



REPORT

30th UN WATER MEETING -31st January and 1st February, 2019

Situation of the WORKING GROUP ON WATER - WFEO

1.- ACTIVITIES DEVELOPED IN THE 30th UN WATER MEETING

The 30th meeting of UN-Water, which deals with ongoing issues and future issues to be addressed by UN water-related agencies and SDG 6, has been held on 31 January and 1 February 2019, in the presence and with the participation of the partners of UN-Water, among which is the WCCE, World Council of Civil Engineers, in whose representation I have attended.

It should be taken into account that, in relation to the recently formed Water Working Group of the WFEO, one of the basic axes of action is to carry out engineering contributions to SDG 6 and its objectives through participation in UN- WATER. We can participate by providing our contributions through the representative of WCCE, Tomás A. Sancho, because WCCE is a partner of UN-Water and he's invited to it.

The meeting has been developed in the headquarters of IFAD in Rome.

AGENDA

The agenda [is available here](#)

PARTICIPANTS

We participated 84 people, 29 of them representing 24 partner organizations of UN- Water, and 23 as observers. Attendees' relationship is accompanied.

The list of participants [is available here](#)



RELEVANT MATTERS

The preliminary report [is available here](#)

To highlight:

- Update on the UN Reform Process: UN-Water Secretary Madhushree Chatterjee highlighted that, as part of the UN reform process, the Resident Coordinators have moved from being UN Development Programme (UNDP) staff to being UN Secretariat staff. She said there is a website with information on the UN reform process, and that additional workstreams include: finalization of the accountability framework; review of multicountry offices; and a regional review to ensure that regional assets better synchronize with the needs on the ground. She said the next comprehensive update will be provided during the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) development segment in May. The president of UN-Water, Gilbert Hounbo, stressed that it is about offering "more delivery and less bureaucracy"
- In preparation for the in-depth review of implementation of SDG 6 as one of the sub-set of SDGs to receive such a review during the July 2018 meeting of the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF), UN-Water Members had coordinated their efforts to develop the SDG 6 Synthesis Report 2018. The 30th UN-Water Meeting reviewed the consultation process that was undertaken during the final stages of the preparation of the Synthesis Report, including recommendations for the next Synthesis Report. Participants also discussed a UN General Assembly (UNGA) resolution calling for two high-level meetings – one in 2021 and one in 2023 – on water and sanitation issues, and options for how UN-Water could contribute to the preparations for these meetings.

- For the first time, the UN-Water agenda included an “Open Space” session for participants to propose specific topics that could benefit from a focused discussion and brainstorming. Participants said they appreciated the opportunity to hold face-to-face conversations on these topics, and agreed to include time for an Open Space on the agenda at the next UN-Water Meeting. Yo personalmente participé en dos debates: Uno sobre Financiación y otro sobre nexo entre ciencia y ODS 6.
- At the conclusion of the meeting, UN-Water Chair Gilbert Houngbo highlighted the discussions on data for measuring SDG 6 progress, country-level activities for UN-Water, and the role UN-Water Partners can play in engaging with UN-Water and the specialized UN agencies, all of which captured UN-Water’s collaborative approach to promoting a coordinated approach on water challenges. In adjourning the open session, he looked forward to seeing all Members and Partners at the next UN-Water Meeting, in August 2019, in Stockholm, Sweden.



3.-COMMENTS AND REPORT

1. ENGINEERING ROLE IN UN-WATER:

It is ratified that engineering, nowadays, does not play a relevant role in the documents of UN-Water. It is true that, since the first reports of the WWAP, it was already distinguished between the actions "in the box" (of the agents directly involved) and "out of the box" (of other stakeholders and of the Society in general) and stressed the importance of this comprehensive and holistic vision. But, in fact and today, one can see how little importance is given to the contribution of engineering to achieve the objectives of SDG 6, so it can be said that the WFEO's approved initiative to create the WGoW is a very convenient initiative.

2. WFEO STRATEGY ALIGNED WITH SDG AND PARIS AGREEMENT

It remains clear that today it is the accepted global trend: Paris Agreement and especially the 17 SDG, in this case SDG 6. It is a success that the various committees and working groups of WFEO are aligned with SDG.

3. POTENTIAL ALLIANCES:

The UN-Water president stressed that UN-Water partners have the contacts of all to be able to use them and share our initiatives (such as our WFEO reports). In addition to being able to participate in the different Working groups (Task Force and Experts Groups) that UN-Water promotes.

In this sense, I took advantage of the meeting to contact the Director *ad interim* Of the UNESCO Division of Water Science, María Donoso, and to comment on the initiatives of WCCE and WFEO. We will send her personally a summary of where our initiatives are, and she was delighted to share them and promote them.

I also spoke with the representative of the IAHR, engineer Angelos Finkidakis, and I shared with him the initiative of the report in preparation ("Managing floods and Droughts: Best Practices and engineering contribution" / [Floods-Droughts Contents v3.docx](#)) seeking to make contributions to it from the IAHR. (The WCCE have signed an MoU with IAHR previously, it is to include this work as development of the same).



