

## **International Hydrological Programme**

58<sup>th</sup> session of the IHP Bureau  
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**DRAFT**

### **Terms of Reference for Working Group of UNESCO Certification tap water management and quality**

#### **SUMMARY**

This document contains background information on the following item:

#### **4.1 Implementation of IHP-VIII**

-ToRs for Working Group

# **DRAFT OF TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR THE WORKING GROUP OF THE UNESCO CERTIFICATION ON TAP WATER MANAGEMENT AND QUALITY**

## **Preamble**

This note frames the scope, objectives, and expected contribution of the Working Group of the UNESCO Certification on Tap Water Management and Quality, which is proposed to be set up in 2018 under the auspices of the International Hydrological Programme (UNESCO IHP), to facilitate the certification programme and in international cooperation platform to provide advice and support on the cooperation mechanism between UNESCO-IHP and the Members of the said platform.

## **Background**

In the framework of the implementation of IHP's Eighth Phase (2014-2021), theme 4 of IHP-VIII: Water and human settlements of the future, aims at supporting cities and rural settlements facing climate change, population growth, deterioration of urban infrastructure systems and other global challenges in understanding the issues and in adopting an approach based on the interdependence of the different water systems. The theme is organized in five focal areas: (1) game changing approaches and technologies; (2) system wide changes for integrated management approaches; (3) institution and leadership for extracting the maximum benefits from water (beneficiation) and integration; (4) opportunities in emerging cities of developing countries, and (5) integrated development in rural human settlement.

Cities around the world are facing a range of pressures resulting from population growth, climate change and deterioration of urban infrastructure systems. As water demand continues to increase in the future, an increasing number of cities will face challenges of managing scarcer and less reliable water resources in an efficient way. Realities on the ground and the challenges of future pressures have made it obvious that business as usual is not the way forward.

In urban cities throughout the world, the water supply utilities strive to improve the service. However, a large part of the habitants rather use bottled water and/or personal purifiers instead of tap water, spending unnecessary cost. This is often not a consequence of actual problems in the water supply, but rather because of vague, unverified distrust on the tap water. The challenge increases in magnitude with the tourists who, during their visits, consume quite often bottled water exclusively, increasing volumes of plastic waste and deteriorating their carbon footprint in doing so (carbon emissions related to the bottling and transportation of water).

On the other hand, cities in developing Member States needs an international cooperation platform for the exchange of experience, research, best practices for water services. The platform will promote international synergies among cities at the local level and Member States at the national level.

## **Objectives**

The Working Group shall have the status of an ad hoc working group (IHP Intergovernmental Council Statutes, articles III and IV).

The objectives of the Working Group will be:

- to review the concept of the certification and the procedure, result of a pilot project;
- to provide political, legal, technical advice;
- to help enlist cities for joining the certification programme;
- to define and promote the interactions between the future Platform and UNESCO, UN-organizations and their traditional partners;
- to identify and develop synergies with UNESCO-IHP activities;
- to propose a governance model for the Platform;
- to formulate, in consultation with the IHP Bureau and the IHP Intergovernmental Council, a Strategic Plan for the establishment and development of the future relations between UNESCO-IHP and the Platform.

## **Composition**

The Working Group shall be composed of 6 to 10 experts selected upon their international recognized professional experience on water issues in cities.

The IHP Bureau, based on a short list to be prepared by the IHP Secretariat, shall select and appoint via electronic consultation the members of the Task Force, taking due account of cultural diversity, balanced geographical representation and gender equality.

Working Group members shall be independent and shall serve in their personal capacity. The members shall not receive any compensation from UNESCO and shall serve in voluntary capacity. The members do not represent UNESCO or IHP and cannot commit the Organization in any way. At its first meeting, the Working Group shall designate a coordinator and the designated coordinator will coordinate the Working Group's work with the IHP Secretariat.

## **Terms of office**

The Working Group members shall be designated for serving a period of 2 years. In the event of the resignation or death of a member, IHP Secretariat in consultation with the IHP Bureau shall appoint a replacement for the remainder of the current term.

## **Sessions**

The Working Group shall use alternative means to conduct meetings and consultations in order to reduce its costs (email and teleconference). In the case of face to face meetings, the Working Group shall normally meet at the Headquarters of UNESCO. However, a session of the Working Group may be organized at the initiative of a Member State, who will then bear the expenses of convening that session of the Working Group.

As a general rule, meetings of the Working Group shall be private. However, by invitation of the Working Group, IHP Intergovernmental Council Member States, UN agencies, and NGOs may send observers to attend these meetings.

## **Language**

English shall be the working languages of the Working Group. Working documents will be produced only in English version.

## **Financial implications**

The Working Group will be operating without financial implications for the regular budget of UNESCO. Donors may support the activities of the Working Group. In this case, agreements will have to be signed between UNESCO IHP and the donor.