundwater management and links between rural development and water management) in 2005/2006, aims at facilitating, through the sharing of experience and know-how, the implementation of water management policies adapted to the Mediterranean context and, in particular, of the WFD for the EU Member States.

Specifically regarding the work of the Group dedicated to groundwater management, the Group's mandate was presented and distributed in order to collect the participants' contributions. Examples of the WFD implementation for groundwater management were presented as well as the example of a shared aquifer in North Africa.

The main goal of this working group is to prepare a document giving some recommendations for the implementation of the WFD as regards groundwater management in the Mediterranean context. Indeed, many regional features will require the implementation of measures adapted to the Mediterranean context. The illustration with examples of groundwater management in non-European countries will enrich this document.

A first version of the chapter on monitoring and management of data on groundwater is already available. It is now a question of continuing the drafting on such topics as groundwater overexploitation, groundwater quality or transboundary aspects. The final version of the report is scheduled for June 2006 and should be used as a basis for discussion on the convergence of legislations which must be implemented in the neighboring countries of the European Union. A European report, integrating the Mediterranean recommendations, will be presented to the European Water Directors in June 2006.

The session ended with the presentation of twinning activities between basins of the Mediterranean region, especially the recent agreement signed by the French Seine-Normandie Water Agency and the Moroccan River Basin Agency of Sebou.

This workshop contributed in informing the participants on ongoing works developed within the joint Process and allowed discussions on the difficulties encountered during its implementation. Finally, the meeting also contributed in mobilizing the partners, who are ready to commit themselves actively in this joint process.

INBO World Liaison Bureau studied the strategic points of the agenda and made the following decisions:

1. **INBO will actively contribute to the 4th World Water Forum of Mexico**, whose dates are now definitively set from 16 to 22 March 2006. It wishes to be involved in the organization of a partnership and in the preparation process with regard to the topic of integrated water resource management at the level of river basins.

INBO proposes to the Mexican Authorities and to the World Water Council to organize a session on the participation of the public and water users in basin management, in partnership with UNESCO, JWF, Green Cross International, the International Secretariat of Water and other organizations which would be interested.

In order to prepare this session and to mobilize its members, INBO plans to organize, in addition to this conference of Marrakech (Morocco) for the Mediterranean basin, two other large regional preparatory meetings in 2005:

- a) from 29 September to 1st October 2005 in Namur (Walloon Region - Belgium) with the 3rd Assembly of the « Group of European Basin Organizations for the implementation of the Framework Directive »,
- b) in November in Niamey (Niger) for an Extraordinary Assembly of the African Network of Basin Organizations.

In addition, INBO will participate in the International Conference on Water in Central Asia on 30 and 31 May 2005 in Dushanbe (Tajikistan), and in the initiative of UNESCO and the International Water Academy of Norway on the solving of conflicts over shared water, in Stavanger at the beginning of November, in particular.

Contacts are under way with our Japanese colleagues for the consolidation of the Asian Network of Basin Organizations (NARBO).

In liaison with the Council of Europe, the International Secretariat of Water and Solidarity Water Europe, INBO will also be partner in the week devoted to the citizens' approach to water management, in Strasbourg (France), from 17 to 21 October 2005.

It would be advisable that a similar meeting be held in Latin America this year.

2. The General Assembly of the "EURO-INBO" Group for the implementation of the European Water Framework Directive, will take place in Namur (Walloon region) from 29 September to 1st October 2005.

The main topics retained for discussions will be:

- a) The participation of the populations in the definition of water policy, the role of the local elected officials and of the professional and association representatives, « the Basin Committees », consultation of the « general public » for the implementation of the Framework Directive. This topic could widely open the discussions of our assembly to your partners working in the field,
- b) The transboundary rivers and international districts, with a pressing invitation to the international European commissions, and mainly those concerning the Walloon region.