Maria Donoso, Director División of Water Sciences of UNESCO



Angelos Finkidakis, representative of IAHR



4. UPCOMING EVENTS

- **Fourth Session of the UN Environment Assembly (UNEA-4):** UNEA-4 will consider the theme, “Innovative solutions for environmental challenges and sustainable consumption and production.” **dates:** 11-15 March 2019 **location:** Nairobi, Kenya **www:** <http://web.unep.org/environmentassembly/>
- **First WASAG International Forum on Water Scarcity in Agriculture:** This forum aims at identifying solutions to address water scarcity in agriculture in a changing climate. **dates:** 19-22 March 2019 **location:** Praia, Cabo Verde **www:** <http://www.fao.org/land-water/events/ws-forum/en/>
- **World Water Day 2019:** The 2019 theme for this global awareness-raising campaign is, “Leaving No One Behind.” **date:** 22 March 2019 **location:** worldwide **www:** <http://www.worldwaterday.org/>
- **Inter-agency and Expert Group on SDG Indicators – Ninth Meeting:** This meeting will review the tier classifications for SDG indicators, review work plans for indicators in Tier III, discuss the 2020 comprehensive review of the indicator framework and additional indicators, consider data disaggregation issues, and share experiences in SDG monitoring. **dates:** 25-28 March 2019 **location:** Beirut, Lebanon **www:** <https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/meetings/iaeg-sdgs-meeting-09/>
- **First Global Conference on Synergies between the 2030 Agenda and Paris Agreement:** This event will be convened by the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA) and the UNFCCC. It will serve as the EGM on SDG 13 (climate action) ahead of the in-depth review of SDG 13 by the HLPF. **dates:** 1-3 April 2019 **location:** Copenhagen, Denmark **www:** <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/hlpf/2019#preparation>
- **Sanitation and Water for All Sector Ministers’ Meeting:** The Sanitation and Water for All Sector Ministers’ Meeting will support the achievement of the water, sanitation and hygiene-related targets of the SDGs. **dates:** 4-5 April 2019 **location:** San José, Costa Rica **www:** <http://sanitationandwaterforall.org/priority-areas/high-level-meetings/2019-high-level-meeting/>
- **UNESCO International Water Conference:** The UNESCO International Water Conference aims to advance sustainable water security and peace by leveraging intersectoral management of water resources. **dates:** 13-14 May 2019 **location:** Paris, France **www:** <https://en.unesco.org/events/unesco-international-water-conference-leveraging-intersectorality-sustainable-water-security>
- **High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF):** The seventh session of the HLPF will convene under the auspices of the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC). HLPF 2019 will address the theme, “Empowering people and ensuring inclusiveness and equality,” and will conduct an in-depth review of SDG 4 (quality education), SDG 8 (decent



work and economic growth), SDG 10 (reduced inequalities), SDG 13 (climate action) and SDG 16 (peace, justice and strong institutions), in addition to SDG 17 (partnerships for the Goals) which is reviewed each year. **dates:** 9-18 July 2019 **location:** New York, US **www:**<https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/hlpf/2019>

- **31st UN-Water Meeting:** This meeting will gather UN-Water Members and Partners to coordinate the UN's approach to water and sanitation issues. **dates:** 23-24 August 2019 **location:** Stockholm, Sweden **www:** <http://www.unwater.org>

- **World Water Week 2019:** The 29th World Water Week, organized by the Stockholm International Water Institute (SIWI) and partners, will focus on the theme, "Water for Society: Including All." **dates:** 25-30 August 2019 **location:** Stockholm, Sweden **www:** <http://www.worldwaterweek.org/world-water-week-2019-water-for-society-including-all/>

5.-SITUATION OF WORKING GROUP ON WATER (WGOW)

We already have the group of professionals prepared to work in Spain in IIE, both by the association ICCP and by CIDES.

We have designate the coordinator of the first REPORT on floods and droughts (Managing floods and Droughts: Best Practices and engineering contribution), Teodoro Estrela, who has already prepared documents for the European Union on the subject at the time.

The Ode of Portugal has already appointed a Vice-president of the Working Group, Joaquim Poças, and is preparing another group of professionals in Portugal to develop the tasks.

It has been approved the index of this first compromised Report, "Managing Floods and Droughts: Best Practices and Engineering contribution", and we have prepared a Form for the participation of other organizations interested in this First Report. The Form is attached.

Abstracts have been presented for the April WCF in Ljubljana (presenting the Working Group on Water and the work plan for the first report) and for the November WEC in Melbourne (for a round table where the first report will be presented, and good practices of Spain, Portugal, Australia, Mexico and China).

6.-UPCOMING ACTIVITIES OF THE WGOW

- The Executive Directorate of the WFEO must:
 1. Prepare a specific section on the WFEO website to host the activities and reports of the WGoW



2. Send a letter to the members of the WFEO requesting their contributions to the first compromised Report, "Managing Floods and Droughts: Best Practices and Engineering contribution". And attaching the Form already prepared for it.
 - The secretariat of the WCCE must:
3. Send to the Director of the Division of Water Sciences of UNESCO, María Donoso, the documentation on the MoU already signed and with the request to promote its development in water-related activities
4. Reiterate the IAHR's request for collaboration to the first compromised Report, "Managing Floods and Droughts: Best Practices and Engineering contribution", already sent to the representative of the IAHR in the UN Water, Angelos Finkidakis, directing a letter to its president, Peter Goodwin.
 - The WGoW Coordination Committee must:
5. Prepare communication for Ljubljana WCF April 2019
6. Distributing the drafting tasks of the different chapters of the first committed Report
7. To compile the good practices of Spain and Portugal, and to make a first draft of the general chapters of the document, with the support of the specific working groups of Spain and Portugal.

Madrid, 17th February 2019