Achievements & perspectives of the Global Alliances for Water and Climate (GAfWaC): Delivering concrete global climate action with basins, companies, cities & seawater desalination actors

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What are the Global Alliances for Water and Climate? (GAfWaC)

Mobilizing 400+ partners (basin organizations, cities, businesses, energy & desalination actors) engaged in water & climate action:

• **The Alliance of Basins for Climate –ABC**, project development & exchange of experiences, INBO-UNECE partnership (GNBCC), dissemination of good practices ("Paris Pact" on water and adaptation to climate change in the basins of rivers, lakes and aquifers, with 360+ signatories from 94 Countries)

• **The Business Alliance for Water And Climate Change –BAFWAC**, launched by CDP, the CEO Water Mandate, the World Business Council for Sustainable Development and SUEZ, which has now 51 member organizations, including 30 leading companies.

• **The Megacities Alliance for Water and Climate –MAWAC**, facilitated by UNESCO, ICLEI, SIAAP and Arceau-IDF, gathering 16 Megacities for a total population of 300 million inhabitants.

• **The Global Clean Water Desalination Alliance –GCWDA**, aims to reduce CO2 emission of seawater desalination with commitment of water and energy actors (150+ members) to supply newly built desalination plants with renewable energy.
With the support of COP21, COP22, COP23, COP24, COP25
Alliance of Basins for climate: Disseminating know-how

Objective
Field projects and capacity building for adaptation to climate change and management of uncertainty in basin management and action plans.

Activities
• Accelerating incubation & implementation of water and climate projects
• Disseminating know-how: methodological guidelines on adaptation to climate change in transboundary basins (UNECE-INBO), on financing bankable projects (UNECE-World Bank-AfDB-INBO)
• Facilitation of the Global network of transboundary basins for adaptation to climate change

Perspectives
• A geographic (non-exclusive) focus: "100 projects water & climate projects for Africa" – OPS commitment with the support of the United Nations General Secretariat, the World Bank and the French Presidency.
Business Alliance for Water and Climate

BAFWAC
Objectives of BAFWAC

BAFWAC (launched in 2015) is a commitment platform calling action for companies around the world to address urgent sustainable development challenges related to water and climate.

**Commitments:**
1. Analyze water-related risks
2. Measure and report water use
3. Reduce impacts on water availability and quality

**Innovation areas:**
1. Circular water management
2. Climate resilience agriculture
3. Green infrastructure/natural capital
Value Proposition

• A platform for businesses to share best practice and disclose their work on climate and water.
• A platform for business voice on water and climate nexus issues for the UNFCCC process.
Achievements

Signatory companies
• Over 51 companies with over $813 billion in annual revenues have joined BAFWAC.
• BAFWAC partnered with We Mean Business through its ‘Commit to Action’ campaign to launch the first water-related commitment.

Best practice sharing
• Published 16 case studies on www.bafwac.org for circular water management, climate resilient agriculture, and green infrastructure. Presented during the October 2019 webinar hosted by UNGC Brazil on climate change impacts on water resources.
• In December, will launch paper on water resilience for the private sector.

Policy advocacy
• Worked with sister platforms within GAFWAC bringing the business voice to climate policy at COP25’s Water Action Day and the 2020 World Water Development Report.
The Global Clean Water Desalination Alliance aims at:

- Establishing a public-private dialogue on the decarbonisation of the desalination industry;
- Supporting the development of policy and regulatory frameworks that level the playing field for renewable energy based and energy efficient desalination projects;
- Assess the potential and needs of national and regional markets for clean desalination investments;
- Support Research, Demonstration and Development;
- Create a knowledge sharing platform on clean desalination;
- Advocate for a progressive phasing out of existing desalination plants from fossil fuel supply.