3. INBO will be involved in the dissemination of the WFD principles in the interested third countries.
4. The PTS will officially submit a request to the European Commission for accession of « EURO-INBO » to the « Strategic Coordination Group » of the European Water Framework Directive.
5. The development of the information website on the WFD implementation in basins/districts, (« europe-wfd.inbo-news.org ») was adopted and the PTS will look for the financing required, especially from the European Commission.
6. The list of other events associating INBO in 2005 was adopted (International Conference of Dushanbe, ANBO Assembly, the « Water – Europe » week of Strasbourg, the UNESCO Workshop of Stavanger, the regional meeting in Latin America, NARBO, etc).
7. The communication strategy of the Network was confirmed for 2005 and 2006: website, the E-INBO electronic Newsletter, the Network Newsletter n°14, events, stands, etc.
8. INBO supports the European Water Initiative (EUWI), which is a significant EU contribution to the achievement of the objectives of the Johannesburg World Summit in the water sector. It recommends the acceleration of its implementation, which becomes advisable to maintain the mobilization of the partners and especially of the basin organizations in the field, in Africa, in Latin America, Eastern Europe, Caucasus, Central Asia and in the Mediterranean.

The INBO members wish to be better associated in it, as well as in the Canadian initiative, in the Initiative of the African Development Bank, and in projects on IWRM in transboundary river basins, (GEF, FFEM; etc.), in which their expertise in the field can be useful.

9. The Bureau reminded the importance of the projects presented for financing to the European Water Facility, whose strategic character for the implementation of the European Initiative in the African transboundary basins was underlined, as well as the wish to see them selected by the European Commission.
10. A very positive evaluation was drawn up of the INBO/GWP Associated Program, and especially of the progress made in the « TWINBASINS » project, and of ongoing projects: « IWRM-NET », « WFD-LEARN », SADIEau-AWIS, « Europe INBO–WFD ».

11. The INBO progress report and accounts for 2004 were approved, on the basis of the Financial Auditor's report, as well as the budget estimate for the Permanent Technical Secretariat for 2005.
12. The Bureau was pleased with the progress reports of the Regional Networks for Africa, Latin America, Europe, the Mediterranean, and with the relations beginning with NARBO in Asia.

□ The participants expressed their wish to continue exchanging their experiences through four complementary activities:

- Organizing regular meetings, either yearly plenary sessions or topical workshops whenever necessary. Apart from an exchange of experiences, these meetings will allow the identification of the main concerns of basin organizations involved in the IWRM implementation in the field and the enhancement and sharing of field results.
- Developing websites, especially « EURO-INBO » and « AWIS », based on the methodologies, techniques and contents already elaborated within the « AQUADOC-INTER » project in the Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland and Romania and « EMWIS » in the Mediterranean region. These common websites should include case studies and documents produced by basin organizations and direct links with the sites of these basin organizations. These sites would also include current information, a forum for discussions and frequently asked questions, links towards new documents and sources of produced information.
- Promoting training programs for executives and staffs of Basins Organizations.
- Establishing twinning arrangements between basin organizations of different countries facing common problems, notably within the « TWINBASIN » project or already existing agreements.

□ The participants thanked the European Commission's representatives for having invited INBO to be a partner of the working groups of the European Water Initiative, and wished that the International Network and its Regional Networks can even be more involved in the follow-up, facilitation and implementation of the components on Integrated Water Resource Management and Transboundary Basins of the initiatives for Africa, Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia, Latin America and the Mediterranean, especially for facilitating the implementation of the EUWI / WFD joint process.

□ The represented organizations expressed their support to Pilot River Basins exercises, such as those developed, on the one hand, within the CIS during the starting phase of the WFD, and in the European Water Initiative for Africa on the other. They recommended proposing additional pilot basins within these frameworks, and in other regional components of EUWI. The delegates also wished for the direct dissemination of the pilot Basins (PRB) results to all the other basin organizations to be increased. Generally speaking, in spite of the facilities brought by Internet, access to information remains complex.

