

ONLINE REGIONAL MEETINGS

Megacities Alliance for Water and Climate (MAWAC)

May – July 2021

Context

The initiative of Megacities Alliance for Water and Climate (MAWAC) was proposed at the **1st International Conference “Water, Megacities and Global Change” (EauMega 2015)** that took place at UNESCO’s Headquarters in December of 2015, within the framework of the Conference of Parties (COP21). It aims at providing a platform for megacities to share their experiences and challenges in managing their water related services, to propose solutions, and to obtain access to technical and financial support for programmes and projects. A Declaration, signed by the 400 participants at the EauMega 2015 conference, requested UNESCO to prepare such a cooperation platform. In this regard, an IHP Working Group is working with UNESCO in order to develop the Strategic Global Framework for MAWAC.

The idea of regionalization of the MAWAC was proposed in 2016 during a WaterLinks Forum. Since then, the Secretariat has identified four regional chapters to be set up: **Latin America and the Caribbean (MAWAC-LAC), Asia and the Pacific (MAWAC-ASPAC), Africa (MAWAC-AFR) and Europe and North America (MAWAC-ENA)**.

Due to the sanitary requirement of the hosted country concerning the COVID-19, the **2nd International Conference “Water, Megacities and Global Change” (EauMega 2022)**, is re-scheduled to take place in January 2022, at UNESCO Headquarters, in Paris of France. The First Assembly together with the Mayor Congress, in which MAWAC’s cooperation platform will be officially established, and the Strategic Global Framework will be agreed upon the decision makers, are postponed along with the EauMega 2022.

Despite the restrictions that the COVID-19 Pandemic has brought forward and the challenges to materialize the regionalization process of MAWAC, the Secretariat is striving to move forward, adopting an online format to continue with the efforts in establishing Regional MAWAC Chapters prior to the global alliance in 2022.

Therefore, four regional meetings are proposed to be organized online as follows:

- May 26th, 2021 – MAWAC-LAC second regional meeting
- June 14th-15th, 2021 – MAWAC-ASPAC first regional meeting
- June 21st – 22nd, 2021 – MAWAC-AFR first regional meeting
- July 6th-7th, 2021 - MAWAC-ENA first regional meeting