

International Hydrological Programme

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IHP ACTIONS IN THE IMPLEMENTATION AND MONITORING OF THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOAL 6 RELATING TO WATER AND SANITATION

Item 7 of the provisional agenda.

This document provides a brief account of the actions of UNESCO through IHP to support Member States' efforts related to and facilitate implementation and monitoring of Sustainable Development Goal 6 on water and sanitation (SDG 6), in particular:

- Efforts related to implementation and monitoring of SDG indicator 6.5.2 on transboundary cooperation
- Actions of IHP on refining SDG indicator 6.a or introducing a new sub-indicator to monitor capacity development in water
- Actions of UNESCO, through IHP, as a contribution to the activities of the High-Level Panel on Water.

Actions expected from the Bureau:

- 7.1 To take note and comment on the actions of IHP to support Member States' efforts related to, and facilitate implementation and monitoring of SDG 6; request the Secretariat to continue facilitating the implementation and monitoring of SDG 6 indicator 6.5.; define the need for a survey to identify MS' needs to implement the different SDG 6 targets.
- 7.2 The Bureau Members may wish to advocate among Member States to a) improve the indicator used to monitor the progress for SDG 6.a, so that it better reflects the purpose for the Goal and b) take a decision in the appropriate intergovernmental body on the procedure to improve the indicator for Goal 6.a. The Bureau may further wish to request the Secretariat a) to develop a sub-indicator for SDG target 6.a, related to capacity building and prepare a Proof of Concept procedure and b) to draft a decision to be submitted for adoption by the 23rd IHP Intergovernmental Council, i) engaging Member States to support the restructuring of 6.a target to effectively track capacity building, notably through UNESCO, and ii)

requesting the DG to present this decision to the 204th session of the Executive Board for approval.

- 7.3 To take note of the upcoming meeting and provide support in ensuring that the Head of State of their Government and Member of the HLPW attends the Leader's Forum; they could further support the organization of the event by raising awareness on it with the MS of their respective Region and to recommend to include in the agenda of the 23rd IHP Intergovernmental Council an item related to IHP's contribution to the achievement of SDG 6.

IHP ACTIONS IN THE IMPLEMENTATION AND MONITORING OF THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOAL (SDG) INDICATOR 6.5.2 (TRANSBOUNDARY COOPERATION) (Agenda sub-item 7.1)

Water in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

1. In September 2015, heads of state from all around the world gathered in New York to adopt the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, an ambitious ‘plan of action for people, planet and prosperity’, with 17 Sustainable Development Goals and 169 targets.
2. The Member State-led Inter-agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators (IAEG-SDGs) finalized the global indicator framework for the Sustainable Development Goals of about 230 indicators, which has been formally approved by the UN Statistical Commission on March 2017.
3. Countries are responsible of their national monitoring, the collection and processing of data needed to estimate the indicators defined by UN organizations. Their national statistical systems are in charge of collecting and making available data and metadata for global reporting. Regional mechanisms may facilitate – as appropriate – the data and metadata transmission process from the national to the global level.

The UN-Water “Integrated Monitoring of Water and Sanitation Related SDG Targets” GEMI Initiative

4. The ‘Integrated monitoring of water and sanitation related SDG targets – GEMI initiative’ was established in 2014 to ensure harmonized monitoring of the entire water cycle. GEMI is an UN inter-agency initiative composed of eight agencies¹, including UNESCO, operating in a coordinated manner under the UN-Water umbrella. GEMI’s long-term goal is to (i) establish and manage, by 2030, a coherent monitoring framework for water and sanitation to inform the post-2015 period, and (ii) contribute to country progress through well-informed decision-making on water, based on harmonized, comprehensive, timely and accurate information.
5. The first phase of GEMI implementation (2015-2018) focuses on the development and testing of monitoring methodologies, to be integrated into a Monitoring Guide for use by countries, and the establishment of a global data baseline. The methodologies have been tested in a small number of pilot countries – named the Proof Of Concept (POC) countries²– in 2016 and have been revised as necessary based on lessons learned. UNESCO was responsible of the organization of the inception sessions of the POC in Jordan (together with UN-Habitat) and in the Netherlands. UNESCO IHP is an active leader in the implementation of these actions in line with its role as co-custodian agency for indicator 6.5.2 (see below) and in line with the implementation of IHP Council Resolution XXII-7 that calls the IHP Secretariat to provide support to Member States in relation with SDG 6 and related goals.

Reporting on SDG indicator 6.5.2 on Transboundary Cooperation

6. SDG Target 6.5 calls for countries to implement integrated water resources management at all levels, including through transboundary cooperation, as appropriate. To measure progress on transboundary cooperation in accordance to target 6.5, indicator 6.5.2 was adopted. The indicator is defined as the “percentage of transboundary basin area with an operational arrangement for transboundary cooperation”.

