



MAWAC-ENA WORKSHOP

PARIS

November
2025



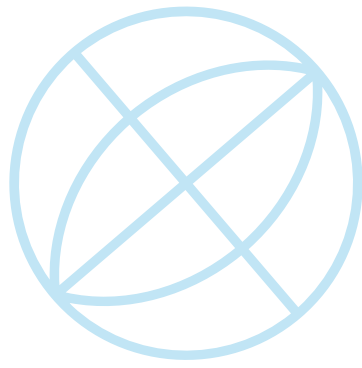
UNESCO MAWAC New Working Group: Framework preparation



MAWAC ENA – 2025 – WORKSHOP

Nilo Nascimento and William Veerbeek

Paris, 18-21 November 2025



Presentation outline

- IHP Council Resolution XXVI-4 – 2024
- The Working Group
- The Global Strategic Framework
- Our questions for you

IHP Council Resolution XXVI-4 – 2024 (excerpt)



Initiating the Process of the Establishment of a Megacities Alliance on Water and Climate Change (MAWAC) **as a UNESCO Cooperation Platform**

- Development of a proposal for the establishment of the Megacities Alliance on Water and Climate Change (MAWAC).
- Nomination of a **new Working Group to develop a proposal (framework) for the establishment of MAWAC:**
 - will elaborate and further develop the existing draft proposal, as it considers appropriate and required in the framework of the IHP Council Resolution XXVI-4 implementation
 - **exclusively within the mandate given by the IHP Council Resolution XXVI-4**
 - **in line with the UNESCO's overall mandate and objectives**
 - in line with UNESCO rules and regulations, including Financial Regulations and Rules
 - with clear contributions of MAWAC to IHP-IX Strategic Plan
- Two stakeholders' meetings

New MAWAC Working Group Members: March 2025



William Veerbeek
Europe and North America

Jovan Despotovic
Eastern European States

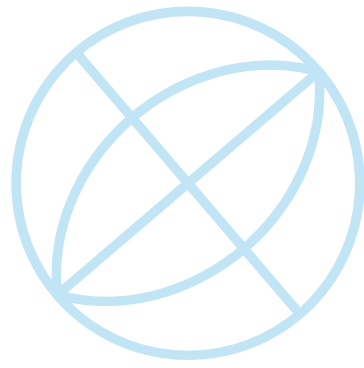
Hifza Rasheed
Asia and Pacific States

Khaldoun Khashman
Arab States

Nilo Nascimento
LAC

Patience Ngelinkoto Mpia
African States

MAWAC Global Strategic Framework



1. Background

2. Mission and objectives

3. Focus areas and topics

- i. Topics
- ii. Action areas

4. Membership and multi-stakeholder model

- i. Membership
- ii. Application
- iii. Multistakeholder model

5. Governance

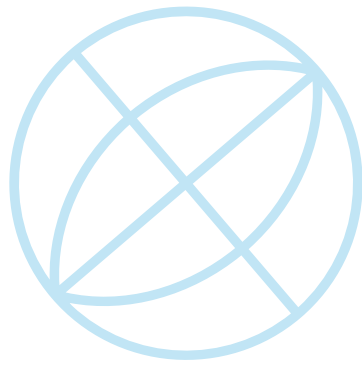
6. Expert advice and broader cooperation

7. Support mechanisms

- I. Data and information sharing
- II. Communication
- III. Funding

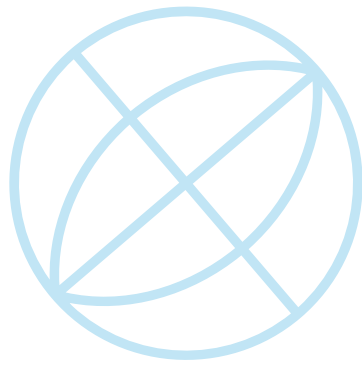
8. Further revision of the MAWAC Global Strategic Framework Document

Background and context



Megacities bring together institutions (political, economic, educational, research, etc.), human resources and financing capabilities that create opportunities for innovation in public policy formulation and implementation and for scaling up innovative solutions.

MAWAC Goals and Objectives



MAWAC aims at

Facilitating and strengthening collaboration between (mega)cities through collaborative activities and the sharing of knowledge, innovation and best practices

Improving urban water management and climate change mitigation and adaptation towards achieving sustainable communities, resilient to the effects of climate change

Enabling replication and scaling up of successful solutions to regional and global levels

