

## ***Editorial from the Secretariat***

Dear Members of the Global Clean Water Desalination Alliance,

The Global Clean Water Desalination Alliance (GCWDA) has started its operations following its launch at COP21, Paris, in December 2015. From that date to January 2019, the secretariat of the Alliance was hosted by Masdar in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates. Since January 2019, the Secretariat of the GCWDA has become independent following the institutionalization of the Alliance and its registration as an Association under Swiss Law in Geneva, Switzerland, and the nomination of an Executive Director, in conformity with the Alliance's newly adopted constitution.

A partnership agreement was signed between the Chairman of the Alliance and the General Director of the Paris-based International Office for Water (IOWater) in November 2018, and officially launched in January 2019 on the sidelines of the Abu Dhabi Sustainability week. The new partnership facilitated the representation of the Alliance at a number of major climate and water conferences in late 2018 and during the course of 2019, among which the COP 24 in December 2018, the UNESCO Water day in May 2019 and more recently the Marrakesh International Summit on Water Security in October 2019. During these events, we conveyed the key messages of the Alliance, on behalf of the GCWDA membership, and issued communiques through the press on the Alliance's mission, as well as on the benefits and challenges of clean and sustainable desalination.

At each one of the Executive Director's interventions, an increasing interest was witnessed from government officials, corporations, civil society and media from countries with no desalination experience, but that are experiencing water stress and that see the Alliance as a game changer for them.

What started as a vision carried by a few climate and desalination enthusiasts about 3 years ago, has become a legally recognized NGO with over 200 public and private sector members and leading academia representing over 50 countries. Our participation in high-level policy panels to influence the global climate and sustainable development agenda shows how a small collegial effort can turn into a promising Climate Action.

Over the past 3 years, the GCWDA has generated a strong momentum on renewable energy and energy efficiency-based desalination, to reduce the carbon footprint of the industry. In this context, the Secretariat has sought to position the GCWDA as a key actor of the climate agenda. Our approach has also demonstrated the importance of the climate – energy – water – development nexus to the sustainable development agenda. Therefore, the GCWDA can expand its mission towards the achievement of the related SDGs, including SDGs 6 and 7 (water and energy).

All this progress was achieved thanks to the commitment of a few members, on a voluntary basis, and thanks to the financial contribution of Masdar at the initial stage of the alliance, and currently with my own funds.


Given that this mode of operation is not sustainable, and while we continue to consult with the historical founding members to raise the funds needed to secure the continued existence of the GCWDA and produce the various products requested by the membership; it is in consultation with a small group of board members that the idea of a membership fee has been proposed. Your feedback on this proposal is welcome, as well as expressions of interest from members willing to support the Alliance's work by financial contributions.

The term of office of the Board of the Global Clean Water Desalination Alliance will expire in January 2020 at the end of the day either of the next General Meeting or of the Board Meeting. Candidates for appointment or reappointment on the board are invited to submit their expressions of interest to the Chair, Alexander Ritschel ([aritschel@masdar.ae](mailto:aritschel@masdar.ae)) and to me ([fbenfadhl@gcwda.org](mailto:fbenfadhl@gcwda.org)). The selection of the coming board will be conducted by vote as stated in the articles of the Alliance.

Below is a list of activities and results achieved since December 2018. Attached is also the adopted Action plan of the GCWDA for 2019 – 2021 that remains yet to be funded.

