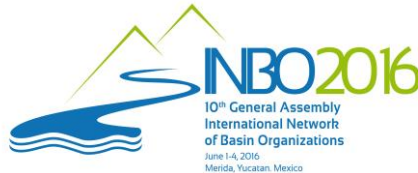




**RESEAU INTERNATIONAL DES ORGANISMES DE BASSIN
INTERNATIONAL NETWORK OF BASIN ORGANIZATIONS
RED INTERNACIONAL DE ORGANISMOS DE CUENCA
REDE INTERNACIONAL DE ORGANISMOS DE BACIA**

**WORLD GENERAL ASSEMBLY
MERIDA (MEXICO)
1 – 4 JUNE 2016**



FINAL RESOLUTIONS

FINAL VERSION V03

The 2016 statutory General Assembly of the International Network of Basin Organizations took place in Merida in Mexico from 1 to 4 June 2016, at the invitation of the Mexican Secretariat of Environment and Natural Resources (SEMARNAT), the National Water Commission (CONAGUA), the Mexican Basin Councils and the North American Network of Basin Organizations (NANBO).

The meeting was honored with the effective presence of Messrs. Rolando Zapata Bello, Governor of Yucatan, Mansour Faye, Minister for Water and Sanitation (Senegal), Abdelaziz Zerouali, representing Mrs. Charafat Afailal, Delegate Minister for Water (Kingdom of Morocco, Presidency of COP22), Péter Kovács, State Secretary for Water (Hungary), Jacques Ganoulis, Special State Secretary for Water (Greece), HE. Minister Rafael Pacchiano Alamán, Secretary of Environment and Natural Resources (SEMARNAT–Mexico), as well as Roberto Ramírez de la Parra, Director General of CONAGUA.

The Assembly gathered 509 registered delegates, representing the Member Organizations, water administrations or observers from 49 Countries, as well as the representatives of several interested bi or multilateral organizations and International Commissions or Authorities of transboundary basins.

The delegates thanked the Mexican Secretariat of Environment and Natural Resources (SEMARNAT), the National Water Commission (CONAGUA), the Mexican Basin Councils and the North American Network of Basin Organizations (NANBO), as well as the State of Yucatan and the city of Merida and all donors of this event for their warm welcome in Merida and the perfect organization of their Assembly and for the quality of the documentation distributed.

The Assembly renewed its thanks to the French Authorities for their political, technical and financial support to INBO Permanent Technical Secretariat since 1994, as well as to the Basin Organizations and Governmental Authorities of all the Countries that financially support the Regional Technical Secretariats or have organized the Assemblies or Boards of INBO, ANBO, MENBO, LANBO, CEENBO, NANBO and EECCA-NBO, as well as of the "EUROPE-INBO" Group,

The General Assembly, in the unanimous vote of the represented Member-Organizations, approved, according to the statutes of the Network, the following decisions:

A - STATUTORY DECISIONS

A1 - ELECTION OF THE PRESIDENT

The Assembly congratulated **Brazil** and most especially ANA, LANBO and the President **Lupercio ZIROLDO ANTONIO** for the way they have fulfilled INBO World Presidency since the Fortaleza General Assembly in August 2013.

The Assembly unanimously nominated **HE Roberto Ramírez DE LA PARRA**, Director General of the National Water Commission (CONAGUA), Mexico, as the **new INBO World President** until next General Assembly which will take place in 2019 in Morocco, at the invitation of Mrs. Charafat Afailal, Delegate Minister for Water (Kingdom of Morocco),

The Assembly awarded unanimously the title of "**honorary Presidents of INBO**", to **Mr. Lupercio ZIROLDO ANTONIO**, as it is the tradition for all the former World Presidents of the Network.

