

# **The ninth phase of the Intergovernmental Hydrological Programme 2022-2029**

## **Comments on the 3rd Draft from Spain**

IHP is aimed at advancing hydrological knowledge through supporting scientific research and educational programs.

But in the 21st Century, Hydrology is not only about the water distribution on the Earth or the physical and chemical properties on water. On the contrary, Hydrology must consider the complex water systems in a holistic way and specially its relationship with the environment.

No doubt, people and water is a key element in modern Hydrology.

### **General Comments**

In our opinion, the 3rd Draft is a valuable document with strong points as the following:

- Acknowledges the so challenging context: climate change, demographic growth and sanitary crisis as the ongoing COVID-19 global pandemic.
- Takes into account the global agendas, especially the UN Agenda 2030 and the need of maximizing the support to Member States in attaining SDG 6.
- Stresses the relevance of women in playing key roles as agents of change for improved water science, culture and better water management and governance.
- Introduces new points of view for implementing integrative approaches as the water, energy, food, and ecosystem (WEFE) nexus.
- Stresses the fact that working on larger spatial scales puts forward new ways to address global water challenges and, in consequence, the convenience of the application of new monitoring techniques, and in particular remotely sensed data.

## **Specific comments on Priority Areas**

Spain believes that IHP-IX Priority areas must stress the extremely dynamic environment that is moving at an unprecedented speed due to the Climate Change. Adapting a holistic view is the only way to face so big challenge.

In our opinion, strong points in the selection and description of the Priority Areas are the following:

- The crosscutting nature of water governance is emphasized by Priority areas 1, 2 and 3, noting the exigence of translating scientific information and data to support decision-making.
- Priority areas 4 and 5 expands the IHP-IX ambition to influence water decisions at all levels, ensuring a Water Policy based on fact checking and public transparency.
- Priority areas 4 and 5 acknowledge that Water Governance implementation is a broad and challenging issue including water ethics, legislation and institutional arrangements, and the roles and responsibilities of all stakeholders.
- Anyway, all priority areas recognize that water issues are not only a matter of technical, engineering or scientific approach. As it is mentioned in the Document, we are forced to expand our comprehensive knowledge of hydrology and management of water not only among experts, but also with all users, citizens and decision makers.
- Linkages between the current IHP-VIII and next IHP-IX phases, are well described and the list of “Flag initiatives” helps to underline that IHP-IX should build on IHP-VIII achievements
- Wording of specific terms has been improved and the Glossary introduces sufficient level of clarification.

## **Conclusion**

Spain believes that IHP mandate will not be fulfilled without understanding that advancing in the hydrological knowledge is a mean to guarantee informed decisions on water management and governance aimed to attain sustainable development and to build resilient societies

In that sense, Spain support the IHP-IX 3<sup>rd</sup> Draft that will pave the way for providing a real “Science for a Water Secure World in a Changing Environment”.