

Information note

GENERAL ASSEMBLIES OF THE AFRICAN NETWORK OF BASIN ORGANIZATIONS (**ANBO**) AND OF THE INTERNATIONAL NETWORK OF TRANSBOUNDARY BASIN ORGANIZATIONS **Dakar (SENEGAL), 3-6 November 2004**

Introduction :

The first General Assembly of the African Network of Basin Organizations (ANBO) is convened on **3 November 2004 in Dakar**. This meeting will be held at the same time as the first General Assembly of the Network of International Commissions and Transboundary Basin Organizations scheduled for **4 and 5 November 2004 in Dakar**.

Context :

• **The African Network of Basin Organizations:**

ANBO was created in July 2002 during a Constitutive General Assembly convened in Dakar at the initiative of the Global Water Partnership (GWP/WAWP) and of the International Network of Basin Organizations (INBO).

The Delegates to this Constitutive Assembly had designated the Niger Basin Authority (NBA) and the Organization for the Development of the Senegal River (OMVS) to respectively fulfill the Network Chairmanship and Permanent Technical Secretariat.

This new Network is designed to federate all African Basin Organizations to achieve the following objectives:

- exchanging experiences and available know-how,
- strengthening cooperation between riparian countries,
- preparing and implementing joint cooperation programs designed to support the necessary reforms,
- fostering the establishment of relevant organizations and building their capacities in the field of integrated water resources management (IWRM).

ANBO has endorsed the recommendations made on the occasion of major conferences held during the current decade: adoption of basins as the appropriate territories for the implementation of indispensable policies, exchange of information and data between the organizations concerned, institution of adapted financing systems and fostering the participation of populations in the planning processes and sustainable management of water resources.

ANBO's establishment is an opportunity for all the continent's Basin Organizations to be stakeholders in a cooperation framework designed to become soon the privileged interlocutor of international partners in the implementation of their programs; (*e.g. the European Initiative for Africa, or the African Development Bank's Water facility, Canadian Initiative, etc.*). In this regard, taking account of the fact that there are some 60 shared basins in Africa, ANBO turns out to be a valuable asset in mobilizing solidarity towards the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals.

- **The Network of International Commissions and Transboundary Basin Organizations:**

The Network of International Commissions and Transboundary Basin Organizations was created in November 2002 during a constitutive assembly held in France under the aegis of the International Network of Basin Organizations. OMVS takes charge of INTBO vice-presidency. Its creation derives from the evidence of a strategic need for the integrated management of rivers, lakes or aquifers shared between several riparian countries.

Indeed, there are 261 transboundary rivers over the world and 15% of the countries depend, by more than 50%, on the water resources of other upstream countries. However, although initiatives multiplied these last few years to encourage and facilitate the creation or the strengthening of international commissions and basin organizations in order to generate scientific, technical, economic or institutional cooperation, at the level of the basins, one notes the lack of a network for exchanges and cooperation at the level of the catchment areas and aquifers involving managers, decision makers and the main organizations concerned with sustainable use of water resources.

INTBO was created to enrich these initiatives.

It aims at assisting with the creation and strengthening of basin organizations over the world and, in particular at:

- strengthening cooperation between riparian countries;
- contributing to local, national and international thinking on integrated water resources management and sound and sustainable development of river basins;
- facilitating the preparation of tools for institutional and financial management, for planning, for organizing databases and developing models of integrated water resources management;
- supporting the exchange of information and data essential to have some knowledge of the resources, uses and pollution, and necessary for forecasting natural risks and accidents, for defining multi-annual plans for joint and consistent action and for evaluating the implemented policies
- assisting with the development of financing systems necessary to their implementation, based on the « user-polluter-pays » principles and the concept of solidarity in the basin;

Objectives and expected results:

The overall objectives of the Dakar general assemblies is to reinforce a dialogue already well established between the members of the networks.

For ANBO, this General Assembly should be the occasion:

- to carry out a mid-term review of the network activities;
- to widen and consolidate ANBO with new members such as institutions in charge of water management as well as basin organizations throughout the African continent;

- to meet various partners and share information on current issues related to good water governance and especially to the major programs designed and tailored for Africa (e.g European Initiative for Africa, Water *facility* of the African Development Bank, Canadian Initiative, etc.) or to currently ongoing cooperation projects between Basin Organizations;
- to adopt the Priority Action Plan and the 2005 activity program.

Program

The draft program of the meeting is here-attached.

GA SCHEDULES

Venue and dates:

The ANBO and INTBO General Assemblies will be held from **3 to 6 November 2004 in Dakar (Senegal), at the Meridien President Hotel.**

The organization committee plans to accommodate the participants at *the Meridien President Hotel* (where the meetings will take place) or at the *Ngor Diarama Hotel*, both being located some 5 mn drive from Leopold Sedar Senghor International Airport. Hotel Group Reservation has been negotiated with both hotel at the following rates: *Meridien President*: CFA 80,000 (or € 122) /night, and *Ngor Diarama*: CFA 45,000 (or € 68)/night. This price includes the room, breakfast and sojourn tax. For this reason, and if you wish that we take charge of your booking, we would appreciate receiving your registration form together with your flight details.

Welcoming at the airport and transport to the hotel will be taken care of for the participants having given their flight details (company, arrival time in Dakar).

Particulars of the *Méridien Président* Hotel:

Address : Pointe des Almadies, BP 8181 Dakar-Yoff

Tel : +221 869 69 69

Fax : +221 869 69 99

Website : www.lemeridien.com

Particulars of the *Ngor Diarama Hotel*:

Address : route de l'aéroport, BP 8092 Dakar

Tel : +221 820 01 45 / 820 10 05

Fax : +221 820 27 23

e-mail : ngordiarاما@sentoo.sn

Meals:

Breakfast is included in the accommodation price. Lunch and dinner will be offered to all the participants during the meeting.