It awarded the title of "**INBO expert**", for services rendered to the Network, to Mrs. Tracy Sithabile Molefi, President of the African Network of Basin Organizations – ANBO, and Messrs. Vicente Andreu-Guillo, President Director, National Water Agency of Brazil,, Peter Kovács, State Secretary for Water (Hungary), Jacques Ganoulis, Special State Secretary for Water (Greece), Alfredo Mamani Salinas, Chief Executive of Lake Titicaca Basin Authority, Victor A. Dukhovny, Director General SIC, Inter-State Water Coordination Commission (Uzbekistan), Harry Liiv, Deputy Secretary General, Ministry of the Environment (Estonia), Dr. José Domingo Paredes, Vice-Secretary for Water, SENAGUA (Ecuador),. Pavel Punčochář, Director General, Ministry of Agriculture, Czech Republic.

A2 – COMPOSITION OF THE LIAISON BUREAU

It also nominated the **Members of the World Liaison Bureau** proposed by the national Authorities and Member Organizations concerned in each region having a Regional Network (see ANNEX 1).

The General Assembly empowered the Liaison Bureau for designating, should the case arise, new members proposed by the Regional Networks according to their new developments.

Under the presidency of **Mr. Roberto Ramírez DE LA PARRA**, new world President of INBO, **Messrs. Lupercio ZIROLDO ANTONIO (Brazil)**, **Mr. Peter Kovács, as successor of Mr. László KOTHAY** (Hungary), **Kabiné KOMARA**, OMVS High Commissioner, are ex-officio members of the Liaison Bureau as former World Presidents or their successors in the authorities of their country, and Mrs. Charafat Afailal, Delegate Minister for Water (Kingdom of Morocco) as the next President of INBO in 2019-2021.

All the Presidents and Secretaries of the Regional Networks are also Members of the World Liaison Bureau as well as INBO World Permanent Technical Secretary (PTS).

A representative of the Global Water Partnership, the World Water Council and the President of the Organization Committee of the 8th World Water Forum of Brasilia (Brazil) will also be invited to the Liaison Bureau meetings as well as representatives of the United Nations Agencies, executing water programs associating INBO, the European Commission, OECD or OSCE, in particular.

The President may also, if he wishes so, invite other representatives of multilateral organizations or donors, working with INBO, to the Bureau meetings.

The next Liaison Bureau meetings will be coordinated with the next events organized by INBO or the Regional Networks

A3 – MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

The General Assembly reminded that a Management Committee was nominated (among the members of the World Liaison Bureau) to assist and support the President in his tasks, to represent him when he is committed elsewhere and participate in the Steering Committee of INBO Multiyear Action Plan.

In addition to the current President, this Committee is composed of the two former Presidents, the future proposed President as organizer of the next General Assembly and the Secretaries of INBO and of the Regional Networks.

A4 - APPROVAL OF THE 2013 – 2014 – 2015 ACCOUNTS OF INBO AND OF THE PROVISIONAL BUDGET FOR 2016 OF THE PERMANENT TECHNICAL SECRETARIAT

The delegates examined the progress report and accounts of INBO as such, regarding its direct income and expenditure in years 2013, 2014 and 2015.

After hearing the progress and financial reports as well as those of the Statutory Auditor, the General Assembly approved:

- the yearly statement of accounts for 2013,
- the yearly statement of accounts for 2014,
- the yearly statement of accounts for 2015, and the allocation of the results of these fiscal years to the new budget.

The General Assembly also approved the Auditor's special reports for the fiscal years 2013, 2014 and 2015.

The General Assembly approved the renewal of the independent Auditor's mandate, already ratified by the preceding General Assemblies of June 2007, January 2010 and August 2013, namely KPMG - 25 rue Hubert Curien - 87000 Limoges - France, represented by Mr. Sébastien GUERIT, as incumbent, for a five fiscal year duration from fiscal year 2016, i.e. from 2016 to 2021, in accordance with the French legislation. This mandate will have to be renewed by the General Assembly in 2021.

