



United Nations  
Educational, Scientific and  
Cultural Organization



Regional Centre  
on Urban Water Management  
(under the auspices of UNESCO)

# 2019 Governing Board Meeting

(5<sup>th</sup> December 2019, Tehran)



## Final Report

**Regional Centre on Urban Water Management (RCUWM)**  
info@rcuwm.ir, www.rcuwm.ir

## 1. Introduction

The Governing Board is the most important decision-making constituent of the Regional Centre on Urban Water Management (RCUWM) at the highest level, which takes part in ordinary sessions once a year. On launching the third period of the activities of RCUWM (2019 to 2024), Tehran was host to the 10<sup>th</sup> Governing Board Meeting (GBM 2019) in Iran International Conference Complex on 5<sup>th</sup> December, 2019 from 10:00 to 15:15.

Promoting and expanding relations among RCUWM's member states and organizations on water related issues have been discussed during the 2019 Governing Board Meeting (GBM 2019). A meeting was also arranged for the participants to visit H.E. Mr. Jahangiri, the Vice President of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Saadabad Palace having the opportunity to discuss concerned issues related to water and its capacity for mutual cooperation. A water and wastewater exhibition was also held which was highly received by the attendees of the GB meeting.

## 2. Participants and Membership Notifications

A) Members at State Level: 17 Representatives of Afghanistan, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Egypt, Germany, India, Iran, Iraq, Lebanon, Oman, Pakistan, Qatar, Sri Lanka, Syria, Tajikistan and Turkey

B) International Organizations: UNESCO Tehran Cluster Office as the UNESCO DG representative and the representatives of international and regional organizations including UN offices in Tehran (UN Resident Coordinator, UNDP, FAO, UN-HABITAT), WMO (video message) along with IsDB

C) Observers: Representatives of Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO), Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), Japan Cooperation Center for the Middle East (JCCME) and Oman Water Society (OWS)

The list of participants including their contact details is presented in **annex 2**. Representatives of Qatar and Sri Lanka were not present during the GBM 2019 by sending an absence notification in advance.

## 3. Opening Remarks

H.E. Mr. Reza Ardakanian, Minister of Energy, Islamic Republic of Iran as the chair welcomed the participants to the 10<sup>th</sup> Governing Board (GB) Meeting of RCUWM and addressed the participants on background of UNESCO Category II Centres as well as the history of RCUWM's establishment. Dr. Ardakanian reviewed past two periods of activities of RCUWM from 2002 and also Governing Board Members until the end of 2018.

He mentioned that today, RCUWM is at the third period of activities (2019-2024) with representatives of 16 Member States and several international/regional organizations. Regarding the tasks undertaken by the Governing Board, the Chair pointed out issues as presented in article 7.2 of the Agreement as follows:

(a) Approve the long-term and medium-term programmes of the Centre;

- (b) Approve the annual work plan of the Centre, including the staffing table;
- (c) Examine the annual reports submitted by the director of the Centre, including a biennial self-assessment of the Centre's contribution to UNESCO's programme objectives;
- (d) Adopt the rules and regulations and determine the financial, administrative and personnel management procedures for the Centre in accordance with the laws of the country;
- (e) Decide on the participation of regional intergovernmental organizations and international organizations in the work of the Centre;
- (f) Examine the periodic independent audit reports of the financial statements of the Institute/Centre and monitor the provision of such accounting records necessary for the preparation of financial statements.

The GB Chair also stated that the Centre's activities are based on three main pillars of Training and Capacity Building, Joint Research/Technology Transfer, and Networking/Information Sharing. Dr. Ardakanian mentioned that the Centre has had fruitful cooperation with other countries in the region as an example, more than 30,000 persons per day training courses and cooperation in urban water supply.

The Chair invited member states and organizations to cooperate in and contribute to the Centre's activities.

#### **4. Adopted Agenda**

The tentative agenda was put to the floor and was unanimously adopted. The final agenda is presented in **annex 3**.

#### **5. Rules of Procedure**

The rules of procedure of the Governing Board Meeting was proposed by the GB Chair. All items of the proposed rules of procedure as in **annex 4** (Geographical domain of Activities, Scope of Activities, GB Composition and Decisions, Language, Date and Place of GB Meeting) were unanimously adopted.

#### **6. UNESCO Statement**

Mr. Cvetan Cvetkovski, Officer-in-Charge in UNESCO Tehran Cluster Office (UTC) delivered UNESCO Statement.

#### **7. RCUWM Director's Work Plan and Statements**

The Director's work plan and statements were presented according to article 7.2 of the Agreement as in **annex 5** and approved anonymously by the GB Members.

#### **8. Discussions and Highlights**

The Member States representatives presented their remarks in the specified time slot (3 to 7 minutes). The highlights of their remarks are presented in **annex 6**.