Fatma Ben Fadhl  
GCWDA Acting Executive Director


## GOVERNANCE

January 2019	<p><b>The board and General Assembly of the Alliance</b> met on 15 and 17 January 2019 to discuss the main strategic areas of intervention and to take decisions regarding the running of the Alliance over the course of 2019. The Minutes of both meetings were circulated to the Alliance's members and are available upon request.</p> <p><b>A partnership agreement was signed</b> with the International Office for Water, Paris, <i>i.a.</i> to host the GCWDA secretariat and to manage the newly created GCWDA Trust Fund.</p> <p><b>Election of Mrs. Fatma Ben Fadhl as Acting Executive Director</b> of the GCWDA.</p> <p><b>Adoption of the Trust Fund Constitution</b> by the GCWDA Board. Additional banking procedures were to be conducted in 2019 to open an account and allow the Alliance to receive contributions to support its activities in partnership with leading public, private and academic institutions.</p>	 <p><i>Signature of a Partnership agreement between the GCWDA represented by its chair, Mr Alexander Ritschel from Masdar, and IOWater Director General, Mr. Eric Tardieu.</i></p>
March to October 2019	<p><b>Registration of GCWDA</b> by the new secretariat <b>as a Not-for-Profit Organization in Geneva, Switzerland</b>, in coordination with the Swiss authorities. Its inscription at the Geneva Registrar was initiated, and a bank account was opened at the Union de Banques Suisses (UBS).</p>	
July 2019	<p><b>Election of Mr Miguel Sanz as a new member of the board</b> of the GCWDA following his nomination by the board and election by the GCWDA members (electronic vote)</p>	

## TOOLS

January to June 2019	<p><b>Creation and launch of a website</b> for the GCWDA at <a href="http://www.gcwda.org">http://www.gcwda.org</a> . The Website offers a Forum feature for members to propose topics for discussion and animate conversations with their peers.</p>	
October 2018 to April 2019	<p><b>Blueprint for Clean Desalination Tenders:</b> A working group composed of voluntary members and led by ILF Engineers was established in October 2018 to prepare a blueprint for tenders for renewable energy-based desalination projects. The working group worked over the course of 2018 and 2019 and has produced a first draft. The document is attached. Comments are welcome before <b>30 October 2019</b>. Please submit your comments to <a href="mailto:fbenfadhl@gcwda.org">fbenfadhl@gcwda.org</a></p>	
March 2019	<p><b>An action plan was developed for the GCWDA</b> by the secretariat to help raise seed funding to support the development of a full-fledged strategy document and associated tools for the Alliance. The action plan is attached for your review, deadline for submission of comments is <b>30 October 2019</b>. Please send your comments to <a href="mailto:fbenfadhl@gcwda.org">fbenfadhl@gcwda.org</a></p>	
June 2019	<p><b>A call for projects to populate a database of clean desalination projects</b> was initiated by the secretariat in early 2019. The response from the membership was good and the resulting database can be accessed at the following link <a href="https://www.gcwda.org/gcwdadatabase">https://www.gcwda.org/gcwdadatabase</a>. Project sheets can still be submitted to feed into the database. To receive the project sheets template please email <a href="mailto:fbenfadhl@gcwda.org">fbenfadhl@gcwda.org</a> (project sheets can be submitted throughout the year).</p>	

## COMMUNICATION AND REPRESENTATION AT OFFICIAL EVENTS

December 2018	<p><b>COP 24 in Katowice:</b> The Alliance participated on a high-level panel on Water Day at the Climate Action Pavilion of COP 24.</p>	
January 2019	<p><b>Abu Dhabi Sustainability Week:</b> The GCWDA participated on several technical panels of the ADSW.</p> <p><b>A LinkedIn page</b> has been created for the GCWDA, to help members in quoting the alliance and promoting it through their respective networks: <a href="https://www.linkedin.com/company/global-clean-water-desalination-alliance">https://www.linkedin.com/company/global-clean-water-desalination-alliance</a> .</p> <p><b>A Twitter account</b> shall also be created, the Secretariat welcomes expressions of interest from members who are willing to administer such Twitter account. Please send your expression of interest to <a href="mailto:fbenfadhl@gcwda.org">fbenfadhl@gcwda.org</a></p>	 <p><i>Participation of the GCWDA at COP 24</i></p>