MAWAC Focus Areas and Topics



Equitable access to water
sanitation and hygiene for human
well being

Climate change and urban water
resilience

Urban and Peri-urban Ecosystems
and Water-Sensitive Planning

Water for Urban Prosperity –
Circular Economy and Nexus
Approaches

Urban Water Governance

Watershed-scale Water
Management

Financing Urban Water and
Climate Adaptation

MAWAC MEMBERSHIP

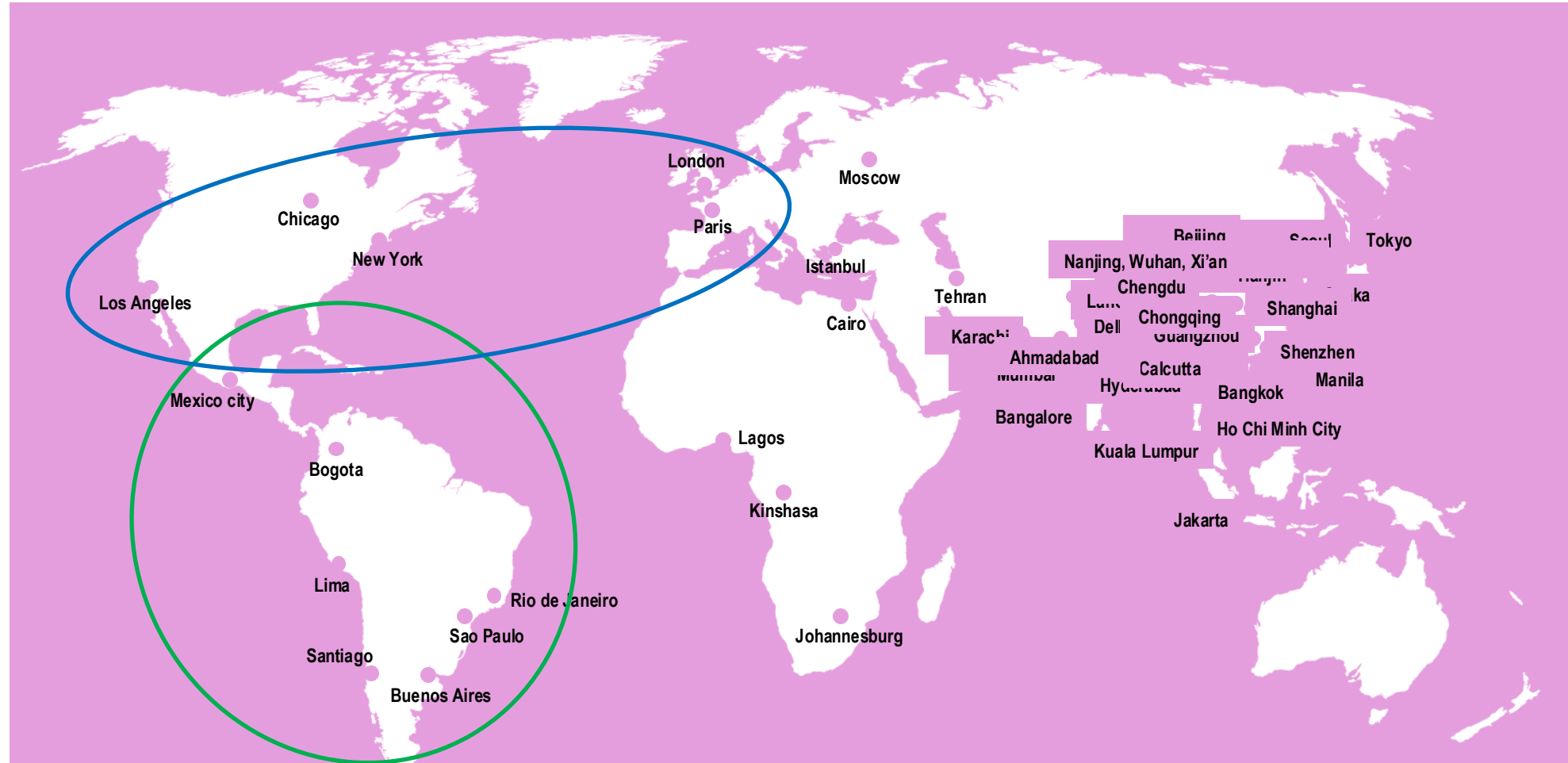
MAWAC-LAC chapter

7 Megacities

MAWAC-ENA chapter

5 Megacities

Network of over 40 megacities



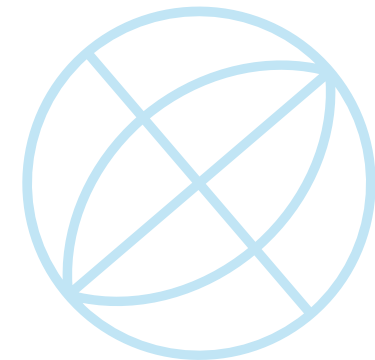
2050: nearly 70% of global population residing in urban areas



