



I S T A N B U L INTERNATIONAL **WATER FORA**



I S T A N B U L

INTERNATIONAL

WATER FORUM

The logo of the Istanbul International Water Forum is comprised of three water drops that combine and form a tulip that is recognized as a symbol of Istanbul. The water drops of different sizes and colours represent the main sources of freshwater on Earth. The two large drops stand for groundwater and the water in glaciers and icecaps, whereas the smallest droplet that crowns the tulip symbolizes rivers and lakes, where most of the water we use in our everyday lives is contained in, but constitutes only about 0.3 percent of all the freshwater on Earth. The turquoise shades enriches the logo's representation of Türkiye. The logo bears the signature of Ms. Gülizar Çilliyüz.

History

The foundations of the Istanbul International Water Forum (IIWF) were laid on the occasion of the 5th World Water Forum preparatory meeting held on 14-15 February 2009. The knowledge and experience gained during the preparation process of the 5th World Water Forum and the desire to transfer this experience to future generations created the idea of making the Istanbul International Water Forum a traditional water event held every three years, one year prior to the next World Water Forum.

Every three years, the world water community meets at the Istanbul International Water Forum (IIWF). Organised one year prior to the World Water Forum, IIWF is the flagship event of Turkish Water Institute (SUEN) under the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry.

1st Istanbul Water Forum

Date: 14-15 February 2009

2nd Istanbul International Water Forum

Date: 3-5 May 2011

Main Theme: An Istanbul Perspective on Regional Water Problems and Search for Solutions

3rd Istanbul International Water Forum

Date: 27-29 May 2014

Main Theme: Water Security and Legal Aspects of Water

4th Istanbul International Water Forum

Date: 10-11 May 2017

Main Theme: Water and Peace

5th Istanbul International Water Forum

Date: 5-6 May 2026

Main Theme: Strengthening Water Resilience: Innovation to Action



1st Istanbul Water Forum

Date: 14 -15 February 2009

Place: Haliç Congress and Cultural Centre, Istanbul

Convener(s): Ministry of Environment and Forestry of Türkiye; World Water Council; Istanbul Metropolitan Municipality; General Directorate of State Hydraulic Works (DSI); Istanbul Water and Sewerage Administration (ISKI)

The 1st Istanbul Water Forum was organized on 14-15 February 2009 as a preparatory meeting one month prior to the 5th World Water Forum. The Forum welcomed Prof. Dr. Veysel Eroğlu, Minister of Environment and Forestry of Türkiye, Iraqi Water Resources Minister Abdul Latif J. Rashid, Kosovo Minister of Environment and Spatial Planning Mahir Yağcılar, Macedonian Minister of Environment and Physical Planning Dr. Nexhati Jakupi, Qatari Minister of Environment Abdullah bin Mubarak bin Aboud Al Madadi, TRNC Minister of Environment and Natural Resources Mustafa Gökmen, Albania Environment, Forestry and Water Management Deputy Minister Aleksandr Garuli, Tajikistan Deputy Minister of Land Reclamation and Water Resources Operation Anvar Zoirov, President of the World Water Council Loic Fauchon, 5th World Water Forum Secretary General Prof. Dr. Oktay Tabasaran and Forum Ambassador Prof. Klaus Töpfer.

With the goal to facilitate exchange of global knowledge and raise necessary political awareness, the 1st Istanbul Water Forum aimed to contribute to below six themes of the 5th World Water Forum:

- Global Changes and Risk Management
- Advancing Human Development and the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)
- Managing and Protecting Water Resources and their Supply Systems to Meet Human and Environmental Needs
- Governance and Management
- Finance
- Education, Knowledge and Capacity Development

2nd Istanbul International Water Forum

Date: 3 -5 May 2011

Place: Haliç Congress and Cultural Centre, Istanbul

Convener: General Directorate of State Hydraulic Works (DSI)

Main Theme: An Istanbul Perspective on Regional Water Problems and Search for Solutions

Hosted and organized by the General Directorate of State Hydraulic Works (DSI), with the support of the Ministry of Environment and Forestry, Istanbul Metropolitan Municipality (IMM) and Istanbul Water and Sewerage Administration (ISKI), the 2nd Istanbul International Water Forum brought together over 4,500 participants from 100 countries around the world and particularly from the Middle East, Central Asia, Eastern Europe and Türkiye. The Forum served as a platform for the key international and local water stakeholders in and around Türkiye to widen the debate and foster greater coordination among water professionals, policy makers, non-governmental institutions, as well as individuals in the region.

On the first day of the Forum, a Ministerial Meeting was held gathering ministers and high-level decision makers from countries of the Forum's focal regions to share their visions on common water challenges and explore areas of cooperation. Organized by the Foreign Relations and EU Department of the Ministry of Environment and Forestry of Türkiye, the Ministerial Meeting discussed the topics essential in overcoming global, regional and local water challenges and underlined the need to enhance communication among national governments, relevant state institutions as well as international organizations and stakeholders.

