

WORLD HEALTH  
ORGANIZATION

ORGANISATION MONDIALE  
DE LA SANTÉ

EXECUTIVE BOARD

EB13/NGO/4

10 September 1953

Thirteenth Session

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

RESTRICTED

INFORMATION ON NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

1. Name of organization

International Water Supply Association.

2. Address of Headquarters

34, Park Street, London, W.1.

3. Addresses of all Branch or Regional Headquarters

1952 Congress Headquarters, 9, Rue de Phalsbourg, Paris, 17.

4. Membership

The membership is of four classes, Honorary, Corporate, Associate and Individual. Honorary Membership may be conferred upon a person only by the General Assembly.

Corporate membership may be taken up on behalf of a country by a body in that country representing the water supply interests of that country. This may be done by an appropriate association or joint committee of associations, or by the appropriate Government department, or by the appropriate Government department acting together with an association or associations. The following countries are at the moment

Corporate members:-

Algeria	Luxembourg
Austria	Malaya
Belgium	The Netherlands
Denmark	Nigeria
Eire	Norway
France	Sweden
Great Britain	Switzerland
	Tunisia

Associate membership is open to individual undertakings etc. and now covers sixty groups. Individual membership, now amounting to fifteen, is open to individuals engaged in Water Supply.

5. General purposes of the organization (Please give full details)Objects

The Association is created:

To establish an international body concerned with the public supply of water through pipes for domestic, agricultural and industrial purposes.

To secure concerted action in improving the knowledge of public water supplies, technical, legal and administrative.

To secure a maximum exchange of information on research, methods of supply of water, statistics and all other matters of common interest.

To encourage intercourse and better understanding between men engaged in the public supply of water.

6. (a) What is the primary function of the organization and (b) secondary functions? Please reply in detail

The functions of the organization are given in 5. above.

## 7. Deleted.

8. (a) Does the organization advocate any special health measures or procedures? If so, what are these?

(b) Has the organization any special reservations as to treatment or health procedures? If so, what are these?

The Association advocates improvement in the knowledge of public water supplies in all its aspects and the exchange of information on research and methods in public water supply.

9. Can officially designated representatives speak authoritatively for the membership on matters concerned with the stated purposes of the organization? If so, on what subjects? If not, please clarify.

Arrangements could no doubt be made for a representative to be able to speak authoritatively on behalf of the membership in any particular instance where circumstances warranted it.

10. Specific interest with reference to the work of the World Health Organization

The specific interest of the Association is in public water supplies. The Association is therefore interested in any of the work of the World Health Organization which touches upon public water supplies.

11. Officers. (Names and positions held, including the Chief Executive Officer or Secretary and other principal administrative officials. What is the total number of paid officer personnel? Please distinguish between those with the international organization and those with the national or local groups attached thereto).

1953 President - M. R. Bronotte (France)

Vice-President - Sir Geoffrey Hutchinson M.C; Q.C; M.P. (England)

Secretary-General - Mr. Leonard Millis, O.B.E. (Great Britain)

Joint Secretary - Dr. P. Descroix (France)

The Association has as yet no paid full-time personnel.

12. Structure. (a) Policy making bodies such as Conference, Governing Body, Executive Committee, (b) frequency of meetings, with date of the last meeting of each, (c) voting procedure, (d) affiliation with other organizations, including international organizations

The General Assembly is the supreme controlling body of the Association. The General Assembly must meet at least once every four years and each Corporate member has one vote in the General Assembly. The last meeting of the General Assembly was in September 1949.

The Executive Board manages the affairs of the Association and reports to the General Assembly. The Executive Board comprises the President, the Past-Presidents and the Vice-President together with not more than nine members elected by the General Assembly from the official representatives of the corporate Members. The Executive Board meets as and when the President deems necessary. The last meeting of the Executive Board was held in Paris in October 1951. The Association is not affiliated to other Organizations.

13. Finances. (Annual budget and sources of income, noting portion received from membership dues). Please send copy of financial statements for past three years, if published separately from Annual Report

The principal source of income at present is by way of subscriptions received from members. A copy of a financial statement drawn to the 31 December 1950 is attached to this document. A statement of the accounts of the First Congress of the Association which was held in Amsterdam in 1949 is also attached.

14. History. (Date when founded, principal historical developments)

The formation of the Association was first mooted in 1947 and the Constitution was adopted at the first meeting of the General Assembly held in Amsterdam in September 1949. Detailed historical account of the formation of the Association is attached as Appendix A.

