

## International Hydrological Programme

56<sup>rd</sup> session of the IHP Bureau  
(Paris, 20-22 February 2017)

### INSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENTS AT UNESCO

Item 3 of the provisional agenda

#### Summary

This document summarizes several institutional and programmatic issues of relevance to IHP, in particular:

- Developments at the Natural Sciences Sector and the Division of Water Sciences following the 202<sup>nd</sup> session of the Executive Board and the 39<sup>th</sup> session of the General Conference, including the Programme and Budget for 2018-2019 (39 C/5)
- Proposed New Global Water Architecture & Friends of IHP
- Report on the consultation for the update of the IHP Statutes and of the Rules of Procedure of the IHP Council
- IHP-related extrabudgetary activities
- Report of the IHP Finance Committee
- Report of the IHP Communication and Outreach Committee

Actions expected from the Bureau:

The Bureau may wish to:

- 3.1. Take note of recent institutional developments.
- 3.2. - Ensure that the invitation letters for the 23<sup>rd</sup> IHP Council session stress the importance of having decision makers along within the delegation of the representatives;  
- Organize a political session at Ministerial level and a open session (open house) for Permanent Delegations during the 23<sup>rd</sup> Council session;  
- Raise awareness on IHP's work and inform the IHP representatives of their region on the discussions requesting their support to raise IHP's visibility;  
- Request the Secretariat to organize an information meeting for UNESCO Member States to get more acquainted with the contribution of IHP to policy-making decisions.
- 3.3. Make concrete proposals to amend IHP Statutes and Rules of Procedure; request the secretariat to further improve the document following up the final recommendation of the open-ended working group on governance, procedures and methods of work of the governing bodies of UNESCO, and increase of IHP's visibility and impact, and convey them for debate and vote at the 23<sup>rd</sup> session of the IHP Council.
- 3.4. Take note of IHP-related extrabudgetary activities and suggest ways of enhancing the current portfolio and support such efforts.
- 3.5. Take note of the report of the IHP Finance Committee and encourage National Committees in their regions and partners to further strengthen their support of IHP.
- 3.6. Take note of the report of the Communication and Outreach Committee and encourage National Committees in their regions and partners to further strengthen their support of IHP.



## **DEVELOPMENTS AT THE NATURAL SCIENCES SECTOR AND THE DIVISION OF WATER SCIENCES FOLLOWING THE 202<sup>nd</sup> SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD AND THE 39<sup>th</sup> SESSION OF THE GENERAL CONFERENCE, INCLUDING THE PROGRAMME AND BUDGET FOR 2018-2019 (39 C/5) (Agenda sub-item 3.1)**

1. This document summarizes issues of relevance to UNESCO's water programmes in connection with the 202<sup>nd</sup> session of the Executive Board (11-24 October 2017), and of the 39<sup>th</sup> session of the General Conference, including the Programme and Budget for 2018-2019 (39 C/5).

### **Decisions of the 202<sup>nd</sup> session of the Executive Board**

2. Among the decisions taken by the Executive Board during its 202<sup>nd</sup> session<sup>1</sup> was the approval of the proposals for the establishment of two Category 2 Centers: the Regional Centre on Water Security (CERSHI; Mexico) and the Institute for Water Education (IHE-Delft; the Netherlands) and the recommendation that the General Conference approves them at its 39<sup>th</sup> session.

3. The Executive Board further decided to renew the designation of the International Centre on Space Technologies for Natural and Cultural Heritage (HIST; China) and the Regional Centre on Urban Water Management (RCUWM; Islamic Republic of Iran) as centres under the auspices of UNESCO (category 2) and authorized the Director-General to sign the corresponding agreements.