May 2019	<b>A GCWDA communique calling for increased global action to ensure security and sustainability of water access</b> was released on the margins of the UNESCO Water Conference which took place in Paris on 13 and 15 May 2019. <a href="https://www.oieau.fr/sites/www.oieau.fr/files/gcwda_communique_on_sustainable_desalination.pdf">https://www.oieau.fr/sites/www.oieau.fr/files/gcwda_communique_on_sustainable_desalination.pdf</a>
July 2019	<b>A consultative meeting with a few Paris based board members of the Alliance</b> was held at the premises of the International Office for Water to discuss the way forward for the GCWDA. The outcome of the meeting is to be submitted to the Board to guide discussions and decisions by end of October 2019.
October 2019	<b>The GCWDA participated in a ministerial panel at the Marrakesh International Water Security Summit.</b> A communique was issued calling for making clean desalination affordable for all <a href="https://www.gcwda.org/gcwda-in-the-news">https://www.gcwda.org/gcwda-in-the-news</a>

## NEXT STEPS

October 2019 to December 2019	<p><b>COP 25 in Chile:</b> The GCWDA is a member of the Global Alliances for Water and Climate (GAFWAC). GAFWAC envisages to organize a high-level side-event during Water Day at COP 25 on the 6<sup>th</sup> of December. GCWDA Members who are interested in participating on behalf of the Alliance shall inform the secretariat at <a href="mailto:fbenfadhl@gcwda.org">fbenfadhl@gcwda.org</a> by <b>14 October 2019</b> at the latest. Furthermore, if your organization can offer the GCWDA a speaking opportunity at relevant panels during COP 25, please inform the secretariat.</p> <p><b>Advocacy:</b> The GCWDA relies on its members to share experiences and spread awareness about energy efficient and renewable energy-based desalination. The secretariat welcomes suggestions of key actions and events that members are willing to cover at their own cost. Key messages, data and other communication material will be provided by the secretariat to support their participation. Interested members can liaise with the secretariat in that regard at <a href="mailto:fbenfadhl@gcwda.org">fbenfadhl@gcwda.org</a>.</p>	 <p><i>Participation of the GCWDA at the Marrakesh International Summit on Water Security</i></p>
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## FUND RAISING

**Bank account:** The GCWDA has been legally registered in Geneva, in Switzerland, as an NGO. The Executive Committee of the GCWDA (Chair, Vice-Chair, Executive Director and DG of IOWater) have finalized the opening of a bank account for the Alliance at UBS.

**Call for financial contributions:** The GCWDA membership is currently free of charge. All expenses to date have been disbursed by Masdar and by the Executive Director from their own funds. **To undertake further activities and to fund the Alliance's secretariat, contributions from members are necessary.**

**Contribution agreement:** Members are encouraged to pledge contributions. In case they wish to make a donation, they are kindly invited to express their pledge by e-mail to the Chairman of the Alliance (Alexander Ritschel [aritschel@masdar.ae](mailto:aritschel@masdar.ae)) and to the Executive Director (Fatma Ben Fadhl [fbenfadhl@gcwda.org](mailto:fbenfadhl@gcwda.org)) with a copy to the treasurer of the GCWDA (Jean-Pascal Pham-Ba [jppb@twi.team](mailto:jppb@twi.team)). A contribution agreement form will be provided upon request at [fbenfadhl@gcwda.org](mailto:fbenfadhl@gcwda.org). **Contributions can be made without specifying the purpose or to fund specific activities according to the GCWDA Trust Fund Constitution.**

**Financial audits:** In conformity with its registered status in Geneva, the GCWDA will be audited as per Swiss laws by a recognized Auditing firm under the supervision of the International Office for Water in its capacity of Trust Fund Manager. The GCWDA Treasurer, the GCWDA Chair and the International Office for Water are the sole three co-signatories on GCWDA disbursements, based on the bank account contract with UBS.

**Sponsorship of the Alliance will be recognized in all communication material** and publicized on the Alliance's website and the GCWDA's partners websites.

**Tax exemption:** A fiscal attestation and letter of financial contribution will be issued upon request.