□ The Bureau confirmed its wish that the « EURO-INBO » group of the European basin organizations be associated in the work of the Strategic Coordination Group of the CIS process for the implementation of the WFD, as other partners already involved.

□ The Bureau requests to all the members and permanent observers of the Network to mobilize themselves for the 4th World Water Forum of Mexico City.

□ The delegates thanked the Ministry for Regional Planning, Water and the Environment and the Moroccan River Basin Agencies, especially the Tensift ABH, for having initiated this meeting and for its perfect organization and their warm welcome in Marrakech.

REGARDING THE TWINBASIN PROJECT:

The Steering Committee of the TWINBASIN project was pleased with the significant progress made by the project during the last 8 months, allowing it to advance significantly in the achievement of its objectives.

Thus, the first call for proposals to support twinning arrangements was sent to the members of INBO Liaison Bureau and to the Steering Committee of the Project at the beginning of 2005. This call enabled the selection of five pilot twinning arrangements¹ and thus to support the carrying out of the first twenty assignments

The Steering Committee decided to launch a second call for proposals (deadline set at 31 July 2005) to all the basin organizations without any restriction. The request for partnership being growing, the selection will be more demanding and potential twinning arrangements will have to meet, in the most complete way possible, the objectives of TWINBASIN.

¹ 2005C1T1 : Jucar RBO (Spain) & DA Buzau Ialomita (Romania) ; 2005C1T2 : Loire-Bretagne WA (France) & CB Piracicaba Capivari Jundiai (Brazil) ; 2005C1T3 : Seine Normandie WA (France) & ABH Algérois Hodna Soummam (Algeria) ; 2005C1T4 : CH Tajo (Spain) & Reventazon (Costa Rica) ; 2005C1T5 : Seine Normandie WA (France) & CNA (Mexico)

The wide dissemination of the first "Newsletter" (6,300 subscribers) through INBO in particular, the promotion of the project during international IWRM-related events, and the recent distribution of leaflets (20,000 copies in French, English, Spanish and Russian) are as many events that give the project the adequate and necessary international acknowledgement.

Moreover, and it is also a major stake of the project, the TWINBASIN website, www.twinbasin.org, main interface of the project with all its community, must allow and ensure a capitalization and a dissemination of the acquired knowledge. This tool has become operational recently, although it should be improved. Thus, nearly 6,000 web surfers have already consulted it and about fifty members are already registered.

In addition to capitalizing and disseminating the knowledge issued by project-supported assignments, the website will be soon the support of Web-Forums which will allow starting the thinking of experts and specialists about significant issues specific to IWRM.

Finally, the entire knowledge capitalized by TWINBASIN, regarding IWRM, will be supplemented and enriched by the results and products of « clusters », with the other projects related to the « Twinning » topic (WADE, RIVERTWIN & TWINBAS projects) supported by the European Union.

Ultimately, the TWINBASIN project is at a key stage of its implementation. This second meeting of the Steering Committee allowed the broadening of thoughts and the making of decisions necessary for the project evolution towards the achievement of all the planned TWINBASIN objectives.

REGARDING THE MEDITERRANEAN BASIN IN PARTICULAR:

During the General Assembly, the following topics was presented, analyzed and discussed:

MENBO activities from October 2004 up to this date were reminded:

- Participation in international meetings,
- Activities carried out,
- Signed agreements,
- Ongoing projects.

The Assembly particularly wished for a strong implication of the Network in projects which can bring additional financial resources for its operation (TWINBASIN, MELIA, the Med EUWI initiative - WFD/EUWI – JP, etc.).

The official yearly accounts of the Network for year 2004 were approved. The MENBO funds are mainly distributed between the organization of the Bureau meetings and the financing of exchange programs and the dissemination of results of the projects in which it participates. Within its cooperation in the European Joint Process, MENBO hopes to receive a support from the European Commission in order to promote IWRM at the Mediterranean level.

The Assembly approved the candidatures of new members (Spain, Greece, Morocco, Macedonia). MENBO already has 24 members coming from 10 countries.

