

International Hydrological Programme

56th session of the IHP Bureau
(Paris, 20-22 February 2018)

RELATIONS WITH UNITED NATIONS, INTERGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS AND NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

Item 6 of the provisional agenda

SUMMARY

This document presents a consolidated report on collaborative activities undertaken and results obtained with the UN system and on bilateral basis with UN specialized agencies and programmes, and with intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations.

The Bureau may wish to:

6.1 Take note of the report on IHP's cooperation with the UN system on freshwater issues and recommend IHP to develop further cooperation and synergies, prioritizing areas of common interest.

6.2 Take note of the report on IHP's cooperation with intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and recommend IHP to develop further cooperation and synergies, prioritizing areas of common interest.

6.3 Take note of IHP's contribution to the UN World Water Development Reports 2018 and 2019 and recommend ways to strengthen further thematic cooperation between WWAP and IHP, as well as with the broader UNESCO Water Family.

6.4 Take note of IHP's role in key international events and recommend IHP's priorities in participating in them.

Cooperation with the UN System on freshwater issues (agenda sub-item 6.1)

UN-Water

1. UN-Water, the coordination mechanism of UN agencies, organizations and programmes handling water-related topics, is currently composed of thirty-one (31) representatives that meet twice a year. Gilbert F. Houngbo, President of the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), was appointed the new Chairperson of UN-Water by the UN Secretary-General António Guterres. Mr Houngbo succeeds Mr Guy Ryder, Director General of the International Labour Organization, who served until 2018. Mr Olcay Ünver, the Deputy-Director of Land and Water Division of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), was elected the Vice-Chair for a period of two years starting from the end of the second annual UN-Water Meeting in 2018 until the end of the second annual UN-Water Meeting in 2020. The member of the UN-Water Senior Programme Manager (SPM) group representing UNESCO is Ms Blanca Jiménez Cisneros, Director of the Division of Water Sciences and Secretary of the International Hydrological Programme (IHP), and the alternate is Mr Stefan Uhlenbrook, Coordinator of the World Water Assessment Programme (WWAP). UN-Water has a Joint Steering Group (JSG), which is responsible for the implementation of the UN-Water Work Programme, of which Mr Giuseppe Arduino (Chief of Section Ecohydrology, Water Quality and Water Education, SC/HYD/EQE) served as a member until August 2017.

2. UN-Water activities are carried out through time-bound Task Forces and around specific Thematic Areas, which draw on the varied expertise of the UN system and of UN-Water partners. IHP leads, or participates in, the following Thematic Areas and Task forces:

(a) Thematic Priority Areas:

- Water and Climate Change (coordinated by the World Meteorological Organization [WMO]; UNESCO is a member)
- Transboundary Waters (coordinated by UNESCO and UN Economic Commission for Europe [UNECE])
- Water Quality (coordinated by UN Environment; UNESCO is a member)

(b) Task Forces:

- Country-level Coordination (coordinated by the UN Development Programme [UNDP]; UNESCO is a member)
- Water Security (coordinated by the United Nations University [UNU] and UNESCO)
- Capacity Development of Water Operators (coordinated by UN-Habitat; UNESCO is a member)
- Wastewater management (coordinated by UN Environment [UNEP] and UN-Habitat; UNESCO is a member)
- Synthesis Report SDG 6 (coordinated by WWAP)
- A Task Force on Unconventional Water Resources was established by the 27th UN-Water Meeting (Stockholm, August 2017) for a duration of two years (2018-2019). The Task Force is coordinated by UNU and currently composed of FAO, IFAD, IWMI, UNCCD, UNDP, UN Environment, UNESCO, and WMO. It will harmonize its work with the UN-Water Expert Group on Water Scarcity.

3. UNESCO is one of the eight UN agencies (alongside UN Environment, UN-HABITAT, WHO, FAO, UN Children's Fund [UNICEF], WMO and UNECE) participating at the "Integrated Monitoring of Water and Sanitation Related SDG Targets" (GEMI), operating under the UN-Water umbrella. GEMI's goal is to establish a coherent framework for the SDG 6 monitoring and support Member States by enhancing their technical and institutional capacity in monitoring the SDG 6 targets. From June to November 2017, GEMI agencies

supported Member States in their efforts to develop a baseline for all SDG 6 indicators (roll-out phase of GEMI). Activities included the development of a SDG 6 data portal, the allocation of seed grants to selected Member States to develop their monitoring capacities and the organization of a global workshop to exchange on lessons of the roll-out exercise. Further details are reported in the relevant document (IHP/Bur-LVI/10) of the 56th Bureau session.

