

“Latin America and the Caribbean: Megacities, Water, and Climate Change” Second MAWAC Regional Meeting for Latin America and the Caribbean (MAWAC-LAC)

26 May 2021 - 11:00 to 14:00 pm Montevideo (GMT-3)

SUMMARY

Opening Session

Ms. Lidia Brito, Director of UNESCO's Regional Bureau for Science in Latin America and the Caribbean, welcomed the participants and stressed the importance of this initiative in the region, where almost 80% of the population lives in urban areas. She highly appreciated the support of the Urban Water and Human Settlements Working Group (CONAPHI), the Secretariat of the Megacities Alliance for Water and Climate (MAWAC), IHP-LAC (based in UNESCO Montevideo Office), and UNESCO Brasilia Office for organizing this event and the valuable presence of participants from the megacities of Bogota, Buenos Aires, Mexico City, Lima, Rio de Janeiro, Santiago and Saõ Paulo. She expressed her support for the success of this meeting.

Mr. Carlos Berroeta, coordinator of the IHP-LAC Urban Water and Human Settlements Working Group, highlighted the participation of the Megacities of Lima and Santiago in the December 2020 Pre-Conference, therefore emphasizing particularly three important points for this Alliance: SDG 6 “clean water and sanitation for all”, climate change that is already affecting the region through extensive droughts and heavy flooding, and Integrated Water Resources Management, (IWRM) with the basin as the management unit.

Introductory Session: Megacities Alliance for Water and Climate

Mr. Alexandros Makarigakis, from the MAWAC Secretariat at UNESCO, delivered a presentation on the scope of the project and the roadmap of the MAWAC (with English-Spanish translation). He has brought forward a brief summary of the emergence of this initiative since COP 21 in 2015, and its involvement which led to the regionalization of the global alliance, highlighting that the LAC region has been accelerating this strategic process, and shall keep this effort to engage in the more forthcoming activities and projects.

Sharing Session: Interventions by representatives of megacities in the region

Mr. Miguel Doria, Regional Hydrologist for IHP-LAC of UNESCO, introduced the different members of the megacities and moderated their presentations:

Bogotá

Ms. Luz Amparo Medina, District Director of International Relations of the Mayor's Office of Bogota, presented the commitment of the current government under the leadership of Mayor Claudia Lopez, to the Sustainable Development Goals and Colombia's international commitments to climate action and water resource management. She mentioned the challenges in Bogota and the on-plan solution in response. As she stressed, the Alliance should contribute to identify risks for megacities in the provision and improvement of public services, the consolidation of a community of water operators' good practices, the creation of a platform for the experience exchange, the development of innovative management tools and to position Latin America as a region committed to water conservation and environmental action.

Metropolitan Area of Buenos Aires (AMBA)

Mr. Juan Carlos Bertoni, President of the National Water Institute, Argentina, presented the Buenos Aires Metropolitan Area (AMBA), the challenges posed by floods in this area, the actions taken for their management (construction of large tunnels, radar system, inclusion of nature-based solutions). He mentioned the Water Management Master Plan (CABA), the Matanza Riachuelo River Basin and the AMBA Water Supply and sewage provision, which is mostly provided by a single company. Then, **Mr. Andres Dos Santos** from the City of Buenos Aires complemented the presentation by presenting the projects to renaturalize piped streams and **Mr. Andrés Carsen** from the Matanza Riachuelo Basin Authority (ACUMAR) presented the objectives and the 14 lines of action of the Integrated Environmental Sanitation Plan of the Matanza Riachuelo Basin (PISA), explaining the action line of the network for monitoring surface and groundwater quality and level.

Mexico City

Ms. Claudia Hernandez, Director-General of the Mexico City Water System, on behalf of Dr. Rafael Carmona, General Coordinator of the Mexico City Water System, made a presentation on the main characteristics of the city and the main challenges faced by the water supply and sanitation system operator: the insufficiency in terms of investment, citizen participation for the care and preservation of water resources, operational staff, applicability of water resource management models. She also presented the Integrated Water Resources Management Programme in the city (2019-2024) during her sharing.

Lima

Ms. Diana Porlles Hurtado, Climate Change and Water Resources Management Specialist of the Municipality of Lima, transferring the warm greetings from Mayor Jorge Muñoz, and elaborated the current and future challenges of water management and the effects of climate change in the City of Lima. In her presentation, she mentioned the Metropolitan Environmental Commission (CAMET) was established as a space for fostering coordination and agreement between the Municipality of Lima and the different specialized authorities, including the National Water Authority (ANA), the water and sanitation operator SEDAPAL and the National Service of Meteorology and Hydrology of Peru (SENAMHI). It brought the collective effort to implement the Local Climate Change Plan of the Province of Lima (2021-2030).

Mr. Luis Metzger Terrazas, Deputy Director of Hydrological Forecasting of the National Service of Meteorology and Hydrology of Peru (SENAMHI), introduced climate and demographic characteristics in Peru, and highlighted the need to strengthen alliances between institutions, in order to reduce the gap between services and information related to water resources. He mentioned SENAMHI's collaboration in the Local Climate Change Plan (2021-2030), was mainly processed through the Environmental Monitoring Network of Ecosystems and Natural Infrastructure project in urban areas and the Early Warning System targeted at agriculture in the Mantaro Valley.