15. Activities. (A statement of the most important work accomplished)

The Association held its first International Water Supply Congress in Amsterdam in 1949 and its second Congress in Paris in June 1952. At these scientific papers were presented and discussed. The third Congress is to be held in London in 1955.

16. Publications. (Name the regular publications, how often they appear, and their general nature. State what kind of special reports, etc., are issued, mentioning those of particular importance)

As yet the Association has undertaken only one major publication and that is the Proceedings of the 1949 Amsterdam Congress. A leaflet giving details of this publication is attached.\*

17. Documentation. (a) Please attach three copies of Constitution, charter or convention, and other informational material, including samples of types of literature published. (b) Please send a copy of each of the last three annual reports

Three copies of the Minutes of the First General Assembly of 1949 are enclosed.\*

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\* Held by the Secretariat.

REPORT BY THE SECRETARY-GENERAL ON BEHALF OF THE  
EXECUTIVE BOARD

presented

by

L.W.F. MILLIS, O.B.E., B.Sc. (Econ.)  
Secretary-General

1. Introduction

It was in 1945 that proposals for an international water supply organization were discussed at a meeting which took place in London between Professor Krul of the Netherlands Government Institute for Drinking Water and the Secretary of the British Waterworks Association.

These discussions gave rise to a meeting between representatives of the British Waterworks Association and of the Netherlands Waterworks Association which took place in Holland, when it was decided to seek support for the setting up of an international organization.

At this stage four countries became interested in the movement, namely, the United States of America, France, Holland and Great Britain.

The first full meeting of representatives of these countries was held at Harrogate, England, on the 16 and 17 June 1947. At that meeting the proposals for an international organization were approved and the organization was named the International Water Supply Association. Alderman N.F.S. Winter, J.P., then President of the British Waterworks Association, was appointed President and Ir. C. Biemond, President of the Vakgroep Waterleidingbedrijven, Vice-President. Mr. L.W.F. Millis, O.B.E., Secretary of the British Waterworks Association was appointed Secretary-General and Dr. H. Kahrel, Secretary of the Vakgroep Waterleidingbedrijven, Joint-Secretary.

It was decided at that meeting to call a first full international conference in 1949 to take place in Holland and to invite all countries to be present at that conference. An Executive Board was set up to carry the affairs of the Association to the first full conference and to make arrangements for a scientific

Appendix A

programme for the conference. The Executive Board was instructed to prepare a provisional constitution to place before the conference.

The Board decided that the conference would fall into two parts - the First General Assembly at which the official representatives of the various countries would deal with the business of the Association and the First Congress which would be built round a scientific programme and would be open to all those interested in Water Supply the world over.

The First General Assembly has been called for 17 September 1949 in Amsterdam and a provisional constitution has been drafted by the Board and is to be submitted to the meeting.

Arrangements for the Congress which commences on 19 September 1949 have been in the hands of a Programme Committee under the chairmanship of the Vice-President assisted by the Joint-Secretary.

Details of both these events have been circulated throughout the world.

2. Constitution of the Association

The provisional constitution of the Association which has been approved by the Executive Board, is set out as an appendix to the Agenda for the General Assembly and copies of this have been circulated.

It has been pointed out that any country represented at the General Assembly may submit amendments to the Provisional Constitution, but it may well be that there has been insufficient time for many countries to have set up a body representative of the water supply interests in that country with full authority to consider and approve this document.

It may also be that the General Assembly will find it impossible in the limited time, to reach complete agreement on the terms of the constitution.

It is suggested therefore that if the objects of the Association, outlined in Clause 2 of the Provisional Constitution, meet with general approval, sufficient

of the Provisional Constitution necessary to give the new organization a basis for working might be adopted, whilst the other details might be left for further discussion and examination at a subsequent General Assembly.

### 3. Seat of the Association

The General Assembly will have to determine the seat of the Association. At present the Association is seated at the headquarters of the British Waterworks Association in London.

### 4. Finances of the Association

Some experience has already been gained by the Executive Board of the difficulties of financing the work of the Association and it appears that those difficulties will not be lightened in the foreseeable future.

In the short term the objects, the policy, and the activities of the Association will be fashioned by the funds which will be at the Association's disposal.

During the past two years some provision has been made for annual subscriptions from the initiating countries to meet the initial expenses of organizing the Association, but the Association has depended upon the goodwill and support of the water supply interests in the initiating countries for a considerable amount of goods and services which have not been assessed in terms of money. No attempt has been made to defray the real costs incurred by the Association. No funds were available to finance the Congress this year and great difficulties might have been encountered in this respect were it not for the magnificent efforts made by the Netherlands in accepting financial responsibility for the Congress.