The Forum's main theme "An Istanbul Perspective on Regional Water Problems and Search for Solutions" was addressed through 26 Thematic Sessions organized under six sub-themes, namely:

- Regional Technical Cooperation on Water
- Water for Energy
- Agricultural Water Management
- Global Climate Change and Water
- Agricultural Water Management
- Water Resources Management and Water Culture

In the light of the outcomes of the first series of Regional Focus Meetings held prior to the Forum, a group of prominent international and regional water professionals and civil society representatives gathered around the table to discuss regional water challenges and possible solutions under the main themes: "Water and Food Security and Regional Technical Cooperation on Water" for the Middle East, "Agricultural Challenges Focusing on Food Security - Regional and National Perspectives" for Central Asia, "Integrated Water Resources Management" for Eastern Europe, and "Agricultural Water Management and Food Security" for Türkiye.



The 2nd Istanbul International Water Forum brought together over 4,500 participants from 100 countries around the world.

Three High Level Panels were organized under the titles of "Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM)", "Water-Food-Energy Nexus" and "Urban Water Services", with an aim to synthesize the Forum's regional and thematic viewpoints on related subjects.

The 17 Side Events/Special Events that were organized by a diversity of interests and organizations, including NGOs, government agencies, UN institutions, private entrepreneurs, consultants and others, broadened the range of topics that were covered in the Forum with lively and fruitful discussions. Side Events covered a range of subjects from technical and social aspects of water management to gender issues, from impacts of climate change to economic growth. A Special Event organized by DSI presented case studies from Türkiye on water solutions. Another Special Event convened by ISKI was on "Istanbul Water Consensus and Water Applications".

The Water Expo provided a platform for water companies and governmental institutions to present their activities and solutions related to water.

Concerts, stage performances and exhibitions held throughout the Forum venue complemented the Forum discussions and debates, demonstrating the importance of water in our lives.



Ministerial Meeting

On the first day of the Forum, ministers and high-level decision makers from countries of the Forum's focal regions met at the Conrad Istanbul Hotel to share their visions on common water challenges and explore areas of cooperation at the Ministerial Meeting organized by the Foreign Relations and EU Department of the Ministry of Environment and Forestry. During the meeting, ministers, representatives of international institutions and top-level water executives discussed the topics essential in overcoming global, regional and local water challenges.

Decision makers have the primary responsibility for the management and development of water resources. They are also the main agencies with the capacity to carry the ideas and plans into actions. The primary objective of the Ministerial Meeting was to stimulate political will toward taking action in the face of regional water challenges. The meeting also aimed at convening top water executives to discuss opportunities for regional cooperation and identify concrete actions.



Topics discussed during the Ministerial Meeting included those derived from the regional focus meetings held in the preparation process of the 2nd Istanbul International Water Forum. High-level decision makers participating in the meeting pointed out the difficulties they experience in achieving and sustaining water security at national level. They also accounted for their legislative activities, institutional reforms, projects undertaken and strategies adopted to achieve efficient and effective water management. Representatives underlined the need to enhance communication among national governments, relevant state institutions, international organizations and stakeholders. Furthermore, they expressed their readiness and willingness to lay the foundations of a longstanding cooperation based on good intentions.

High Level Panels

The 2nd Istanbul International Water Forum included three High Level Panels (HLPs) namely, “*Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM)*”, “*Water-Food-Energy Nexus*” and “*Urban Water Services*”. The High Level Panels gave the common message that an all-encompassing cooperation in technical, economical and political terms is the key to overcome the challenge of water security.

High Level Panel I – Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM)

- *Session 1. IWRM Implementation within the Context of Regional Cooperation*
- *Session 2. IWRM in the Face of Climate Change*

High Level Panel II – Water-Food-Energy Nexus

- *Session 1. Food Security*
- *Session 2. Water-Food-Energy Nexus*

High Level Panel III – Urban Water Services

Regional Focus Meeting

The regional contributions to the 2nd Istanbul International Water Forum were implemented through a series of Regional Focus Meetings (RFMs) held by the Forum Secretariat on four regions namely the Middle East, Central Asia, Eastern Europe and Türkiye. These focal regions were selected in accordance with the framework of the 5th World Water Forum’s *In and Around Türkiye* sub-region.

- Middle East Regional Focus Meeting
- Central Asia Regional Focus Meeting
- Eastern Europe Regional Focus Meeting
- Türkiye Focus Meeting

Thematic Sessions

The thematic sessions were mainly shaped focusing on the water-related challenges of the Forum’s focal regions. Six sub-themes were accordingly identified, namely; Regional Technical Cooperation on Water, Water for Energy, Agricultural Water Management, Global Climate Change and Water, Urban Water Management, and Water Resources Management and Water Culture. Each theme was coordinated by a group of official representatives, academicians and supporting experts. Considering the content and aim of the themes, several sessions were identified under each theme to response the challenges related to the concerned issue.

