

SECTION III

b. Narrative on the progress in each of the thematic areas in the Marrakech Partnership

- i.Clear acceleration signals for non-state actor action since COP21
- ii.Achievements made towards building resilience to climate change

During 20 COP, the importance of the impacts of Climate change on the water cycle was not taking into account in discussions. We have to wait COP21, in 2015 in Paris, to see the water issues entering into the Lima-Paris Action Agenda, and mainly COP22, In Marrakech, to organize the first official UNFCCC Global Climate Action Day for Water on 9 November 2016, making water much more visible within the climate debate.

During COP22 Water Day, “**the Water for Africa**” initiative was launched by the Moroccan Government, as a means of countering the impacts of climate change in affected African Countries. This initiative stemmed from **the Blue Book**, which summarizes the outcomes of **the interim International Conference on Water and Climate**, organized in July 2016 in Rabat.

The “**#ClimateIsWater**” Initiative, which is steadily growing and already reached 62 organizations, was created with the aim to strengthen the position of water within the climate discussions and UNFCCC processes.

The Alliance for Global Water and Adaptation (AGWA) accounts now for 1000 members and had brought great endeavors in bridging the water and climate community on a policy and technical level. Over the past three years, during the Stockholm Water Week, it organized high-level dialogue sessions in order to highlight the interlinking opportunities that water can bring to the SDG agenda and the Paris Climate Agreement.

Four Alliances were launched at COP21, with the objective to mobilize their respective categories of non-State actors to carry out climate adaptation and mitigation actions in the water sector:

- **The Alliance of Basins for Climate Action** gathers, in 94 countries, the 358 signatories of the “**Paris Pact on water and adaptation to climate change in the basins of rivers, lakes and aquifers**”.

A call for action lead to commitments on **7 flagship projects** at COP21: 3 projects of adaptation to climate change in the basin management planning of Chinese Hai River, Mexico Valley Basin and of the Senegal River, 2 projects to strengthen regional and national Water Information Systems (WIS) in the Mediterranean basin and in the basin of the Congo River, 1 project to develop financial mechanisms to support resilience measures in 4 Latin American countries 1 Climate Resilience Investment Plan for the Niger River basin. Since COP21, all of these flagship projects were financed and implemented.

- **The Business Alliance For Water And Climate** (BAFWAC) grew to 64 companies members, whose annual cumulated revenues reached 649 million dollars in September 2017.

- **The Megacities Alliance for Water under Climate change** (MAWC) is now joined by 16 megacities representing more than 300 million inhabitants (Beijing, Buenos-Aires, Chicago, Ho Chi Minh, Istanbul, Kinshasa, Lagos, London, Los Angeles, Manila, Mexico, Mumbai, New-York, Paris, Seoul, Tokyo)

- **The Global Clean Water Desalination Alliance** brings together key players in the desalination and energy industries in order to develop low carbon water desalination processes. It gathers companies and research and development organizations from 23 countries.

At Marrakesh's COP22, these four alliances have established **the Global Alliances for Water and Climate (GAfWaC)**, as global collaborative platform for water and climate join action, totaling today 450 members from 94 countries.

At COP22, **the GAfWaC** members committed to provide technical assistance for the development of new projects of adaptation and mitigation in the water and water-related sectors, to exchange experiences, best practices and best available technologies and to bridge the gap between donors and project holders through a dedicated platform.

The International Flood Initiative (IFI), has launched the new “IFI strategy 2016-2022”, to promote an integrated approach to flood management while reducing the social, environmental and economic risks.

The Global Water and Development Information Network for Arid Lands (G-WADI) endorsed its new strategy in 2016, which aims at contributing to a better water resources management in arid and semi-arid regions of the world.

SECTION IV a. New commitments and announcements between COP22-COP23

As a direct follow-up of COP22, the most important commitment was the launch of **the Incubation Platform of the Global Alliances for Water and Climate (GAfWaC-IP)**. This collective initiative bridges the gap between donors (struggling to find good climate projects) and project holders (struggling to know how to access climate finance) by **providing technical assistance to 6 pilot projects** to strengthen Water Information Systems (WIS) for adaptation in Burkina Faso and in the transboundary basin of the Senegal River, to elaborate strategy of adaptation for the transboundary Sava River Basin and for the Zarqa River (Jordan), to limit pollutant discharges in the drying rivers of the Jawhar (Fez, Morocco) and to develop the global Web-based Peer Learning and Collective Action Platform to exchange best practices and available technologies between companies. Funding of these incubated projects could benefit to 33 million people living in the 5 pilot basins.

In parallel, the creation of “HYDRUS” training center on water and adaptation to climate change in Brazil (Sao Paulo and Brazilia), the strengthening of the Mediterranean Water Information Systems (EMWIS) and of WIS in the two pilot basins of the Chu-Talas and Syr-Daria (Central Asia) have been achieved.

The Megacities Alliance for Water and Climate (MAWC) made public printed editions in English and Spanish of its book **“Water, Megacities and Global Change”**, presenting monographs on the water and climate challenges and solutions of 16 megacities and extended its network with the creation and development of regional alliances of megacities. UNESCO, with Paris Metropole, ARCEAU and SIAAP committed to organized in 2019 a second edition of the international conference on “Water, Megacities and Climate Change”: **“EAUMEGA2019”**. MAWC will be organizing also in 2018 an international conference on **“Megacities and sea level rise: risks and adaptation strategies”** in New York.