MAWAC-LAC

MAWAC-ENA

MAWAC LAC from 2019 to 2025



(Brazil) in 2019

Global
by UNESCO

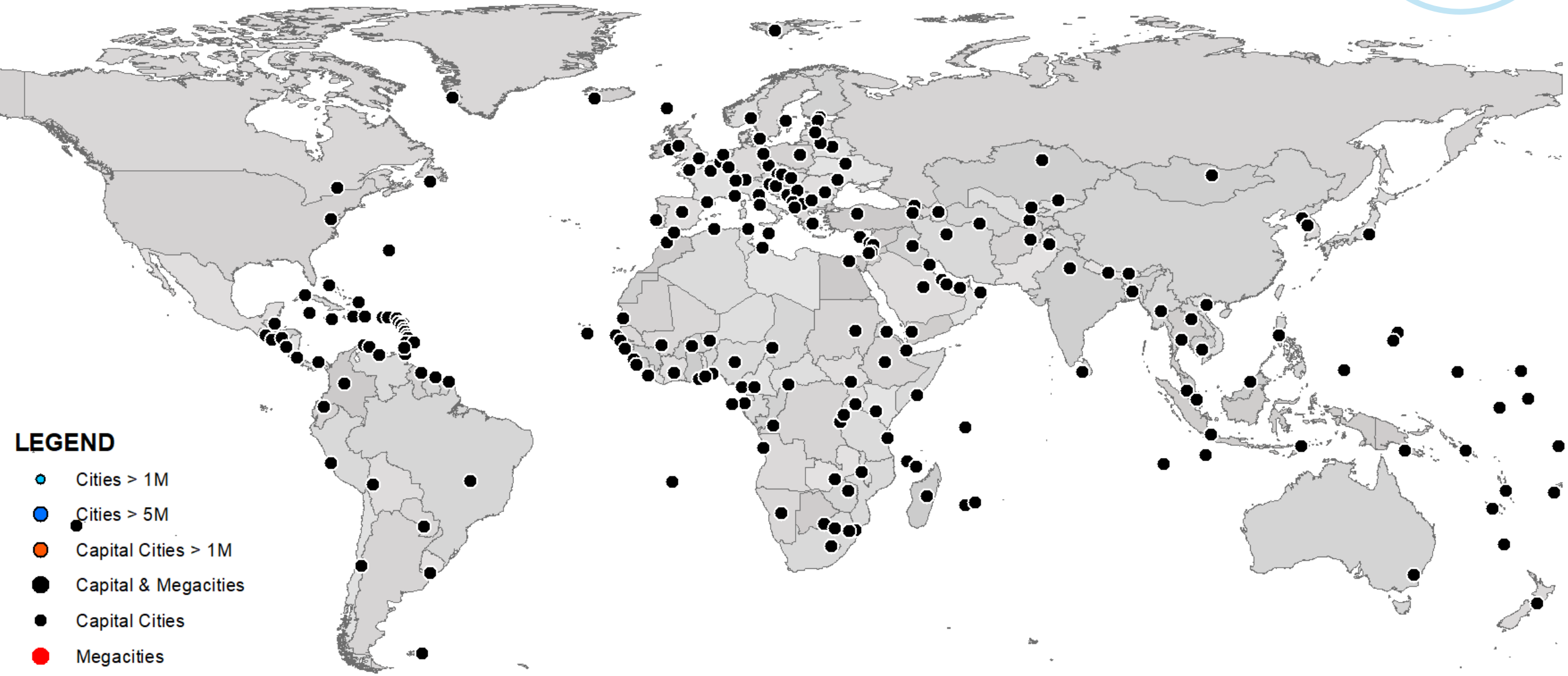
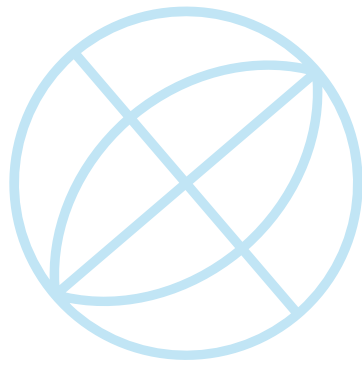
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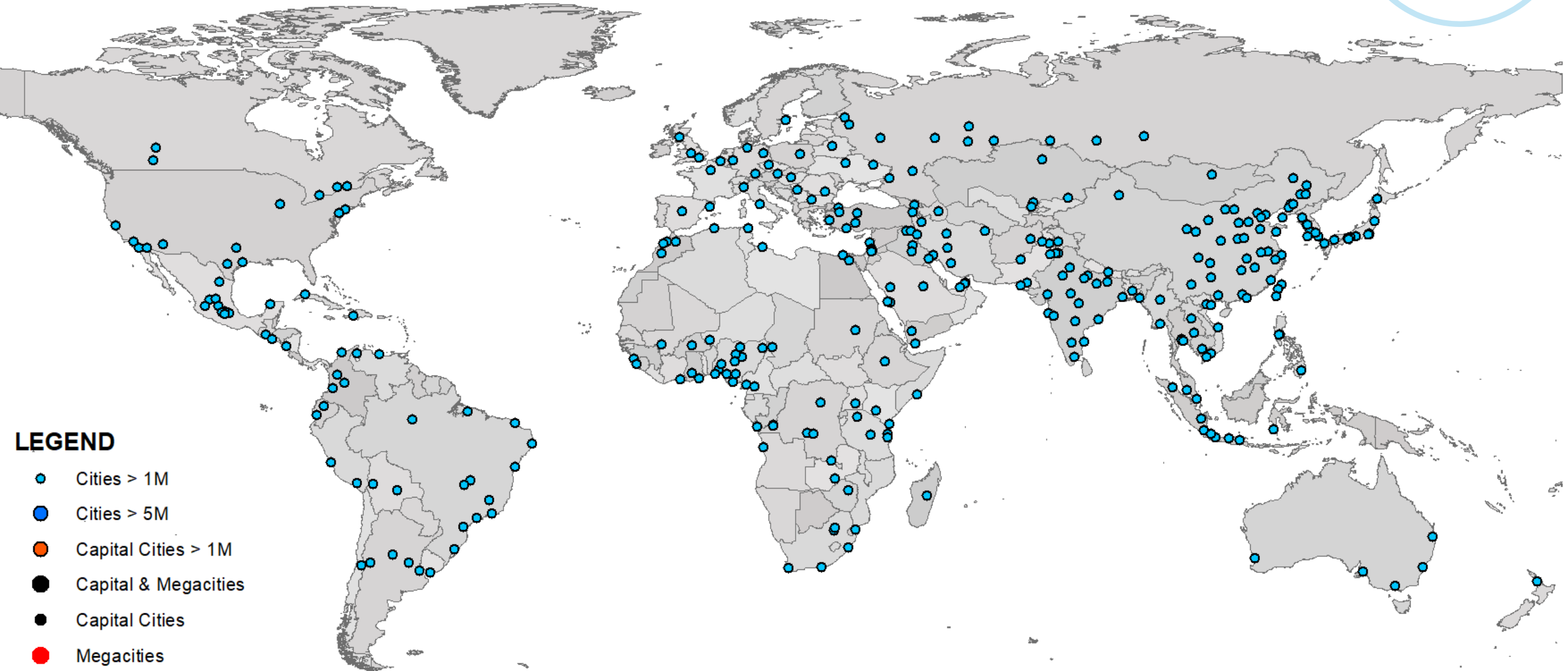
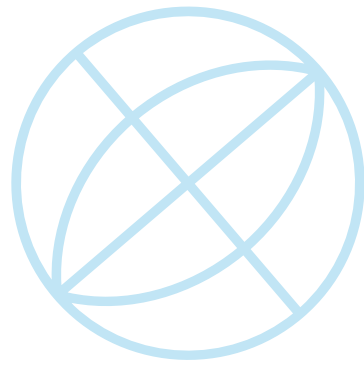
Membership