#### **9. Proposals for Cooperation**

The Chair briefed the participants of the meeting on 10 proposals for which the members could be potentially involved in. The project proposals were fully described

and discussed during the Meeting and Governing Board Members were invited to submit new proposals with respect to RCUWM Scope of Activities as described in Rules of Procedure (**annex 4**). All proposals are presented in **annex 7** of this report.

### **10. Concluding Remarks**

H.E. Mr. Reza Ardakanian, the Minister of Energy and RCUWM GB Chair, deeply thanked the honorable participants for attending this important Board Meeting and wished them a pleasant stay in Iran.

It was proposed by H.E. Mr. Usmonzoda, Tajikistan's Minister of Energy and Water Resources, that next RCUWM Governing Board Meeting (GBM 2020) will be held in Dushanbe-Tajikistan, June 17, 2020 prior to the Tajikistan Water Decade Conference. The proposal was anonymously approved by GB Members\*.

*\*The Governing Board Meeting in 2020 (GBM 2020) has been postponed due to COVID-19 Pandemic.*

## Annex 1: Membership Notifications

Member State	Relevant Authority	Notification Date
Afghanistan	Ministry of Energy and Water	26 Mar. 2019
Armenia	Ministry of Territorial Administration and Infrastructure	11 Apr. 2019
Azerbaijan	Azersu OJSC	29 Nov. 2019
Bangladesh	Ministry of Water Resources	01 Dec. 2019
Egypt	Ministry of Water Resources and Irrigation	16 Nov. 2019
Germany	Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety	18 Mar. 2019
India	Ministry of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation	19 Nov. 2019
Iraq	Ministry of Construction, Housing, Municipalities and Public Works	03 Feb. 2019
	Ministry of Water Resources	
Lebanon	Ministry of Energy and Water	01 Dec. 2019
Oman	Ministry of Regional Municipalities and Water Resources	28 May 2019
Pakistan	Ministry of Water Resources	01 Dec. 2019
Qatar	A letter received on the mentioned date from Embassy of the State of Qatar in Tehran in response to the invitation letter sent to the Qatar Minister of State for Energy Affairs	11 Sep. 2019
Sri Lanka	Ministry of City Planning and Water Supply	18 Feb. 2019
Switzerland	Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation	22 Jan. 2019
Syria	Ministry of Water Resources	19 Feb. 2019
Tajikistan	Ministry of Energy and Water Resources	03 Apr. 2019
Turkey	Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry	25 Apr. 2019

*Note: Official membership notifications of Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan have not been received by 5<sup>th</sup> December 2019.*

**Annex 2: List of GBM 2019 Participants and Contacts**

Members	Participant	Contact
<b>GB Chair</b>	H.E. Mr. Reza Ardakanian Minister of Energy	Minister's Office Tel: +982188606600 chavoshian@gmail.com
Members	Participant	Contact
Afghanistan	H.E. Mr. Abdul Ghafoor Liwal Ambassador of Afghanistan in Iran on behalf of Ministry of Energy and Water	Mr. Ibrahim Sahar, Directorate of Foreign Relations +93-77-1717-691 ibrahimsahar.jnu@gmail.com
Armenia	Mr. Vahram Mkrtchyan Director of Water Sector Projects, Ministry of Territorial Administration and Infrastructure	+37410522550 Vahram.mkrtchyan@wsdp.am
Azerbaijan	H.E. Mr. Gorkhmaz Huseynov Chairman of Azersu OJSC	Revan Bagirli, Deputy Head of Foreign Relations Department (+994 12 )431-47-67 (5525) Revan.Bagirli@azersu.az
Bangladesh	H.E. Mr. Gousal Azam Sarker Ambassador of Bangladesh to I.R. Iran on behalf of Ministry of Water Resources	+982188601230 info@bangladoot.ir sarker1111@gmail.com
Egypt	Mr. Mamdouh A. Antar Head of Regional Training Sector Ministry of Water Resources and Irrigation	+2 01112262117 m_antar2000@yahoo.com
Germany	Mr. Harald Koethe Director of the International Centre for Water Resources and Global Change (ICWRGC) Introduced by Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety	Tel.: 0049 (0) 261 1306-5313 Fax: 0049 (0) 261 1306-5422 E-Mail: icwrgc@bafg.de koethe@bafg.de
India	Mr. D.P. Mathuria Director of National Mission for Clean Ganga, Ministry of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation	Mr. Vikas Kumar PS to ED - Technical uyrb-mowr@nic.in Mr. D.P. Mathuria +919911725111
Iran	Mr. Hamidreza Janbaz General Manager of National Water and Wastewater Engineering Company	Mr. Janbaz Contacts: Tel: +982189601100 (Ext 1100) Fax: +98218978133 janbaz@nww.ir kashfi@nww.ir
Iraq	H.E. Mr. Istabraq Al Shouk Deputy Minister of Construction and Housing and Municipalities and Public Works	H.E. Mr. Istabraq Al Shouk +9647905270310 istabraqalshouk@yahoo.com
Lebanon	Mr. Tofiq Mata First Secretary of Lebanese Embassy in Iran on behalf of Ministry of Energy and Water	Embassy of Lebanon in Iran tehran.leb@gmail.com
Oman	H.E. Mr. Ali bin Mohammed Al-Abri Undersecretary of the Minister of Regional Municipalities and Water Resources	International Cooperation and Relations Department ird@mrmwr.gov.om