The delegates approved the cost estimates for the Permanent Technical Secretariat (PTS) for fiscal year 2016 and empowered the World Liaison Bureau for approving the cost estimates for 2017, 2018 and 2019 and the final accounts of INBO for 2016, 2017 and 2018 at the end of the fiscal years. These accounts will be subsequently presented to the next General Assembly in 2019 for approval.

These budgets do not include the expenses directly borne by the members for organizing, or participating in, statutory activities or the possible new financing of projects that INBO could be granted with for the implementation of some general projects, included in INBO Multiyear Action Plan or in multilateral programs.

PTS will keep a watch on the international projects and programs that could concern INBO or its Members' objectives and responsibilities. It is empowered to submit offers in this field and sign the corresponding contracts on behalf of the General Assembly, should these offers be retained and benefit from bi- or multilateral financing. PTS will regularly report to the World Liaison Bureau.

It was reminded that within this framework, PTS was able to implement in recent years, on behalf of INBO and with its partners, several projects with the European Commission in particular.

INBO PTS is also taking care, by delegation from the General Assembly and under the control of the World President, of the management of the bank accounts opened in the name of the network at the Société Générale Bank in France where INBO home office is registered and established.

The Assembly also renewed the International Office for Water's mission for a new four-year 2016-2019 period, for carrying out the tasks of the Network's Permanent Technical Secretariat according to the Convention signed in December 2003 between INBO and IOWater.

The General Assembly gives permanent delegation of signature to the INBO Permanent Technical Secretariat representative in the International Office for Water in Paris, who may delegate his assistants to:

- On one hand, make proposals, sign all bids, contracts and service agreements on behalf of the International Network of Basin Organizations and request all public assistance grants and establish the corresponding invoices;

- On the other hand, open, manage bank accounts of the Network, perform all operations, involve all forms of expenditure and make the corresponding payments.

A5 – SUBSCRIPTION FEES FOR 2017, 2018 and 2019

PTS is systematically studying with the concerned organizations the payment of subscription fees and currency exchange and looking for possible solutions to these problems, in particular to adapt to the constraining rules of Public Accountancy in some Countries.

The delegates decided that the **yearly subscription fee would amount to Euro 1,000 for 2017, 2018 and 2019, the same amount as in 2016, without any increase since 2007**, to cover the expenditures of the Network management, the publication of the "INBO Newsletter" and management of the www.inbo-news.org website as a priority.

The Regional Networks, within their statutes and those of INBO, may decide to set their own yearly subscription fee at an acceptable amount, which is added to the one paid to the PTS for INBO.

The delegates reminded the Member-Organizations that the payment of this subscription fee is important to develop the Network's activities and requested that the members pay their fee promptly or inform the Liaison Bureau of any encountered difficulties.

The Permanent Technical Secretariat (PTS) opened an INBO bank account (in Euro and USD) at the "Société Générale" Bank in Grasse (France) to collect these dues.

A6 – STRENGTHENING COMMUNICATION AND THE EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION

The General Assembly was pleased with the success achieved by INBO, since the adoption of the new statutes in 2000, both in its activities and international recognition, especially under its Associated Program with GWP, which later became INBO Multi-year Action Plan, in the World Water Forums and in the creation and development of the Regional Networks.

It was reminded that INBO was awarded the "**Special Advisory Status**" under "Major Groups" by the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), as well as with UNFCC's COPs, UNECE and UNEP in 2015, and in this respect is allowed to attend all events organized in its field of competence by the United Nations Agencies and Programs.

The Assembly was pleased with the unquestionable success of the "**INBO Newsletter**", "**Network's e-Newsletter**" publication and of the **Website**: <http://www.inbo-news.org>.

It decided to continue in this way, within the multi-year communication plan presented by PTS, especially with the publication of the "INBO Newsletter" in 2017, 2018 and 2019.

It stressed the great advantage for the Member-Organizations of contributing to "**INBO newsletter**" by timely sending their articles to the PTS and expanding the **Website** by providing any interesting information.