4. The Board decided to create a Main Line of Action 3 as follows: "Improving knowledge and strengthening capacities at all levels to achieve water security"; and create two expected results worded as follows: "Member States have strengthened their response to water security challenges towards the achievement of water-related SDGs and targets, and other targets from relevant international water agendas"; and "Member States have improved policies and increased institutional and human capacities for water security through scientific cooperation". The EXB recommended that the General Conference requests the Director-General to ensure that the budget allocated to the MLA equals to the budget currently allocated to expected result (4) under main line of action 2 of Major Programme II; the Executive Board recommended that all Performance Indicators related to the IHP become gender-responsive from gender-sensitive.

5. The Executive Board invited the Director-General to continue facilitating dialogue with Member States, with the objective of reflecting on UNESCO's role supporting Member States in the implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 6 as well as a possible need for adjusting the International Hydrological Programme (IHP) in the light of the United Nations reform process and providing input for further discussions at meetings of the IHP

6. Within document [202 EX/5, Part I \(G\)](#), the Executive Board made reference to IHP's efforts in supporting the management of Iraq's natural resources in identifying groundwater resources, providing decision making tools (standardized cartographic products and drilling handbook) and capacity building for key areas of professional water sector responsibilities.

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1 <http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0025/002598/259824e.pdf>

## Preparations for the 39 C/5

7. Following up on the Bureau Decision at its 55<sup>th</sup> session (see: <http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0025/002522/252206e.pdf>) Permanent Delegations of the Bureau Members prepared a draft resolution requesting the inclusion of a separate Main Line of Action (MLA) for the water programme of the Organization. As a result of these efforts the 39 C/5 includes IHP within its Major Programme II (MPIO - Natural Sciences), Main Line of Action (MLA) 3: "Improving knowledge and strengthening capacities at all levels to achieve water security", Expected Result (ER) 7: "Member States have strengthened their response to water security challenges towards the achievement of water-related SDGs and targets, and other goals from relevant international water agendas" and ER 8: "Member States have improved policies and increased institutional and human capacities for water security through scientific cooperation". It is envisioned that the work of IHP will be reflected in ER 7 whereas Theme 6 on education, governance and UNESCO's Water Family as well as UNESCO's World Water Assessment Programme's work will feature in ER 8. Five (5) performance indicators have been developed for ER7, one per thematic area and three (3) for ER 8.

8. Concerning the proposed budget, 39 C/5 presents an allocation of \$13,285,500 to the freshwater MLA 3, with an operational budget of \$3,683,600 and a staff budget of \$9,601,900 (72.27%).

### **Actions expected by the Bureau:**

### **The Bureau may wish to take note of recent institutional developments.**

## PROPOSED NEW GLOBAL WATER ARCHITECTURE (Agenda sub-item 3.2)

9. The [final report](#) of the UN Secretary-General's Advisory Board on Water and Sanitation (UNSGAB) of November 2015 proposes, inter alia, the establishment of a UN Intergovernmental Committee on Water and Sanitation and of a UN Scientific and Practice Panel on Water and Sanitation; it further proposes the strengthening of UN-Water to play its role as a Secretariat to the aforementioned new bodies.

10. Based on UNSGAB's proposal, several countries, among them Finland, France, Germany, Hungary, The Netherlands and Switzerland, have promoted "[An initiative for a UN Intergovernmental Body on Water](#)" and are advocating the creation of such a body to:

- Motivate follow-up and review of the implementation of all water related SDGs and targets;
- Provide key thematic inputs to the UN High Level Political Forum (HLPF) for Sustainable Development.

11. The envisaged new UN institution on water should be supported by a secretariat and be linked to ECOSOC. It should have, as well, minimal implications for the UN budget.

12. These efforts resulted in the inclusion of an article, article 12, in the [UN General Assembly \(UNGA\) resolution 71/222](#) established in December 2016 the "International Decade for Action, Water for Sustainable Development 2018-2028", calls, in paragraph 12 for a working-level dialogue to improve the integration and coordination of the UN's actions towards the water-related goals and targets supported by the sustainable development pillars, with particular emphasis on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. As the Co-Moderators of this dialogue, the President of UNGA appointed H.E. Ms Katalin Bogyay,

Ambassador, Permanent Representative of Hungary and Mr Lukmon Isomatov, Head of Department of External Economic Cooperation at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Tajikistan.

