



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

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
MARTINIQUE (FRANCE)  
24th - 28<sup>th</sup> JANUARY 2004**

**V2**

**FINAL RESOLUTIONS**

**The 2004 General Assembly of the International Network of Basin Organizations took place in Martinique from 24 to 28 January 2004 at the invitation of the Martinique Basin Committee.**

The meeting was honored by the presence of the Presidents of the General Council and Regional Council of Martinique, the Prefect of the Region- Martinique, and the Director of Water of the French Ministry for Ecology and Sustainable Development.

**The Assembly welcomed 178 delegates representing member Organizations or observers from 39 countries.**

The delegates thanked the Basin Committee of Martinique, the Departmental Water Office and the Martinique Region, as well as the Loire-Brittany Water Agency and the French Ministry of Ecology and Sustainable Development for their warm welcome and the perfect organization of their Assembly and for the quality of the documentation distributed.

However, they regretted that 78 other delegates from 15 other countries, who duly registered for attending the General Assembly, but were prevented from coming to Martinique, since they were not able to obtain their entry visa in due time.

The Assembly renewed its thanks to the French Authorities for their financial support to the Secretariat since 1994, as well as the Basin Organizations and Governmental Authorities of Algeria, France, Spain, Quebec, Japan, Poland, Romania and Senegal for having organized INBO, ANBO, MENBO, LANBO and CEENBO Assemblies or Bureau, and those of the Network of International Commissions and Transboundary Basin Organizations since the last General Assembly in Quebec.

**The General Assembly, in the unanimous vote of the represented Member-Organizations, approved, within the new statutes of the Network, the following decisions:**

## **A - STATUTORY DECISIONS**

### **A1 - ELECTION OF THE PRESIDENT**

The Assembly congratulated the Quebec Authorities, and in particular **Mr. Pierre BARIL, Sub-Deputy Minister in charge of Water**, for the manner in which they fulfilled INBO Presidency since the Quebec General Assembly of May 2002.

Upon the proposal of the French Member-Organizations, the Assembly unanimously nominated **Mrs. Madeleine JOUYE de GRANDMAISON, President of the Martinique Basin Committee**, as the **new INBO President** until the next General Assembly.

The General Assembly also awarded unanimously the title of « honorary expert of INBO », for services rendered to the Network, to Mrs. Dilma PENA PEREIRA, Messrs. Pierre BARIL, Raymundo GARRIDO, Costica SOFRONIE and Miklos VARGA

### **A2 – COMPOSITION OF THE LIAISON BUREAU**

It also nominated the following **members of the Liaison Bureau** proposed by the national Authorities and Member Organizations for each region:

#### **Incumbents**

#### **Substitutes**

• **Africa** :

• **America** :

• **Asia** :

• **Central Asia** :

• **Western Europe** :

• **Central and Eastern Europe** :

• **The Mediterranean** :

The General Assembly empowered the Liaison Bureau to designate, should the case arise, new members proposed by the future Regional Networks of Africa, Asia or the Mediterranean, and by the Network of International Commissions and Transboundary Basin Organizations when they will have been created or consolidated.

In addition:

Mr. Pierre BARIL (Quebec) is ex-officio member of the Bureau as former President, as well as Mr..... (Hungary), as next President in 2006, Mr. Jean-François DONZIER, who represents the Permanent Technical Secretariat in the Liaison Bureau, Mr. Eduardo MESTRE for LANBO, Mrs. Daniela RADULESCU for CEENBO, Mr. SANOGO for ANBO and Mr. Teodoro ESTRELA MONREAL for MENBO.

One representative of GWP and the Secretary General of the Organizing Committee of the 4<sup>th</sup> Global Water Forum of Mexico will also be invited to the Liaison Bureau meetings, as well as a representative of the United Nations Agencies, executing water programs involving INBO.

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

The next meetings of the Liaison Bureau will be coordinated with the main events to be organized by INBO or its Regional Networks:

- June or December 2004, Costa Rica,
- First week of September 2004, Cracovia, Poland, during the Assembly of the Group of European Basin Organizations for implementing the Framework Directive,
- Last week of October or first week of November 2004 in Dakar, Senegal, during the General Assemblies of the Network of International Commissions and Transboundary Basin Authorities, and of the African Network of Basin Organizations,
- In 2005, in Central Asia...

