

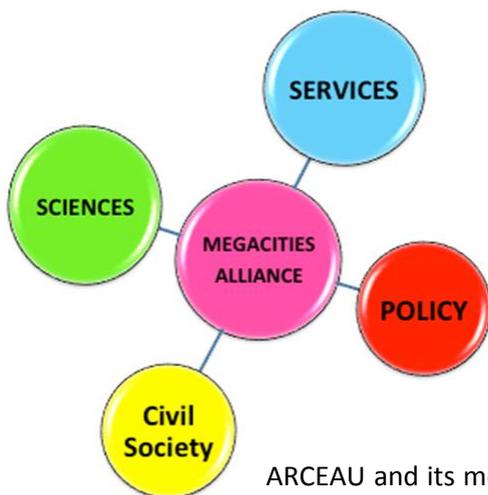
FOUNDING MEMBERS OF THE MEGACITIES ALLIANCE FOR WATER AND CLIMATE: WHO ARE THEY?

Megacities are found on all continents except Oceania. They cover diverse geographical areas with a wide range of climates and are generally located close to rivers, lakes or seas (from plains to deserts, from mountains to seashore). Megacities depend on legislations from their own country with particularities often specific to their state or to their local government. Their administrative borders are generally complex due to the past urbanization that has created a continuous urban environment where several different cities existed in the past. Social inequalities are somehow particularly visible in Megacities between rich quarters and poor quarters.

It is no wonder then that in most cases, Megacities' borders do not fit with administrative maps, as they artificially put together a patchwork of entities. This diversity of intellectual, technical and financial resources components that exist within Megacities is an opportunity for mobilizing these resources so that innovative solutions can emerge and guarantee access to water and sanitation for all populations, equality of services, economic viability, resilience of systems, flexibility of solutions, and the protection of the natural environment.



Therefore, in the vision developed under the Alliance of Megacities for Water and Climate, the different water stakeholders are associated, and each of them, together or separately, can partially or totally represent the Megacity.



In Paris, water stakeholders have joined within a NGO called ARCEAU regrouping 3 boards respectively for:

- i. the political representation and decision makers,
- ii. the utilities, and
- iii. the researchers.

ARCEAU acts as a catalyst for enlarging the vision of water management at the Megacity level, and provides opportunities for discussions and the development of common strategies and/or researches that take into account all aspects of water in large urban centers.

ARCEAU and its members are a good example of Founding Members upon which the Alliance of Megacities for Water and Climate (AMWaC) aims at building its network. The ARCEAU model is seen as a good one capable of developing common research oriented for solving problems and spreading the innovations.

The particular relations that each member of ARCEAU and its likes has with its peers in other Megacities (directly from decision maker to decision maker, from utility to utility, and from research center to research center) will help develop and strengthen the AMWaC network.