It recommended that the Member-Organizations **immediately inform PTS of any change in their electronic mail address (E-mail)**, in order to facilitate contacts and the dissemination of the information inside the Network, especially by way of the "**INBO e-newsletter**".

The Assembly underlined the great interest of publishing the series of "**Handbooks on Basin Management**" which is a great success, ... already translated into many foreign languages!

The first four Handbooks (Handbook on IWRM in basins, Handbook on IWRM in transboundary basins, Handbook on adaptation to climate change in transboundary basins and Handbook on the Protection and Restoration of Aquatic Ecosystems in basins) were officially presented during the World Water Forums in Istanbul in March 2009, in Marseilles in March 2012 and in Daegu in April 2015 as well as at the COP21 in Paris in December 2015.

The publication, associating INBO with the Water Academy, BRGM and UNESCO, of a guidebook on transboundary aquifer management, financed by the French Development Agency, should also be reminded.

With our partners, we are preparing for 2018 two new handbooks respectively on the funding of Basin Management Plans and on the participation of the economic sectors and the civil society in basin management (role of the Basin Councils and Committees).

The Assembly was pleased once more with the development of the Euro-Mediterranean Water Information and Documentation System (SEMIDE/EMWIS), to which INBO is associated, to disseminate information on basin management in the Mediterranean, within MENBO in particular, as well as the project for a Mediterranean Water Observation System with the voluntary Countries of this area, and with the progress of the African Water Information and Documentation System (SADIEau/AWIS), managed by ANBO.

Using these real and successful experiences, INBO will get involved and support any initiative that would lead to the setting up of **Water Information Systems** promoting, especially in a context of climate change, the sharing of and access to reliable, updated and consistent data among each basin and country, especially countries interested in exchanging information either at the regional level or at transboundary basin level, in particular within actions supported by the Secretariat of the Water Convention of the UN Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE), but also in federal countries encountering the same problems.

The Assembly also wished that the lessons learned from the project on Performance Indicators for Integrated Management in African transboundary river basins (KPI), developed by ANBO and its partners in 10 pilot African River Basins, could be widely disseminated to be adapted to the situation of all the basins which would wish so, especially under the OECD Water Governance Initiative, of which INBO is one of the members of the Steering Committee.

The World General Assembly of Merida was organized around major strategic topics to ensure, in the basins of local, national or transboundary rivers, lakes and aquifers, the necessary implementation of measures for facing major global challenges that are essentially population growth, food and energy demand or adaptation to the effects of climate change, which were dealt with in four roundtables focusing on:

- Adaptation to climate change in basins,
- Mandates, composition, role and means of the Basin Councils and Committees,
- Sustainable basin management: planning and funding
- Participation of the economic sectors and citizens.

The Assembly was also an opportunity to present a first assessment of the implementation of the commitments of the **"Paris Pact on water and adaptation to climate change in the basins of rivers, lakes and aquifers"**, already signed by 342 organizations from all over the world on the occasion of the COP21 in Paris in December 2015 and to define its operational prospects for the next COP22, to be held in Marrakech, Morocco, at the end of this year.

It was reminded that INBO General Assemblies in Dakar and Fortaleza had already been entirely devoted to the large strategic topic of **"the necessary adaptation to the consequences of Climate Change on the hydrological cycles in the basins of rivers, lakes and aquifers, either local, national or transboundary"**,

The Assembly renewed its invitation to all INBO members and all other interested organizations to sign the "Paris Pact", if they have not already done so.

The General Assembly mandated the President and PTS to ensure a wide dissemination of its conclusions to the Members and to the interested International Cooperation Organizations, especially with their publishing on the Network website.

INBO will propose to the International Organization Committee of the next 8th World Water Forum in Brasilia its contribution in facilitating the topics on the adaptation to climate change, IWRM in general, and of course on transboundary water management.