It was thought that if it were possible to carry the Association through to the first General Assembly the financial problems might then be solved. It has been felt that the increase in membership expected at the General Assembly, would allow the financial burden to be spread over a far greater number of countries and that with the improvement in the economic position of the world generally, the difficulties of foreign exchanges would tend to disappear, and the transfer of money from one country to another would tend to become easier.

Appendix A

But although it is possible to look forward to an increase in membership, it does not appear from correspondence which has been exchanged that a substantial subscription can be expected from member countries at this stage. Questions on the financial obligations of membership have been put time and again by countries who have been invited to join the Association. Certain countries have exhibited great interest in the work of the Association but they are declining membership because they fear that the financial commitments will be too great, and it may well be that other countries are declining membership for the same reason. Moreover, whilst the economic position of many countries is showing some improvement, it does not seem that there will be a relaxation of restrictions on the transfer of money from one country to another in the near future.

The Association then cannot reasonably expect to have large sums of money to work with, yet if after the General Assembly the Executive Board were to consist of members drawn from all over the globe, it would require a considerable sum to finance one meeting of it.

If these financial difficulties cannot be overcome, the Association for the present will have to restrict its expenditure to a minimum and to regulate its activities accordingly. The expenditure may be considered under two heads -  
(a) Congresses and (b) General.

(a) Congresses

It is anticipated that the budget for the first Congress this year will balance. Whilst it is true that this may prove to have depended upon the gifts which have been made and upon the generous offer of the Netherlands Waterworks Association to underwrite the Congress funds, it does not seem unreasonable to assume that future Congresses may be held without involving the Association in considerable expense.

The draft constitution contemplates a Congress every three years. At least one country considers five years a reasonable period. Perhaps four years would be a good compromise.

(b) General

If the Association were to restrict its activities initially to the holding of Congresses, then the general expenses could be kept small as they would be incurred only in preserving continuity between Congresses. Subscriptions would be required only to defray these small general expenses.

In addition frequent meetings of the Executive Board and other Committees would not be necessary. Greater responsibility could be delegated to the President and to the Vice-President and Secretary-General. The President could watch the affairs of the Association generally, and could establish contact with the members of the Executive Board by correspondence; only in an emergency would it be necessary to call a full meeting of the Executive Board. The Vice-President who is charged with the responsibility of organizing the next Congress could submit his proposals in writing to the members of the Executive Board, and only in the event of disapproval of the proposals would it be necessary to call a meeting of the Executive Board. The Secretary-General could be given full power to conduct the general administrative and other work of the Association.

The financial difficulties envisaged might be avoided if the Association were to concentrate its efforts upon the holding of successful and useful Congresses and to arrange its organization to fulfil this purpose. This would establish the Association on a firm basis, and from this basis further activities would in the fullness of time develop.

If these views are accepted, three conclusions follow:

- (i) Each member country will be called upon to make a small annual subscription to the Association itself.
- (ii) Each member country will have to make provision for financing the work of the Association in its own country and for any cost which may be incurred by sending delegates to meetings or conferences.
- (iii) The country which is chosen for the next Congress must be prepared to follow the example of the Netherlands and take financial responsibility for the Congress.

If a beginning is made in this way, experience and changing circumstances will enable the necessary adjustments to be made so that in the future the wider objectives of the Association may be attained.

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DE LA SANTÉ

EXECUTIVE BOARD

EB13/NGO/4 Corr. 1  
14 September 1953

Thirteenth Session

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH  
RESTRICTED

INFORMATION ON NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS  
(International Water Supply Association)

CORRIGENDUM

The answer to question 13, page 4, should read:

"A copy of a financial statement as of  
31 Desember, 1951, is held by the WHO  
Secretariat."

CONSEIL EXECUTIF

EB13/NGO/4 Corr. 1  
14 septembre 1953

Treizième Session

ORIGINAL : ANGLAIS  
RESTRICTED

RENSEIGNEMENTS SUR LES ORGANISATIONS NON GOUVERNEMENTALES  
(Association internationale des Distributions d'eau)

CORRIGENDUM

A la page 4, la réponse à la question 13 doit se lire comme suit :

"Un exemplaire du relevé financier à la date  
du 31 décembre 1951 est déposé auprès du  
Secrétariat de l'OMS."