Members	Participant	Contact
Pakistan	Mr. Mian Azimat Faruq First Secretary of Pakistan Embassy in Iran on behalf of Ministry of Water Resources	Embassy of Pakistan in Iran eoptehran@gmail.com
Switzerland	Mr. Guy Bonvin SDC Special Envoy for Water to Central Asia  Mr. Mufleh Al Alaween SDC Regional Coordinator of the Blue Peace Middle East Initiative	Mr. Guy Bonvin SDC Special Envoy for Water to Central Asia, +41797511194 Mr. Mufleh Al Alaween SDC Regional Coordinator of the Blue Peace Middle East Initiative +96265931416, +96265930685 Mufleh.alalaween@eda.admin.ch
Syria	H.E. Mr. Hussein Arnous Minister of Water Resources	Mr. Ali Ahmad Khamis Diplomatic Attaché, Embassy of Syria to Iran +982122059031 Aaklaw88@gmail.com
Tajikistan	H.E. Mr. Usmonali Usmonzoda Minister of Energy and Water Resources	Mr. Rustam Abdullaev rustam.water@gmail.com Mr. Parviz Atoev, Head of Foreign Affairs Department atoevparviz@gmail.com Tel: +992 372 35 94 28 Cell: +992 917 18 23 23 Minister's Office: +992372353566
Turkey	H.E. Mr. Akif Ozkaldi Deputy Minister of Agriculture and Forestry	Ms. Ozge Imamoglu Head of Department for International Organizations ozge.imamoglu@tarimorman.gov.tr 00 90 312 287 33 60 (ext: 8820) Mr. Sardar Yilmaz Directorate General for EU and Foreign Relations yilmaz-serdar@tarimorman.gov.tr +90 312 287 33 60 (ext.: 4534)

Organization	Participant	Contacts
UN Resident Coordinator	H.E. Ms. Ugochi Daniels	Office of United Nations in Tehran +9821-22860925-8, registry.rco.ir@one.un.org
UNDP	Mr. Claudio Providas UNDP Representative in Iran	Mr. Providas claudio.providas@undp.org Mr. Ali Nazaridoust, Assistant Resident Representative Ali.nazaridoust@undp.org Mr. Mohsen Soleymani Roozbahani, Programme Analyst mohsen.soleymani@undp.org Tel: +982122869457 Fax: (+9821) 22869547
FAO	Mr. Gerold Bodeker FAO Representative in Iran	Mr. Bodeker Gerold.Boedeker@fao.org Mr. Ali Shahnian, Assistant to the Representative Tel: +98 (0)21 22413803 – (Ext. 143) Cell: +98 (0)912 334 9289 Email: ali.shahnian@fao.org
UN-HABITAT	Mr. Farzin Fardanesh UN-HABITAT Representative	+982188255942-6 Mehmet.akdogan@un.org, Farzin.fardanesh@un.org
WMO	Mr. Johannes Cullmann Director of Climate and Water Department	+41 (0)22 730-8355 jcullmann@wmo.int
Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO)	H.E. Mr. Hadi Soleimanpour Secretary General	Ms. Nayereh Sadat Mohseni Programme Officer, Directorate of Energy and Environment mohseni@eco.int +9821 22831733
Islamic Development Bank (IsDB)	Mr. Farshad Kalivash IsDB Field Representative	Mr. Papa Abdoulaye SY Global Lead Urban Development Specialist PAbdoulaye@isdb.org +966 (12) 646 6802
Japan Cooperation Centre for the Middle East (JCCME)	Mr. Yosuke Okazaki Executive Vice of JCCME Mr. Seiji Hirota Representative Executive Director of JCCME	Headquarters: 0081-3-3237-6722 (Project) Tehran Office: +98-21-2265-7983 Mr. Kianoosh Torkzaban (Tehran Office) ktorkzaban@jccme.or.jp
Oman Water Society	Mr. Zaher Khaled Al Sulaimani Chairman	zahrslmn@omantel.net.om
UNESCO DG Representative	Mr. Cvetan Cvetkovski OIC, UNESCO Tehran Cluster Office (UTCO)	Ms. Mehrasa Mehrdadi, Head of UTCO Science Section +982122751315 m.mehrdadi@unesco.org c.cvetkovski@unesco.org
RCUWM Director	Mr. Ali Chavoshian Director	Tel: +982122911027 & 8 Cell: +989129375398 chavoshian@gmail.com, chavoshian@rcuwm.org.ir