More than hundreds of scientists, engineers, representatives of private and public sector and the civil society were congregated in the sessions to highlight new mechanisms, solutions and approaches to regional water problems. Highlights derived from each theme were further discussed in the wrap-up sessions and were then brought to the related High Level Panels.

Theme 1. Regional Technical Cooperation on Water

Theme 1 was performed under two successive sessions, which addressed the importance of promoting a well-functioning Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) at all levels in order to achieve a sustainable and successful regional cooperation. The sessions concluded that cross-sectorial integration and participation of multiple stakeholders in the decision-making process should be supplemented with a case specific approach that takes the peculiarities of the river basins into consideration. Throughout the sessions, regional case studies across the EU, North America, Middle East, Black Sea and Türkiye were presented and discussed in a transboundary context. These case studies indicated that cooperation among riparian states requires a combination of common political will and participation of related organizations in the decision making process.

- *Session 1.1. Regional Technical Cooperation on Water I*
- *Session 1.2. Regional Technical Cooperation on Water II*

Theme 2. Water for Energy

The “Water for Energy” theme was composed of two interrelated sessions and a supplementary panel titled as “Challenges and Solutions on Development of Water Energy”, all complementing each other. Altogether they reflected a holistic perspective on the interconnectedness of water, energy and environment. In general, current situation of hydropower facilities both in terms of technical and institutional regulations were handled with particular references to case studies from Türkiye and the Forum’s focal regions.

- *Session 2.1. Development of Water Energy Potential: Legislation and Policies*
- *Session 2.2. Interactions between Water, Energy and Environment*
- *Session 2.3. Challenges and Solutions on Development of Water Energy*

Theme 3. Agricultural Water Management

This theme discussed the challenges encountered in the sustainable management of water in terms of agricultural production. Effects of recent climate change on decreased water resources and sustainable agriculture were addressed. Participants stated that more multidisciplinary and integrated approaches are needed for the construction and use of modern irrigation systems. It was also underlined that in order to increase agricultural efficiency, it is necessary to retrench the costs in the systems where energy costs are high and irrigation level is low. Participatory irrigation management and reuse of wastewater in irrigation for sustainable and effective agriculture were the other highlights of the theme.

- *Session 3.1. Irrigation Management Practices*
- *Session 3.2. Irrigation Structures: Challenges and Solutions*
- *Session 3.3. Much, Less or Virtual Water?*
- *Session 3.4. Is Participatory Irrigation Management a Dream?*

Theme 4. Global Climate Change and Water

The sessions under Theme 4 were based on the Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA), which is a 10-year plan that aims to make the world safer from natural hazards. The HFA is the first plan to explain, describe and detail the work that is required from all sectors and actors to reduce disaster losses. The issues were evaluated in accordance with governance, risk identification, knowledge management, risk reduction and preparedness. Impacts of climate change on water, water scarcity, drought and financial tools in risk management were among other key discussion topics of the theme.

- *Session 4.1. Hydro-meteorological Disasters*
- *Session 4.2. Water Resources and Climate Change*
- *Session 4.3. Urban Adaptation to Climate Change and Water Resources*
- *Session 4.4. Water and Tourism*

Theme 5. Urban Water Management

The aim of this theme was to underline the significance of Urban Water Management for bringing solutions to the problem of water scarcity caused by population growth and climate change in cities, where the majority of the world's population lives. Within this scope, Urban Water Management Plans that aim to supply the water needs of the cities and the benefits of the SCADA (Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition) system that is used in Urban Water Management Planning were tackled. It was also highlighted that cities that are in need for alternative water resources should have wastewater treatment plants in accordance with the EU standards. It was also suggested that these wastewater treatment plants should be constructed collectively by the private sector, public sector and universities with a build-operate-transfer (BOT) model.

- *Session 5.1. Urban Water Challenges around the World and in Türkiye*
- *Session 5.2. Solutions Related to Wastewater*
- *Session 5.3. Urban Wastewater Management I*
- *Session 5.4. Urban Wastewater Management II*
- *Session 5.5. Urban Domestic Water Management I*
- *Session 5.6. Urban Domestic Water Management II*

Theme 6. Water Resources Management and Water Culture

Today, as water scarcity increasingly becomes a common problem, intelligent management of water resources has become indispensable. In this theme, IWRM and its practices were examined by giving examples of new approaches within the context of the European Water Framework Directive. The historic/ancient water structures that are parts of the water culture, which are the yield of the relationship between water and humans throughout the history, were scrutinized by considering how these structures should be evaluated in terms of modern technologies. Management of geothermal energy, the current state of geothermal energy in the world and in Türkiye and thermal tourism were other significant discussion subjects of the theme.