In addition, "the Round Table of Bi and multilateral cooperation Institutions" allowed the participants of the Assembly of Merida to discuss with these organizations about their vision of adaptation programs essential to face the new world challenges of water management.

INBO Member Organizations reiterated their wishes of a coordinated international initiative of the Bi and multilateral donors which would focus the Official Development Aid on Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) projects relying on the creation and strengthening of Basin Organizations and of their Basin Information Systems, especially in the context of the necessary adaptation to the effects of climatic change on water resources all over the World.

To define their orientations, these projects could rely on the outcomes of the projects financed under the strengthening of **"Science-Policy Interface"**, supported by the DG Research and Innovation of the European Commission, to which INBO is associated with its partners, and which proposes operational orientations for research programs on water resources and fosters the dissemination of research outcomes from which basin organizations could benefit to carry out more effective actions.

INBO World General Assembly was pleased that water resources management was finally recognized as one of the post 2015 Sustainable Development Goals of the United Nations. It calls for support from all governments around the world to implement policies in this direction, as water is already and will become in an immediate future, an essential limiting factor for economic and social development of Humanity.

B - PROGRESS REPORTS OF THE REGIONAL NETWORKS

The General Assembly was much pleased with the progress reports of the Regional Networks of Basin Organizations (RNBO), created within INBO, whose reports are published on INBO website.

- **The Latin-American Network of Basin Organizations (LANBO)**
- **The African Network of Basin Organizations (ANBO)**
- **The Mediterranean Network of Basin Organizations (MENBO)**
- **The “EUROPE - INBO” Group of European Basin Organizations for the implementation of the European Water Framework Directive,**
- **The Central and Eastern European Network of Basin Organizations (CEENBO)**
- **The Network of International Commissions and Transboundary Basin Organizations,**
- **The North-American Network of Basin Organizations (NANBO),**
- **The Network of Russian-speaking Basin Organizations of Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia (EECCA-NBO)**

ANBO is granted a financing of € 3,000,000 by the European Commission under the “SITWA” (Strengthening the Institutions for Transboundary Water management in Africa) project, whose executive agency is the GWPO, intended to reinforce and develop ANBO actions in this direction.

The next Assemblies of the "EUROPE-INBO" Group will take place from 19 to 22 October 2016 in Lourdes in France and in Dublin in autumn 2017.

INBO General Assembly, given the strong mobilization of the members of the European Network for the successful implementation of the Water Framework Directive and associated Directives, the “Flood” Directive in particular, asked the PTS to approach the authorities responsible for water resources management in the Member Countries to present them the undeniable advantage of exchanging experiences between river basin authorities to facilitate a more effective field implementation of the European Water Directives.

It reminded that INBO has proposed to the European Commission that the EUROPE-INBO Group, under the former’s authority and that of the Water Directors, facilitates a real European network of River Basin District Authorities and reports to the Strategic Coordination Group (SCG) the best practices and issues raised by these authorities.

The Network of International Commissions and Transboundary Basin Organizations, whose secretariat is taken care of by INBO PTS, played a key role in the preparation of official sessions co-organized by INBO and its partners on topic 4.3 of the last World Water Forum in Daegu, in April 2015. It is co-facilitator of the pilot transboundary basins platform to test the measures for adaptation to climate change impacts on water resources initiated by the UNECE in partnership with INBO.

The General Assembly encouraged building close relations with the **Regional Asian Network of Basin Organizations (NARBO)**, created with the support of Japanese Cooperation and the Asian Development Bank.

The Assembly was also pleased with the signing in 2015 of the cooperation agreement between GWPO and INBO and with the closer relations between the INBO Regional Networks and the corresponding "Regional Water Partnerships of GWP" (RWPs) in the same geographical areas, to work together to the implementation of Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) on the particularly suitable geographical scale of river basins.