### Annex 3: Adopted Agenda

<b>Time</b>	<b>Items</b>
<b>9:00</b>	<b>Departure from the Hotel to the Meeting Venue</b>
<b>9:45 ~ 9:55</b>	<b>Accompanying Delegations to their Seats</b>
<b>10:00 ~ 12:15</b>	<b>Session No. 1</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ National Anthem and Holy Quran (5 min)</li> <li>▪ Opening Remarks by Dr. Ardakanian, GB Chair and Minister of Energy of I.R. Iran (20 min)</li> <li>▪ Adoption of the Agenda and Rules of the Procedure of the Governing Board Meeting (5 min)</li> <li>▪ Statement by Mr. Cvetkovski, UNESCO Tehran Cluster Office (3 min)</li> <li>▪ Report by Director of the RCUWM (12 min)</li> <li>▪ Speeches and Remarks by Delegations (90 min)</li> </ul>
<b>12:15~ 12:30</b>	<b>Photo Session</b>
<b>12:30 ~ 13:00</b>	<b>Visiting the Exhibition and Praying Time</b>
<b>13:00 ~ 13:50</b>	<b>Lunch Break</b>
<b>14:00 ~ 15:15</b>	<b>Session No. 2</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Developing Proposals for Regional Cooperation using RCUWM Platform (60 min)</li> <li>▪ Wrap up and Adoption of the GBM Resolution (10 min)</li> <li>▪ Concluding Remarks (5 min)</li> </ul>
<b>15:15 ~ 15:55</b>	<b>Departing to Sa'dabad Palace Complex</b>
<b>16:00 ~ 17:00</b>	<b>Meeting with H.E. Dr. Jahangiri, the Vice President of I.R. Iran</b>
<b>17:00 ~ 19:00</b>	<b>Transfer to the Hotel</b>
<b>19:00 ~ 19:30</b>	<b>Departure from the Hotel to the Dinner Reception Venue</b>
<b>19:30 ~ 21:00</b>	<b>Official Reception</b>
<b>21:00 ~</b>	<b>Transfer to the Hotel</b>

## **Annex 4: Approved Rules of Procedure**

### **1. Geographical Domain of Activities**

Geographical Scopes: Regional priority scope of the Centre's activities is based on UNESCO regional definition as follows:

- Group I (Western Europe and North America)
- Group IV (Asia and the Pacific)
- Group Vb (Arab States)

Therefore, Group II (Eastern Europe), Group III (Latin America and the Caribbean) and Group Va (Africa) are out of regional priority scope of activities.

### **2. Scope of Activities**

Water and wastewater management in human settlements have the high priority. Centre's scope of activities is all aspects of urban water management from technical to social and economic issues. Moreover, it is considering interaction with water use in other sectors such as agricultural and industrial sectors at the basin level in accordance with Integrated Water Resources Management Concept.

### **3. Governing Board Composition**

Governing Board is consisted of three categories as follows:

**A) Members at State Level:** Representatives of Member States, from the Region I, IV, Vb, which will be granted a six-year Governing Board membership period as well as right to vote equivalent to other members.

**B) Members at International Organization Level:** Representatives of UN Agencies and other international and regional organizations, shall be granted a 3-year Governing Board membership period and right to vote equivalent to other members. Membership continuation of this category will be evaluated and decided by the end of the first three years.

**C) Observers:** Representatives of relevant national, regional and international entities with similar geographical domain and/or scope of activities, which will be invited as an observer without holding right to vote.

### **4. Governing Board Decisions**

Decisions will be made and approved based on the majority of votes.

### **5. Language**

English shall be the official language of the Governing Board Meeting. The Director may consider other UN languages as required.

### **6. Date and Place**

According to the Agreement, the Governing Board shall meet in ordinary session once per year. It shall meet in an extraordinary session if convened by the Chairperson on his/her own initiative or at the request of the Director General of UNESCO or one-third plus one of its members. The venue of the Governing Board Meeting is primarily in Iran.