- *Session 6.1. IWRM - Surface Water Resources*
- *Session 6.2. IWRM - Groundwater Resources*
- *Session 6.3. Water and Culture I*
- *Session 6.4. Water and Culture II*
- *Session 6.5. Geothermal Energy and Water Culture I*
- *Session 6.6. Geothermal Energy and Water Culture II*

Side / Special Events

As part of the 2nd Istanbul International Water Forum, 17 distinct side events and special events on diverse issues were organized by international institutions, state authorities and non-governmental organizations. The side events were unique opportunities for stakeholders to draw attention to their concerns and the issues they prioritized in the management of water resources. Event organizers also shared their visions on water issues and their experiences in water-related projects. In these interactive meetings, users, officials, entrepreneurs and civil society representatives presented their solutions on water challenges and discussed ongoing projects and policies. Exhibitions, workshops and documentary films also shed light on different roles of water in our lives.

Creation of a New Habitat for the Bats of İnboğazi Cave Due to Havran Dam Construction

Convener: Investigation and Planning Department of the General Directorate of State Hydraulic Works (DSI)

Effects of Global Climate Change on Water Sources, Its Consequent Socio-Economic Burden on Women and Regional Solution Alternatives

Convener: Water and Women Platform of Türkiye

How to Prepare for the Next World Water Forum?

Convener: World Water Council (WWC)

Innovation and New Technologies

Convener: Private entrepreneurs (Akifer, Adell Mixer & Valve Production Inc.Co., i2o Water, Global Water Solutions Ind.Trade Inc., Scandinavian Water Supply, Mir Holding)

Istanbul Water Consensus and Water Applications Special Event

Convener: Istanbul Water and Sewerage Administration (ISKI)

“Matchmaking” e-tools: Bringing Water Utilities from South Eastern Europe Together

Convener: The Global Water Operators' Partnerships Alliance (GWOPA)/ UN-HABITAT

Operation and Maintenance Practices in Agricultural Water Management

Convener: General Directorate of State Hydraulic Works (DSI) Operation and Maintenance Department

Productivity in Water Use

Convener: National Productivity Centre, Türkiye

Public- Private Partnership (PPP) Model and the Management of Water Resources: Experiences and Suggestions

Convener: Actecon Consultancy

Role of Biotic Regulation of Continental Water Stock

Convener: Ecological Movement “BIOM”

Turkish - Dutch Cooperation on Water, Agriculture and Innovation

Convener: Dutch Ministry for Economic Affairs, Agriculture and Innovation

UN-HABITAT WOP-SEE Steering Committee Meeting

Convener: UN-HABITAT Water Operators’ Partnerships in South East Europe (WOP-SEE)

Water as an Engine for Growth: Case Studies Examining the Links between Water and Green Growth

Convener: Korean Government (MLTM, PCGG, K-Water) and World Water Council (WWC)

Water Framework Directive, Implementations in EU and Türkiye

Convener: Ministry of Environment and Forestry of Türkiye

Water Issues and Case Studies in Türkiye Special Event

Convener: General Directorate of State Hydraulic Works (DSI)

Water-Related Adaptation in Seyhan River Basin under Changing Climate

Convener: UN Joint Programme

Women and Water Policies

Convener: Soroptimist International (SI) of Türkiye & Turkish Business and Professional Women Federation



3rd Istanbul International Water Forum

Date: 27 -29 May 2014

Place: Haliç Congress and Cultural Centre, Istanbul

Convener: Ministry of Forestry and Water Affairs, Türkiye, Turkish Water Institute (SUEN)

Main Theme: Water Security and Legal Aspects of Water

The 3rd Istanbul International Water Forum was held on 27-29 May 2014 in Istanbul at Haliç Congress Centre, the same venue where the 5th World Water Forum was organised in 2009. The Forum was organised by SUEN under the Ministry of Forestry and Water Affairs of Türkiye.

The Forum welcomed 3,095 registered participants from countries all over the world. Following the Opening Ceremony, two plenary sessions were held. The first plenary on “*Water Security and Sustainable Development Goals*” discussed how water should be addressed adequately in the Post-2015 Development Agenda. The second plenary entitled “*Istanbul Water Consensus - A Global Movement for Cities, Local and Regional Authorities*” was co-organised by the World Water Council and Global Water Operators’ Partnerships Alliance (GWOPA).

Different from the previous Forum in 2011, the thematic component of the 3rd IIWF was simpler in content, but more to the point. As the world is moving from the Millennium Development Goals to Sustainable Development Goals, this 3rd Forum chose to focus on responses to the issues of global water security and discuss the all-important issues of climate change, waterfood-energy-ecology nexus, water governance and integrated basin management.