C - INBO MULTI-YEAR ACTION PLAN

It was reminded that the previous INBO General Assemblies of ZAKOPANE in 2000 and QUEBEC in 2002 had approved the overall framework of the **Associated Program of "assistance with the creation and development of basin organizations all over the world"** jointly prepared by GWPO and INBO. This program was the subject of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed by INBO and GWP in June 2003 and renewed in February 2015.

Since the General Assembly of Dakar in 2010, it has been extended in the present form of **"INBO Multi-Year Action Plan."**

Within the calls for proposals of the European Union in particular, INBO PTS has presented, with its partners and regional networks, significant offers since 2003, which led to financial agreements with the European Commission with joint funding from bilateral Cooperation, especially for supporting the establishment of the Volta Basin Authority (VBA) and the Congo International Commission (CICOS) with funding from the European Water Facility in ACP countries.

The "Peer Review Mechanism" project, aiming at facilitating the implementation of Basin Management Plans under the Water Framework Directive in the 28 Member States of the European Union, is proceeding positively to the satisfaction of the voluntary Basin Authorities.

The new "EcoCuencas" project, financed by WATER-CLIMATE credits of the European Union, involves 4 basins in Latin America to test economic measures for facilitating adaptation to climate change.

Afri-Alliance (Afri-EU Innovation Alliance for Water and Climate), an European H2020 project, 2016-2021, is mobilizing 16 partners to enable African and European stakeholders of the water sector to work together on issues of innovation and Science Policy Interface in order to develop the African capacity to meet the future challenges generated by climate change.

The Assembly reaffirmed its support to initiatives providing a Science-Policy Interface (SPI) to facilitate dialogue between researchers and decision makers and field operators and to accelerate the operational transfer of research outcomes.

The Assembly wished that new initiatives be taken as regards capacity building and training for executives and technicians of basin organizations as well as for representatives of water users in Basin Committees or Councils.

For this purpose, the **"INBO Academy"** was launched in 2010 to organize training courses for executives of Basin Organizations or of their partners, focusing on exchange of best practices among peers and the transfer of research results will be increased.

The "**INBO Academy**" especially offers e-learning sessions "live" on the Web, and recorded sessions, a formula for flexibility to adapt the training to the needs and constraints of practitioners.

More traditional training courses or seminars could also be organized, especially in the great events of the network (General Assembly, meeting of the Regional Networks), according to partnerships which could be created with bi or multilateral cooperation organizations for this purpose.

It is especially important to improve knowledge worldwide of the implementation of the European Water Directives, the Water Framework Directive and Flood Directive in Particular.

It is the same for the UN Convention of 1992 for transboundary water management in Europe, called Helsinki Convention, which is from now on open to the ratification of all the Member States of the United Nations around the world, and which deals with significant topics for the mobilization of the Network members concerned, either within the enlarged Europe or in any other Country which would be interested.

It is also the case of the United Nations Convention on the uses other than navigation on international watercourses (21 May 1997). This Convention came into force in summer 2014.

Finally, the Resolution A/RES/63/124, adopted by the General Assembly of the United Nations, offers to the States the framework for joint management of their transboundary aquifers.

C1 – NEW INITIATIVES AND PARTNERSHIPS.

The "**AQUAMADRE**" project, which aims to increase awareness of the fundamental role of rivers and catchment areas in life and economic development, is still pending. But the main idea of this project to organize national, regional and/or international meetings between members of Basin Committees or Councils on the topic "Rivers for Men" in order to strengthen the exchange of experiences on the role and importance of culture and human activities in river basin management, including support to the "National Water Dialogues"; is still valid..

The General Assembly reminded its great interest in the "**Blue Passport for basin citizens**" joint initiative of the International Secretariat for Water in Montreal and INBO so that local decision-makers, economic partners and the population develop a stronger sense of belonging to this basic geographical unit for water management which is the river basin.