## Annex 5: RCUWM Director’s Work Plan and Statements

### 1. Long-Term and Medium-Term Programmes of the Centre

The Director of the Centre, Mr. Ali Chavoshian started his report by indicating the long-term (2019-2024) and medium-term (2019-2021) Programmes for the Centre. There are three main themes for activities of the Centre in long term, indicated by the agreement signed between I.R. Iran and the UNESCO as the following:

1. Training and Capacity Building
2. Joint Research and Technology Transfer
3. Networking and Information Sharing

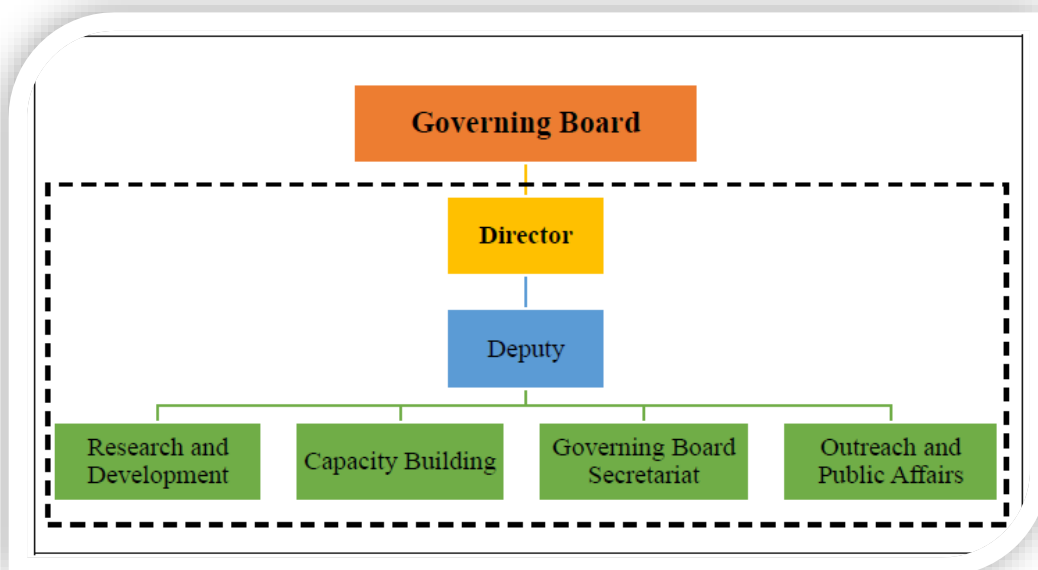
The medium-term programme for the Centre has also been described and proposed by the RCUWM Director in seven main themes as follows:

1. Joint Scientific Research on Water Issues in the Region
2. Sharing Information and Technology Transfer
3. Documenting Best Practices and Lessons Learned
4. Conducting Training Courses and Technical Workshops
5. Utilizing Information and Communication Technology
6. Technical Consulting and Advisory Services
7. Publishing Books and Producing Multimedia

### 2. Annual Work Plan of the Centre and Staffing Table

The work plan of Centre has been described by Mr. Chavoshian and approved by the GB Members including 10 proposals for the period of 2019-2024. Proposals’ titles are listed in page 3.

Furthermore, the staffs working at the RCUWM were reported to be 19, six of whom are female. the organizational chart was presented as the following:



Organizational Chart

### **3. Contributions to UNESCO Programmes**

The director reported that the eighth phase of Intergovernmental Hydrological Programme, specifically theme 4 (Water and Human Settlements of the Future) is the mainstream contribution theme of the Centre to UNESCO biannual plan.

As for 2017 to 2019, the Centre has held 14 technical workshops, ran 6 research projects and published 4 titles of scientific books in-line with IHP VIII goals. There have been 8 research and technical projects and 6 training courses planned to be developed by the Centre for the period of 2020-2021.

### **4. Financial, Administrative and Personnel Management Procedure**

As for the budget of 2016 to 2019, Mr. Chavoshian explained it in details. He stated that the budget for 2016, 2017, 2018 and 2019 has been 530,000 €, 537,000 €, 533,000 € and 551,000 € respectively. Mr. Chavoshian also mentioned that the National Water and Wastewater Engineering Company has been contributing to the running costs as well as projects implementation of the Centre.

### **5. Participation of International and Regional Organizations**

As stated before, 9 international and regional organizations' representatives have participated in GB Meeting 10. These entities also showed interest in taking part at proposals and plans of the Centre. Besides the Governing Board, RCUWM has signed around 20 Memorandum of Understandings since 2016 with regional and international organizations.

### **6. Independent Audit Report and Financial Statement**

Furthermore, budget break-down of the Centre has been detailed by the total of ~380,000 € for direct budget and ~171,000 € for in-kind contributions. Around 79% of which is by the Government of I.R. Iran, through National Water and Wastewater Engineering Company and the rest by international donors.