13. The main reason for the suggestion to create a new water institution and the establishment of the dialogue is that there is no intergovernmental body dedicated to water. The working-level dialogue shall also help the Member States to discuss and decide on the future setting of the institutional water architecture at a global level. While doing so, several points deserve consideration:

14. During the subsequent dialogues in New York (22 March and 30 May) the following “Possible ways to improve integration and coordination” were suggested by participants and recorded at the final document of the consultations (see page 6 of reference document: Summary report – UN water dialogues.pdf):

- Conduct a review of ongoing activities of the UN Agencies and mechanisms with the aim of identifying potential gaps, overlaps and areas for enhanced cooperation,
- Strengthen UN-Water and its mandate, increase the contributions of the UN member agencies to UN-Water, to better interact with the Member States,
- Explore the added value and drawbacks of platforms, including the Water Decade; to provide coherent policy guidance and oversee monitoring and follow-up,
- Catalyze the use of existing initiatives and frameworks that could integrate relevant activities and resources by sharing experiences and best practices, mobilize new sources of funding and build capacity (also at the national and local level),
- Ensure greater integration of water-related goal and targets into the broader HLPF framework
- Use the National Voluntary Reviews within HLPF to ensure countries address water challenges,
- Invite the UN Regional Economic Commissions to host discussions on water resources and share best practices and lessons learned,
- Explore linkages with the ongoing reform of the UN Development system

#### **UNESCO’s current role:**

15. Forty-two years ago, considering the outcomes of the 1<sup>st</sup> International Hydrological Decade, UNESCO Member States decided to create the first Intergovernmental Programme on Water, the International Hydrological Programme (IHP) to address worldwide challenges. The Programme started by facilitating international scientific cooperation to gather information on the availability of water (1975) and progressively evolved to contribute towards strengthening international cooperation for the improvement of the sustainable management of water under global changes (1990), to address human vulnerability to water (2002), to manage the resource considering its nexus with energy, food, health and the environment (2008) and currently to achieve water security (IHP 8th phase, 2014-2021).

16. Currently, IHP is still the only intergovernmental programme of the UN system on water devoted to water research, water resources management, education and capacity building. Although since its inception IHP has been evolving to thematically adjust to the needs of Member States, moving from a purely data and scientific programme to a water management resources and capacity building one, the same cannot be said about its governance.

17. IHP has a membership of 168 countries, 70% of which are represented at Ministry level and 30% by academicians / researchers. The IHP Membership from the government is at technical level (they are usually at director or technical expert level) leaving a gap on driving policy at Ministerial level.

18. The on-going discussions at UN headquarters in New York, and the establishment of different panels, other types of initiatives worldwide dedicated to water and even the proposals to create new intergovernmental programmes, confirm that changes have not been fast enough for UNESCO to have a higher impact and visibility, in particular at political level.

19. The Secretariat organized an Information Session on 20 September 2017 to inform Member States on the discussions and request their support in strengthening IHP's visibility with their Delegations in New York

### **Friends of IHP**

20. Following up on the information session related to the New Global Architecture a number of Permanent Delegations to UNESCO have been entertaining the idea of forming a group, the "Friends of IHP".

### **Actions expected by the Bureau:**

#### **The Bureau may wish to request the Secretariat to:**

- **Ensure that the invitation letters for the 23<sup>rd</sup> IHP Council session stress the importance of having decision makers along within the delegation of the representatives**
- **Organize a political session at Ministerial level and an open session (open house) for Permanent Delegations during the 23<sup>rd</sup> Council session**
- **The Bureau Members may further wish to raise awareness on IHP's work and inform the IHP representatives of their region on the discussions requesting their support to raise IHP's visibility**
- **Organize an information meeting for UNESCO Member States to get more acquainted with the contribution of IHP to policy making decisions**

### **REPORT ON THE CONSULTATION FOR THE UPDATE OF THE IHP STATUTES AND RULES OF PROCEDURE OF THE IHP COUNCIL (Agenda sub-item 3.3)**

21. The Statutes of the IHP have been approved by the General Conference of UNESCO at its 18th session and amended at its 20<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup>, 23<sup>rd</sup>, 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> sessions. Subsequently, the Rules of Procedures (RoP) were approved by its Intergovernmental Council at its first session and modified in accordance with the amendment of the Council's Statutes by the General Conference of UNESCO at its 21<sup>st</sup>, 23<sup>rd</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> sessions. The IHP Council amended article 26 on 'secret ballot' at its 14<sup>th</sup> session.

22. At its 52<sup>nd</sup> session (June 2015), the Bureau stressed the need to update the Statutes and RoP, following up to the Bureau's request, the Secretariat conducted in autumn 2015 a survey, whose outcomes were presented at the 53<sup>rd</sup> session of the Bureau (April 2016) for further direction (IHP/Bur-LV/Ref1). The consultation was about increasing the term of office of the Chairperson and Vice-Chairpersons is increased from the current two years into four years. The Bureau Members requested for further consultation and to prepare a draft of the revised IHP Statutes and of the RoP. The Bureau's decision was endorsed by IHP's Intergovernmental Council at its 22<sup>nd</sup> session (June 2016), by its Resolution XII-1. A wider consultation was then launched on October 2016 and was closed on December 2016. The Secretariat received a total of 22 replies. A summary of the responses is consultable in the reference document IHP/Bur-LV/Ref2.

23. The Secretariat synthesized, for ease of comparison, the responses received in documents IHP/Bur-LVI/Ref 1 and IHP/Bur-LVI/Ref 2. The draft documents were circulated to Member States October 2017, requesting them to confirm their agreement, or disagreement, that the Secretariat's rephrasing of the articles mirrored accurately their input. These consolidated documents will be further edited following the comments to be received by the Bureau Members at the 56th Bureau session, and taking into consideration the recommendations of the UNESCO open ended group on governance and subsequently presented at the 23rd session of the Intergovernmental Council for debate and vote.

**Actions expected by the Bureau:**

**The Bureau may wish to make concrete proposals to amend IHP Statutes and Rules of Procedure; request the secretariat to further improve the document following up the final recommendation of the open-ended working group on governance, procedures and methods of work of the governing bodies of UNESCO and convey them for debate and vote at the 23<sup>rd</sup> session of the IHP Council.**

**IHP RELATED EXTRABUDGETARY ACTIVITIES (Agenda item 3.4)**

24. IHP extrabudgetary activities are summarized in the table below, representing a total of approximately USD 36.5 million in 28 projects over different executing periods. The World Water Assessment Programme (WWAP) has a portfolio of approximately USD 12 million. The combination of IHP and WWAP extrabudgetary activities sum up a total of USD 48.5 million. Among the major donors to IHP (excluding institutes and centres) are the Global Environment Facility (GEF), the European Union (EU), Brazil, Spain, Italy, Belgium – Government of Flanders, Japan, Switzerland, Indonesia, Malaysia, and Sweden.

<b>ER 10: Responses to local, regional and global</b>				
<b>Theme 1: Water-related disasters and hydrological change</b>				
Project title	Funding agency	Executing agency	Period of execution	Amount (USD)
The impact of glacier retreat in the Andes: International Multidisciplinary Network for Adaptation Strategies	Belgium - Government of Flanders	IHP	2012-2017	440,000
Addressing Water Security: Climate Impacts and Adaptation Responses in Africa, Asia and LAC	Belgium - Government of Flanders	IHP	2014-2018	661,895
African Drought Early Warning System Expansion to Southern Africa	Sweden - Sida	IHP	2014-2017	261,498
Strategic Strengthening of Flood Warning and Management Capacity: Phase 2	Japan - Ministry of Foreign Affairs	UNESCO Office in Jakarta	2015-2017	4,071,404

