

## New Outreach & Engagement Opportunities

We are pleased to share several new updates to the WAITRO website designed to help members access immediate value and stay informed about opportunities. A new **Calls & Opportunities** page is now live, featuring open calls, programs, and other opportunities of interest to our member organizations.

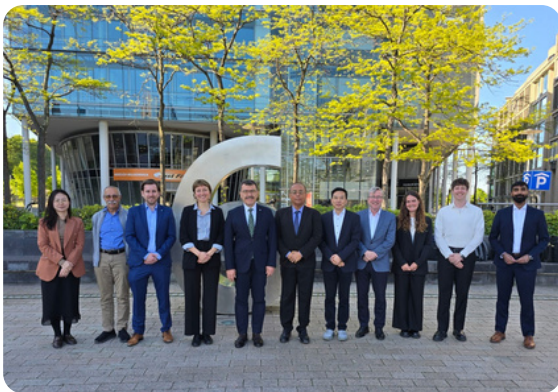
We have also launched the **WAITRO Opportunities Feed** for Researchers — a direct channel to receive curated updates on calls, program updates, funding opportunities, events, and other relevant initiatives. If you prefer not to check the website regularly, we encourage members and their teams to subscribe to the feed and stay connected with the latest opportunities across the WAITRO network and beyond.

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- We invite all members to explore these new resources and share them with your colleagues. By actively posting projects, news, events, and success stories on our website, you help increase visibility and strengthen engagement across the network and beyond.

## 98th WAITRO Executive Board Meeting



The 98th WAITRO Executive Board Meeting (23–24 April 2026, Cologne) brought together WAITRO’s leadership to align on key priorities and the strategic direction of the association. A central focus was the finalization of the **WAITRO Summit 2026** program, emphasizing the implementation of co-creation workshops and concrete collaboration formats for participants. The discussions resulted in clear next steps and further reinforced WAITRO’s commitment to creating meaningful opportunities and strengthening collaboration across its Global Innovation Family.

## 4th Members’ Assembly of WAITRO Operations e.V.

The fourth Members’ Assembly of WAITRO Operations e.V. focused on strengthening the **organization’s long-term development and sustainability**. Key discussions included funding diversification, program growth, communication, and the continued expansion of services and collaboration opportunities for our members. A major strategic focus for the coming years will be to further strengthen WAITRO’s role as a collaboration platform with the vision of transforming the network into a dynamic project pipeline and “**project generation engine**” for members worldwide, creating more concrete collaboration and consortium building opportunities and jointly developed initiatives.



## WAITRO Summit 2026

 26-28 October 2026 | Istanbul Türkiye

We are pleased to announce that the WAITRO Summit 2026 registration portal and updated Summit website, including the program, are now online. We encourage members to **register as early as possible** to help ensure broad participation and strong network representation. Please share this opportunity widely within your organization and support colleagues and staff who may benefit from attending.



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## WAITRO Climate Solution Initiative

The Climate Solutions Initiative (CSI) is a flagship WAITRO initiative designed to position the network as a global catalyst for research-driven climate innovation. Launching ahead of the WAITRO Summit 2026, the initiative will identify, showcase, and support high-impact climate solutions and emerging innovations from across the WAITRO membership. The initiative focuses on three transformation areas:



Climate Resilience &  
Water-Food-Energy  
Nexus



Decarbonizing  
Industry & Circular  
Economy



Climate-Responsive  
Societies & Just  
Transitions

Selected projects will gain international visibility through the Summit, including a curated global innovation portfolio, and potential promotion in the context of COP31.

We encourage all Contact Persons to actively share this opportunity internally and encourage researchers and innovators to submit their climate-related solutions and innovations. Participating in the CSI offers a valuable showcase opportunity, and highlights the innovation strength and impact of your institution.

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## Participant Support

The WAITRO Summit 2026 offers an outstanding program designed to foster collaboration, innovation, and partnership development across the WAITRO network and beyond. We recognize, however, that financial limitations remain one of the main barriers preventing participation.

We actively support our members in identifying and mobilizing external funding opportunities. Given the limited internal (WAITRO) budget available, participants are strongly encouraged to explore third-party funding sources alongside any support that may be available through the WAITRO Secretariat.

## Funding Opportunities and Resource Mobilization

Participants are encouraged to explore financial resources that may support travel, accommodation, and participation costs. Please find further information on the Summit website:

WAITRO is committed to supporting members throughout the funding application process by

- providing official invitation letters or participation confirmation letters
- support letter templates
- participation justification templates
- guidance on aligning applications with funder priorities

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## Scope of Support by the WAITRO Secretariat

To promote inclusive participation, the WAITRO Secretariat may provide limited financial support to selected participants, particularly representatives from low- and middle-income countries and organizations with limited travel resources.

Subject to available funding, support may include partial contributions towards:

- International travel
- Accommodation expenses

Please note:

- A maximum funding cap may apply. Support will be allocated on a competitive basis and depends on available funding, participant profile, and strategic relevance to the Summit program.