### **A3 – MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE**

The General Assembly reminded that a Management Committee was nominated (among the members of the Liaison Bureau) to assist and support the President in his/her tasks, to represent him/her when he/she is committed elsewhere and participate in the Steering Committee of INBO/GWP Associated Program.

This Committee is composed of some members, who will be designated by the new Bureau among its members during its next meeting, in addition to the current President, the two former Presidents, the next President and the Secretaries of INBO and of the Regional Networks.

### **A4 - APPROBATION OF THE 2002 – 2003 – 2004 BUDGETS OF INBO AND OF THE PERMANENT TECHNICAL SECRETARIAT**

The delegates examined the progress report and accounts of INBO as such and of the Permanent Technical Secretariat, regarding its direct income and expenditure in years 2002 and 2003.

They heard the official report of the Statutory Auditor KPMG, who certified that the accounts were reliable and true.

Consequently, they approved the financial statement as of 12/31/2003 and the profit and loss statements for 2002 and 2003 and decided to allocate the positive result to the new budget.

They approved the cost estimates for INBO and PTS for fiscal year 2004 and empowered the Liaison Bureau to approve the cost estimates for 2005 and the final accounts for 2004 at the end of the fiscal year. These will be subsequently presented to the next General Assembly for their 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 the INBO/GWP Associated Program or in multilateral programs. PST 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 President, should these offers be retained and benefit from bi- or multilateral financing. The PTS will report regularly to the Liaison Bureau.

The PTS has already signed two audit agreements, on behalf of INBO, with the World Bank for the Niger Basin Authority and the Mahawelli Authority of Sri Lanka and with the European Commission for the TWIN BASIN, WFD-NET and IWRM-Net projects, and will pursue its efforts towards similar achievements.

The Assembly also examined the Convention signed by INBO and the International Office for Water in December 2003 for carrying out the tasks of the Network's Permanent Technical Secretariat and renewed IOWater assignment for a new 4-year period.

#### **A5 – SUBSCRIPTION FEES FOR 2004 and 2005**

Only 32 Member-Organizations effectively paid their subscription fee in 2003 and 25 had done so in 2002. Several organizations have indicated that they encounter difficulties, may they be budgetary, due to official accounting requirements, to the possible method of payment, or foreign exchange regulations. The PTS will study with the involved Organizations possible ways to solve these problems, in particular to adapt to stringent public accounting legislations of some countries.

The delegates decided that the **yearly subscription fee would amount to US\$ 1,000 or Euro 1,000 for 2004 and 2005, as in 2003**, to cover the expenditures of the Network management, the publication of the « Network Newsletter" and management of the [www.inbo-news.org](http://www.inbo-news.org) website as a priority.

The Regional Networks, within the framework of their statutes and of those of INBO, decide to set their own yearly subscription fee at a reasonable level. It is suggested that such fee could be added to that paid to the PTS for INBO, as a single bill, and that the total amount would then be equally shared by INBO and the Regional Network involved.

It was decided in Quebec that the yearly subscription fee would amount to US\$ 1,800 for the Member Organizations that also belong to LANBO. This fee will be paid to INBO/PTS and equally split between INBO and LANBO.

They 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 difficulties encountered.

The Member Organizations which directly finance, with a significant amount, the Permanent Technical Secretariat are exempt of paying their subscription to INBO.

The Permanent Technical Secretariat (PTS) opened a special INBO bank account (in Euro and USD) at the « Société Générale » Bank in Grasse (France) to collect these dues. The payment of expenditures requires the agreement of the President of the Network or of a delegate Member of the Liaison Bureau.

The Bureau designated an independent Statutory Auditor to examine INBO accounts for 2002/2003, first real fiscal years of the Association. The General Assembly confirmed the designation of KPMG – Mr. Henri Limouzinéau as Statutory Auditor and Mr. Lambert as Substitute - for a six-year mandate, starting in 2003, according to French legislation.

## **A6 – STRENGTHENING OF DIALOGUE AND COMMUNICATION**

The General Assembly was pleased with the success achieved by INBO, after the adoption of the new statutes, regarding its activities and its international recognition, especially within the framework of its Associated Program with GWP, in the 3rd World Water Forum of Kyoto and the creation and development of Regional Networks.

The Assembly was pleased with the unquestionable success of the « **Network Newsletter** » publication and of the INBO **Website**: <http://www.inbo-news.org>

It decided to continue with the publication of the « Network Newsletter » in 2004, 2005 and 2006.