Recognising that no progress can be achieved without legal frameworks, the Forum also discussed the legal aspects of water such as right to water and sanitation, national water laws, transboundary water cooperation and legislations on the protection of water resources. Eight thematic sessions were held under the Forum’s main themes “*Water Security*” and “*Legal Aspects of Water*”.

Next to the thematic sessions, a total of 20 side and special events were organised throughout the Forum by various national and international institutions and organisations on thematically relevant subjects.

A number of artistic performances and exhibitions were staged throughout the Forum showcasing traditional Turkish arts. On the last day of the Forum, a technical visit was held to a drinking water treatment plant and a wastewater treatment plant in Istanbul.

Opening Ceremony

Mr. Ahmet Mete Saatçı the President of SUEN delivered his speech and inaugurated the Forum. Underlining the central location of Istanbul, he described Türkiye as a country very close to Central Asia, the Balkans, the Middle East and North Africa, geographies with severe water shortages and problems. Saatçı stated that SUEN is willing to make IIWF a central water event and a platform for exchanging experience and best practices to solve major water problems around the world, just like the Stockholm Water Week in the North and Singapore Water Week in the East.

Doğan Altınbilek, Vice President of the World Water Council, President of IWRA and member of the 3rd IIWF Advisory Committee, put stress on “good water management” and stated that it requires first a global approach that spans geographical and political boundaries, and a multidisciplinary approach that goes beyond traditional engineering and technical sciences to include economic, legal, social and institutional sciences.

After Mr. Altınbilek’s depiction of a general framework of water security, *Benedito Braga, President of World Water Council*, took the stage. Braga indicated that across all sectors, experts predict that climate change will amplify existing resource stresses. Braga also marked that, half of the world population will be living in water scarce countries by the end of the century and 35% of Sub-Sahara’s cropland will become unsuitable for cultivation, with severe impacts on food security. At the same time, farmers around the world will need to produce 70% more food by 2050 to feed a population expected to exceed 9 billion people.

The third speaker *Jung Moo Lee, Chair of the National Committee for the 7th World Water Forum and former Minister of Land, Infrastructure and Transport of Republic of Korea*, indicated that various issues and problems are included and interrelated when one discusses about “water security” and people are all well aware that it should be dealt within multi-faceted approaches in multilateral levels.



In every one year prior to the World Water Forum, I believe the Istanbul International Water Forum has made its crucial role to lead water colleagues under the imminent issues of the time.

Jung Moo Lee

Following Mr. Lee, *Mr. Klaus Töpfer, Former Executive Director of the UN Environment Programme (UNEP), Former German Federal Minister for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety and Founding Director of IASS Potsdam* took the stage and indicated that Türkiye has been taking important steps in urbanisation and solving water problems of big cities. Töpfer also underlined that energy and water nexus used to be mainly linked with hydropower for a long time, but it was a mistake. We need water as much as we need energy.

H.E. Dinesh Gunawardena, Minister of Water Supply and Drainage of Sri Lanka, emphasised his country’s important experience on sanitation and level of improved water (85%). H.E. Minister stated that according to the Water-Food-Energy Climate Nexus published by the World Economic Forum Water Initiative, agriculture in Asia currently uses 70% of annual global freshwater withdrawals and up to 90% in some parts of the region.

H.E. Veysel Eroğlu, Minister of Forestry and Water Affairs of Türkiye, took the stage as the last speaker and gave important messages. H.E. Eroğlu explained that Türkiye recognises her responsibilities towards lower riparian countries in the Euphrates-Tigris basin. As an upper riparian country, Türkiye makes utmost effort to accomplish her duties not only on quantity but also on quality, and expects the same from all other riparian countries. H.E. Eroğlu addressed the neighbouring countries by stating: “In many of our big projects, we use our own technology” and invited them to share this knowledge.

Plenary Session

“Water Security and Sustainable Development Goals”

In this session, water security issues considering food, energy and ecological security, integrated water resources management (IWRM) and water governance were discussed together with a stress on the importance of a stand-alone water goal in the Post-2015 agenda.

Panellists explained the reasons of water security requirement in detail in the context of global water security for a changing world. Water security has 3 basic dimensions: human security, economic and social security, and ecological security. Water security cannot be imagined without access to safe water and basic sanitation for all. It requires improvement of water governance at all levels and also transboundary water management in a climate of peace and political stability. In other words, water security concept should be real, concrete, global, sustainable and equitable.

Key Messages

- First victim of climate change is water.
- Develop key political decisions about water for each sector.
- Think global, act local and integrate at local level.
- Equitable and effective integrated water resources management should be the ultimate objective.
- Put smarter targets for water in the SDGs

“Istanbul Water Consensus - A Global Movement for Cities, Local and Regional Authorities”

This plenary session had a wide target audience composed of local and regional authorities, including elected officials, water and sanitation operators and water managers.