### Eligibility Considerations

Participation support is available primarily to employees of active WAITRO members:

Priority consideration may be given to:

- Speakers, moderators, and session contributors
- Participants from low- and middle-income countries
- Participants contributing to strategic Summit outcomes, partnerships, and initiatives (Climate Solution Initiative)

### Our Commitment

WAITRO believes that valuable perspectives and innovative contributions should not be excluded due to financial barriers. We remain committed to supporting our members in enabling a broad participation at the WAITRO Summit 2026.

## WAITRO Summit Info Sessions

To increase engagement with WAITRO and Summit-related activities and offerings, the Secretariat and WAITRO Operations will organize a series of global check-in sessions with members.

To accommodate participants across different regions and time zones, two daily meeting slots will be offered over the course of three days. This approach is intended to maximize accessibility, provide flexible participation opportunities, to ensure that no region is disadvantaged.

Purpose of the interactive sessions:

- Share updates on initiatives, programs, and Summit preparations and logistics
- Present current and upcoming opportunities
- Collect feedback and address questions

Register for one of the session via our Global Calendar and get your zoom invite directly to your inbox.

[SIGN UP FOR INFO SESSIONS](#)

### 09 June 2026

#### Time Slot 1

8:30–9:30 am UTC+5:30 (India)  
10:00–11:00 am UTC+7 (Thailand)  
11:00–12:00 am UTC+8 (China)

#### Time Slot 2

2:00–3:00 pm UTC-5 (Colombia)  
3:00–4:00 pm UTC-4 (Chile)  
9:00–10:00 pm UTC+2 (Europe)

### 17 June 2026

#### Time Slot 3

11:00–12:00 am UTC+2 (Europe)  
12:00–1:00 pm UTC+3 (Kenya)  
4:00–5:00 pm UTC+7 (Thailand)  
5:00–6:00 pm UTC+8 (China)

#### Time Slot 4

9:00–10:00 am UTC-5 (Colombia)  
10:00–11:00 pm UTC-4 (Chile)  
4:00–5:00 pm UTC+2 (Europe)

### 08 July 2026

#### Time Slot 5

10:00–11:00 am UTC+2 (Europe)  
11:00–12:00 am UTC+3 (Kenya)  
3:00–4:00 pm UTC+7 (Thailand)  
5:00–6:00 pm UTC+8 (China)

#### Time Slot 6

8:00–9:00 am UTC-5 (Colombia)  
9:00–10:00 am UTC-4 (Chile)  
3:00–4:00 pm UTC+2 (Europe)

## 28th WAITRO General Assembly

 28 October 2026 | Istanbul Türkiye

■ This year's General Assembly (GA) will be a key moment to align on WAITRO's future direction and priorities. Members can expect the presentation of the **Strategic Plan 2027–2030**, outlining the vision and objectives for the coming years, alongside the proposed **Work Program 2027/28** with planned activities and initiatives. The session will also include an update on membership developments, as well as a forward-looking discussion on upcoming plans and opportunities for engagement.

The upcoming GA include **elections for WAITRO's leadership positions**, giving members the opportunity to shape the association's governance for the next term. All **active full members are eligible to nominate candidates, stand for election, and vote.**

### Timeline

- **By 29 August** – Deadline for the Secretariat to receive nominations for elected positions (60 days before the General Assembly).
- **By 28 September** – Members receive the provisional agenda and working papers, including the list of candidates.
- **28 October** – Secret elections take place during the General Assembly, where more than one candidate stands for a post.
- **01 January 2027** – Newly elected officers officially assume office.

### What to Expect

The election process is structured to ensure fairness, transparency, and active member participation. A Returning Officer will oversee the voting procedures, verify the results, and announce the outcome.

## Member Consultation: WAITRO Strategic Plan 2027–2030

WAITRO is preparing its Strategic Plan 2027–2030 and we would like to actively involve our members in shaping the future direction of the network. We warmly invite all member representatives to participate in our **member consultation survey** and share their perspectives, priorities, and ideas for the years ahead.

Your feedback will help guide the development of future programs, services, partnerships, and strategic initiatives across WAITRO. This is an important opportunity to ensure that the Strategic Plan reflects the needs and ambitions of our global membership, with the consultation results to be presented and discussed at the upcoming General Assembly. We strongly encourage all members to take part and make their voice heard.

[START SURVEY](#)

## Active Membership Status

Active members are organizations that have completed payment of their annual WAITRO membership contributions (former Member in Good Standing).

Membership activation is completed upon payment of the membership contribution. To activate membership please use the official **WAITRO Activation Portal**.

- If your organization has already initiated the activation process or completed the payment, no further action is required.
- If you have received a payment request, we kindly encourage you to process the payment to ensure active membership status and access to member benefits.

In cases of unforeseen challenges or payment delays, please contact the WAITRO Secretariat for support.

**Contact:** [secretariat@waitro.org](mailto:secretariat@waitro.org)