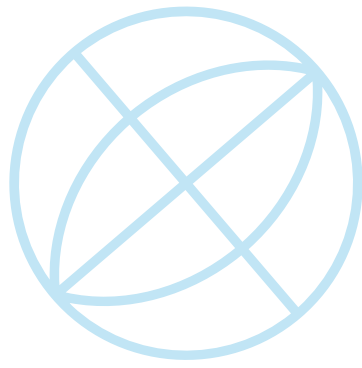
Capital Cities – N = 224



Membership

Observers – Cities with $> 1\text{M}$ – $N = 318$

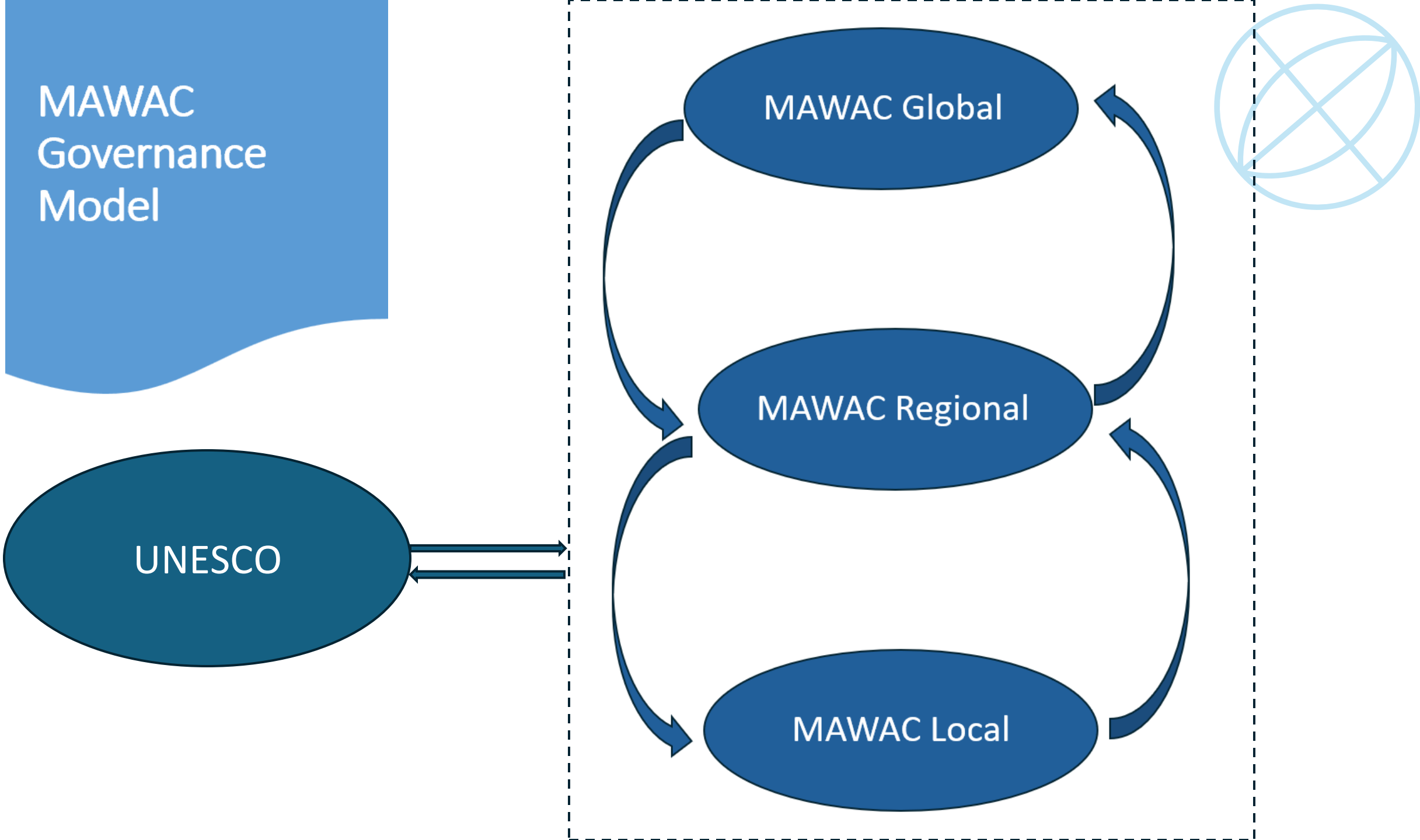




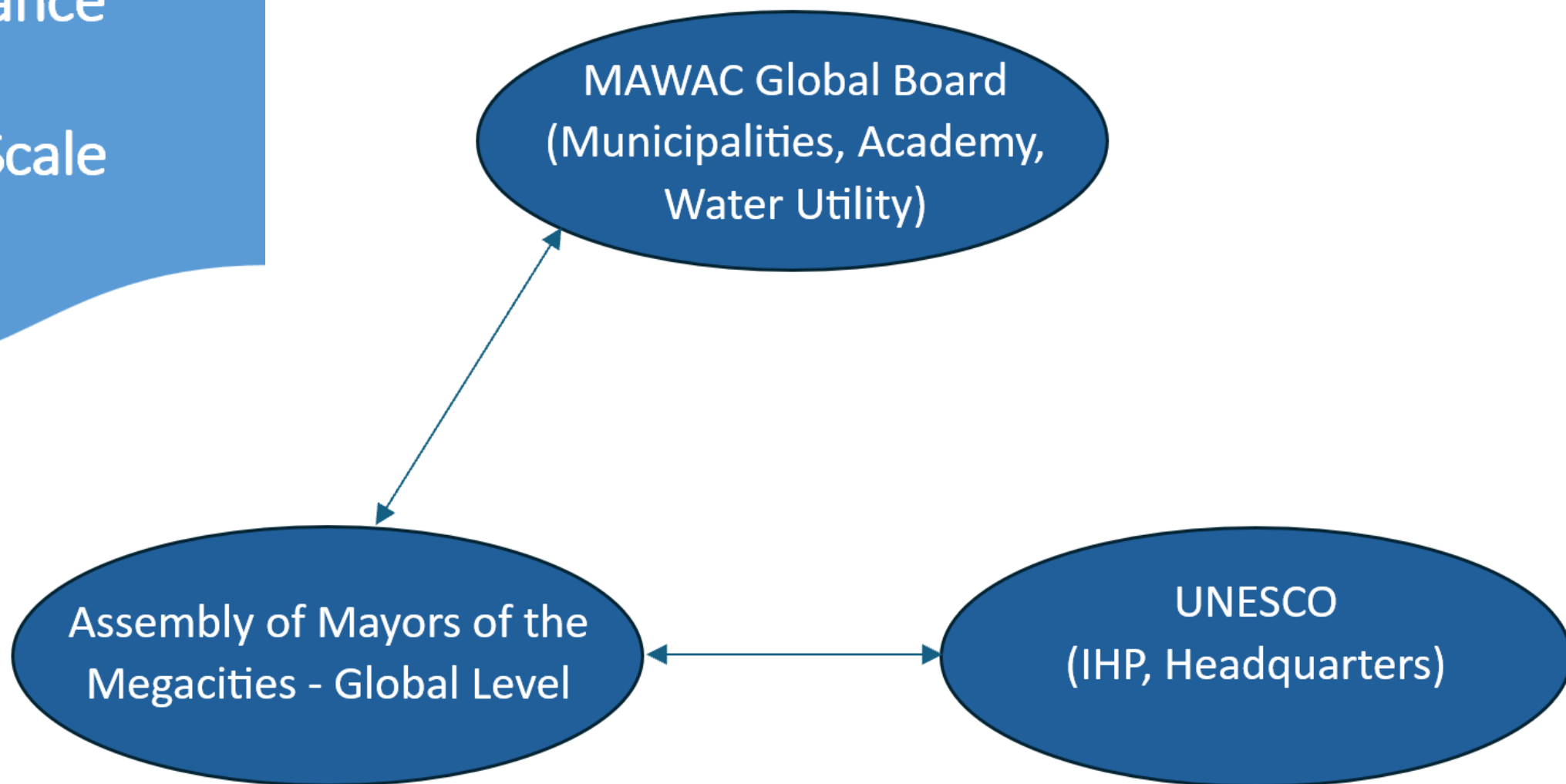
Membership: cities' commitments

Cities applying to join the MAWAC as full members must commit and demonstrate their willingness and commitment to:

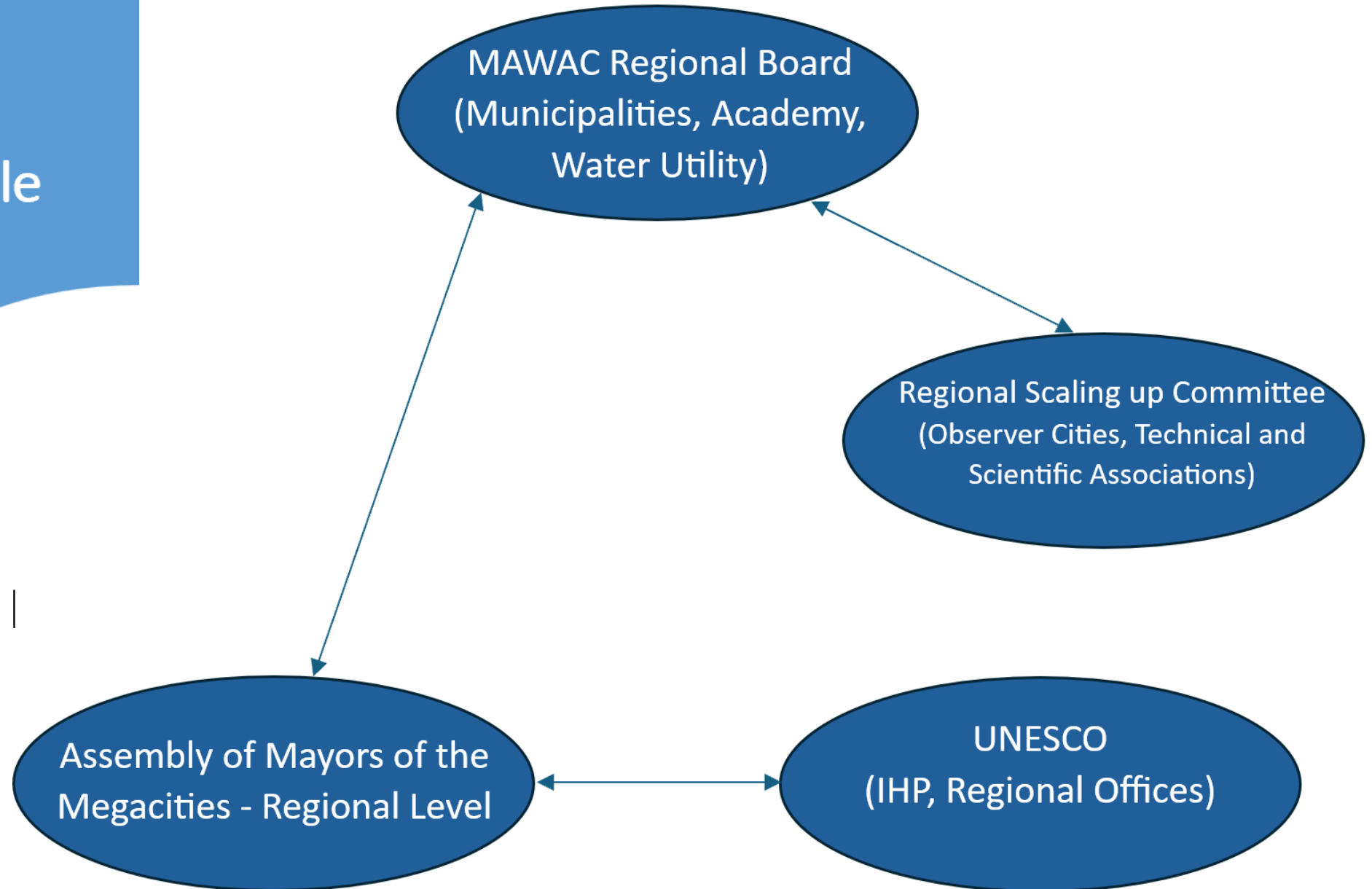
- **engage in achieving MAWAC's mission and objectives towards becoming a water-secure and resilient city**, striving to provide access to water and sanitation services, meeting quality, quantity and affordability requirements, to its inhabitants;
- **commit with MAWAC thematic and focus areas** as formulated above.
- **contribute to MAWAC's mission, objectives and actions** by actively participating in MAWAC activities at the global and regional levels;
- **cooperate with MAWAC member cities in the framework of MAWAC** through the sharing of knowledge, innovation, experience, best practices and policies on water and climate change;
- **support and help other MAWAC member cities** in their efforts towards achieving the MAWAC's vision;
- **contribute to observer cities in adopting successful policies and innovations** developed by MAWAC members;
- **share the values and objectives guiding UNESCO** in pursuit of dialogue and international scientific cooperation in the framework of its Intergovernmental Hydrological Programme (IHP).