The Global Clean Water Desalination Alliance counts over 200 members from public and private sectors and academia in 50 countries. The Alliance is a Geneva registered NGO, member of GAFWAC and hosted by the International Office for Water.
The desalination industry and the environmental and climate challenge

- Energy consumption of seawater desalination is significant and considerably higher than traditional water supply solutions e.g. groundwater, rain catchment, rivers, lakes, etc.

- Worldwide, operational desalination plants emit around 76 million tonnes of CO₂ per year. The emissions are expected to increase to around 500 million tonnes of CO₂ per year by 2040 if no actions are undertaken.

- The climate impact of desalination can be addressed through use of renewable energy systems to power the desalination plants.

- This is a sustainable and cost effective solution thanks to decreasing cost of renewable energy systems.

Baseline scenario assumes compounded growth rate of water desalination of 10% per year.

Target scenario assumes gradual introduction of fully renewable powered desalination until 2040.

Source: MASDAR for the Global Clean Water Desalination Alliance 2018
Clean desalination enabling conditions

- Competitive cost of clean desalination: policy, regulations, cost-reflective prices, and standard tenders and contracts
- Public-private partnerships to finance technological development (RD & D)
- Access to Vertical Climate Funds and Public Grants for:
  - The development of clean desalination national and regional roadmaps;
  - The development of pilot projects for replication;
- Incentive approaches for investments and partnerships such as co-financing, compensation mechanisms and other climate finance mechanisms to enable private funds to finance sustainable desalination projects.
- Technology transfer and knowledge sharing
- Capacity building, Organization of dialogues and investment forums
With the support of Strategic MOUs

Adocacy at COPs

Technology needs assessment with MIT

Global Project database of clean desalination projects

Analysis on clean desalination and its contribution to the climate agenda

High-level dialogues

Partnerships for investment in clean desalination projects

Strategic MOUs

Small scale pilot projects for replication

Governance of the GCWDA

Development of country roadmaps
MEGACITIES ALLIANCE FOR WATER AND CLIMATE

https://en.unesco.org/mawac
Collect and disseminate information on strategies and operational plans developed by local authorities and their water operators as well as results achieved.

Facilitate experience sharing between the academic community and water operators in improving adaptation through best practices assessments.

Identify means and mechanisms for funding the adaptation of megacities to the impacts of climate change on urban water.

Interaction between three main category actors:

- Policy makers and civil society
- Water and wastewater utilities
- Academia and research centers
First regional conference for Latin America and the Caribbean (MAWAC-LAC)
City Hall of São Paulo, 7th and 8th May 2019

- UNESCO, ARCEAU, SIAAP, ICLEI-LAC, National Water Authority of Brazil (ANA)
- 5 Latin America megacities representatives - Bogotá, Buenos Aires, Rio de Janeiro, Santiago and São Paulo, together with more than 100 participants.
- A public session dedicated to the shared concerns of the recent challenges in LAC regions
- The general framework of setting up the regional alliance for Latin America was drafted by the working group members through the Terms of Reference (TOR), which were agreed in principal by 5 cities and UNESCO.
- An official agreement was signed by São Paulo City Hall and UNESCO, which acknowledged a long-standing cooperation of LAC regional alliance.
- A survey, list of themes for second international conference, new proposed water monograph were presented and discussed.
With the support of the 2nd International Conference on “Water, Megacities and Global Change” (EauMega 2020)

UNESCO Headquarters, 1st to 4th December 2020

Deadline for Call for Papers

- Expression of interest: 31 January
- Extended written communication: 31 July
- Edited and finalized communication: 30 September

https://en.unesco.org/events/eaumega2020
https://eaumega2020.sciencesconf.org/eaumega@unesco.org
International Marrakesh Summit on Water Security: Key figures

- 400 Participants
- Coming from 62 Countries
- 70 Basin Organizations Were Represented
- Opening Speech by the Head of Government of the Kingdom of Morocco
- 1 Central Theme: Participative and Innovative Basin Management
- 10 Ministers in Charge of Water Were Present
- 5 Plenary Sessions
- 1 Final Declaration
THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION!