

International Hydrological Programme

55th session of the IHP Bureau
(Paris, 20-22 June 2017)

REPORT ON THE CONSULTATION FOR THE UPDATE OF THE IHP STATUTES AND OF THE RULES OF PROCEDURE OF THE IHP COUNCIL - OUTCOME OF THE 52ND IHP BUREAU SESSION (1-2 JUNE 2015)

Item 3 of the provisional agenda

Summary

This document presents the reported consultation for the update of the IHP Statutes and of the Rules of Procedure of the IHP Council, originally requested by the 52nd Session of the IHP Bureau, and a first report of which was presented to the 22nd Session of the IHP Council.

The 22nd Session of the IHP Council discussed the report and adopted Resolution XXII-1 recognizing that these updates may improve the efficiency and efficacy of the IHP Council to guide the implementation of the Programme, and requesting the IHP Secretariat to carry out a wider consultation process with all the IHP National Committees and UNESCO Member States, which was closed on 31 December 2016.

During the 52nd IHP Bureau meeting in Paris (1-2 June 2015), the Chairperson highlighted the need to update and modernize the Statutes and Rules of Procedure of the IHP Council, last updated in 1996, in order to strengthen the conduction of Council sessions and the programme's actions, while ensuring consistency with the decisions of the Governing Bodies of UNESCO. The Secretary of IHP noted that several changes were proposed based on earlier comments by Member States, the recommendations of various audits and evaluations and based on current UNESCO rules and regulations. She emphasized that the Bureau discussions would be the initial step in a long process and underlined the need for the IHP Secretariat to proceed with internal consultations with several UNESCO services before presenting to the IHP Council proposed changes to the Statutes and Rules of Procedure. The process would then eventually continue with necessary discussions at the Governing Bodies of UNESCO.

After internal consultations requested by the 52nd Bureau, the Secretariat submitted to the 22nd session of the IHP Council (13-17 June 2016) a report for the update of the IHP Statutes and Rules of Procedure of the IHP Council. The Council discussed the report and adopted Resolution XXII-1 recognizing that these updates may improve the efficiency and efficacy of the IHP Council to guide the implementation of the Programme. The Council requested the IHP Secretariat to carry out a wider consultation process with all the IHP National Committees and UNESCO Member States.

The Council asked that this process also includes an update and review of the procedures, working methods and statutes, as well as a clarification on the interpretation of the Statutes and Rules of Procedure regarding, among others: 1) whether members of the IHP Bureau are elected on personal capacity or as representatives of Member States, and 2) to propose scenarios that could ensure that all regions are represented in a specific IHP Bureau session if a Bureau member is unable to attend.

The completed results regarding proposed changes to the following articles and paragraphs of IHP Statutes are marked here in bold for ease of identification, with deletions presented with strikethrough and inclusions underlined, as well as propositions of National Committees and Member States.

Article I

An Intergovernmental Council of the International Hydrological Programme is hereby established within the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization.

Article II

1. The Council shall be composed of 36 Member States of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization elected by the General Conference at its ordinary sessions, taking due account of the need to ensure equitable geographical distribution and appropriate rotation of the representatives of these States ~~from the hydrological viewpoint in the various continents~~ and of the importance of their scientific advice to Member States, in particular decision and policy-makers, and other stakeholders in order to contribute to the Programme.

2. The term of office of the members of the Council shall be of four years [proposed by Saint Vincent and the Grenadines]. It shall begin at the close of the ordinary session of the General Conference at which they are elected and shall expire at the close of the second ordinary session of the Conference following it.

~~3. Notwithstanding the provisions of paragraph 2 above, the term of office of one half of the members designated at the first election shall expire at the close of~~

~~the first ordinary session of the General Conference following the session at which they were elected. The names of these members shall be drawn by lot after the first election by the President of the General Conference, it being understood that the outgoing members shall be replaced by members belonging to the same regional group.~~

[The Czech Republic does not agree with deleting this paragraph.]

43. Members of the Council shall be immediately eligible for re-election [The Region Vb considers that this needs future clarification]. No Member State shall serve more than two consecutive terms.

[Proposed by Saint Vincent and the Grenadines].

54. The Council may make recommendations concerning its own membership to the General Conference.

65. The persons appointed by the Member States as their representatives on the Council shall preferably be experts in the field covered by the Programme and chosen among those persons, preferably of equal gender balance, who are playing a major part in the implementation of the activities related to the Programme in the said Member States.

Article III

1. The Council shall be responsible, within UNESCO's field of competence, for planning the International Hydrological Programme, defining its priorities and supervising its execution and in particular for:

- (a) guiding and supervising from the scientific and from the organizational point of view the implementation of the programme, including the allocation of its budget and relevant activities of the Field Regional Offices;
- (b) studying proposals concerning developments and modifications of the Programme and also plans for its implementation;
- (c) recommending scientific projects of interest to Member States and assessing priorities among such projects;
- (d) co-ordinating international co-operation of the Member States in the framework of the programme;
- (e) making any necessary proposals for co-ordinating the Programme with those conducted by all the international organizations concerned;
- (f) assisting in the development of regional and national projects related to the Programme;
- (g) taking any practical or scientific measures that may be required for the successful implementation of the programme.

2. In performing its functions, the Council shall rely as much as possible on the activities of the National Committees established by Member States in accordance with the recommendation contained in paragraph 6 of resolution 18 C/2.232 and foster by all means their active participation on the Programme [Proposed by Turkey].

3. The Council shall make full use of facilities offered by the agreements or working arrangements between UNESCO, category 1 and 2 water-related Institutes and Centres, UNESCO Chairs, and other inter-governmental organizations ~~mentioned in Article VII, paragraph 2 below~~ as decided by the Council.

4. The Council may consult on scientific questions all appropriate international non-governmental organizations with which UNESCO maintains official relations.

The International Council of Scientific Unions, its unions and associations, may give advice to the Council on questions of a scientific or technical nature.

5. The Council shall, whenever possible, attempt to co-ordinate the International Hydrological Programme with other international scientific programmes, in particular those of UNESCO.

Article IV [Proposed by Turkey]

1. The Council shall normally meet in ordinary session once every two years. The Council may meet in extraordinary session at the request of the Director-General, or at the request of the majority of its members, or by the decision of its Bureau..

2. Each Council member shall have one vote, but it may send as many experts or advisers as it deems necessary to sessions of the Council. Participants in the sessions that are not members of the Council shall have no vote.

3. The Council shall adopt its own Rules of Procedure.

Article V

1. The Council may establish committees to examine the implementation of certain major orientations of the Programme and to prepare appropriate recommendations to the Council. Such committees may include Member States of UNESCO which are not represented in the Council.

2. The Council may establish working groups of specialists to examine specific projects. These working groups, whose members shall serve in a personal capacity, may include nationals of Member States of UNESCO which are not represented on the Council. **[Proposed by Turkey]**

3. The Council shall define the terms of reference and tenure of each committee **and working group thus** established. **[Proposed by Turkey]**

4. In the composition of committees and working groups, **gender balance** **[this is proposed by the Region Vb]**, appropriate geographical distribution, and adequate representation of regions where the problems occur might be sought.

[Article V as proposed by Saint Vincent and the Grenadines

1. The Council may establish, as appropriate, regional / sub-regional committees to examine the implementation of certain major orientations of the Programme in the regions and to prepare appropriate recommendations to the Council. Such regional/sub-regional committees may include Member States of UNESCO that are not represented in the Council.

2. Regional/ Sub-regional committees may be set up on the initiative of and by mutual agreement among Member States of the same region/or sub-region, sharing a common hydrological interest.

3. The Council shall define the terms of reference and tenure of each regional/sub regional committee thus established.

4. The Council shall extend all possible cooperation and assistance to regional/sub-regional committees thus established.]

Article VI

1. Regional committees and working groups may be established on the initiative of and by mutual agreement among Member States of the same region sharing a common hydrological interest.

2. The Council shall extend all possible assistance and help to regional committees and working groups thus established.

[Article VI (as proposed by Saint Vincent and the Grenadines)

1. The Council may establish, as appropriate, working groups to examine specific issues. These working groups are open ended, to Member States of UNESCO which are not represented on the Council.

2. In the composition of working groups appropriate geographical distribution and adequate representation of regions where the problems occur might be sought.

3. The Council shall define the terms of reference and tenure of the working group thus established.

4. The Council shall extend all possible cooperation and assistance to the working group thus established.]

Article VII

[Mexico supports the inclusion of a procedure in case of the resignation of the President, so he/she is replaced by the Vice-President of his/her Regional Group until the end of his/her term. In addition, Mexico suggests considering the inclusion of a similar procedure for the vice presidents].

[As proposed by Mexico: For a better flow and rhythm of activities, as well as facilitating the participation of the members of the Bureau, if any of the four Vice-Presidents ceases to represent a Member State Council or is so incapacitated that he/she can no longer hold office, he/she will have an alternate representative from the same region, who will attend the meetings convened by the Secretariat. That representative shall be elected at the same time as the titular vice-president.]

1. [At each session of the General Conference, half of the Council is elected. If the country of the Chairperson is no longer member of the Council, the Chairperson could not remain as vice chair for an additional term or an ex-officio member (proposed by Saint Vincent and the Grenadines)] At the beginning of its first session following a session of the General Conference at which elections to the Council have been held, the Council shall elect a Chairperson and four Vice-Chairpersons **[and a rapporteur for 2 years. They are eligible for two additional years. These shall constitute the Council's Bureau (proposed by Saint Vincent and the Grenadines)]**. The composition of the Bureau so formed shall reflect an equitable geographical distribution. The members of the Bureau who are representatives of Member States of UNESCO shall remain in office until a new Bureau

has been elected. **If the Chairperson ceases to represent a State Member of the Council or is so incapacitated that he/she can no longer hold office, he/she shall be replaced as defined in the Rules of Procedures of the Intergovernmental Council for the unexpired portion of the term of office.** [The Czech Republic does not agree with this last sentence].

2. The Bureau shall discharge the following duties:

- (a) fix, in consultation with the Secretariat, the dates of the Sessions of the Council in accordance with the general guidelines of the Council; **[Saint Vincent and the Grenadines stresses the importance of the expression “in accordance with the general guidelines of the Council” and does not agree to hold the meetings of the intergovernmental programmes outside of UNESCO’s Headquarters, which would limit the participation of Member States. However, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines states that this should be decided by the Council].**
- (b) prepare the sessions of the Council, in consultation with the Secretariat;
- (c) supervise the implementation of the resolutions of the Council, and report at each session of the Council, on the status of implementation of the prescribed phases of project execution and, in particular, follow the activities of the Council’s committees and working groups;
- (d) prepare for the Council all reports requested by the General Conference of UNESCO;
- (e) discharge all other duties, which it may be assigned by the Council, **[including the submission, through the Chairperson, of proposals and reports to the Governing Bodies of UNESCO and to the Director-General (added by the Group Vb)]**.

3. Meetings of the Bureau may be convened between meetings of the Council at the request of the Council itself, of the Director-General of UNESCO **[or of more than one Bureau member (proposed by the Group Vb)]**.

[Article VII (as proposed by Turkey)

1. At the beginning of its **each first ordinary** session following an **ordinary** session of the General Conference at which elections to the Council have been held, the Council shall elect a chairperson and four vice-chairpersons. These, with the chairperson of the previous Bureau, who shall be an ex-officio member, shall constitute the Council's Bureau. The composition of the Bureau so formed shall reflect an equitable geographical distribution. The members of the Bureau who are representatives of Member States of UNESCO shall remain in office until a new Bureau has been elected.

2. The Bureau shall discharge the following duties:

- (a) fix, in consultation with the Secretariat, the dates of ~~the Sessions of the Council and the meetings~~ of its committees and working groups, ~~in accordance with the general guidelines of the Council;~~
- (b) prepare the sessions of the Council, in consultation with the Secretariat;
- (c) supervise the implementation of the resolutions of the Council, and report at each session of the Council, on the status of implementation of the prescribed phases of project execution and, in particular, follow the activities of the Council's committees and working groups;
- (d) prepare for the Council all reports requested by the General Conference of UNESCO;
- (e) discharge all other duties which it may be assigned by the Council.

3. Meetings of the Bureau may be convened between meetings of the Council at the request of the Council itself, of the Director-General of UNESCO or **by consensus** of the Bureau ~~member.~~]

[Added by Turkey: 4. Members of the Bureau shall communicate and coordinate with their respective regional groups in UNESCO about the upcoming Bureau meeting through appropriate means, at least one month before the meeting.

5. Members of the Council which are not members of the Bureau may attend, as observers, to the Bureau meetings.

6. Working documents of each Bureau meeting shall, as a rule, be communicated to the Members of the Bureau and Members of the Council that are not members of the Bureau one month before the meeting.]

Article VIII

1. Representatives of Member States and Associate Members of UNESCO which are not members of the Council, may attend, as observers, without the right to vote, **[all sessions of the Council, and meetings of the Bureau, of the committees and of the working groups (proposed by Turkey)]**.

~~2. Representatives of the United Nations, United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations, the World Health Organization, the World Meteorological Organization and the International Atomic Energy Agency may take part, without the right to vote, in all meetings of the Council, of its committees and of its working groups.~~

[2. The United Nations and other organizations of the United Nations system with which UNESCO has concluded mutual representation agreements, water-related Centres and Institutes under the auspices of UNESCO and of UNESCO Chairs, may send observers to sessions of the Council, its committees and working groups, as provided for in Article V, paragraph 3 of the Rules of Procedure (proposed by the Czech Republic)].

~~3. Representatives of the International Council of Scientific Unions, of its Committee on Water Research and of its affiliated International Association of the Hydrological Sciences and International Association of Hydrologists, of the International Association for Hydraulic Research, of the International Commission on Irrigation and Drainage, the International Commission of Large Dams and of the International Water Resources Association may take part, without the right to vote, in all meetings of the Council, of its committees and of its working groups.~~

43. The Council shall determine the conditions under which other international governmental or non-governmental organizations may be invited to attend its meetings, without the right to vote, whenever questions of common interest are discussed.

Article IX

1. The Secretariat of the Council shall be provided by the Director-General of United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, who shall place at the Council's disposal the staff and other means required for its operation.

2. The Secretariat shall provide the necessary services for all sessions of the Council and meetings of its Bureau, **[for the working groups and, if needed, for the regional/sub-regional committees (added by Saint Vincent and the Grenadines)]**.

3. The Secretariat shall consult the date and place of the next sessions of the Intergovernmental Council, while the Council is convening and shall take the steps required to convene them [proposed by Turkey].

34. The Secretariat shall take any measures required in order to co-ordinate the execution of the international programmes recommended by the Council, it shall take all steps required to convene the sessions of the Council.

4-5. The Secretariat shall assemble all proposals sent in by members of the Council, other Member States of UNESCO and the international organizations concerned, with regard to the formulation of **the strategic plans for the implementation of the IHP and of other** international initiatives under the Programme, and shall prepare them for examination by the Council. It shall maintain liaison with the National Committees referred to in Article III, paragraph 2 above, and inform them of the Council's recommendations. ~~IX.5.~~ In addition to the services which it renders to the Council, the Secretariat shall co-operate closely with the respective secretariats of the international governmental and non-governmental organizations mentioned in Article VIII, paragraph 2 ~~and 3,~~ above; it shall for this purpose take part in inter-secretariat co-ordination meetings as necessary.

6. The Secretariat shall report or coordinate the report of all UNESCO activities on water.

Article X

1. The international programmes of hydrological investigations recommended by the Council to Member States for concerted action on their part shall be financed by the participating Member States according to the commitments which each state is willing to make. The Council may, however make recommendations to the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and to the other organizations mentioned in **the Rules of Procedures of the IHP Council Article VIII, paragraph 2, above,** concerning assistance to Member States for the development of hydrological research or the implementation of some particular aspects of the Programme. If UNESCO and the said organizations accept such activities and if the Member States concerned signify their agreement, these organizations shall undertake to finance the related activities in accordance with the provisions of their respective constitutions and regulations.

2. Member States shall bear the expense of participation of their representatives in sessions of the Council **[and meetings of its Bureau, of its committees and of its working groups (proposed by Turkey)]**. The running expenses of the Council and its subsidiary organs shall be financed from funds appropriated for this purpose by the General Conference of UNESCO.

3. Voluntary contributions may be accepted and established as **special accounts trust funds** in accordance with the Financial Regulations of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and administered by the Director-General of that Organization. The Council shall make recommendations to the Director-General on the allocation of such contributions for international projects within the Programme.

Article XI

1. The Council shall submit reports on its activities to the General Conference of UNESCO at each of its ordinary sessions. These reports shall also be communicated to the other ~~international~~ organizations ~~mentioned~~ designated in the Rules of Procedures of the Council Article VIII, paragraphs 2 and 3, above, and to all National Committees, [Members and non-Members of the Council (proposed by the Czech Republic)] for the International Hydrological Programme, water-related Centres under the auspices of UNESCO and UNESCO Chairs.

2. The Council may receive from other international organizations reports concerning the Programme.

[3 (Proposed by Turkey). The Council shall receive reports from the UNESCO Water Family members regarding their activities concerning the Programme]. [The UNESCO Water Family is a network aimed at supporting the implementation of UNESCO's water programmes and the Organization's strategic goals by providing resources and expertise. It is composed of category 1 and 2 centres and institutes, UNESCO Chairs, the World Water Assessment Programme (WWAP), the IHP Secretariat and specialists from UNESCO Field Units, as well as IHP National Committees. Centres also strengthen the Programme by hosting secretariats of different IHP initiatives (request of Group 1 to add a paragraph on the role of the UNESCO Water Family in the Statutes.)]].

The completed results regarding proposed changes to the following articles and paragraphs of IHP Rules of Procedure are marked here in bold for ease of identification, with deletions presented with strikethrough and inclusions underlined, as well as propositions of National Committees and Member States.

I. MEMBERSHIP

~~(4)~~**1.** The Intergovernmental Council of the International Hydrological Programme (hereinafter called the "Council") is composed of 36 Member States of UNESCO, elected by the General Conference in accordance with Article II of the Statutes of the Council.

~~(2)~~**2.** Each State member of the Council shall notify the Secretariat of UNESCO of the names of the designated representatives as well as of the advisers and experts, [to the extent possible at least two weeks before the beginning of each session (proposed by Mexico)].

3. [Each State member is encouraged to observe gender balance among its designated representatives in line with UNESCO's Priority Gender Equality Action Plan (proposed by the Czech Republic)].

II. SESSIONS

1. Date and Place

~~(1)~~ ~~The first session of the Council shall be convened by the Director-General of UNESCO. The place and date of that session shall be communicated in advance to all interested Member States and organizations.~~

~~(2)~~**1.a.** Other The sessions of the Council shall be convened by the Secretariat of the Council in accordance with the instructions of the Bureau of the Council (hereinafter called "the Bureau").

~~(3)~~**1.b.** The Council shall meet at the Headquarters of UNESCO. It may meet exceptionally elsewhere if so decided by a two-third majority of the members, of the Council provided that it does not imply additional costs to the regular budget of UNESCO. [Saint Vincent and the Grenadines does not agree to hold the meetings of the intergovernmental programmes outside of UNESCO's Headquarters]

[1.b. (Proposed by Turkey) The Council sessions shall take place at the Headquarters of UNESCO. It may meet elsewhere if so decided by a majority of the Council members provided that it does not imply additional costs to the regular budget of UNESCO. Whenever modifications to the Statutes, the Rules of Procedure of the Council or any organizational related matter are on the agenda of a session of the Council, the session shall be held at the Headquarters of UNESCO.]

III. AGENDA

21. Provisional agenda

~~(1)~~ ~~The provisional agenda of the first session of the Council shall be prepared by the Director-General of UNESCO.~~

(2)1.a. The provisional agenda of the **following** sessions of the Council shall be prepared by the Secretariat of the Council in consultation with the members of the Bureau.

(3)1.b. The provisional agenda shall be communicated to the members of the Council at least two months before the opening of each session.

(4)1.c. The provisional agenda shall be communicated at the same time to Member States and Associate Members of UNESCO which are not members of the Council, **as well as including but not limited** to the **United Nations, FAO, WHO, WMO, the IAEA and ICSU International Intergovernmental Organizations and Nongovernmental Organizations as listed in rule V.3.**

(5)1.d. The provisional agenda of a session of the Council shall include:

- all items previously decided by the Council;
- all items proposed by Member States of the Council;
- all items proposed by the United Nations or by its agencies;
- all items proposed by the Director-General of UNESCO.

32. Adoption of the agenda

At the beginning of each session, the Council shall adopt the agenda for that session.

43. Amendments, deletions and new items

The Council may, during a session, modify the order of items of the agenda or add or delete items. A majority of two-thirds shall be required for the addition or deletion of items during a session.

IV. OFFICERS

51. Election of Chairperson and Vice-Chairpersons [The Czech Republic does not agree with this paragraph and refers to article IV, par. 6.2]

(4)1.a. [Pending consultation as for statutes: At the beginning each of its ordinary session, following an ordinary session of the General Conference (proposed by Turkey)] at which elections to the Council have been held, the Council shall elect a Chairperson and four Vice-Chairpersons [and a rapporteur for 2 years re-eligible for 2 additional years. These shall constitute the Council's Bureau (proposed by Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, that considers that since the Chairperson of the previous bureau is not as ex officio member, the election of a rapporteur will complete the representation of the 6 regional groups]. The composition of the Bureau so formed shall reflect an equitable geographical distribution and, to the extent possible, gender equality. The members of the Bureau who are representatives of Member States of UNESCO shall remain in office until a new Bureau has been elected. If the Chairperson ceases to represent a State member of the Council or is so incapacitated that he/she can no longer hold office, the Vice-Chairperson representing the subsequent country by alphabetical order shall become Chairperson for the unexpired portion of the term of office. If such Vice-Chairperson also ceases to represent a State member of the Council or is so incapacitated that he/she can no longer hold office, another Vice-Chairperson, the Vice-Chairperson

representing the subsequent country by alphabetical order, shall become Chairperson for the unexpired portion of the term of office (proposed by Saint Vincent and the Grenadines)].

[Mexico supports the inclusion of a procedure in case of the resignation of the President, so he/she is replaced by the Vice-President of his/her Regional Group until the end of his/her term. In addition, Mexico suggests considering the inclusion of a similar procedure for the vice presidents. As Mexico proposes: For a better flow and rhythm of activities, as well as facilitating the participation of the members of the Bureau, if any of the four Vice-Presidents ceases to represent a Member State Council or is so incapacitated that he/she can no longer hold office, he/she will have an alternate representative from the same region, who will attend the meetings convened by the Secretariat. That representative shall be elected at the same time as the titular vice-president].

(2) 1.b. Members of the Bureau are eligible for re-election [for one other mandate (added by Saint Vincent and the Grenadines)].

[1.b. Members of the Bureau shall be eligible for immediate election for a second term of office. No member of the Bureau shall serve more than two consecutive terms. (Proposed by Turkey)].

62. General powers of the Chairperson(4)2.a. In addition to exercising the powers conferred upon him/her elsewhere by these rules, the Chairperson shall have the following powers: He/she shall declare the opening and closing of meetings, direct the discussions, ensure the observance of these rules, accord the right to speak, put questions to the vote and announce decisions. He/she shall rule on points of order and subject to these rules shall control the proceedings and maintenance of order.

(2)2.b. If the Chairperson ceases to represent a State member of the Council or is so incapacitated that he/she can no longer hold office, a Vice-Chairperson shall become Chairperson for the unexpired portion of the term of office. If such Vice-Chairperson also ceases to represent a State member of the Council or is so incapacitated that he/she can no longer hold office, another Vice-Chairperson shall become Chairperson for the unexpired portion of the term of office. **(Turkey proposes to move this paragraph as the paragraph 3.a, including the changes below proposed). **[Saint Vincent and the Grenadines considers that this paragraph is different from the proposal of paragraph 1.a and that this should replace it. Saint Vincent and the Grenadines proposes that the Chair should be replaced by a vice chair who has the experience and the institutional memory of the work of the Bureau, not by the subsequent council member of the same region of the departing person].****

73. [Functions of the Vice-Chairpersons (as proposed by Turkey)

3.a. If the Chairperson ceases to represent a State member of the Council or is so incapacitated that he/she can no longer hold office, a Vice-Chairperson shall become an interim Chairperson until a new Chairperson is appointed by the State member of the Council representing the respective regional group in the Bureau. If such appointment cannot take

place, a Vice-Chairperson shall become Chairperson for the unexpired portion of the term of office.

3.b. In the absence of the Chairperson during a session, his functions shall be exercised in turn by the Vice-Chairpersons.

3.c. If one of the Vice-Chairpersons ceases to represent a State member of the Council or is so incapacitated that he/she can no longer hold office, a new Vice-Chairperson shall be appointed by the State member of the Council representing the respective regional group in the Bureau].

[3. Functions of the Vice-Chairpersons (as proposed by Saint Vincent)

In the absence of the Chairperson during a session, his functions shall be exercised by a Vice-Chairperson as stated in Paragraph 1a of Article IV.]

V. [REGIONAL/SUB-REGIONAL COMMITTEES AND WORKING GROUPS (as proposed by Saint Vincent and the Grenadines)

81. Regional/sub-regional Committees are set up in cooperation with the field offices

(1)1.a. Regional/sub-regional Committees set up by the Council in accordance with Article V, paragraphs 1 and 2, of the Statutes of the Council shall meet in accordance with the decisions of the Council or of the Bureau.

(2)1.b. These regional/sub-regional committees shall elect their own Chairperson, Vice-Chairpersons and, if needed, their own rapporteur.

(3)1.c. These rules of procedure shall also apply to meetings of committees unless the Council decides otherwise.

1.d. Regional /sub-regional committees will report to the Council on their regional or sub-regional activities].

[1.d. (Proposed by Turkey) These committees shall function in between the ordinary sessions of the Council unless the Council decides otherwise and shall submit a report on the outcomes of its work to the Council].

92. Working groups

(1)2.a. Working groups set up by the Council in accordance with Article V, paragraphs 3 and 4, of the Statutes of the Council shall meet in accordance with the decisions of the Council or the Bureau.

(2)2.b. These working groups shall elect their own Chairperson, one Vice-Chairperson and their own rapporteur [Saint Vincent and the Grenadines considers that working groups only need a Chair and that the structure of such groups should be simplified].