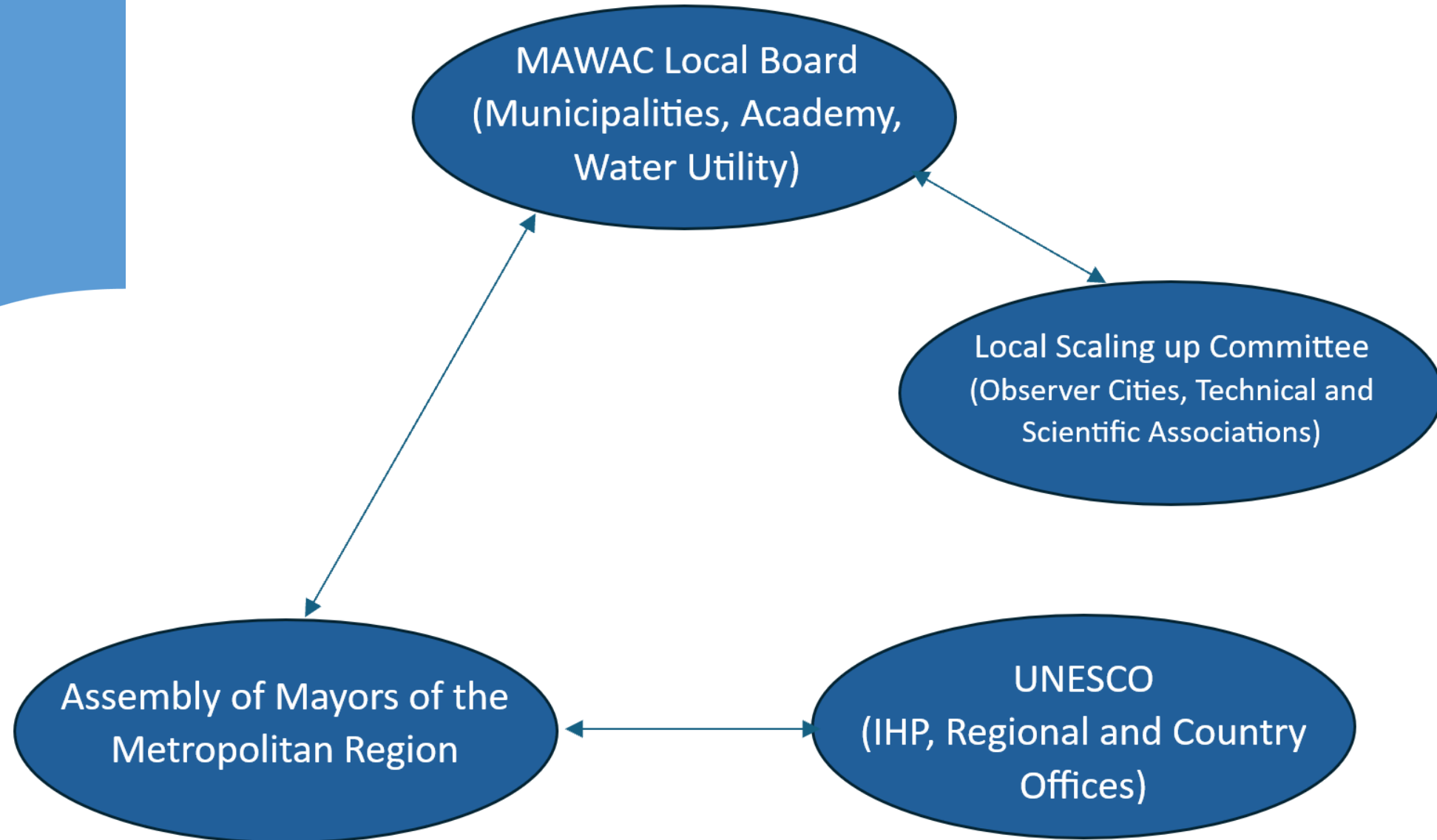
MAWAC
Governance
Model
Global Scale



MAWAC Governance Model Regional Scale



MAWAC Governance Model Local Scale



MEMBERS OF BOARDS

MAWAC LOCAL BOARD

MAWAC REGIONAL BOARD

MAWAC GLOBAL BOARD

- Representatives of
 - Municipalities
 - Academy
 - Water Utilities
- Other potential members
 - River basin authorities
 - Scientific and technical associations
- Nomination by calls
- The number of positions for each sector must ensure the equilibrium of representativeness
- One or two members may be nominated due to recognised expertise
- Number of members: a function of the number of megacities (regional, global)
- The terms of office is four years, renewable for an additional period
- Frequency of meetings: monthly (local, regional); bimonthly (global)

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

MAWAC LOCAL BOARD

MAWAC REGIONAL BOARD

MAWAC GLOBAL BOARD

- Conceive and lead the development of research projects, studies and innovative programmes
- Contribute to the formulation of water and adaptation policies and strategic plans and programmes
- Oversee and evaluate water policies and programmes
- Look for alternative funding for MAWAC's research and innovation activities
- Contribute to capacity building and scaling up initiatives in collaboration with the Scaling Up Committees
- Lead the organisation of conferences, workshops
- Promote and ensure connection and collaboration of Megacities at the three MAWAC levels





INTERNAL ORGANISATION

MAWAC LOCAL BOARD

MAWAC REGIONAL BOARD

MAWAC GLOBAL BOARD

- Coordination of works:
 - Chair
 - Deputy Chair
 - Rapporteur
 - Finance manager
- Thematic working groups – e.g.:
 - WASH
 - NBS adaptation
 - Funding models
 - Benchmarks
- Assembly
- Administrative office



ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

ASSEMBLY OF MAYORS
LOCAL

ASSEMBLY OF MAYORS
REGIONAL

ASSEMBLY OF MAYORS
GLOBAL

- MAWAC's political representation in connection with UNESCO, State institutions, other municipalities and the Civil Society
- Contribute to the decision-making process
- Manage conflicts of interest in MAWAC planning and implementation activities