Working languages:

There will be simultaneous translation into English, French and Spanish..

Participants

The meeting is open to all ANBO member organizations, to Institutions/Administrations in charge of water governance aspects as well as to all basin organizations of the continent and to financial partners.

Registration:

A registration form herewith appended or attached to the invitation letters is to be returned to ANBO or INBO Permanent Technical Secretariats. This form is also available on line on websites.

Visa and vaccinations

Some participants might need an entry visa to Senegal. They are invited to get in contact with the Senegalese Embassy/consulate in their respective countries. Further more, it shall be noted that some vaccinations (immunization against yellow fever) are required for entry in Senegalese Territory. A preventive treatment against malaria is highly recommended. Please get informed at the diplomatic representations.

Information can also be obtained on the official website of Senegal at the URL or address:

www.gouv.sn

Besides, information on Senegal can be found in a number of websites, such as www.leader-city.com/Afrique/Senegal

Climate:

Average temperature in November:

Maxi = 26°C

Mini = 23°C

Money/banks

The monetary unity is CFA franc. Parity with Euro is fixed: **1 euro = 656 FCFA.**

Change transactions can be carried out in the banks and certain hotels. Although more and more establishments accept credit cards, it is recommended to have cash available or travelers' checks.

Our host : OMVS

The Organization for the Development of the Senegal River (OMVS) was created on 11 March 1972 and gathers the States sharing the Senegal river: Mali, Mauritania and Senegal. But the first initiatives for a sound use of the river and of its basin developed as soon as 1802.

The institutional instruments guarantee stability

The OMVS highest body is the *Conference of the Heads of State and Government*, whose presidency is bi-annual and revolving.

The Council of Ministers is the planning and control body and *the High Commission* is the executive body.

There are also the *Permanent Water Commission* (CPE), a consultative body, and two management and exploitation companies: the *SOGEM*, company for the exploitation of the Manantali Hydropower dam, and the *SOGED*, company for the exploitation of the Diama dam.

A *Consultative Committee of the partners to development* and a *regional Committee for planning* strengthen the institutional instruments.

The High Commission is at the core of this institutional arrangement. It is directed by a High Commissioner, nominated by the Conference of the Heads of State and Government, who coordinates the entire process of basin development. The current High Commissioner is Dr. Mohamed Salem Ould Merzoug.

Water for sustainable development

The main assignment of OMVS is to control water availability and to assist the States for them to achieve the following development goals:

- food security in the basin and thus in the sub-region,
- conservation of the environment,
- safety of economic activities in relation with natural hazards,
- increase of the populations' income,
- speeding up economic development.

For this purpose, the anti-salt Diama dam was built between 1981 and 1986, and the multi-purpose Manantali dam, between 1982 and 1987.

The anti-salt Diama dam allows, in addition to the irrigation of 120,000 hectares, the filling of the Guiers and R'kiz lakes, access to drinking water, the return of vegetation and fish in certain zones.

The Manantali dam has an electric output of 800 gigawatts per year, on a network of 1500 km lines of electricity conveyance to which all the Member States have been connected since 2002: Bamako since 26 January, Dakar since 19 July, and Nouakchott since 15 November. The Manantali dam stores 11,3 billion cubic meters of water, and regulates the water flow of the river to 300 m³/s. It also contributes to the development of irrigated crops on nearly 255,000 hectares, and appreciably improves the navigability of the river.

The Water Charter, a unique strategic asset in Africa and over the world

With the adoption of the Water Charter by the Conference of the Heads of State and Government on 28 May 2002, the OMVS has now an advanced legal and institutional instrument. The Charter organizes cooperation between the Member States according to the following fundamental principles:

- Everyone has an equal right to access water,
- The installations are common and indivisible property of the States,
- The costs and charges must be equitably and solidarily distributed between the States,
- Navigation is free on the Senegal river.

The riparian countries of the Senegal river thus reduce the risks of misunderstanding and find an equitable basis for cooperation. The Water Charter delimits the implementation scope of the agreements, set out their objectives, terms and instruments; it gave mandate to the **Permanent Water Commission** to arbitrate the sharing of water among the various uses: agriculture, animal husbandry, inland fishing, hydroelectric energy, water supply to the cities and rural areas, etc, while preserving the environment.

Tomorrow, a navigable channel

It is planned to develop a navigable channel on the 905 km section separating Saint Louis of Senegal from Ambidédi in Mali. A sea-river port will be built in St Louis, while a river port terminal and a commercial dispersal station will be build in Ambidédi. Nine ports of call will be built along this line.

Address :

OMVS

46, Rue Carnot BP 3152 Dakar (Sénégal)

Tel. (221) 823 45 30 - Fax (221) 822 01 63

E.mail : omvssphc@sentoo.sn

ORGANIZATION COMMITTEE

For any information on these meetings (program, accommodation, transport, etc.) please contact :

- ANBO Permanent Technical Secretariat, Ms. Amayelle NDIAYE:

Tel : +221 823 00 66 / +221 842 02 16 - Fax : +221 822 01 63

E-mail : raob-stp@omvs-soe.org / amayelsn@yahoo.fr

- INBO Permanent Technical Secretariat

21, rue de Madrid - 75008 PARIS (FRANCE)

Tel. (33) 1 44 90 88 60 - Fax (33) 1 40 08 01 45 - E.mail : inbo@wanadoo.fr

Any information and documentation on these events will be available on the websites : www.omvs.org and www.inbo-news.org