[2.c. These working groups shall function in between the ordinary sessions of the Council unless the Council decides otherwise and shall

submit a report on the outcomes of its work to the Council (Proposed by Turkey)].

[2.c. The working groups will report to the Council (Proposed by Saint Vincent and the Grenadines)].

3. Observers

[Mexico supports the invitation of new actors as observers without the right to vote. However, it would preferred not to limit these observers to the abovementioned and to invite other observers that the Council might consider appropriate].

The Council can decide to invite other actors as observers to all meetings of the Council, [of its regional/sub-regional Committees [(proposed by Saint Vincent and the Grenadines)], meaning that:

3.a. Representatives of the United Nations, [category 1 and 2 water-related Institutes and Centres, UNESCO Chairs (proposed by Saint Vincent and the Grenadines)], the Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations, the World Health Organization, the World Meteorological Organization and the International Atomic Energy Agency may take part, without the right to vote, in all meetings of the Council, [of its regional/sub-regional committees, if those committees wish to invite them (proposed by Saint Vincent and the Grenadines)]. This includes particular actors under the above-stated organizations, UNESCO-IHE, the World Water Assessment Programme and UN-Water.

3.b. Representatives of the International Council for Science, of its Committee on Water Research and [of its affiliated International Association of Hydrological Sciences (proposed by the Czech Republic)] [and International Association of Hydrogeologists (proposed by the Czech Republic and Romania)], of the International Association for Hydraulic Research, of the International Commission on Irrigation and Drainage, the International Commission of Large Dams and of the International Water Resources Association, of the International Association of Academies of Sciences, of the International Hydropower Association, and of the International Association for Hydro-Environment Engineering and Research may take part, without the right to vote, in all meetings of the Council, [of its regional/sub-regional committees if those committees wish to invite them (proposed by Saint Vincent and the Grenadines)].

VI. SECRETARIAT

101. Secretariat

~~(1)~~1.a. The Director-General shall place at the disposal of the Council such members of the Secretariat of UNESCO as may be necessary as well as other means required for its operation.

~~(2)~~1.b. The Director-General or his/her representative may make oral as well as written statements to the Council [and to the Bureau concerning any question under consideration (proposed by Saint Vincent and the Grenadines)].

VII. LANGUAGES

141.1. Working languages: English, French, Spanish and Russian (**Arabic and Chinese**) shall be the working languages of the Council.

142.2. Use of other languages: Any representative may make a speech in a language other than the working languages currently in use for a particular session of the Council or of a Committee on the condition that he/she provides **at least 1 hour before his/her presentation** a text for the interpretation of his/her speech **translated** into one or other of the said working languages.

VIII. REPORTS AND DOCUMENTS

143. (1)1. Reports

The Secretariat shall submit a report **[on its activities and all other activities of UNESCO in the field of water as well as the activities of the Water Family (proposed by Turkey)]** to each session of the Council.

[Added by Turkey
1.a. The Secretariat shall submit a report on its activities to Council Member States and Member States and Associate Members of UNESCO which are not members of the Council in between the ordinary sessions of the Council]].

(2)1.b. The Council shall submit reports on its activities to each ordinary session of the General Conference of UNESCO.

(3)1.c. Copies of these reports shall be circulated by the Director-General of UNESCO in accordance with Article XI of the Statutes of the Council **[The Czech Republic expresses its doubts on the obligation of the Director General to disseminate the reports]**.

144. Working Documents

The working documents of each session of the Council shall, as a rule, be communicated to the members ~~one~~ **two months (proposed by Turkey)]** before the opening of each session; **in the working languages of the Council as specified in the above-stated Rule VII. [Draft resolutions should also preferably be sent at the same time, without excluding the possibility of new resolutions to be introduced during the Council session (proposed by Group 1)].**

IX. MEETINGS

145. Quorum

(4)1.a. A simple majority of the States which are members of the Council shall constitute a quorum.

146. Publicity of meetings

All meetings of the Council shall be open to the public unless the Council decides otherwise.

X. CONDUCT OF BUSINESS

147. Right to speak

Experts and observers may, with the authorization of the Chairperson, make oral or written statements before the Council and its committees.

182. Order of speeches

The Chairperson shall call upon speakers in the order in which they have expressed the desire to speak, **starting with the Members of the Council and followed by the observers.**

193. Time limit on speeches

The Council may limit the time to be allowed to each speaker.