It proposed to interested Basin Organizations, on a voluntary basis of course, to join the project and develop their own passport adapted to the situation of their river basin.

Current Web developments could enable each voluntary Basin Organization to directly download the model of the "blue Passport" and adapt it to its basin by directly issuing it under the charter of use.

The Assembly thanked the **Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD)** to have associated INBO in the Steering Committee of the Water Governance Initiative, launched at the World Water Forum in Marseilles in 2012. INBO and UNESCO were facilitators of the "IWRM in Basins" panel (including aquifers) of this initiative, which has already led to the approval of the 12 OECD principles on Water Governance. INBO will get mobilized to propose examples of good practices and recommendations on relevant indicators for basin management for next World Forum in Brasilia.

It was pleased with the establishment of a "**transboundary basins platform to test measures for adaptation to the climate change impacts on water resources**", initiated by the **UNECE** in partnership with INBO. It calls for the mobilization of International Commissions or Transboundary Basin Authorities around the world to join this strategic initiative given the short-term adaptation challenges, especially for the practical implementation of the commitments of "the Paris Pact".

It was reminded that INBO had been member of the Organization Committee of the **UN International Conference** which took place at the end of August 2013 in **Dushanbe in Tajikistan**

INBO is a partner in the "**European River Restoration**" events held in Vienna in Austria in 2013, 2014 and 2015 in which the "European Rivers Prize" is awarded every year. Closer relations with the **European Centre for River Restoration (ERRC)** are highly advisable given the significance of the challenges of good ecological status of rivers, lakes and wetlands in overall strategies for river basin planning.

INBO is also invited to participate, in November 2016, just after COP22, in the 2nd "Water Summit of Budapest", focusing on the application of the new UN post 2015 Sustainable Development Goals.

The General Assembly was also pleased with the success of the "**1st International Environment Forum for Basin Organizations**", jointly organized by the **United Nations Environment Program (UNEP) and INBO** from 26 to 28 November 2014 in Nairobi, Kenya. A second meeting could be planned in 2017 at the invitation of the Egyptian Authorities (to be confirmed).

Finally, the Assembly welcomed again the signing by INBO of an agreement (**Memorandum of Understanding**) with the **International RiverFoundation**, the **International Commission for the Protection of the Danube**, the **Global Environment Facility's International Waters Learning Exchange and Research Network (IW: LEARN)**, the **GWP** and the **Great Rivers Partnership**, led by the **Nature Conservancy**, to better collaborate with these organizations pursuing similar objectives and converging in our common efforts with the aim of creating a Global Network for Integrated River Basin Management (**Global Network for IRBM**).

It suggests that the interested basin organizations sign the **MRCTI international agreement on the sustainability of food safety in the large river basins worldwide**.

It took note of the "**Declaration of Rome on responsible inland fishing**" launched by **FAO**, especially its articles 5, 6 and 7. It wishes that INBO and FAO get closer for a coordinated implementation of these principles it approves.

The General Assembly entrusted the Liaison Bureau with the study of the additional diary of international events in which INBO could officially get involved from 2016 to 2019.

Beyond that and in the future, the Assembly draws the attention of the bi and multilateral Cooperation Agencies to the interest of the **label projects** included in its **INBO multi-year ACTION PLAN**, and wishes that these projects can be financed as a priority under consolidated actions that the donors carry out for Integrated Management and better Governance of Water Resources all over the world (IWRM), at the suited geographical levels, which are river basins.

D - INBO INVOLVEMENT IN THE 8th WORLD WATER FORUM

The Assembly wished that INBO continue the thinking started in the World Water Forums of The Hague, Kyoto, Mexico, Istanbul, Marseilles and Daegu, to propose its own "vision" on the evolution of water management in the coming years, and present its proposals to go to practical field actions with the prospect of the 8th Forum in Brasilia in Brazil in March 2018.