Needs assessment for Climate Services for improved Water Resources Management in vulnerable regions to Southern Africa	Government of Flanders	IHP	2016-2017	50,000
Enhancing Climate Services for Improved Water Resources Management in Vulnerable Regions to Climate Change: Case studies from Africa and Latin America and the Caribbean (ClimWaR)	Government of Flanders	IHP	2017-2019	641,296
<b>Theme 2: Groundwater in a changing environment</b>				
Project title	Funding agency	Executing agency	Period of execution	Amount (USD)
Advanced Survey of Hydrogeological Resources in Iraq - Phase II (ASHRI-2)	European Union (EU)	UNESCO Office in Baghdad	2013-2018	6,784,260
Governance of Groundwater Resources in Transboundary Aquifers (GGRETA) - Phase 2	GEF	IHP	2016-2018	1,895,162
Formulation of the Project Preparation Grant (PPG) - Enabling implementation of the Regional SAP for the rational and equitable management of the Nubian Sandstone Aquifer System (NSAS)	GEF	IHP	2017	150,000
GEF International Waters: Learning Exchange And Resources Network (IW:LEARN) 4th Phase	GEF	IHP	2015-2019	250,000
MedProgramme: Mediterranean Sea Program - Strategic actions for the protection of Mediterranean coastal aquifers	GEF	IHP	2017-2018	40,000
<b>Theme 3: Addressing water scarcity and quality</b>				
Project title	Funding agency	Executing agency	Period of execution	Amount (USD)
Coping with Water Scarcity in the Arab Region	Multi-donor special account	UNESCO Office in Cairo	2014-2017	125,000

Emerging Pollutants in Wastewater Reuse	Sweden - Sida	IHP	2014-2018	527,415
Safeguarding Applied Management of Water Resources (SAMoWaR) in the autonomous Kurdistan region of Iraq	Switzerland - Department of Foreign Affairs	UNESCO Office in Baghdad	2016-2018	1,042,000
Strengthening the work of the Brazilian National Water Agency (ANA) and of the Brazilian Water Sector organizations in the preparatory actions for the 8th World Water Forum	Brazil (Government) - National Water Agency (ANA)	UNESCO Office in Brasilia	2016-2018	921,573
<b>Theme 4: Water and human settlements of the future</b>				
Project title	Funding agency	Executing agency	Period of execution	Amount (USD)
Global Water Pathogen Project	The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation	IHP	2015-2018	300,000
Development of Studies on Water Resources and Basic Sanitation Regulation and Institutional Organization of ADASA	Brazil (Government) - Water, Energy and Basic Sanitation Regulatory Agency of Brazil's Federal District (ADASA)	UNESCO Office in Brasilia	2015-2018	4,179,329
<b>Theme 5: Ecohydrology, engineering harmony for a sustainable world</b>				
Project title	Funding agency	Executing agency	Period of execution	Amount (USD)
Ecological and Eco-hydrological Solutions for Sustainable Management in Indonesia and Asia Pacific Region	Indonesia	UNESCO Office in Jakarta	2014-2017	475,000
Upscaling Water Security to Meet Local, Regional, and Global Challenges	Malaysia	UNESCO Office in Jakarta	2014-2017	476,219
Strengthening UNESCO Green Academy and Lake Tana Biosphere Reserve	Multi-donor special account	UNESCO Office in Addis Abeba	2015-2018	30,000
<b>Theme 6: Water education, the key for water security</b>				
Project title	Funding agency	Executing agency	Period of execution	Amount (USD)
South-South Cooperation to Strengthen the Integrated Management and Sustainable Use of Water Resources in the Context of Latin America and the Caribbean, and the Community of Portuguese Language Countries (CPLP)	Brazil	UNESCO Office in Brasilia.	2014-2017	3,587,596

