



PRESS RELEASE

Marrakech, October 08, 2019

11th World General Assembly of the International Network of Basin Organizations (INBO)*

There was a strong mobilization of high-level policy-makers and field stakeholders, who came from all continents to reaffirm the central importance of the national and transboundary basin unit for effective water resource management.

The 11th INBO World General Assembly (WGA) was held in conjunction with the "Marrakech International Summit on Water Security", from 30 September to 2 October 2019 in Marrakech (Morocco). In the presence of the Ministers in charge of water management in Armenia, Burkina Faso, Finland, Ghana, Guinea, Greece, Kenya, Malta, Palestine and Romania, this meeting brought together nearly 400 participants from 62 countries and 70 basin organizations, around a central theme: participative and innovative basin management.

Jointly organized with the Ministry of Equipment, Transport, Logistics and Water of Morocco, this WGA was opened by speeches of the Head of Government, Mr. Saâdeddine El Othmani, and the Minister for Water of the Kingdom of Morocco, Mr. Abdelkader Amara. They were followed by the Vice-President of UN-Water, the President of the World Water Council and the representative of the Mexican Presidency of INBO.

In a context of climate change, while water security is a major issue for socio-economic development, INBO welcomes the clearly expressed political will to design more systematically agreements, strategies, programmes, financing processes. and water management controls at the basin level.

A recognition of the analyses and actions carried out by INBO Members for 25 years!

For 4 days, speakers with varied profiles (Ministers, managers of Water Agencies and River Basin Organizations, representatives of UN specialized agencies: UNECE, UNESCO...), facilitated round tables and workshops on the following themes:

- "Integrated water and energy management for food security and sustainable development";
- "The challenges of adapting water to climate change in river basins";
- "Knowledge, innovation and information sharing in the water sector";

*INBO is the International Network of Basin Organizations that works for sound and balanced water resources management all over the world. It is a non-profit Association of general interest. It has 200 members in 70 countries and is composed of 7 regional networks, by geographical area. This platform for exchanging knowledge and experience helps to improve the implementation of integrated water resources management around the world. INBO holds a World General Assembly every 3 years.

- "Hydro-diplomacy, international and transboundary cooperation for water security";
- "Funding of water security";
- "The transfer of innovative solutions";
- "Cooperation, one of the themes of the 9th World Water Forum in Dakar, in 2021"

During this WGA, INBO also adopted its [2019-2021 action plan](#), built around the promotion of basin management based on structured organizations with adequate governance, skills, knowledge and the necessary funding mechanisms for IWRM.

In accordance with the statutes of the association, Mexico, which held INBO Presidency from 2016 to 2019 handed over this mandate to Morocco which will assume it until 2022.

As done in every WGA, INBO Member Organizations and permanent observers agreed to draft a Joint Declaration reaffirming the following 4 points:

- The basin is the appropriate scale for an effective interface between the political and technical levels;
- Adaptation to climate and global changes requires institutional reforms, infrastructure development and suitable financial support;
- Hydro-diplomacy, especially promoted by basin organizations, needs to be strengthened because it brings water security, which is the cornerstone of sustainable development;
- Knowledge about water and all related tools need to be expanded to enable development and better sharing of skills, from a local to global scale.

INBO was pleased by the quality of the exchanges and outcome of this WGA work, a significant step in the process of preparing the 9th World Water Forum (Dakar - 2021), as expressed by Mr. SENE, Chairman of the International Preparation Committee, in his closing speech.

"The success of our Marrakech GA owes a lot to the resolute commitment of the Kingdom of Morocco: the high political authorities of the Kingdom, including the Minister, Mr. Amara, but also all the field stakeholders, especially the River Basin Agencies, have boosted our collective will for "innovative and participatory" action. With the new 2019-2021 action plan adopted in Marrakech, INBO and its new Moroccan Presidency are ready to deepen their action for better water management, on a global scale and in all basins "said Mr. Eric Tardieu, INBO Secretary General, at the end of the WGA work.

More information:

- ✓ [INBO Declaration](#) "For participative and innovative basin management"
- ✓ [Content of speeches in plenary session, Photo Gallery](#)
- ✓ [Press](#)

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