- Develop efforts to identify alternative funding for MAWAC's research and innovation activities
- Validate MAWAC programmes and policies in collaboration with MAWAC Boards (local, regional, global)

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

SCALLING UP COMMITTEES LOCAL

Contribute to the dissemination, adaptation, and adoption of MAWAC innovations in the context of large cities.

Implement capacity building programmes addressed to big cities

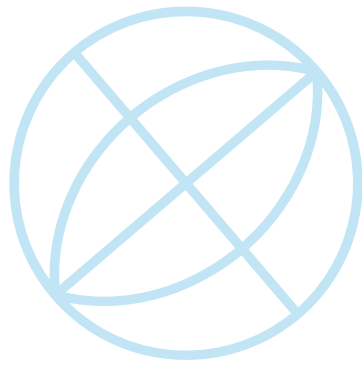
Inform the MAWAC Board on needs of big cities regarding the climate and water domains

Contribute to the MAWAC Board in organizing conferences and workshops

SCALLING UP COMMITTEES REGIONAL

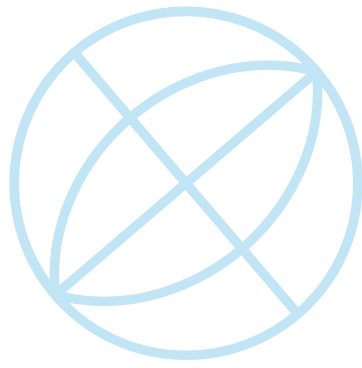
Contribute to the communication actions of MAWAC

Ensure connections and cooperation between MAWAC local regional and global levels



Funding perspectives (not yet addressed by the WG)

- In-kind contributions from Megacities
- Membership fees (annual payment)
- Project funding:
 - Research Support Agencies
 - National
 - International cooperation agreements/networks (e.g.: research networks)
 - Development Banks (World Bank, KfW, Asia Development Bank, BRICS Bank...)
 - Public and private foundations
- ...



Our questions

- Membership: megacities + capital cities. Too broad/constrained?
- Membership levels: Full members + observers. Too inclusive/exclusive?
- Focus areas 7 topics: Does this sufficiently cover the characteristics of megacities? Too generic/too specific?
- Governance model: fit-for-purpose/too complex?
- Overall: Is it clear what MAWAC can offer to its members?
- What should/could be the added value for you compared to other networks?

Thank you for your attention



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INSTITUTION : UNESCO MAWAC Working Group

MEGACITY :



Métropole
du Grand Paris



service public de l'eau



SEINE
GRANDS
LACS



RÉPUBLIQUE
FRANÇAISE

Liberté
Égalité
Fraternité



AGENCE
eau
seine
NORMANDIE



unesco

Intergovernmental
Hydrological Programme



Water Security Management
Assessment, Research & Technology

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