NEPAD African Network of Centres of Excellence on Water Sciences and Technology	Multilateral - European Union (EU) - Joint Research Centre	IHP	2016-2019	2,441,736
Strengthening of capacities on water governance and sustainable management of freshwater in LAC	Spain – AECID	UNESCO Office in Montevideo	2015-2017	450,000
Capacity building for sustainable water management in Uzbekistan	UNDP	UNESCO Office in Tashkent	2017-2018	143,380
<b>ER 11: Knowledge, innovation, policies and human and institutional capacities for water security strengthened through improved international cooperation</b>				
Project title	Funding agency	Executing agency	Period of execution	Amount (USD)
International Hydrological Programme - Water Interoperability Networks for Global Change Adaptation (WINGA - ASPAC)	Japan - Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology	UNESCO Office in Jakarta	2009-2017	1,035,216
IHP-WISER in AP International Hydrological Programme Water Informatics for Sustainability and Enhanced Resilience in Asia and the Pacific	Government - Japan - Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology	UNESCO Office in Jakarta	2016-2019	371,954
Technical support for preparation and institutional ADASA for the creation of the World Water Forum 8, Brasilia, 2018	Government - Brazil - Agência Reg de Águas, Energia e Saneamento Básico do DF	UNESCO Office in Brasilia.	2016-2020	5,163,569
UN Water activities implemented by UNESCO - GEMI initiative	UNOPS	IHP-WWAP	2010-2017	204,000

**Actions expected by the Bureau:**

**The Bureau may wish to take note of the IHP related extrabudgetary activities, suggest ways of enhancing the current portfolio and support such efforts.**

**REPORT OF THE IHP FINANCE COMMITTEE (Agenda item 3.5)**

25. The present report recalls the financial information provided in November 2015 regarding UNESCO's General Conference approval of the Programme and Budget for 2016-2017 (38 C/5) which endorsed an Implementation and Expenditure Plan based on the expected cash flow for the biennium, the ceiling of which was set at USD 518 Million. The report also recalls the available funds allocated for activities under expected result 10 and 11 (ER 10, ER 11) for 2017 only, which was presented at the 55<sup>th</sup> Bureau meeting, June 2017. The results of the budget cuts of 70% of the remaining funds as per end of June 2017, occurred under the contingency plan during July 2017, are also reported.

26. As to the budget figures, the table below contains information on the budget allocation for UNESCO's IHP related Main Line of Action 6 under the Income and Expenditure Plan for 2016-2017. Numbers are given at the level of Expected Results 10 and 11 and are broken down by operational and staff costs, as well as by allocations to headquarters and the field. In terms of staff allocation, out of US\$ 9.5 million for MLA 6, 59% will be spent at headquarters and 41% in the field network. As to the allocation to operational activities (corresponding to USD 4 million for MLA 6), the ratio between headquarters and field is 51% to 49%. Operational activities account for approximately 32% of the total.

	OPERATIONAL				STAFF			
	ER10	ER11	MLA 6	%	ER10	ER11	MLA 6	%
Headquarters	1,370,100	730,400	2,100,500	51	4,263,500	1,377,000	5,640,500	59
Field Offices	1,333,000	647,400	1,980,400	49	3,011,700	857,200	3,868,900	41
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,703,100</b>	<b>1,377,800</b>	<b>4,080,900</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>7,275,200</b>	<b>2,234,200</b>	<b>9,509,400</b>	<b>0</b>
Indirect costs	257,200	125,600						

27. As requested by the Council at its 22nd session (2016), information is being sought on a more disaggregated level of budget for IHP themes concerning both Regular Budget and Extrabudgetary resources. The breakdown by IHP theme is presented in the below table for the current year 2017.