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

It recommended that the Member-Organizations quickly acquire an **electronic mail address (E-mail), if not already done**, in order to facilitate contacts and the dissemination of the information inside the Network and to send these particulars to the Permanent Technical Secretariat, especially by way of the new « E-INBO electronic newsletter ».

It requested the PTS to continue directing and animating the « **virtual discussion forum** » on the WEB, especially on priority topics for the creation and strengthening of Basin Organizations over the world:

- ⇒ « Financing of Basin Organizations »;
- ⇒ « Master plans for water development and management »;
- ⇒ « Participation of users in sustainable water resource management » by developing an appropriate social engineering approach, in particular, in cooperation with the International Secretariat for Water of Montreal;
- ⇒ « Management of shared rivers »;
- ⇒ « Control of natural hazards and accidental risks »;
- ⇒ « Information needed for decision-making »;
- ⇒ « Inter-relations of basin organizations with the administrations »;
- ⇒ « Protection of wetlands and groundwater ».

The Assembly was pleased with the development of the « AQUADOC-INTERNATIONAL » project in France, Hungary, Poland, Czech Republic and Romania, based primarily on the concurrent themes in pursuance of the Framework Directive, with the implementation of the cooperation agreement signed in Quebec with SEMIDE/EMWIS to disseminate information on basin management in the Mediterranean within MENBO, and with the AWIS project (African Water Information and Documentation System) supported by ANBO, for which it wishes a quick implementation with the financial support from France, the European Union and UNESCO in particular. It proposes that by using real and successful experiences, INBO be associated with and support all initiatives that would lead to the setting up, in the long term, of a consistent Worldwide Water Information and Documentation System (WWIS).

The Assembly adopted the recommendations presented at the end of **the sessions of the Martinique General Assembly** and mandated the President and PTS to ensure their wide dissemination to the Members and to the interested International Cooperation Organizations, especially with its publication in the Virtual Forum.

## **B - PROGRESS REPORT OF REGIONAL NETWORKS**

The General Assembly was pleased to learn of:

**B1** - The progress report of LANBO in Latin America and of its Brazilian Network of Basin Organizations (REBOB).

**B2** - The progress report of the Central and Eastern European Network of Basin Organizations (CEENBO).

CEENBO took the legal form of an association under Romanian law and its secretariat is handled by the National Company APELE ROMANE.

Its President is Mr. Ovidiu GABOR and the Secretary is Madame Daniela Radulescu.

CEENBO's provisional work program focuses on the implementation of the European Framework Directive in the region.

**B3** – The creation of the African Network of Basin Organizations after the constitutive meeting held in DAKAR in July 2002. The President is Mr. Ould Aly and the Secretary is Mr. Sanogo of the OMVS

**B4** – Following the Annual General Meeting in Valencia in November 2003, the T creation of a Mediterranean Network of Basin Organizations (MENBO), that took the legal form of an association under Spanish law and whose secretariat is handled by the JUCAR Hydrological Confederation.

The President is Mr. José Maria Gonzales Ortea and the Secretary is Mr. Teodoro Estrela Monreal

**B5** – The creation, after the international meeting of VALENCIA in November 2003, of a Group of European Basin Organizations for the implementation of the Water Framework Directive, whose next plenary meeting is planned in Poland in autumn 2004.

The Assembly drew the attention of the European Commission on its strategic interest.

**B6** – The creation of the Network of International Commissions and Transboundary Basin Organizations, whose first General Assembly should take place during the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter in ,in fall 2004 in Dakar at the invitation of the OMVS and RAOB.....

As there is a great number of transboundary rivers, lakes and aquifers throughout the world, and account taking that specific means are needed to ensure their sustainable management, the INBO General Assembly of Quebec had proposed to the organizations concerned that they support the creation of a specialized Network, based on the conclusions of the specialized international conferences of Petersburg and Washington, as well as on the studies of the United Nations, the Water Academy, Green Cross International or of GWP/WATAC in West Africa.

At the invitation of the International Commission for the Protection of Lake Lemana (CIPEL) and the Rhone-Mediterranean-Corsica Water Agency, the Constitutive Assembly of this Network took place in Thonon-les-Bains (France) on the 25th and 26th November 2002.

The Assembly especially underlined the importance of the European Framework Directive and of the United Nations and Helsinki Conventions on the management of shared waters.

It supported INBO involvement in the initiative of large concerned NGOs to appeal to the G8 Heads of States and Governments to increase the means of International Cooperation in this area.