## **Annex 6: Discussions and Highlights**

\*Sorted according to the meeting record

### **UNESCO (Mr. Cvetan Cvetkovski)**

Mr. Cvetkovski stated his speech by deeply thanking the RCUWM GB Chair and mentioned a few points as the following: he drew the attention to the water security and climate change related outcomes of the 40th session of the General Conference of UNESCO, which closed last week. During the General conference, Member States advocated for further reinforcement of the implementation of SDG 6 on water and sanitation, which RCUWM is contributing to. He also mentioned that in this respect, more intensified regional and transboundary cooperation is necessary more than ever in the areas such as water-related disasters and hydrological changes, water scarcity and water quality, water and human settlements, water education, etc.

He stated that, the Regional Centre on Urban Water Management has a prominent role to play in all these priorities at local, national and regional levels. Of these, he mentioned: Mobilizing regional cooperation to improve knowledge and innovation to address water security challenges; Strengthening the science-policy interface to reach water security; Developing institutional and human capacities for water security and sustainability, etc. Mr. Cvetkovski invited all of participants to cooperate and contribute to the Governing Board activities.

### **Syria (H.E. Mr. Husseyn Arnous)**

H.E. Mr. Arnous mentioned that Syria has been under a lot of pressure for water resources lately. Now more than 40% of water supply system is demolished and out of reach. He hoped that friends in the region would cooperate and help for better future in water management.

### **Tajikistan (H.E. Mr. Usmonali Usmonzoda)**

H.E. Mr. Usmonzoda first thanked the GB Chair, for RCUWM is a regional body to share experiences and best practices. It was stated that Tajikistan has Hydropower potential and more than 90% of its electricity is run by hydropower. H.E. Mr. Usmonzoda welcomed international cooperation in water management issues by taking benefit of necessary tools. He also stated that the water decade in Tajikistan has been inaugurated for the second 10 years and he asked for further contribution of states to get involved. It was proposed that next RCUWM Governing board will be held on June 17, 2020 in Dushanbe prior to the Water Decade Conference. H.E. also asked the participants to contribute to the GB activities.

### **Oman (H.E. Mr. Ali Mohammad Al Abri)**

H.E. Mr. Al Abri thanked the Governing Board Chair and other participants for forming a place to discuss water-related issues and congratulated the Centre on beginning the third period of activities. There are many challenges faced by countries in this region, he stated, we face water scarcity, etc. These challenges may be overcome only by sharing best experiences and knowledge. He also stated that we (member states and participating organizations) have to be

involved in the activities of the Centre. Oman will hold a workshop on remote sensing on 17-18 February 2020, which all member states and participants are invited to attend.

**Iraq (H.E. Mr. Istabraq Al Shouk)**

On behalf of H.E. Mr. Bangin Rekani, Honourable Minister of Construction, Housing and Municipalities and Public Works, Mr. Istabraq Al Shouk has shown his deepest gratitude for inviting Iraq to this Meeting. He started his speech by Quran, stating everything is made from water by Allah. MENA region, especially Iraq has been exposed to disasters made by climate change such as drought. He mentioned that there is a need for cooperation from neighbouring countries for reconstruction of Iraq infrastructure.

**Turkey (H.E. Mr. Akif Ozkaldi)**

H.E. Mr. Ozkaldi thanked authorities of Iran as well as participants for holding this important meeting. He mentioned that this is the first time that Turkey is participating in such an important meeting. Turkey assured the participants that it will support water, food and energy nexus, integrated water resources management proposals and projects to be jointly carried out by Turkey and RCUWM's member states and organizations in accordance with UNESCO Intergovernmental Hydrological Programme (UNESCO IHP).

**Azerbaijan (H.E. Mr. Gurkhmaz Huseynov)**

After thanking the Governing Board Chair and Participants, H.E. Mr. Huseynov mentioned that cooperation in water and wastewater would lead to success. Azerbaijan is dedicated to contribute to the goals of SDG. Due to some issues, there has been some problems despite of many fruitful cooperation in transboundary rivers, which is hoped to be resolved under these kinds of umbrellas.

**Iran (Mr. Hamidreza Janbaz)**

Mr. Hamidreza Janbaz, General Manager of National Water and Wastewater Engineering Company welcomed all the participants and thanked them for participating in this meeting. After a brief report on water and wastewater management in Iran and achievements, he put into proposal 5 projects to be supported by NWWEC as a contribution to RCUWM activities including Capacity Building/Development on Water Quality, Practical Research on New Technologies in Water and Wastewater Treatment and Recycling, Supporting Water Related Start Ups and Skill Improvement for Practitioners and Technicians.

**Egypt (Mr. Mamdouh Antar)**

After expressing his gratitude to the Governing Board Chair and participants, he stated that these kinds of meeting are indeed effective to achieve the best outcome for all, it was stated by Mr. Antar that there are several projects on themes related to water use efficiency, water harvesting, and water reuse to overcome water resources scarcity which are being implemented by the Ministry of Water Resources and Irrigation, Egypt.