BUDGET 2017 as of January 2017		
REGULAR BUDGET		EXTRABUDGETARY (2017)
<b>MLA 6:</b>		
<b>Strengthen Water Security</b>	<b>2,779,704</b>	<b>8,273,563</b>
	Current Allocation (2017)	Allocation (2017)
<b>ER10 : Responses to water challenges</b>	<b>1,970,503</b>	<b>6,211,868</b>
1 Water Disasters	287,169	2,629,846
2 Groundwater	450,106	2,082,368
3 Water scarcity/quality	443,114	511,383
4 Settlements	122,769	419,740
5 Ecohydrology	283,165	184,433
6 Water education	384,180	384,098
<b>ER11: Institutional capacity</b>	<b>809,201</b>	<b>2,061,695</b>
1 Governance	665,681	95,819
2 Institutional Capacities	143,520	0
3 WWAP	0	1,965,876

28. At the end of June 2017, UNESCO Secretariat was informed by UNESCO's Senior Management Team that, due to the non-payments of three among the top 25 UNESCO's

contributors, a contingency plan was put in place in order to recover USD 50 Million. At that time the IHP had available, between field units and headquarter, USD 843,039 (USD 484,891 in ER 10 and USD 358,148 in ER 11). A total of USD 592,206 (70% of the total) were “frozen” from both ER 10 and ER 11. Out of the USD 843,039, the Division of Water Sciences which had available USD 407,150, underwent a total cut of USD 312,615, representing the 77% of the total budget available for HYD at headquarters (USD 407,150) in order to limit the disruption of planned activities in the field units. The contingency plan affected diversely the activities planned in IHP, limiting representation in high visibility events, intellectual output, providing support to the most vulnerable and eliminating opportunities for intra-sectoral cooperation as well as with the UNESCO Water Family members.

29. In particular, due to the freeze, IHP was not able to perform the evaluation of the IHP initiatives / programmes, was not represented adequately at the 9th International Jeju Water Forum (South Korea), the World Water Week and UN-Water meeting (Sweden, August-September), meetings on Groundwater in arid areas and climate change (Tunis) and on water quality in Central Asia. The foreseen work on assessing rural water management and support the most vulnerable populations was eliminated; work on the effects of climate change on glaciers and a joint collaboration on water scarcity and water quality did not proceed, as well as contribution to the organisation of an International Symposium on Ecohydrology and Circular Economy as not finalized. Finally, a planned meeting to define the priorities by IHP National Committees, C2C, Chairs and WWAP to implement IHP-VIII was cancelled. Field offices were affected as well, leading to a lesser impact of UNESCO in the field, notably in Asia where the Ecosystems IWRM for the World Water Forum and the Asia-Pacific Water Summit were taking place. IHP meetings were as well cancelled on addressing floods in developing countries, revamping of the initiative From Potential Conflict to Cooperation Potential (PCCP) towards a new strategy on water diplomacy and part of the FRIEND programmed events. The recruitment of a P4 for the Groundwater Systems Section has been put on hold.

30. Following up on the IHP Intergovernmental Council Resolution XXII-7 (<http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0024/002451/245126e.pdf>) as well as on the Finance Committee request, the IHP Secretariat, in consultation with the Bureau of Strategic Planning (BSP), prepared the establishment of a special account. That special account will enable IHP to receive the financial assistance it needs to meet the demands of the Member States, mainly in the field of capacity-building activities in support of Member States and the major initiatives approved under the strategic plan for the eighth phase of the International Hydrological Programme (IHP-VIII). The establishment of the special account was approved by the 39<sup>th</sup> General Conference (November 2017).

**Actions expected by the Bureau:**

**To take note of the report of the IHP Finance Committee and encourage National Committees in their regions and partners to further strengthen their support of IHP.**

**REPORT OF THE IHP COMMUNICATION AND OUTREACH COMMITTEE (agenda sub-item 3.6)**

31. The Secretariat continued enhancing IHP’s visibility through coordinated communication and outreach activities. It continuously updated the websites of the IHP and updated key elements of the six thematic subsets of the Water Security webpages, added new resources, including to the

governance and improved the pages of several flagship initiatives, as requested per Resolution XXII-3, such as on the Urban Water Management Programme (<https://en.unesco.org/uwmp/projects>).

