



Regional Process COMMISSION

February 2017

CONCEPT NOTE



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1. Introduction

The World Water Forum is the world's largest multi-stakeholder platform, which brings together political leaders, practitioners and experts to share knowledge and experiences to learn from each other as well as to renew political commitments. The Forum consists of a three-year preparatory process, a one-week event and a synthesis phase.

The 8th World Water Forum, co-organized by the World Water Council (WWC) and Brazil, will take place in Brasilia from 18th to 23rd March 2018.

The 8th World Water Forum will include four processes: Thematic, Regional, Political and Sustainability; as well as a Citizens' Forum and an Exhibition.

2. The Regional Process

Historically, a regional approach has always had a significant place in the World Water Fora. The justification for such a prominent role in the Forum is that regions share commonalities, both in terms of problems and solutions, that may not exist at the global level and therefore should share experiences to learn from one another to further the goal of sustainable water resources management. This structure also allows for regions to acquire new knowledge through linking common thematic areas across regions.

It is the goal of the 8th World Water Forum Regional Process to not only align its activities and initiatives with the other processes of the Forum, but also to utilize the timing of this event to make progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the Paris Climate Agreement and other international frameworks relevant to sustainable development.

3. General Approach and Structure for the Regional Process

The Regional Process has as its core the development, analysis and presentation of case studies related to sustainable water resources management issues at the regional level. This is different from the Thematic Process, which will take a more analytical/theoretical approach. Following as a guide the Thematic Process of the Forum, the Regional Process will incorporate local and regional perspectives throughout its own preparatory process as well as other processes and events related to the 8th Forum.

The Regional Process will be supported, on an advisory basis, by the Regional Process Commission (RPC) led by a Chair and a Vice-Chair, which reports to the Forum's overarching decision-making body, the International Steering Committee (ISC). In the development and implementation of its activities, the RPC will mobilize the participation of all stakeholders,

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including water experts, politicians, high-level government officials, water users, NGOs, the private sector, media and civil society. Participation in all 8th World Water Forum Processes and events shall be encouraged at every opportunity.

The RPC will work in a coordinated way with the Thematic Process Commission (TPC), the Political Process Commission (PPC), the Sustainability Group and the Citizens' Forum to contribute to the coherency and effectiveness of the overall program of the 8th World Water Forum.

Under the purview of the RPC is the overall coordination of the Regional Process. To assist them at the regional level, Regional Coordinators are responsible for guiding and coordinating the work of the Regional Design Groups (RDGs), multi-stakeholder bodies that implement the proposed roadmaps of their respective regions. The Regional Design Groups will, in turn, construct the Regional Session Groups, which are tasked with organizing individual sessions at the 8th World Water Forum itself. These Session Groups will be comprised of stakeholders from both within the RDGs as well as outside. Similar groups, known as Interregional Session Groups, will be developed in order to organize the Interregional Sessions at the Forum.



Figure 1: Organizational Structure of the Regional Process

4. Proposed Regional and Sub-Regional Coordination Arrangements

The structure of the Regional Process of the 8th World Water Forum will be primarily based on six larger geographic areas, or Regions, and in some cases, where appropriate, and up to the decision of the Regional Design Groups, these six Regions will be divided into sub-Regions. It is foreseen that Africa, the Americas and Asia-Pacific will split in such a manner with the Arab Region, Europe and Mediterranean staying as one unit.



Figure 2: Proposed Regional and sub-Regional Arrangements of the Regional Process (updated)

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As mentioned above, each Region will be led by an organization acting as Regional Coordinator, tasked with guiding the Regional Design Groups forward in their mission to carry out an inclusive multi-stakeholder process moving towards the Forum. The current status of the Regional (and Sub-Regional) Coordinators is as follows:

Region	Sub-region	Organization	Focal Point	Notes
Africa		<i>Africa Minister's Council on Water (AMCOW) GWP-Africa Coordination Unit</i>		<i>Regional Coordinator</i>
Sub-regions	West	GWP		Sub-Regional Coordinators reporting to Regional Coordinator
	Central	GWP		
	East	GWP		
	Southern	CGIAR		
Americas		<i>Inter-American Development Bank</i>		<i>Regional Coordinator</i>
Sub-regions	North America	American Society of Civil Engineers - Environmental & Water Resources Institute		Sub-Regional Coordinators reporting to Regional Coordinator
	Central America & Caribbean	Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture and Global Water Partnership – Central America		
	South America	UNESCO International Hydrological Programme (IHP)-Montevideo		
	Mexico	Asociación Nacional de Empresas de Agua y Saneamiento (ANEAS)		
Arab / North Africa		<i>League of Arab States</i>		<i>Regional Coordinator</i>
Mediterranean		<i>Institut Méditerranéen de l'Eau (IME) and Union for the Mediterranean (UfM)</i>		<i>Regional Coordinator</i>
Asia-Pacific		<i>Asia-Pacific Water Forum (APWF)</i>		<i>Regional Coordinator</i>
Sub-regions	Central Asia	Global Water Partnership - CACENA		Sub-Regional Coordinators reporting to Regional Coordinator
	Northeast Asia	Korea Water Forum		
	South Asia	Global Water Partnership – South Asia		
	Southeast Asia	Global Water Partnership - Southeast Asia		
	Oceania & Pacific	Secretariat of the Pacific Islands Applied Geoscience Commission (SOPAC)		
Europe		<i>Government of Portugal and BORDA</i>		<i>Regional Coordinator</i>

Table 1: Proposed Regional and sub-Regional Arrangements (updated).

5. Regional Process Thematic Structure (with links to Thematic Process)

A high priority for both the RPC and the TPC is to have a strong link between the Regional and Thematic Processes for the 8th World Water Forum. Given that both processes are working towards the same goal of engaging stakeholders on topics of sustainable water resources management, in addition to working towards the Sustainable Development Goals, it makes sense to align these Processes as much as possible.

The proposed approach aims to ensure close alignment between the Regions themselves, asks each Region/Sub-Region to choose one (1) Topic under each of the six (6) main Themes from the Thematic Framework (so at least six (6) Topics). This would give ample opportunity for similar Topics to be chosen in Region/Sub-Regions for potential

Interregional Sessions. There is no limit to the number of Topics a Region/Sub-Region should address. See Figure 3 for a limited example of how this structure would look like.