Santiago

Mr. Carlos Berroeta presented the city of Santiago on behalf of Mr. Oscar Cristi Marfil, Director-General of Water of the Ministry of Public Works. He mentions the important advancement of water and sanitation supply in the country, achieving 100% coverage in urban sectors, the challenges posed by climate change, which has impacted Chile through a major drought in the last 12 years, and the process of drafting the New Constitution that the country is currently undergoing, which will surely address the issue of water resources.

Rio de Janeiro and São Paulo

Mr. Glauco Kimura de Freitas, Project Officer of the UNESCO Brasilia Office, introduced the participating members from the Brazilian megacities and moderated their presentations:

Rio de Janeiro

Mr. Lucas Padilha, representative of Mr. Eduardo Cavaliere, Secretary of the Environment of the Municipality of Rio de Janeiro, presented particularly the major concern of the increasing ecological imbalances in the region. As he stated, the meteorological phenomena have been affecting the safety of the city and specific actions are necessary. He also mentioned the monitoring operation centers were operating with its goals set until 2030, in order to deal with the challenges of improving energy efficiency and water economy, as well as increasing the coverage of drinking water and sanitation.

Ms. Christianne Bernardo da Silva, President of the Guanabara Bay Basin Committee, introduced the water challenges raised in basin scale, and the main actions taken by the Committee. She invited to visit the [Atlas of the Guanabara Bay Hydrographic Region](#).

Mr. Paulo Canedo, Professor at the Federal University of Rio de Janeiro (UFRJ), stressed the importance of considering the interconnections between rainwater and domestic wastewater, and their implications in the pollution of water resources, and **Ms. Rosa Fomiga**, Professor at the State University of Rio de Janeiro (UERJ), who emphasized the need to achieve water security in urban water supply.

Saõ Paulo

Mr. Thor Ribeiro, representative of the Saõ Paulo City Hall presented the water characteristics and the challenges in fresh water supply in Saõ Paulo, as well as the new law for basic sanitation supply. He highlighted the formation of a Water Security Commission which aimed to support implementing emergency infrastructure during the COVID-19 situation, and in the long run, to bring together companies, members of civil societies, State, Municipality, members of academia and the regulatory body. The city has created a platform of georeferenced data in maps.

Ms. Mara Ramos, an engineer from water and waste management company of Saõ Paulo State (SABESP), introduced the company's mission in providing water and sanitation services. In particular, two plans were highlighted: a Master Water Plan functioning until 2045 and an [Adaptation Plan for Climate Variations for the management of Water Resources in the Metropolitan Region of Saõ Paulo](#).

Ms. Andreza de Araújo, representative of the President of the Upper Tieté River Basin Committee, presented the role of this committee as a collaborative space for dialogue, conflict mediation and the building of pacts between the Civil Society, the State and Municipalities on water resources.

Finally, **Mr. Antônio Carlos Zuffo**, Researcher at University of Campinas (UNICAMP), presented the geological, hydrological, and climatological characteristics of Saõ Paulo and the rainfall trends and the implication to the city's infrastructure.

Presentation of the Work Plan and Constitution of the Coordinating Team

Mr. Miguel Doria presented a table with different products expected from this regional chapter. The first thing to be established is to hold quarterly meetings of one to two hours, proposing the dates of 10 August and 2 November in 2021 for the following meetings. On 10 August, it is planned to discuss the structuring of the MAWAC-LAC regional chapter and the Terms of Reference. **Mr. Nilo Nascimento** mentioned the regional session at the EauMega 2022 Conference on January 13, 2022 and that a mailing will be presented with more details on how cities can be involved in this session. **Ms. Camila Tori** presented a summary of the Global Strategic Framework for the MAWAC (MAWAC-SGF), a draft of which will be shared with participants for comments. It is currently in the official consultation and validation stage until 30 June 2021. **Mr. Victor Bourguett**, Director-General of the Basin Agency for the Valley of Mexico (OCAVM), expressed his support in this instance, as he was part of the Working Group in preparation for the document.

The table of expected products is as follows:

PRODUCT	WHO	WHEN/WHERE
Follow-up of the Invitations sent to the Mayors	-	
Consultation and validation of the Global Strategic Framework	Victor Bourguett	Until June 30, 2021
Structuring of the MAWAC-LAC regional chapter	-	
Agenda for approval of Terms of Reference	-	
Presentation of Technical Papers at EauMega 2022	Carlos Berroeta Bustos	January 11-14, 2022
EauMega 2022: MAWAC-LAC Regional Session	Nilo Nascimento and Carlos Berroeta Bustos	Tentative: January 13, 2022 - Paris (on-site)
Water Monographs	-	Until 2022
Water in your city seminars	-	2022
Outline possible Water Management issues for a Future Management Plan (2022-2025)	-	
Next MAWAC-LAC Regional Meeting		August 10, 2021 November 2, 2021

Closing Remarks

Mr. Carlos Berroeta stressed the importance of having representatives from each of the four stakeholders (decision makers, water and sanitation companies, academia and basin authorities) for each of the cities. The coordinators of each megacity will contact potential participating institutions for their comments on the terms of reference prior to the Third Regional Meeting. **Mr. Miguel Doria** congratulated the participants, thanking them for their presence and participation for more than three hours, thus emphasizing the importance of cooperation, knowledge exchange and training to achieve water security in the region and inviting them to meet again on August 10 and to keep in touch by mail. He invited them to share the initiatives they wish to develop, mentioning the [working groups of the Intergovernmental Hydrological Programme for Latin America and the Caribbean](#).