

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

**WORLD WATER FORUM  
- THE HAGUE -**

**INBO WORKSHOP – 20 MARCH 2000  
" Water in Rivers :  
Developing River Basin Organisations over the World "**

**RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE WORKSHOP**

The participants in the Workshop, organised by the International Network of Basin Organisations during the day devoted to "Water in Rivers" in the WORLD WATER FORUM, on 20 March 2000 in THE HAGUE, formulated the following recommendations:

A sound management of water resources is a prerequisite to ensure quality of life on our planet and sustainable socio-economic development.

The issues raised are complex and the solutions must at the same time allow for:

- the contending with natural catastrophes and risks of erosion, floods or drought, taking into account land and water management,
- the reliable meeting of urban and rural populations' requirements in terms of good quality drinking water, in order to improve hygiene and health and to prevent important outbreaks of disease,
- the reclamation of farmlands and the development of appropriate irrigation systems to reach food self-sufficiency,
- harmoniously developing industry, energy production, recreational activities and, in some areas, tourism and waterways navigation,

- preventing and controlling pollution of all kinds and origins, in order to preserve aquatic ecosystems and more especially, to protect fauna and optimise fish breeding for human consumption, while meeting the requirements of various uses and more generally, preserving the biodiversity of the aquatic environment.

All these issues can no longer be approached by sector or localisation, nor approached separately. **Looking for solutions the objective of which is sustainable water use must associate the national and local authorities together with the users in integrated water resources management which respects the natural environment, and is organised on the scale of river basins.**

INBO recommends that:

1 integrated water resources and environmental management be organised on the scale of large river basins in order to meet rightful needs in the best way possible,

2 Local Authorities, all the various categories of users and the civil society participate in the formulation of water policy within river basin committees in particular,

3 Basin Master Plans be formulated with medium and long term objectives and implemented within Five-Year Priority Action Programmes,

4 specific financing systems, based on the "users-polluters-pay" principle, be developed in order that "water pays for water" with a basin common cause concept.

Cooperation agreements should be signed and formalised between riparian countries regarding large shared rivers, lakes and seas, especially within specific international commissions.

Integrated water resources management implies that comprehensive and permanent information systems are developed at all relevant levels, especially for each national or shared river basin, to acquire better knowledge of the status of water resources and ecosystems, in quality and quantity, of their uses and of the pollution discharged, either point or non-point pollution.

Information and training capacities should be developed for the representatives of local authorities and users to enable them to fully assume the responsibilities and missions assigned to them within the framework of the basin policy.

The International Network of Basin Organisations approves the draft Associated Programme prepared to fit in with " Global Water Partnership ". Its objectives are:

- to develop permanent relations with the organisations interested in integrated water resources management at the level of large river basins in order to facilitate exchanges of experience and expertise among them,
- to facilitate the development of tools for institutional and financial management, programming, the organisation of data bases, models adapted to the needs,
- to design information and training programmes for local elected officials, the representatives of users and the different actors involved in water management as well as for the executives and staff of the member basin organisations,
- to encourage education of the population, the young in particular,
- to evaluate ongoing actions and disseminate their results by developing, in particular, a global integrated system for the exchange of documentation among the basin organisations.

INBO draws the attention of governments and bi and multilateral cooperation agencies on the prime importance of using the above principles and means in their programmes to ensure sound water management at river basin level which is a prerequisite to the future sustainable development of mankind.