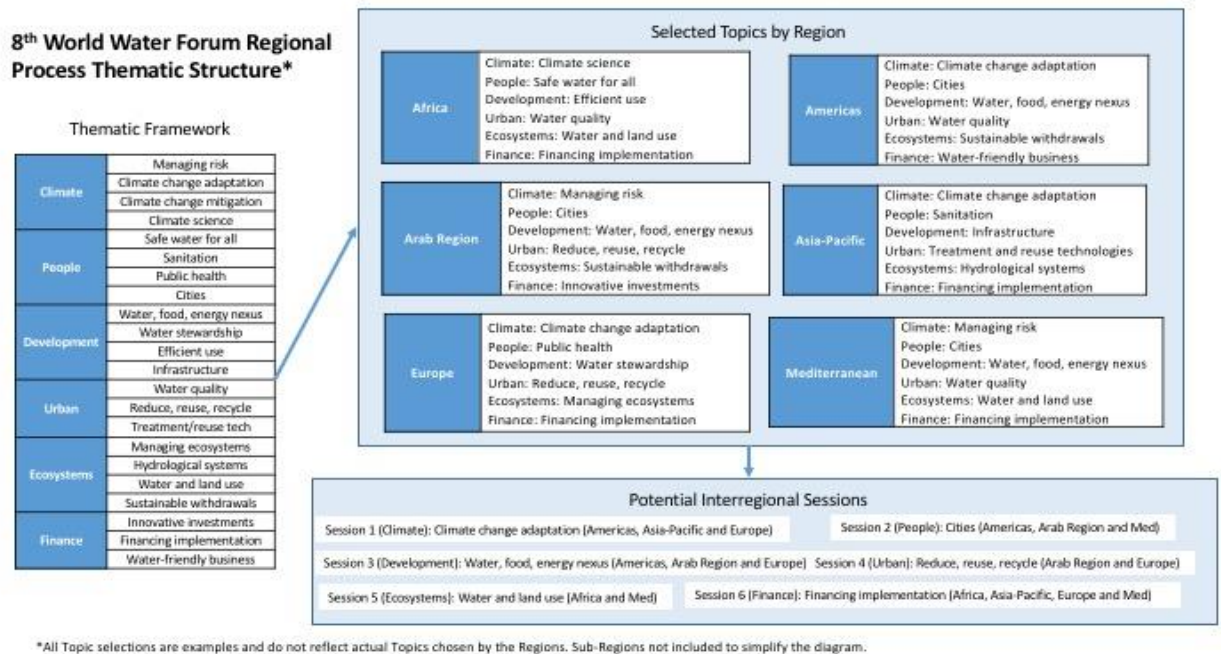


Figure 3: 8th World Water Forum Regional Process Thematic Structure

6. Proposed Deliverables from the Regional Process

The idea behind outlining deliverables in this document is to ensure that each Region and Sub-Region is producing similar work in a streamlined process so outcomes are more easily comparable at the end of the 8th World Water Forum.

Each Region is asked to prepare the following in the preparation phase, during and after the 8th Forum:

- **Regional/Sub-Regional Process Roadmap:** To guide each Region/Sub-Region, a roadmap/plan of work is required to ensure the timely achievement of important milestones leading to Brasilia 2018.
- **Regional/Sub-Regional Kick-off Meeting:** To mobilize and galvanize the stakeholders in each Region/Sub-Region, a Kick-off meeting will be planned to launch each regional/sub-regional process.
- **Regional/Sub-Regional Engagement:** To engage through the Regional Coordinators and Regional Design groups with stakeholders in the respective regions on a continuous basis to work towards the development of Regional/Sub-Regional Reports.
- **Regional/Sub-Regional Wrap-up Meeting:** To finalize the Regional/Sub-Regional Report.

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- Draft and Final Regional Reports: One of the main outputs for each Region/Sub-Region will be a Final Report. Drafts will be prepared and presented during the 2nd Stakeholder Meeting in early 2017 and a Final Report will be provided as input into the other Processes of the Forum.
- Session Design(s) and Framework: The Regional Design Groups will be required to work closely with the Session Design Groups to organize and structure sessions with a regional framework.

7. Proposed Roadmap for the Regional Process of the 8th World Water Forum

Item	Date
▪ Establish basic structure and framework of the Regional Process	
- Confirm Regions and Regional (and sub-Regional) Coordinators	February 2017 (Complete)
- Regional Coordinators build Regional Design Groups	January 2017 onwards
▪ Regional preparatory activities and reports	
- Prepare and confirm region-specific work plans, roadmaps, deliverables and budgets	February - March 2017
- Regional consultative and preparatory processes	February 2017 onwards
- Topics and topic focal points chosen for Regional focus/Inter-Regional Sessions	February – April 2017
- Regional Process Commission to finalize key deliverables for Regional Process	March April 2017
- Share draft report presentations	September 2017
- Interim check on progress of the Regions and draft reports	August 2017
- Deliver Final Report(s) for the Regional Process	December 2017
▪ Design and manage session outputs	
- Recruit and select Session Design Team(s)	April – June 2017
- Distribute ToR for Regional Session Design Team(s)	
- Submit final Regional Programme to ISC	TBD
▪ Linkages with other Forum Processes	
- Contribute to Political Process	When PP begins – March 2018
- Engage with Citizens' Forum (Citizens' Forum to name focal point for each Region)	Continuous
- Engage with Sustainability Group (Focal point to be named by Sustainability Group to liaise with Regional Process Commission)	Continuous
- Work alongside Thematic Process to create and maintain strong links with the Processes and Sessions	Continuous