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Assembly of Mayors and Governors under the auspices of the Megacities Alliance for Water and Climate (MAWAC)

Time: 14 January 2022, 14:00 – 17:00 pm (Paris time)

Location: Online, <https://idealco.typeform.com/to/z0affBsJ>

Language: English and French simultaneous interpretation

Conference Website: <https://en.unesco.org/events/eaumega>



- Objective -

As one of the most important highlights along with the organization of the EauMega 2022 Conference, **the Assembly will be the first official gathering among the Mayors and Governors of the Megacities for the Megacities Alliance for Water and Climate (MAWAC)**. It will also become the milestone for the Alliance activities developed since 2015, and all participating megacities will march as one alliance under the common vision for achieving sustainability and water secure megacities. In doing so, the Assembly strives to achieve the outcomes and outputs as follows:

- Expected Outcome 1** Activate the cooperation platform of the Megacities Alliance for Water and Climate, by concretizing the exchange of their expertise in the specific field of water and climate.
- Expected Outcome 2** Exchange the ideas and expectation on the Strategic Global Framework of the MAWAC, prepared by the Working Group of UNESCO Intergovernmental Hydrological Programme (IHP).
- Expected Outputs**
 - Ideas for MAWAC cooperation project platform stimulated.
 - Updated Strategic Global Framework including the new inputs of the participating Mayors and Governors.



- Proposed Agenda -

14:00 – 14:10 | Introduction and Welcome

Abou Amani - Director, Division of Water Sciences, UNESCO; Secretary, Intergovernmental Hydrological Programme (IHP)

14:10 – 16:00 | Item 1. Megacities Statement

Facilitated by **Shamila Nair-Bedouelle** - Assistant Director-General of UNESCO for Natural Sciences

- Presentations of the challenges and solutions related to water management in the face of climate change, by the Mayors and Governors of the megacities.

16:00 – 17:00 | Item 2. Megacities Alliance for Water and Climate

Facilitated by **Abou Amani** - Director, Division of Water Sciences and Secretary, Intergovernmental Hydrological Programme (IHP), UNESCO

- Presentation of MAWAC and examples of ongoing cooperation (SIAAP).

François-Marie Didier, President du SIAAP - Service public de l'assainissement francilien (SIAAP)

Joakim Giacomoni, Head of the International and Public Affair Department of SIAAP, Coordinator for MAWAC

- Presentation by K-Water (Seal of Excellence; Water Security project).

Taiwhan Kim, Senior Manager in K-Water, Republic of Korea

Neha Midha, National Professional Officer, UNESCO New Delhi Cluster Office

- Presentation of the Strategic Global Framework (UNESCO-IHP).

Philippe Pypaert, Programme Specialist, UNESCO

- Discussion on the 1st draft of the Strategic Global Framework.

17:00 | Group Photo and Closing

- **Shamila Nair-Bedouelle** - Assistant Director-General of UNESCO for Natural Sciences

Ahmedabad
Bangalore
Bangkok
Beijing
Bogota
Buenos Aires
Cairo
Chengdu
Chicago
Chongqing
Greater
Johannesburg
Metropolitan
Guangzhou
Ho Chi Minh City
Istanbul
Jakarta
Karachi
Kinshasa
Kolkata
Kuala Lumpur
Lagos
Lahore
Lima
London
Los Angeles
Manila
Mexico City
Moscow
Mumbai
Nanjing
New Delhi
New York
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Paris
Rio de Janeiro
Santiago
Sao Paulo
Seoul
Shanghai
Shenzhen
Tehran
Tianjin
Tokyo
Wuhan
Xi'an



Today, more than 58% of the people live in urban areas around the world. Cities with over 10 million inhabitants are recognized by the United Nations as "**Megacities**". There are at least 43 megacities identified in the world by 2030, which represents 25% of the world population. These megacities usually are the pivots that drive the national economic, technical, social and environmental development. They cover diverse geographical areas with a wide range of climates and some are generally located close to rivers, lakes or seas (from plains to deserts, from mountains to seashore), and confront with various water issues in the face of urban development and climate change. Nevertheless, the diversity of intellectual, technical and financial resources components that exist within megacities is an opportunity for mobilizing these resources so that innovative solutions can emerge and guarantee access to water and sanitation for all populations, equality of services, economic viability, resilience of systems, flexibility of solutions, and the protection of the natural environment.

The Megacities Alliance for Water and Climate (MAWAC) is developed to provide a platform for megacities to share their experiences and challenges, propose solutions, and to facilitate access to technical and financial support for programmes and projects, enabling them to successfully overcome the water-related climate challenges. As the outcome, MAWAC aims to strengthen megacities' capacity to implement global standards and agreements, by promoting trans-disciplinary exchange and the adoption of an integrated approach through international cooperation, thus driving towards a paradigm shift in urban water management and climate change adaptation. In respond to the United Nations Decade of Action for Sustainable Development Goals, sustainable water management in an integrated approach is key to secure livelihood, promote urban-climate resilience and develop good governance.



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It is in the face of adversity that resourcefulness and innovative solutions arise. Humanity faces unparalleled and ever increasing risks and we will need to mobilize all our collective capacities to develop the solutions and the means to ensure a sustainable future for generations to come and our planet. Global impact can only be achieved through strong cooperation and mutual support as well as by sharing good practices between nations and cities. It is imperative to work together at all levels, between governments, between and within societies and cities.

Ms. Audrey Azoulay, Director-General of UNESCO

Statement in the publication "Water, Megacities and Global Change: Portraits of 16 Emblematic Cities of the World"