During the 5th World Water Forum in Istanbul in 2009, mayors and elected officials of local authorities expressed their readiness to take leadership in coordinating dialogue and implementing integrated water management approaches, by signing the Istanbul Water Consensus (IWC). The Consensus acknowledges the need for concerted efforts in urban water management, and commits its signatories to take stepwise action to do so. Currently, over 1100 cities, towns, local and regional authorities have committed to improve their water resources and their water and sanitation management. They have used the IWC as a framework for defining their commitments and galvanising change in their localities.

Key Messages

- Local authorities and water operators are the primary implementers of policies.
- Actors from outside the water box are vitally important.
- Use Forums for developing applicable initiatives.
- Urban water management is meaningless without considering rural conditions.

Thematic Sessions

Theme 1. Water Security

Session S.1. Adaptability of Water Governance at Different Levels and Regional Contexts

Key Messages

- Neither the problems, nor the solutions about water governance are identical at different contexts.
- To cope with future water crisis, transparency, accountability, equity and participatory decision making will be used in a trending manner.
- Differential pricing should ensure that poor communities have access to water to meet their basic needs, whereas major water users should be subject to full-cost recovery.
- Global conventions are not all-inclusive governance tools, yet they can still be used as guidance documents.

Session S.2. Water-Food-Energy-Ecology Nexus: How to Achieve Inter-connected Action

Key Messages

- Introducing the ecology component in the water-food-energy nexus is important.
- Systematic thinking is a must and policy makers should better understand and act on the nexus approach.
- It is important to have integrated policies and have water-related laws not in conflict with each other.
- Lack of coordination and cooperation between institutions is an obstacle.
- Having the right tools (methodologies, approaches and models) is important to assess what we are trading-off.
- Models should take into account climate change.
- There is need for more collective action platforms where the governments, private sector, NGOs and the civil society work together and take trade-off decisions in dialogue with each other.
- Innovation and technology is extremely important to make sure the nexus is operated in an intelligent way.

Session S.3. Shift from Resource Management to Urban Water Management: A New Paradigm

Key Messages

- Minimisation of non-revenue water is of primary importance for efficient water management.
- Water footprint should be adopted as an indicator of a city's level of development.
- Wastewater is a valuable resource of water, energy and nutrients. The gap in the water cycle can be closed by recycling wastewater.
- Ecosystem services should be integrated into water and land management to sustain healthy communities.
- Cooperation among stakeholders and taking a multi-disciplinary approach is vital for building trust between authorities and citizens.

Session S.4. Climate: What has Changed?

Key Messages

- "Risk Management Approach" is better than "Crisis Management Approach".
- Climate change will affect the hydrological cycle and we will have to combat the adverse effects of extreme hydrological events in some geographies.
- The most developed countries must reduce their industrial activities in order to give some chance to other countries.
- Countries should develop their own climate models with suitable "downscaling" procedures.

Theme 2. Legal Aspects of Water

Session L.1. Legal Aspects on Protection of Water Resources

Key Messages

- Framework conventions provide baseline and positive aspects for the protection of water resources, thereof national laws should comply with international law.
- Priorities of national law should be to avoid water waste and promote saving water.
- Public awareness is a must for the effective implementation of water law.
- Adequate funding and political interest are the priorities for designing and implementation process of water law.
- EU WFD prevents waste of water and the programmes about capacity building can be assumed as a common framework.

Session L.2. Transboundary Waters and Cooperation

Key Messages

- Political will is a key for cooperation.
- Step by step approach for cooperation is needed.
- Harmonisation of data must be the first step.
- Sharing of the benefits would encourage and enhance cooperation.
- Basin specific solutions for better management of transboundary water resources.

Session L.3. National Water Legislation: A Comparative Perspective

Key Messages

- Water law increasingly requires a broader view that extends beyond water-specific legislation.
- The quality and the quantity issues; land and other sectors; surface and groundwater management should be integrated.
- Both efficiency and sufficiency must be ensured by national water laws.
- National laws can be a model for other national laws and regional approaches.

Session L.4. Right to Water and Sanitation

Key Messages

- States have the duty of providing safe water to their citizens.
- Water is a public good, services are charged. "Water right" does not mean providing water for free.
- Law does not create right to water, but just attributes a legal standard to water rights.
- Minimum water need changes according to geographical environment, climate, culture and habits.
- It is not clear what uses are included in right to water and minimum water need concepts.
- Not only the minimum water need, but also the maximum water use limit needs to be reckoned while discussing right to water.