4. The 27th UN-Water Meeting was held in Stockholm, Sweden, in August 2017. The following are the decisions most relevant to UNESCO that were adopted:

- The Groundwater Overview (a leaflet currently being produced by IGRAC, UNESCO, IAH, IWMI and IUCN¹) will be a UN-Water category 3 publication
- The proposal of the Expert Group on Water and Climate Change to organize a side event at COP23² (Bonn, Germany November 2017) was approved.

5. In 2017, UN-Water established the Task Force on the SDG 6 Synthesis Report 2018 on Water and Sanitation to provide SDG 6 related input to the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF) that will take place from 9-18 July 2018 and include an in-depth review of SDG 6 on water and sanitation. The Task Force is coordinated by WWAP and includes the CEO Water Mandate, FAO, International Labor Organization (ILO), UNDP, UNECE, UNEP, UNESCO, UNICEF, UN-Habitat, UN-Water Technical Advisory Unit, UNU, World Bank, World Health Organization (WHO), WMO and the World Bank Group. Findings of the Synthesis Report will be presented at the Regional Forums for Sustainable Development (from March to May 2018) and a briefing on the report to Permanent Missions to the UN in New York is planned for April 2018. The Synthesis Report is planned to be launched in June 2018.

2018 World Water Day “Nature for Water”

6. The 21st session of UN-Water in August 2014 decided that the theme for the 2018 World Water Day (WWD2018) campaign would be “Nature for Water” and agreed that UNESCO and the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) serve as co-lead agencies of the campaign. At the 25th UN-Water meeting (Stockholm, August 2016), UN Environment was added as the third co-lead.

7. UN-Water and the co-lead agencies organized an event to introduce the 2018 World Water Day campaign at the World Water Week in Stockholm, August 2017. The event presented the WWD2018 campaign’s Theme “Nature for Water” and its objectives, highlighting the potential of nature-based solutions for water and how they can be considered for water management policy and practice.

8. The official UN-Water event of the WWD2018 will be convened by the co-lead agencies during the 8th World Water Forum in Brasilia, Brazil, 19-23 March 2018, while the World Water Day will be celebrated on 22 March 2018 throughout the world.

Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)

9. UNESCO-IHP and FAO are working together to promote and disseminate the principles and guidelines of the Framework for Action (FFA) prepared by the Groundwater

1 International Groundwater Assessment Centre, UNESCO, International Association of Hydrogeologists, International Water Management Institute and International Union for Conservation of Nature

2 23rd Conference of the Parties of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)

Governance Project. IHP and FAO conducted a series of regional meetings in Latin America and the Caribbean (Uruguay) and the Arab Region (Bahrein) in 2017, aiming to identify potential cases to apply such guidelines and improve national capacities.

10. UNESCO attended a Mountains under pressure climate, hunger, migration Meeting from 11-13 December 2017 organized by Mountain Partnership secretariat and hosted by FAO in Rome.

Global Environment Facility (GEF)

11. IHP is addressing the theme of groundwater governance and conjunctive surface and groundwater management through the GEF project International Waters Learning Exchange and Resource Network (IW:LEARN). The project raises awareness about the threats and opportunities linked to groundwater and subsurface management, and the need to integrate this fundamental resource and component of the natural environment into strategies and project design.

UN Environment Programme (UN Environment)

12. IHP and UN Environment released the final report on the current status and future trends of 199 transboundary aquifers of the world and 42 groundwater systems of Small Island Developing States (SIDS).
(<http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0025/002592/259254e.pdf>).

13. In collaboration with UN Environment and other partners, UNESCO is contributing to the preparation of a new phase of a project focused on Mediterranean Sea. The project is aimed at applying the developed tools for the protection of coastal aquifers and groundwater-related ecosystems.

14. IHP's International Initiative on Water Quality (IIWQ) and Ecohydrology Programme collaborated with UN Environment by co-leading Chapter 3 on "Nature-based solutions for managing water quality" of the 2018 United Nations World Water Development Report under the overall theme of "Nature-based solutions for water". UNESCO is also collaborating with UN Environment and the CBD as co-leads of the 2018 World Water Day campaign.

United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE)

15. In 2017, IHP and UNECE were designated by the UN Statistical Commission as co-custodian agencies for SDG indicator 6.5.2 on transboundary water cooperation. In January and February 2017, the Member States sharing transboundary waters were invited to report on this indicator using a template for reporting (<http://ihp-wins.unesco.org/documents/326>). Both agencies have analyzed the national reports and provided inputs to the UN-Water SDG 6 Synthesis based on the results of the assessment.

16. UNESCO and UNECE continued with their cooperation on transboundary groundwater resources assessment. At UNECE's request, UNESCO provided technical expertise to the first Expert Group meeting on Transboundary Assessment, which was held from 9-10 May 2017 in Geneva. The meeting explored the possible geographic and thematic scope, structure, possible information sources as well as the process of preparation for a Third Assessment of Transboundary Waters.

17. UNESCO and UNECE convened the session, "Monitoring transboundary water cooperation: How the dedicated SDG indicator helps", held on 27 August 2017 during the

Stockholm World Water Week. Hundreds of participants attended the meeting and 50% of the participants of the session were women experts.

World Bank

18. As a follow up of the joint meeting “Lake Chad Basin Groundwater Modeling Workshop” co-organized in Paris in May 2017, UNESCO and the World Bank agreed on a Plan of Action for the Lake Chad Basin, to be executed in collaboration with the Lake Chad Basin Commission and partners, in order to update the current groundwater model of the basin.

19. A new World Bank project on “Water Security and Groundwater Governance in the Sahel” that was approved by GEF will start mid-2018 and UNESCO-IHP’s participation is being evaluated.

World Health Organization (WHO)

20. In cooperation with WHO and Asian Development Bank (ADB), the UNESCO Jakarta Office conducted a national dialogue “Implementing Water Goals in Timor-Leste” (October 2017). The meeting was, financially supported by the Government of Malaysia and focused on five key areas: groundwater mapping, integrated catchment management, water education, wastewater, and water quality monitoring. The national event mobilized 64 participants including international experts from seven countries.

World Meteorological Organization (WMO)

21. UNESCO is represented by IHP in the Global Framework for Climate Services (GFCS) Partners Advisory committee (PAC), hosted by WMO. UNESCO contributed to the GFCS side event at the COP-23 on Climate Services for Small Island Developing States (SIDS) and Least Developed Countries (LDCs) that was held 15 November 2017³.

Actions expected from the Bureau:

The Bureau may wish to take note of the report on IHP’s cooperation with the UN system on freshwater issues and recommend IHP to develop further cooperation and synergies, prioritizing areas of common interest.

Cooperation with intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations (agenda sub-item 6.2)

The Baltic Marine Environment Protection Commission

22. The UNESCO-IHP’s International Initiative on Water Quality (IIWQ) collaborated with the Baltic Marine Environment Protection Commission (HELCOM), which is an intergovernmental organization known also as Helsinki Commission, on the UNESCO case study on “Pharmaceuticals in the aquatic environment of the Baltic Sea region” within the framework IIWQ project “Emerging Pollutants in Wastewater Reuse in Developing Countries”. A status report, containing the case study results, was published jointly by UNESCO and HELCOM (<http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0024/002478/247889e.pdf>) in

³ See announcement:

<http://www.wmo.int/gfcs/sites/default/files/events/COP23%20Event%3A%20Climate%20Services%20for%20Small%20Island%20Developing%20States%20%28SIDS%29%20and%20Least%20Developed%20Countries%20%28LDCs%29//2017.11.09%20GFCS%20European%20Pavilion%20COP%2023%20Concept%20Note-final.pdf>

the new UNESCO Emerging Pollutants in Water Series (volume 1). The publication proposes policy recommendations to address the knowledge and information gaps and to reduce the discharge of pharmaceuticals with wastewater into the aquatic environment. It was presented at a dedicated awareness raising session during the 2017 Stockholm World Water Week (August 2017). The IHWQ published an information (infographic) brochure, containing the key recommendations and data of the report, in four languages (English, French, Russian and Spanish).

IberoAmerican Conference of Water Directors (CODIA)

23. IHP in collaboration with the IberoAmerican Conference of Water Directors (CODIA) organized two training courses: one on water quality (Cartagena, Colombia, June 2017) attended by 21 participants (7 women and 14 men) and other on water-related economic instruments (Montevideo, Uruguay, October 2017) attended by 52 participants (19 women and 23 men), within the framework of the 18th session of CODIA.

Inter-American Network of Academies of Sciences (IANAS-IAP)

24. IHP is cooperating with Inter-American Network of Academies of Sciences (IANAS-IAP) and the Caribbean Academies of Sciences (CAS) for the preparation of a study on Water Quality in LAC and a publication on “Water Challenges and Solutions for the Caribbean”. A preparatory meeting took place in Nassau on 18 September 2017.

