



GOVERNO DE  
BRASÍLIA



Press Release - [Portuguese](#) [Spanish](#)



## Brazil kicks off preparation for 2018 World Water Forum

Over 700 political leaders, diplomats and experts from nearly 60 countries unite in Brazil to establish new world water agenda

- World Water Forum to be held for the first time in the southern hemisphere
- Main theme: “SHARING WATER” calling upon responsibilities and cooperation
- New focus on Sustainability

**Brasilia, 27 June 2016 – Official launch of the 8th World Water Forum** - More than 700 political leaders, elected officials, diplomats, water experts and operators, researchers and representatives of civil society gather from today to 29 June to identify and prioritize the most pressing water issues, which require to be collectively and globally addressed. Another output of this international collaboration is to define the Forum roadmap “Road to the 8th Forum” with the schedule of preparatory events around the world leading up to the event to be held 18-23 March 2018 in Brasília, at the Ulysses Guimarães Convention Center.

With the highest attendance a World Water Forum kickoff ever recorded, including strong political and diplomatic participation, this international collaboration witnesses not only stronger concerns for water but also recognition of shared responsibilities and need for cooperation among nations.

This event marks the beginning of two years of an open multi-stakeholder preparatory process converging towards the 2018 World Water Forum, the largest water event in the world. Its ambition is to catalyze changes in the face of threats as well as opportunities. To deliver high impact, five processes held by: the Political Commission,

the Regional Commission, the Thematic Commission, a Sustainability Focus Group and a Citizens Forum - will work to design the global framework of the 8th World Water Forum.

*“Water, irreplaceable resource, must be shared between many uses and users, each of whom wants security. We all have a shared responsibility in order to achieve security, sustainability, and resilience tomorrow.”* highlights Benedito Braga, President of the World Water Council and Secretary of State for Sanitation and Water Resources for the State of Sao Paulo, Brazil.

*“Brasilia was born under the sign of the new and when you look at the future, the city needs to remain at the forefront. In this same sign, having the Forum here is a favorable opportunity so that the city reflects on its own needs and capabilities, but also register in an innovative global agenda with the understanding of water management as a safe path to sustainability.”* Rodrigo Rollemberg - Governor of Brasilia

*“Brazil will have the opportunity to share with the world water community the strength of our institutional framework, with a strong participation of the civil society, due to our decentralized and participative legislation. It is important to emphasize the opportunity that we will have to raise water to a new level, a higher level, calling all stakeholder to discuss water not only as a cross cutting element, but also as a fundamental element for our development”* - Vicente Andreu, Director President of ANA.

**Sharing Water** is the overarching theme of 8th edition of the World Water Forum, organized by the World Water Council together with the Government of Brazil and of Brasilia, conveys the many faces of sharing water: sharing knowledge and experience, sharing transboundary duties, sharing responsibilities, sharing a common vision, sharing best practices, sharing lessons learned, especially when the resource is scarce or overwhelming, when infrastructures are misfit and the investments absent.

### **Sustainability as driving force**

The sustainability Focus Group, cross-cutting the other commissions and the Citizens Forum, and all aspects of the organization – one week event, expo and fair –, is also an innovation of the 8th World Water Forum. Building on Brazil’s long experience in sustainable development, it is responsible for bringing reflections on several water themes from the different sectors of society (civil, business, government, students, etc.), considering the three pillars of sustainability - social, environmental, economic -, and the principles

established by the main international agreements and broadly accepted concepts, including the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals. Its action goal is to contribute to the development and adoption of more sustainable water management models and practices by current and future generations.

*Press contact for the 8th World Water Forum*

[mariana.viegas@adasa.df.gov.br](mailto:mariana.viegas@adasa.df.gov.br) +55(61)3961-4972

### **More about the World Water Forum**

The World Water Forum is the largest global gathering on water. It is a multi-stakeholder platform that brings together international stakeholders, including governments, scholars, research institutes, businesses, and civil society, to discuss water issues. Each triennial World Water Forum is a stepping stone to long-term progress. In order to bring concrete positive change, the World Water Forum aims at:

- Fostering debate by providing a platform for all stakeholders to engage, exchange, learn together, and catalyze concrete ideas for improved water resources management and development;
- Challenging conventional thinking by ensuring a diversity of perspectives and ideas on contemporary and critical water resource management issues; and
- Mobilizing action by policy and decision-makers on commitments for improved water resources management and development.