**B7** – It still supports the creation of a Regional Network of Basin Organizations in Asia, with aid from the Japanese Cooperation Agency and the Asian Bank.

**In addition**, INBO Member Organizations wish that an international initiative coordinate the bi and multilateral donors which would focus Official Development Aid on projects dealing with Integrated Water Resource Management (IWRM), based on the creation and strengthening of Basin Organizations, especially after the decisions made at the G8 of Evian, and particularly support the European Union Water Initiative (EUWI), especially regarding the African transboundary rivers and the issues on basin management in the regional components for Latin America, the Mediterranean and the New Independent States; an initiative in which RIOB is an official partner since its launch in Johannesburg in August 2003.

The President and the PTS will make a proposal to the European Commission and to member -state leaders of each group, that INBO play its full role as initiator and support - the relay for the basin organizations and regional networks concerned.

## **C - INBO/GWP ASSOCIATED PROGRAM**

It was reminded that the previous INBO General Assemblies of ZAKOPANE and QUEBEC, had approved the overall framework of the Associated Program « **assistance with the creation and development of basin organizations over the world** » jointly prepared by GWP and INBO.

A convention (MoU) was signed by INBO and GWP in June 2003 regarding this program.

61 projects, meeting the conditions set by the Associated Program and coming from all the regions of the world, were received after the call for proposals sent by INBO Permanent Technical Secretariat, in close collaboration with the LANBO and CEENBO secretariats and with the regional TACs of GWP.

Within the calls for proposals of the European Union, mentioned in the above § A4, the PTS had already presented significant offers in 2003 that resulted in financial agreements with the European Commission for projects such as TWIN BASIN (objective 1. Twinning agreements), WFD-NET and IWRM-Net (objective 3. Training and Research), the AQUADOC-INTER and AWIS projects (objective 4.), which are looking for funding and in their development stage. INBO was also involved, via the PTS, in the WEST (Water Economics Training) project and in the Rhine Network (INTERREG) for the implementation of the Framework Directive.

In addition, the Assembly draw the attention of the bi and multilateral cooperation agencies on the interest of these (AP) approved projects and wish for their priority financing within reinforced actions undertaken by donors for integrated management and best governance of water resources worldwide (IWRM).

It wished for joint reflection with GWP regarding the financing of the actions planned in this Associated Program to ensure an early start.

More specifically, the already strong cooperation between INBO-ANBO and GWP-WATAC will be reinforced to work jointly in supporting the European Water Initiative in Africa (IWRM component)

## **D - APPROVAL OF THE « DECLARATION OF TROIS-ILETS »**

The General Assembly unanimously approved the « **Declaration of Trois-Ilets** », appended to these final resolutions.

It requested the Presidents and Permanent Technical Secretariats of INBO, of the Regional Networks for Africa, Latin America, Europe and the Mediterranean, 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 Trois-Ilets » contribute to the preparation of international initiatives that aim to promote Integrated Water Resource Management (IWRM) at the level of river basins, especially the « European Initiative for water and life » in which INBO is partner.

## **E - INBO PARTICIPATION IN THE 4<sup>th</sup> WORLD WATER FORUM**

The Assembly wished that INBO continue the reflections started since the WWFs of The Hague and Kyoto and propose its own « vision » on the evolution of water management during the coming years, with the prospect of the 4<sup>th</sup> WWF in Mexico in 2006.

The General Assembly proposed to the organizers of the 4<sup>th</sup> WWF that INBO organize a workshop on « the creation and strengthening of Basin Organizations over the World » in collaboration with the other relevant and representative organizations concerned.

The Assembly mandated the Liaison Bureau for preparing INBO participation in the 4<sup>th</sup> World Water Forum of Mexico and for also planning active partnerships with the organizers of specific events on this occasion.

It reminded all INBO members and observers that their active participation in the « VIRTUAL DISCUSSION FORUM » opened on the website ([www.riob-info.org](http://www.riob-info.org)) is important.

The General Assembly entrusted the Liaison Bureau with the study of the additional diary of international events in which INBO could officially get involved in 2004/2005.

## **F - NEXT GENERAL ASSEMBLY IN 2006**

**The Assembly gratefully received the invitation of the Hungarian Authorities to host next INBO General Assembly in Hungary in 2006.**

*Drawn up at Trois-Ilets – The Martinique – on 27 January 2004*