### **India (Mr. D.P. Mathuria)**

Mr. Mathuria started his speech stating India had participated in many RCUWM activities including Workshops, Publications and Networkings during the past years and hopefully will in the coming years. The government of India has been working on the project theme of sustainable potable water for urban areas and would like to support ideas of Water Security, Groundwater Management and River restoration from the states.

### **Switzerland (Mr. Guy Bonvin)**

Mr. Bonvin expressed his gratitude from SDC for joining the Governing Board as an observer and thanked UNESCO as well as RCUWM Director for following up the participation at this meeting. It was mentioned that now, more than ever, water is under pressure with respect to climate change. One of the initiatives by the SDC is Blue Peace Initiative working on water resources management, which would like to seek opportunities of cooperation if fit to the mandate of the board meeting.

### **Germany (Mr. Harald Koethe)**

Mr. Koethe congratulated for the start of third period of the Centre and thanked for the invitation and very good organization. He pointed out that the director of RCUWM is Governing Board Member of ICWRGC from its first phase as UNESCO Category 2 Centre in 2014 in very good cooperation. He began his speech by expressing the best wishes from Federal Minister for the Environment, Nature Conservation, and Nuclear Safety (BMU), Minister of the Federal Foreign Office (AA) and the Minister of Transport and digital Infrastructure. He mentioned also the German project contributions by the Federal Ministry of Research (BMBF) and the Federal Ministry of Development (BMZ). Being not a country of the region, he stated that Germany can support the countries in the region under RCUWM umbrella by building up knowledge and decision support through the existing global water data centres in Germany and the Global Terrestrial Network Hydrology (GTN-H) in ICWRGC for each and every member state. In this regard he proposed to take up this as a new project in the portfolio of RCUWM.

### **Afghanistan (H.E. Mr. Abdulghafoor Liwal)**

After thanking the Governing Board Chair and participants, he mentioned H.E. Mr. Gul Kholmi wanted to attend but he unfortunately couldn't. Though having many water flows, Afghanistan faces many Challenges regarding Water Resources Management. He briefly addressed Kabul Urban Water Supply plan which includes 17 projects, to be launched in 2020.

### **Bangladesh (H.E. Mr. Gousal Azam Sarker)**

H.E. Sarker as the Ambassador of Bangladesh in Iran by conveying H.E. Mr. Faruq the Honourable Minister from Bangladesh greetings, stated that H.E. could not attend the meeting. It was mentioned that Bangladesh is one of the water scarce countries. Management of water is a rather important issue for the people. There are problems such as climate change, salinity of water, extreme weathers, etc. It is to be solved by cooperation not only regional, but

international. The points of technology transfer and involving private stakeholders have also been mentioned.

#### **UN Resident Coordinator (H.E. Ms. Ugochi Daniels)**

H.E. Ms. Ugochi Daniels as United Nations Resident Coordinator stated it is an honour to be here at this important meeting. She started her speech by mentioning that water is an essential building rock of life and mentioned that water creates lots of jobs and also supports economics, social and human development. Today around 2 Billion people live without safe water and the growing demand is adding to the pressure on water. She stated that environmental devastation, climate change and rapid urbanization are among considerable challenges of water security. She also mentioned that national challenges are required to be addressed through multi-lateral efforts.

As a separate issue, UN agencies will support around 7 out of 10 proposals drafted by RCUWM-Tehran. In addition, FAO has promoted new proposals for technical support to water and soil rehabilitation for improved climate resilience. UN in close cooperation with I.R. Iran is closely focusing on capacity building and training to improve water efficiency. UN has also defined a regional project to support 2030 agenda for water efficiency, productivity and sustainability in the MENA countries. FAO has also helped Iran in establishing a robust water accounting system, which is broadly practiced. She mentioned that UN and the Department of Environment are developing a project on integrated water resources management for 18 wetlands in Iran. She believed that UN must encourage cooperation to tackle world water crisis and strengthen resilience to the impacts of climate change.

#### **Economic Cooperation Organization (Mr. Fuad Farzalibeyov)**

Mr. Farzalibeyov, Director for Energy, Minerals and Environment of ECO highlighted the paramount importance of sustainable management of water resources for the ECO Region. In this vein, ECO stands ready to support its Member States in achieving the Sustainable Development Goal 6: “Clean Water and Sanitation” through resource mobilization. The implementation of clean water and sanitation projects across the ECO region, notably the ongoing process of establishment of ECO Centre for Efficient Utilization of Water (ECO-CEUW) in Islamabad (Pakistan), the Birjand, Shahriar, and Mazandaran projects in Iran represent explicit examples of this support. While mentioning the need for the nexus approach in cross-cutting activities, he stated that ECO Programmes and Projects in the fields of energy and environment, notably the ECO Clean Energy Centre, ECO Regional Electricity Market and ECO LandCare Programme have the strong focus on water management component.