204. Points of order

During the discussion on any matter, a representative may at any time raise a point of order and the point of order shall be forthwith decided by the Chairperson. Any representative may appeal against the ruling of the Chairperson which can only be overruled by a majority of the members present and voting. A representative may not in raising a point of order speak on the substance of the matter under discussion.

21.5. Suspension, adjournment, closure

Any representative may, at any time, propose the suspension, adjournment or closure of a meeting or of a debate. Such a motion shall be put to the vote immediately. The order of priority of such motions shall be as follows **[The Czech Republic considers that it should be specified if this is in descending or ascending order]:**

- (a) suspension of the meeting;
- (b) adjournment of the meeting;
- (c) adjournment of the debate on the item under discussion;
- (d) closure of the debate on the item under discussion.

6. Each resolution will be discussed and adopted under the relevant agenda item.

XI. VOTING

221. Voting rights

Each Member State which is a member of the Council shall have one vote.

232. Simple majority

- (1) Unless otherwise provided in these rules, decisions shall be taken by a simple majority of members present and voting.
- (2) For the purpose of these rules, the phrase “members present and voting” means members casting an affirmative or negative vote. Members who abstain from voting are considered as not voting.

243. Show of hands and roll call

Voting shall normally be by show of hands, except that any member may request a roll call. The vote and abstention of each member participating in the roll call shall be inserted in the report.

254. Voting on amendments

- (1) When an amendment to a proposal is moved **[.]** the amendment shall be voted on first.
- (2) When two or more amendments to a proposal are moved, the Council shall first vote on the amendment deemed by the Chairperson to be the furthest removed from the original proposal and then on the amendment

next furthest therefrom, and so on, until all amendments have been put to a vote. If one or more amendments are adopted, the amended proposal shall then be voted on. If no amendment is adopted, the proposal shall be put to the vote in its original form.

- (3) A motion is considered an amendment to a proposal if it adds to, deletes from or revises part of that proposal.

265. Secret ballot¹

- (1) All elections shall be decided by secret ballot unless, in the absence of objections, the Council decides otherwise.
- (2) a. Before the voting begins, the Chairperson shall appoint two tellers to scrutinize the votes cast.
- b. When the counting of the votes is completed and the tellers have reported to the Chairperson, he/she shall announce the results of the ballot bearing in mind that the voting will be recorded as follows:
- i. From the total number of Members of the Council will be deducted:
- the number of Members absent, if any;
 - the number of blank ballots, if any;
 - the number of invalid ballots, if any.
- ii. The remaining number will constitute the number of votes cast. The majority required will be more than half that number.
- iii. Those receiving a number of votes in favor, equal or superior to the majority required shall be declared elected.
- (3) a. When a single elective place is to be filled, any candidate obtaining in the first ballot an absolute majority (i.e. more than half) of the votes cast shall be declared elected.
- b. If no candidate obtains absolute majority in the first ballot, a second ballot shall be taken, restricted to the two candidates who obtained the most votes in the first ballot. The candidate obtaining a majority of the votes cast shall be declared elected.
- (4) When two or more elective places are to be filled at one time under the same condition, those candidates obtaining in the first ballot an absolute majority of the votes cast shall be declared elected. If the number of candidates obtaining such a majority is less than the number of places to be filled, there shall be additional ballots to fill the remaining places, the voting being restricted to the candidates obtaining the greatest number of votes in the previous ballot, to a number not exceeding twice the number of places remaining to be filled.
- (5) If necessary, in order to determine the candidates to participate in a restricted ballot, an eliminating ballot may be taken restricted to the candidates having obtained the same number of votes in the previous ballot.

¹ As amended by the IHP Council at its 14th session (June 2000)

(6) If, in the final ballot or an eliminating ballot, two or more candidates obtain the same number of votes, the Chairperson shall decide between them by drawing lots.

276. Equally divided votes

If a vote is equally divided on matters other than elections, the proposal shall be registered as rejected.

XII. SPECIAL PROCEDURES

281. Special consultation by correspondence

Should the approval of the Council be required for measures of exceptional urgency and importance while the Council is not in session, the Chairperson may, by means of the Secretariat, consult the members by correspondence or electronic means. The proposed measures shall be adopted if it is approved by two thirds of the members.

XII.XIII. AMENDMENT

291. Amendment

These rules of procedure, except where they reproduce provisions of the Council Statutes or decisions of the General Conference, may be amended by a decision of the Council taken by a simple majority of the members present and voting, provided the proposal for amendment has been placed on the agenda.

302. Suspension

Suspension of any of these rules shall require a two-thirds majority of the members present and voting.