The Assembly recalled the efforts made by the PTS and all the members of the Network to strongly and actively take part in the exchanges during the World Water Forums that took place in Marseilles in March 2012 and in Daegu-Gyeongju in April 2015. INBO has thus widely participated in the organization of many sessions on transboundary cooperation, river basin management, good water governance, information systems and training.

This mobilization reached its "peak point" at the closing of the Forum with the signing by 16 organizations, designated as coordinators of the Themes of the Forum (World water Champions), including INBO for theme 4.3, of the Commitment to Action of Daegu-Gyeongju, which gives a set of recommendations and good practices to cope with the great global challenges.

As such, INBO takes charge, on the request of the World Water Council and of the Korean Government, of the follow-up of the recommended actions to make a progress report to the 8th Forum.

The General Assembly proposed to the organizers of the 8th World Water Forum that INBO facilitates preparatory work on adaptation to climate change in the basins as well as on the "creation and strengthening of Basin Organizations for Integrated Water Resources Management and transboundary cooperation all over the World" in partnership with all the other relevant and representative organizations concerned, such as UNESCO, UNCCD and UNECE, the GEF, Green Cross International, TNC, IUCN, WWF and others.

The Assembly mandated the World Liaison Bureau for preparing INBO participation in the 8th World Water Forum of Brasilia and for also planning active partnerships with the organizers of specific events on this occasion.

It entrusted Mr. **Lupercio ZIROLDO ANTONIO**, in liaison with Messrs. **Guy FRADIN and Newton DE LIMA AVEREDO**, as Governors of the World Water Council and Members of INBO World Liaison Bureau, and **J-F DONZIER**, PTS Secretary General, to ensure a permanent liaison with the organizers of the next Forum in Brasilia.

E - APPROVAL OF THE "DECLARATION OF MERIDA"

The General Assembly unanimously approved the "**Declaration of Merida**" and the reports of the four round tables, appended to these final resolutions.

It requested the Presidents and Permanent Technical Secretariats of INBO and of the Regional Networks and the members and observers of the Network to ensure its wide dissemination in any event and to all the organizations concerned.

It wishes that this "**Declaration of Merida**" contributes to the preparation of international initiatives that aim to promote Integrated Water Resource Management (IWRM) at the level of river basins.

F - NEXT GENERAL ASSEMBLY IN 2019

The Assembly gratefully received the invitation of the Kingdom of Morocco for hosting the 11th INBO General Assembly in 2019.

All delegates warmly thanked again the Mexican authorities, the municipality of Merida, the State of Yucatan and the Federal Government, including the National Water Commission (CONAGUA), the North American Network of Basin Organizations (NANBO), the Mexican Basin Councils, and especially the International Cooperation Department of CONAGUA, ANEAS and the CONAGUA Directorate in Yucatan for their excellent hospitality and for the excellent organization of the World General Assembly of INBO in Mexico.

The Final Declaration, photographs and presentations are published on the website:

www.inbo-news.org

Approved in Merida – Mexico on 3 June 2016.



List of the 49 represented countries:

ARGENTINA; BELGIUM; BELIZE; BOLIVIA; BOTSWANA; BRAZIL; BURKINA FASO; BURUNDI;
CANADA; CHILE; COLOMBIA; COSTA RICA; CZECH REPUBLIC; ECUADOR; SPAIN; ESTONIA;
FRANCE; GERMANY; GREECE; HUNGARY; ITALY; KENYA; LAO PDR; MOROCCO; MEXICO;
NICARAGUA; PARAGUAY; PERÚ; SENEGAL; SOUTH AFRICA; SWITZERLAND; TOGO; UNITED
STATES; URUGUAY; UZBEKISTAN; ZAMBIA ; MARTINIQUE; GUYANA ; CONGO (DEM REP); COTE
D'IVOIRE; GHANA; GUINEA; HAITI; MALI;; NIGERIA; PAKISTAN; SIERRA LEONE; SRI
LANKA;GEORGIA.