#### **Japan Cooperation Centre for the Middle East (Mr. Seiji Hirota)**

Mr. Hirota, Representative Executive Director of JCCME stated that this Centre is a government-related organization for economic diversification and development of the Middle East countries. JCCME has been working for over 46 years i) to encourage Japanese direct investment to the Middle East and ii) to offer various programmes for human resources development. It has also received delegations from and dispatched experts to the Middle East countries.

JCCME works on various water issues, including non-revenue water, leakage detection and reduction, water reuse, and other water and wastewater subjects. JCCME has provided its training courses to various entities in the field of water, concerning e.g. demand management, performance indicators, sewage sludge and integrated water resources management.

**Islamic Development Bank (Mr. Farshad Kalivash)**

IsDB Field Representative, Mr. Farshad Kalivash described IsDB's background, performance, activities and future plans. IsDB provides financial and technical assistance to its member states to improve their economy. The Bank now consists of 57 member countries from 4 continents and the subscribed shared capital is above Islamic Dinar 50 billion. The Bank focuses on water, sanitation, education, agriculture, industry and health activities. He also explained about Iran's status in the Bank.

**Armenia (Mr. Vahram Mkrtchyan)**

The representative of Armenia, Mr. Mkrtchyan deeply thanked the GB Chair and participants for having held this meeting.

**Lebanon (Mr. Tofiq Mata)**

The representative of Lebanon, Mr. Tofiq Mata deeply thanked the GB Chair and participants for having held this meeting. He stated that water is an important issue for sustainable development in Lebanon. Lebanon would like to participate in future meetings of RCUWM's Governing Board in order to promote cooperation with Iran and the Centre's GB members in water resources management.

**Pakistan (Mr. Mian Azimat Faruq)**

The representative of Pakistan, Mr. Azimat Faruq deeply thanked the GB Chair and participants for having held this meeting. He also provided a description on the national water policy, which was developed by the government of Pakistan. He also emphasized on the importance of these initiatives like RCUWM for regional cooperation.

**World Meteorological Organization (Mr. Johannes Cullmann)**

Mr. Cullmann Director of the Climate and Water Department, first thanked the GB Chair and participants deeply and mentioned due to prior arrangements he was not able to attend the meeting but he is happy to participate from WMO remotely. He also congratulated holding RCUWM Governing Board after some years. Mr. Cillmann mentioned that WMO is going to participate on issues such as climate change. WMO is committed to improve the services related to drought early warning and water-energy-food issues. It was hoped in the coming days, some concrete measures would be decided on in order to form a water secure region. WMO would like to contribute with 3 specific items as: improve partnership with all the participants of the meeting specifically FAO, which with Water Scarcity Initiative, International Drought Initiative, and WMO Drought Management Programme, the effort to make better impact amongst the region shall be better coordinated. He also added that WMO is

cooperating with Iran on Drought Early Warning System in the Region. Mr. Cullmann stated he will be soon in Iran to further the issue on this cooperation and hoped that WMO partners would cooperate in these projects for a better management of urban water. He wished a fruitful meeting for all and assured that WMO will be contributing more in the future at these above-mentioned issues.

## Annex 7: Proposal Details

No	Proposal Title	Status As of May 2020
1	Promotion of Public Awareness on Climate Change and Water-related Disasters (e.g. flood and drought) in the Region <i>Financially supported by UNESCO</i>	Finished
2	Improving Water Quality in the Region: from capacity building to capacity development	Concept note is drafted
3	Regional Training Workshop on “Advances in Remote Sensing Application in Water Resources Management in Asia”, Muscat - Oman, 17-19 Feb. 2020 <i>Partially supported by Ministry of Regional Municipalities and Water Resources of Oman</i>	Finished
4	New Technologies in Water and Wastewater Treatment and Recycling	Concept note is drafted
5	Regional Drought Monitoring	Concept note is drafted
6	Developing a Regional Hub for Water-related Startups	Concept note is drafted
7	Adaptation of Urban Water Systems to Climate Change	Under discussion
8	Centre on Socio-Environmental Impact Assessment of Desalination Brine	Concept note is drafted
9	Water Scarcity Adaptation	Concept note is drafted
10	Skill Improvement for Urban Water Practitioners and Technicians	Concept note is drafted
11	New technology in Leak Detection and Non-Revenue Water and Regional Training Workshop	Concept note is drafted
12	Survey and Completion of Essential Water Data in the Region Through the Global Water Data and GTN-H <i>Proposed by ICWRGC</i>	Under discussion



## Annex 8: Photos of Governing Board Meeting