1 United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat), the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE), the World Health Organization (WHO) and the World Meteorological Organization (WMO),
2 Jordan, Netherlands, Peru, Senegal, and Uganda

7. UNESCO IHP has led the development of the step-by-step methodology to calculate indicator 6.5.2. (<http://ihp-wins.unesco.org/documents/332>), together with UNECE. During the first quarter 2017, UNESCO IHP and UNECE invited all countries having transboundary basins in their territory to track the progress on transboundary cooperation under SDG 6, target 6.5, through a dedicated template. All reporting countries were invited to report on their national value of SDG 6.5.2 indicator and to fill sections of the template (<http://ihp-wins.unesco.org/documents/326>) providing additional information on the status of their transboundary cooperation. This procedure allows outlining a complete picture of the situation concerning transboundary water cooperation and better describing the current baseline. It is envisioned that the newly established platform of IHP-WINS will be used for data collection, analysis and reporting.

Actions expected by the Bureau:

The Bureau Members may wish to take note and comment on the actions of IHP to support Member States' efforts related to, and facilitate implementation and monitoring of SDG 6 and request the Secretariat to continue facilitating the implementation and monitoring of SDG6 indicator 6.5.2. The Bureau may further wish to define the need for a survey to identify MS' needs to implement the different SDG 6 targets

IHP ACTIONS IN THE IMPLEMENTATION AND MONITORING OF THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOAL (SDG) INDICATOR 6.a (Agenda sub-item 7.2)

8. One of IHP's objectives is to help capacitate Member States' human and institutional resources in water-related domains. Water Education as one of the six main pillars of IHP-VIII showcases the important focus of the Programme on this theme. Furthermore, UNESCO's Education sector is tasked with the monitoring of SDG 4 on Education "Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all" and all education related targets in other SDGs.

9. Monitoring target 6.a of SDG 6, "By 2030, expand international cooperation and capacity-building support to developing countries in water- and sanitation-related activities and programs, including water harvesting, desalination, water efficiency, wastewater treatment, recycling and reuse technologies", relies on the current established indicator "water- and sanitation-related official development assistance that is part of a government coordinated spending plan".

10. IHP identified a major gap in monitoring the "capacity-building support to developing states" and initiated discussions with the custodian agency, the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), and the co-custodian World Health Organization (WHO) of the SDG target. OECD focuses on supporting efforts in monitoring Overseas Development Assistance (ODA); recognizing the gap, they welcomed IHP's initiative to address it. WHO, who leads the UN-Water Global Analysis and Assessment of Sanitation and Drinking-Water (GLAAS) that monitors Target 6.a, also recognized the gap and welcomed any efforts in supporting the monitoring of capacities.

11. Following the consultations, and to ensure complementarity with existing efforts, IHP further explored the current relevant work of UNESCO's Education sector, as well as the statistical information that the UNESCO Institute of Statistics has been gathering. It appears that there are currently no data collected specifically on water related education. The process to promote the refinement of an SDG target indicator has been explored and will be pursued, once a proposed mechanism to monitor water related education at national level is identified.

Actions expected from the Bureau:

The Bureau Members may wish to advocate among Member States to a) improve the indicator used to monitor the progress for SDG 6.a, so that it better reflects the purpose for the Goal and b) take a decision in the appropriate intergovernmental body on the procedure to improve the indicator for Goal 6.a. The Bureau may further wish to request the Secretariat to develop a sub-indicator for SDG target 6.a, related to capacity building and prepare a Proof of Concept procedure and b) to draft a decision to be submitted for adoption by the 23rd IHP Intergovernmental Council, i) engaging Member States to support the restructuring of 6.a target to effectively track capacity building, notably through UNESCO, and ii) requesting the DG to present this decision to the 204th session of the Executive Board for approval.

**IHP CONTRIBUTION TO THE ACTIVITIES OF THE HIGH-LEVEL PANEL ON WATER
(Agenda sub-item 7.3)**

12. The 'High-Level Panel On Water' (HLPW) is co-convened by the Secretary-General of the UN and the President of the World Bank Group. It aims to mobilize effective action to accelerate the implementation of SDG 6 and its related targets (see 22nd IHP Council document [IHP/IC-XXII/Inf.4](#) and 53rd Bureau document [IHP/Bur-LIII/10](#) for background on composition and objectives of the Panel).

13. The Panel has produced an Action Plan (a living document expected to be updated over the life of panel, see https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/11280HLPW_Action_Plan_DEF_11-1.pdf). Its Action Areas will help ensuring the availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all (SDG 6), as well as contribute to the achievement of the other SDGs that rely on the development and management of water resources. The IHP Secretariat contributed to the content of the Action Plan.

14. The IHP Secretariat is organizing a meeting of the HLPW during the 39th UNESCO General Conference (39 GC, November 2017). This initiative intends, *inter alia*, to position the contribution of IHP to global actions against climate change and to the 2030 Agenda in the work plan of HLPW. The meeting is planned to take place as part of the Leaders' Forum, scheduled to take place 31 October and 1 November 2017 at UNESCO headquarters in Paris, France, as part of the 39 GC.

Actions expected from the Bureau:

The Bureau Members may wish to take note of the upcoming meeting and provide support in ensuring that the Head of State of their Government and Member of the HLPW attends the Leader's Forum; they could further support the organization of the event by raising awareness on it with the MS of their respective Region.