The BAFWAC made the commitment to maintain and to feed its **“Global Web-based Peer Learning and Collective Action Platform”** for 5 years. It also aims at gathering 100 signatories by 2018 representing 1000 billion \$ in annual cumulated revenues.

The Global Clean Water Desalination Alliance pledged to implement additional investment of 100 million dollars each year to develop innovative solutions to increase energy efficiency and use of renewable energy of desalination technologies.

UNECE has strengthened **the “Global Platform of Transboundary Basin Organization”** to test the efficiency of non-regret measures of adaptation.

There is a growing awareness of the water community on the importance to develop **Nature-Based Solutions (NBS)** that could be combined with institutional or technical solutions for more effectiveness in a context of climate change. There is a collective project prepared of a High Level Declaration on the better use of these NBS at COP23.

During the **Stockholm Water Week 2016**, the Moroccan COP Presidency highlighted the importance of water when it comes to adaptation and mitigation and as a backbone to the NDC's implementation. This contributed to securing the water action day and placing it in **the Champions' MPGAA road map** that was presented at the COP22. Hungarian President and State Secretary of water of Morocco supported the high interest for water in bridging the SDG, Climate and Ocean agendas, within the High Level Panel on Water and for the upcoming COP.

The Budapest Water Summit, in November 2016, just after COP22 enabled Heads of States and multilateral development banks to reconfirm their engagements for water and support a better balance between adaptation and mitigation.

Following the success of the first International Conference on Water and Climate held in Rabat in July 2016, **the 2nd International Conference on Water and Climate: Fostering dialogue on the road to CoP23**, was organized on 3-4 October in Marseille, France.

The Italian Government organized an **International Summit “Taking actions for water and climate”**, on 23 – 25 October 2017 in Rome, with a special focus on the need for quick action to finance projects to improve knowledge, governance, public participation and take immediate measures for water adaptation to climate change.

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b. Key priorities for non-state actor initiatives to succeed on the ground and priorities to address immediate onset of climate disasters

Knowledge is clearly one of the top priorities. We cannot manage what we don't measure. **There is a necessity to create and strengthen monitoring networks**, Water Information Systems (WIS) and modeling tools in order to limit the uncertainty arising from climate change and to support decision-making in water issues.

Another key priority is related to governance: there is a need to develop climate adaptation strategies in water management plans, to reinforce vertical and horizontal integration and to involve stakeholders in these processes, ensuring social acceptability of projects and facilitating bottom up actions.

On the ground, successes also require **to strengthen capacities of the water staffs and stakeholders at all levels by training**.

As this is a pre-requisite to other priorities: **there is a necessity to facilitate access to climate finance for better governance and for field projects initiated by non-State actors** (i.e. cities, regions, national and transboundary basin organizations, economic actors...), whose actions are essential to achieve the objective of the Paris agreement. A communication effort must be made by Ministries of finance, climate donors and international organizations, with the objective of informing of existing procedures, identifying bottlenecks, support actors' capacity building, take possible corrective measures, and introduce innovative financial mechanisms, such as Blue Bonds and Public-Private Partnerships.

c. Narrative describing top policy “asks” for acceleration of climate action in the thematic areas, i.e. short term to COP24, and up to 2020.

First, there is a need **to bring closer coordination between the Alliances focusing on Water, Health, Food and Energy**, as these four sectors are, more than the other, interdependent by nature. Or we are all still working in parallel each in our own tunnel!

Second, it is necessary **to establish a clearer and stable preparatory process for the COPs Global Climate Action Days**. Each year, there is a different, complicated and time-consuming procedure.

Third, we need a greater coordination between the Climate Chance Summit and the GCA Global Forum of Alliances and Coalitions to avoid overlap and wasting resources.

There is a need to improve the integration of GCA water stakeholders within the UNFCCC official processes and in the different UNFCCC subsidiary bodies.

In the longer run (2020), we would need the support of the Parties, UN Agencies and UNFCCC Secretariat to disseminate the production made by the water Alliances to facilitate access of project holders to climate finance (training materials, methodological guides...).

Following the resolution of the IHP Council, the Parties concerned have to contribute to the development of the Megacities Alliance, in order to develop and implement climate change adaptation solutions in these very large cities.

BAFWAC expresses its wish to participate in the Facilitative Dialogue as the UNFCCC focal point for the private sector in the water and climate domain.

SECTION VI**a. Non-state actor expectations and key messages for Parties****Water is still too marginal in international climate negotiations.**

The international raising-awareness Initiative, “**#ClimateIsWater**”, remains that water is an enabler and a connector, an essential common thread that connects all the SDGs of the 2030 Agenda for sustainable development.

It remains very important to reaffirm that freshwater is essential for life, health, economic development and functioning of ecosystems and that it is increasingly impacted by climate change, with a greater frequency and intensity of extreme floods and droughts and their consequences on the population, and almost all economic activities. This should be reflected in the NDCs, with a systematic integration of an adaptation component in climate change strategies, for better water management.

As the Paris Agreement is implemented in a harmonized way with the Sustainable Development Goals, water systems offer not only major adaptation advantages, but unrecognized mitigation opportunities as well. However, water adaptation and mitigation actions will need sustainable financing to secure our future.