It reminded to all the members, and to those which we invite to join us, that registration to MENBO is free, in accordance with the new internal rules which were approved in Istanbul during the Bureau meeting in November 2004. The contributions thus remain voluntary and we encourage each member to contribute to MENBO activities by facilitating the organization of the Network meetings as the main objective is to obtain an active participation of all the Mediterranean Basin Organizations.

In accordance with MENBO statutes, Mr. EL YAZGHI, Moroccan Minister for Regional Planning, Water and the Environment will take the Presidency of the Regional Network up to its next General Assembly.

It is thus Morocco which will be the head of MENBO, relaying Spain which allowed the initial and successful launching of the Network.

The Minister announced his will to develop actions for collaboration and cooperation between the Mediterranean countries as a continuation of the Spanish Presidency.

The Assembly particularly thanked the former President: Mr. Juan José Moragues Terrades, President of the Jucar Hydrographic Confederation, Spain, for the very positive action which he has achieved since the creation of the regional Network. Mr. Moragues was elected MENBO Vice-President for the new period.

MENBO Permanent Technical Secretariat remains entrusted to the Jucar Hydrographic Confederation in Valencia, Spain, which was thanked for the efficiency of the work carried out.

Proposals for the organization of the next General Assembly in 2006 were presented. The decision will be officially made by the Bureau in the coming months.

REGARDING THE AFRICAN CONTINENT IN PARTICULAR:

➡ ANBO proposes to all interested organizations of the water sector, of Southern, Central, North, East or West Africa, to governmental administrations, basin organizations, either existing or being created, bi and multilateral cooperation organizations, to become a member to jointly develop a true common African expertise on the management of the sixty, or about, transboundary basins of Africa. The statutes could be adapted according to the needs, especially to strengthen the links with NEPAD, ANCOW and the regional economic cooperation institutions.

➡ ANBO proposed to the European Union, to the bilateral and multilateral cooperation agencies involved and to the countries concerned, to assist in the implementation of its multi-year action plan. It proposes, in particular, to create and facilitate a « Permanent Technical Committee » of the African Basin Organizations, especially the pilot basins selected for the first phases of the European Water Initiative and those retained by GEF, in order to allow the managers of these basins to regularly exchange their experience, to evaluate their projects, identify the best practices suited to the African contexts, to define the encountered problems and to make the syntheses necessary for disseminating the lessons learned to the whole African continent.

➡ ANBO also proposes to organize training courses on « the six pillars of IWRM » open to the African executives and technicians concerned.

➡ ANBO wishes that a project for an African Water Information and Documentation System (AWIS) be very quickly launched to federate the information centers, either existing or to be created in the interested basins or countries, to share their references, useful documents and African studies, to store them and make them easily available to everyone

The methods successfully tested within the Euro-Mediterranean Water Information System (EMWIS), which relies on an international technical unit and National Focal Points in the 27 countries concerned, including the North African ones, could usefully be adapted in Africa, especially the linguistic interfaces in English, Arabic, French and Portuguese, within the framework of a permanent cooperation with this organization.

The ANBO Committee reminded the significance for Africa of the projects presented for financing to the European Water Facility, whose strategic character for the implementation of the European Initiative in the African transboundary basins was underlined, as well as the wish to see them selected by the European Commission.

Lastly, ANBO wishes to involve itself in the African regional preparation process of the Mexico Forum: An extraordinary Assembly, in November 2005, will mainly focus on this purpose.

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At the end of the works, all the delegates unanimously and strongly adopted a motion to thank the Ministry for Regional Planning, the Environment and Water, as well as the Moroccan River Basin Agencies, especially the Tensift ABH, for having initiated this meeting, for its perfect organization and their particularly warm welcome in Marrakech.

All the working documents of these meetings, as well as the presented papers, are available on the website: www.inbo-news.org.

UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED IN MARRAKECH ON 25 MAY 2005.