

International Network of Basin Organizations (INBO)

20 years ago, in 1996, Mexico already hosted the first World General Assembly of the International Network of Basin Organizations, INBO!

Our network had just been created in 1994 by pioneers at the constituent conference of Aix-les-Bains in France, and Mexico was already one of its founding members, being, at that time, establishing new water legislation organized in river basins.

What progress has been made in two decades!. Today the need to manage water resources in the basins of national or transboundary rivers, lakes and aquifers, prevails all over the world to adapt ourselves and face the major challenges of our planet that are, in particular, the quick human population growth and its needs for food, energy and transport, and adaptation to the effects of climate change, that we cannot avoid.

The experience gained by basin organizations, which now exist almost everywhere in the world or are being established, and that is gathered through exchanges within INBO and its regional networks, created on every continent, enables, without a shadow of a doubt, to assert the relevance of integrated water resources management, organized at the level of local, national or transboundary basins of rivers, lakes and aquifers, although difficulties still persist, as always, when important institutional reforms, disrupting past habits, are being initiated!

This basin management should be based on integrated information systems, providing knowledge on resources and their uses, polluting pressures, ecosystems and their functioning, to make relevant assessments of the situation, identify risks and monitor developments, and be an objective basis for dialogue, negotiation, decision-making and evaluation of undertaken actions, as well as for coordination of funding from the various donors.

Management Plans, or Basin Master Plans, should set goals to be achieved in the medium to long term and to be implemented through Programmes of Measures and successive multiyear priority investments, mobilizing specific financial resources, especially those resulting from the application of the "polluter pays" principle and "user pays" systems.

Jointly with governmental authorities and relevant local authorities, representatives of different categories of users of all economic sectors and representatives of civil society associations should be involved in decision making: Indeed, this participation will, through dialogue, ensure social and economic acceptability of decisions, while taking into account actual needs, the willingness to act and the contribution capabilities of the stakeholders in social and economic life: this is the role of Basin Councils or Committees.

During our "**Mexico + 20**" World General Assembly, in June 2016, in Merida, these principles has been a basis for work in order to exchange, once again, gained experience and propose pragmatic and field-tested solutions to decision-makers..