Side / Special Events

Water and Green Growth

Convener: K-water, Republic of Korea

Current Water Challenges, Solutions and Rebuilding New Water Policies in TRNC

Convener: YODAK, Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Energy (MoFAE), TRNC; DSI, Türkiye

Adapting to Climate Change in the Water Sector in Türkiye

Convener: DSI, Türkiye

1st World Young Water Ambassadors Assembly

Convener: DSI, United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF); Ministry of Forestry and Water Affairs, Türkiye

General Overview and Türkiye's Perspective on Water Security at Basin Level

Convener: GD Water Management, WWF Türkiye

Sustainability Assessment in Hydropower: HSAP - An Enhanced Tool

Convener: WWF Türkiye, Statkraft, Norway

Towards a Global Compendium on Water Quality Guidelines

Convener: IWRA

AquaForMed: Invest in Vocational Training for Water Supply Sustainability

Convener: Mediterranean Network of Water Training Centres (AquaForMed Network)

International Water Law in Basin Concept

Convener: GD Water Management, Türkiye

Progress of the 7th World Water Forum: from Istanbul to Daegu-Gyeongbuk

Convener: 7th World Water Forum Secretariat, World Water Council

1st World Irrigation Forum: Outcomes and Future Directions

Convener: ICID, Turkish National Committee on Irrigation and Drainage (TUCID)

Stakeholder Engagement for Effective Water Governance

Convener: OECD

Building a Science-Policy Interface Platform: Best Practices and Policies

Convener: IWRA

Historical Water Ways in Istanbul

Convener: ISKI, Türkiye

Special Event: World Water Forum 2015 - Europe Region Preparatory Process

Convener: Danish Water Forum (DWF); French Water Partnership (FWP)

DSI Wastewater Projects and Groundwater Evaluation in Ergene Basin in Türkiye

Convener: DSI, Türkiye

Subscription Applications and Environmental Protection Activities for the Young Water and Sewerage Administrations

Convener: ISKI, Türkiye

Climate Change Projection with New Scenarios for Türkiye

Convener: Turkish State Meteorological Service, Türkiye

Water Challenges for a Changing World - Water JPI and WatEur

Convener: Ministry of Economy and Competitiveness (MINECO), Spain, SUEN, Türkiye; National Research Institute of Science and Technology for Environment and Agriculture (IRSTEA), France



4th Istanbul International Water Forum

Date: 10 -11 May 2017

Place: Lütfi Kırdar International Convention and Exhibition Centre, Istanbul

Convener: Ministry of Forestry and Water Affairs, Türkiye, Turkish Water Institute (SUEN), State Hydraulic Works (DSİ)

Main Theme: Water and Peace

The last decade has brought along a significant increase in the number of people fleeing wars and conflict zones. The impacts of population mobility are felt both in conflict zones and in host countries. Mass population mobility not only carries water issues to the global humanitarian agenda but also affects how water is used and managed. From this point on, the 4th Istanbul International Water Forum (IIWF), co-organised by the Turkish Water Institute (SUEN) and State Hydraulic Works (DSİ) both under the Ministry of Forestry and Water Affairs of the Republic of Türkiye on May 10-11, 2017 in Istanbul, focused on the current refugee issue under the central theme of “Water and Peace”. The Forum addressed the water-related issues that have arisen by demographic pressures resulting from forced displacement with their humanitarian, theoretical, financial and legal aspects.

4 thematic panels were held under the central theme of “**Water and Peace**”:

Panel 1 Water for Peace

Panel 2 Implementing and Monitoring Water-Related SDGs in Turbulent Times and Areas

Panel 3 Getting the Best out of Water Relief Actions: Case Studies and the Legal Basis

Panel 4 Urban Water Management in Response to Demographic Pressure

A special session that focused on water and sanitation needs of Syrians under temporary protection in Türkiye was held with the participation of local administration representatives:

Special Session Syrians under Temporary Protection in Türkiye and Water Management

11 side events were also held as part of the Forum. The 4th IIWF welcomed 1,700 registered participants from 64 countries all over the world. The participant profile included a wide spectrum of water professionals ranging from academics to representatives of government agencies, local authorities, NGOs and the private sector.

The Forum enabled ample exchange of experiences and success stories on the challenge of providing water and sanitation services to refugees among refugee hosting countries.

Opening Ceremony

Prof. Doğan Altınbilek, Vice President of the WWC, emphasized the increasing pressure put on water resources and reminded attendees that the global water crisis is one of the most pressing political, environmental and social issues of the 21st century. Prof. Altınbilek noted that extreme weather events and water crises are positioned in second and third place by the World Economic Forum 2017 Global Risk Report in terms of their adverse impacts. He added that most affected by the water crisis are refugees from the war zones as they are the most vulnerable.

Dr. Blanca Jimenez Cisneros, Director of the Division of the Water Sciences of UNESCO noted in her speech that this was the first time that an international event is exclusively dedicated to water and refugees’ situation from a practical perspective. She added that starting this exchange of information and experience is the flagship contribution of the 4th IIWF to the international discourse and agenda, a contribution that will be useful not only for Türkiye but for many other countries and cities in the world with similar problems. Dr. Cisneros underlined that the effects of population mobility are felt both in conflict zones and in host countries. She drew attention to the relevance of Türkiye choosing such an important topic as the country that hosts the largest population of refugees in the world, currently over 3 million. She underlined that challenges are numerous and it is impossible to ignore that the provision of water to refugees or displaced people in camps goes beyond the mere supply of water for human consumption.