Founded by the World Water Council, the World Water Forum is co-organized every three years by the Council together with a Host Country. With the oversight of a joint International Steering Committee, hundreds of organizations and volunteers also contribute to shaping its program. At least three permanent processes guide the three years of collaborative preparation: the Political process, the Regional process and the Thematic process, which provide the priorities and key objectives of each edition. For more information on the outcomes of the previous editions, go to the Forum section of [www.worldwatercouncil.org](http://www.worldwatercouncil.org) and for more information on the 8th World Water Forum, please go to [www.worldwaterforum8.org](http://www.worldwaterforum8.org) #wwaterforum

### **About the World Water Council**

The World Water Council is an international multi-stakeholder platform organization, the founder and co-organizer of the World Water Forum. The World Water Council's mission is to mobilize action on critical water issues at all levels, including the highest decision-making level, by engaging people in debate and challenging conventional thinking. The Council focuses on the political dimensions of water security,

adaptation, and sustainability, and works to position water at the top of the global political agenda. Headquartered in Marseille, France, and created in 1996, the World Water Council brings together over 300 member organizations from more than 50 different countries. More on [www.worldwatercouncil.org](http://www.worldwatercouncil.org) #wwatercouncil

### **About the Government of the Federal District of Brasilia**

Brasilia was chosen as the venue for the event because it is the capital of Brazil, headquarters of the Federal Government and the national political and decision-making center. It is also the country's diplomatic center, home to a hundred embassies and various international agencies. UNESCO has declared this modern city to be a World Heritage Site and it is endowed with the logistics conditions, infrastructure, hotel installations and accessibility required by an event of this size. For the capital city of Brazil, this is an opportunity to strengthen its water resource management system and that in itself will constitute an important legacy of the event for the host city. More on <http://www.worldwaterforum8.org/main/index.php/en/host-city/city-history>

### **About the Federal Republic of Brazil**

Covering an area of 8,514,876 square kilometers, Brazil is the world's 5th largest nation in geographic terms, accounting 20.8% of Americas and 47.7% of South American continent. Brazil also stands out for possessing roughly 12% of the Planet's fresh water and encompassing a number of major river basins. Aside from this vast hydrological potential, the country and its biomes account for the greatest range of biodiversity on the planet. From an institutional standpoint, Brazil has a comprehensive and representative water-resources management framework, comprised of relevant bodies such as: the National Water Resources Council; State-level Water Resources Councils, the Secretariat of Water Resources and Urban Environment of the Ministry of Environment; the National Water Agency; State-level Management Bodies; Basin Committees and Basin Agencies. More on <http://www.ana.gov.br>

### **Press contacts:**

8th World Water Forum Danielle Lima Barreto Ramos  
[maidanielle.ramos@adasa.df.gov.br](mailto:maidanielle.ramos@adasa.df.gov.br) Mariana Frank Viegas  
[mariana.viegas@adasa.df.gov.br](mailto:mariana.viegas@adasa.df.gov.br) Portuguese & English speaking Tel.  
+556139615079 or + 556139615080 or +55 (61)3961-4972 (BRT  
timezone)

World Water Council (WWC) Approach PR Agency:  
[marcelle.ribeiro@approach.com.br](mailto:marcelle.ribeiro@approach.com.br) ; [leonardo@approach.com.br](mailto:leonardo@approach.com.br) Tel.

+55 (21) 3461-4616 • r 143 or +55 (21) 99237-5858 or +55 (21)  
992605832 Portuguese & English speaking

WWC: [c.schaal@worldwatercouncil.org](mailto:c.schaal@worldwatercouncil.org) – Tel. 0033491994105 (CET  
time zone) French & English speaking

World Water Council – Conseil mondial de l'eau

Espace Gaymard

2-4 Place d'Arvieux

13002 Marseille – France

Tel: +33 4 91 99 41 00

Fax: +33 4 91 99 41 01

[www.worldwatercouncil.org](http://www.worldwatercouncil.org)



[Click here](#) if you wish to unsubscribe from WWC emails