32. The Secretariat established a revised communication plan collecting the events of the UNESCO Water Family for 2018. IHP issued per circular mails and/or online over 20 announcements of events and 6 news items on activities/projects, events and publications. IHP has been featured on social media through the general accounts of UNESCO on Facebook and Twitter. IHP events have also been featured on Flickr.com through dedicated photo albums as part of the UNESCO Natural Sciences account (<https://www.flickr.com/photos/127450990@N05/albums>) and the one of the IHP Water Family (<https://www.flickr.com/photos/151263658@N06/albums>). The IHP Secretariat has disseminated the link to 194 images in two albums which have received 72 views.

33. Further to Resolution XXII-3 that requested that quarterly updates be sent to the UNESCO Water Family, the Secretariat sent informative emails on specific subjects and prepared one larger issue in December/January to disseminate a summary of information, past and upcoming events and invite contributions to the communication plan 2018. It communicated per email on specific activities and events to the Programme's networks, inviting to attend and/or to contribute on key issues related to IHP and its further development.

34. In the reporting period, 12 publications were uploaded online. Two dedicated Twitter accounts managed by the Secretary of IHP and by the communication officer issued each 890 and 120 tweets, and counted, respectively, 979 and 38 followers by December 2017. All communication material, including the constantly updated IHP information kit, is available through the following webpages:

<https://en.unesco.org/themes/water-security/hydrology/resources>

<https://en.unesco.org/themes/water-security/resources/videos>

35. The dedicated UNESCO water youtube playlist<sup>2</sup> currently counts 25 videos, with up to 3700 views. The Secretariat shared several videos, informative animations (Brussels office) and produced a series of filmed interviews with participants of the IHP Water Knowledge Forum (November 2017).

36. The recruitment of the communication officer at P2 level has shifted the challenges and lessons learnt that were encountered in past years. Continuous coordination of IHP's communication and other core tasks are now ensured. However, certain challenges largely remained and were even exacerbated by the contingency plan put in place in July 2017: in the face of an increased need of visibility, less experienced temporary staff was available to the Secretariat, which continues to delay implementation of the draft Communication and Outreach Strategy and the Resolution XXII-3, e.g. in producing the quarterly e-mail circular to the UNESCO Water Family. The continued close collaboration with the Natural Science Sector's communication team helped establish solutions and substantial enhancements of IHP's communication and outreach activities, for instance in the case of the COP 23.

37. Cost effectiveness measures included the increased use of interns and volunteers to respond to the need for communication personnel, including to produce printed communication material and advice on the re-branding of UNESCO Water requested by the 55<sup>th</sup> session of the IHP Bureau. As in previous years, the close collaboration with partners and UNESCO Water Family Members allowed for increased communication output and multiplier effects.

38. With the support of a volunteering professional designer and art director, the Secretariat undertook first steps towards changing the public image of IHP as a UNESCO Water "brand". This included the identification of specific target groups and the design or re-design of corresponding materials, i.e. for the Member States representatives, the scientific community and the general

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2 [https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLWuYED1WVJIPVor5RZ6GfS\\_RuVyVSK-4-](https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLWuYED1WVJIPVor5RZ6GfS_RuVyVSK-4-)

public. The title of the IHP homepage is being renamed to better reflect the programme's dedication to "Water Security". A first revision of IHP's mission statement was presented at the Information meeting for Member States in September 2017.

39. An updated version of this report will be made available to the 56th IHP Bureau session.

**Actions expected by the Bureau:**

**To take note of the report of the Communication and Outreach Committee and encourage National Committees in their regions and partners to further strengthen their support of IHP.**