This was the first time that an international event is exclusively dedicated to water and refugees.

Dr. Blanca J. Cisneros

Olimpia Negru, Secretary of State of the Ministry of Water and Forestry of Romania stated that the Forum is a good opportunity to exchange information, to create necessary synergy and political consensus for promotion of concrete action. Recalling the previous speeches, Ms. Negru also stressed the role of water as a matter of national security.

H.E. Prof. Danilo Turk, Chairman of the Global High Level Panel on Water and Peace - Former President of Slovenia stated that integrating water issues into international cooperation, conflict prevention and peace building is a security imperative. Water is increasingly important for the maintenance of international peace and security. Prof. Turk noted that the future may not look like the past. Therefore a deliberate effort is needed to leverage the role of water and water cooperation as a driver of peace.



Türkiye additionally ranks at top amongst the countries delivering international aid based on the share of humanitarian aid in gross domestic product (GDP).

H.E. Prof. Veysel Eroğlu, Minister of the Forestry and Water Affairs of the Republic of Türkiye, as the host of the Forum warmly welcomed all the participants and reaffirmed that today over 3 million Syrian and Iraqi refugees live in Türkiye. Türkiye provides all necessary services for refugees in 22 temporary protection centres and cities. Türkiye additionally ranks at top amongst the

countries delivering international aid based on the share of humanitarian aid in gross domestic product (GDP). Since 2011, Türkiye has allocated 25 billion USD for aid activities.

Panel 1 - *Water for Peace*

Key Messages

- Priority has to be given to immediate tasks such as WASH assistance to refugees and other groups in vulnerable situations, and water resources and installations must be protected from becoming targets for attacks.
- Longer term tasks have to be pursued steadily and with a vision of their importance for the strengthening of international stability and peace.
- A multi-level and multitrack approach is needed to identify cooperation and solution spaces to extend peace at different levels.
- Access to water is not easy under the conditions of war and the water supply for rapidly increasing populations in host countries is also not an easy task for governments and local administrations.
- The refugee crisis is not an issue to be dealt alone by the host countries. The burden should be shared by the international community.

Panel 2 - *Implementing and Monitoring Water Related SDGs in Turbulent Times and Areas*

Key Messages

- What is not measured cannot be managed either. Hence, a performance evaluation system with indicators is crucial to successfully implement the SDGs.
- Every job in the water sector creates three to four jobs outside the water sector. It fuels the economy paving the way to much more sustainable development conditions in countries.
- We need to shift from crisis management to risk management, as prevention is less costly than recovery.
- The SDGs, contrary to the MDGs, address the whole world, taking into account the differences between developed and developing countries, and setting a framework for implementation to which all countries agreed. Therefore, implementation tools and building partnerships and cooperation among sectors have a significant role for the global applicability of SDGs.
- The 2030 Agenda calls Member States to strengthen international cooperation to ensure safe, orderly and regular migration with full respect for human rights for migrants, refugees and displaced persons. In order to tackle this with potential unforeseen challenges, implementation mechanisms need to be flexible.

Panel 3 - *Getting the Best out of Water Relief Actions: Case Studies and the Legal Basis*

Key Messages

- The principles of humanitarian law provides a framework for ensuring protection of water facilities and people.
- Governments should consider social, economic and environmental impacts of displaced people when making long-term water management strategies and collaborate with civil society and private sector.
- Water relief actions in the form of water infrastructure development should be supplemented with capacity building programs designed for local technicians.
- Meeting WASH needs of people in long term is not solely a technical challenge. Enabling proper education opportunities, especially for younger generations is a real challenge for meeting future needs.

Panel 4 - *Urban Water Management in Response to Demographic Pressures*

Key Messages

- Given their higher absorption capacities, large-scale water utilities perform relatively effective not only in regular times, but also in the event of sudden population increases driven by mass immigration.
- As in the Gaziantep case, municipalities experience difficulty coping with mass immigration that increase to 50% of the existing population. Interprovincial and inter-institutional cooperation as well as contribution and assistance at the national and international level is required.
- The integration of immigrants and refugees is a must to ensure they generate their own incomes to eventually pay for water and wastewater services so that these services are provided in a sustainable manner.

Special Session

Key Messages

- Of all countries, Türkiye sheltered the greatest number of refugees, hosting more than 3 million Syrians as of May 2017.
- All the necessary works are being carried out by the Republic of Türkiye to enable the Syrians, who have settled in different provinces of Türkiye, to live in a healthy environment and meet their basic needs including water and sanitation.
- With the extensive infrastructural investments, every Syrian in Türkiye has access to water and sanitation in equal conditions with the Turkish citizens.



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