International Association of Hydrogeologists (IAH)

25. IHP collaborated with IAH under the World-wide Hydrogeological Mapping and Assessment Programme (WHYMAP) on the publication of the World Map of Karst Aquifer, published in September 2017.

(https://www.whymap.org/whymap/EN/Maps_Data/Wokam/wokam_node_en.html).

26. IHP was a main scientific partner of the 45th IAH Congress held in Dubrovnik, Croatia (September 2017), attended by 500 participants. IHP's involvement included a keynote address in the plenary session, the launch of the new WHYMAP and experience sharing by the countries of the Dinaric Karst Transboundary Aquifer System (DIKTAS) project. Furthermore, IHP supported the participation of 8 young non-EU participants (4 women and 4 men).

International Association of Hydrological Sciences (IAHS)

27. UNESCO participated in the IAHS Scientific Assembly which was held from 10-14 July 2017 in Port Elizabeth in South Africa. UNESCO convened the session entitled “Facilitating scientific contributions in water diplomacy and cooperation processes” and co-convened four other sessions. UNESCO also attended the IAHS Bureau meetings on 9 and 15 July 2018 (<http://cwrr.ukzn.ac.za/iahs/iahs-2017-in-south-africa>).

International Sava River Basin Commission

28. UNESCO continued with its cooperation with the International Sava River Basin Commission (ISRBC) involving Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Montenegro, Serbia and Slovenia. From 13-15 June 2017, Slovenia hosted the meeting on “Improvement of joint Actions in Flood Management in the Sava River” during which UNESCO, ISMB (I-REACT project leader) and the International Sava River Commission discussed how to collaborate based on the new Early Warning system for floods funded by the World Bank. The purpose was to build a transboundary-shared regime for floods and drought risks in the entire Sava area where hydraulic models, data and methods are harmonized in a common platform at

the service of the riparian member states. A number of opportunities that would facilitate collaboration were explored, including the possibility of integrating modular solutions of I-REACT, in particular geolocalised crowdsourcing services into the Sava River flood forecasting and Warning System (Sava FFWS) (<http://www.i-react.eu>).

29. A joint Transboundary Training Workshop on “Governance and Technology for Flood Risk Reduction: Linking early warning to emergency management in the Sava River Basin” was held in Zagreb (Croatia), from 5 - 7 December 2017, with the aim of helping to bond early warning alerts triggered by the responsible national hydro-meteorological services and/or water agencies as flood forecasting operators, through the Sava FFWS, with monitoring, response and flood protection actions performed by all responsible institution including the civil protection sector as emergency responders using historical flood event cases to simulate scenarios. About 40 experts and managers (10 women) participated in this event.

International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)

30. Cooperation with IUCN is ongoing regarding the establishment of a consultation mechanism for the transboundary governance of the Ocotepeque-Citalá Aquifer, shared by El Salvador and Honduras. UNESCO and IUCN are currently implementing the activities for the second year of the Central American component of the “Groundwater Governance in Transboundary Aquifers (GGRETA)” project, supported by the Swiss Agency of Development and Cooperation (SDC).

Plastic Soup Foundation

31. IHP’s International Initiative on Water Quality collaborated with the Plastic Soup Foundation (a NGO based in the Netherlands), on the case study on “Microplastics in Freshwater Environments” under the IIWQ project “Emerging Pollutants in Wastewater Reuse in Developing Countries”. The case study is a preliminary assessment of the presence of microplastics in wastewater and freshwater systems in 17 countries in all regions of the world, based on available research and literature data. The case study results were presented at an awareness raising interview session at the 2017 Stockholm World Water Week (August 2017) and are in preparation for publication in the UNESCO Emerging Pollutants in Water Series (volume 2).

Water Watch Penang

32. UNESCO Office in Jakarta organized a workshop “Building Resilience to Climate Change Risk and Vulnerability to Meet Water Security Challenges” in July 2017 in Malaysia. The main objectives of the meeting were to improve understanding of the climate change impact on water resources and water-related disasters, and to upscale existing local approaches to Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) strengthening regional cooperation. The workshop was attended by 34 participants (16 women and 18 men) from 12 countries in Asia and the Pacific and Africa. The Government of Malaysia and the UNESCO/Flanders Funds-in-Trust financially supported the activity.

Actions expected from the Bureau:

The Bureau may wish to take note of the report on IHP’s cooperation with intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and recommend IHP to develop further cooperation and synergies, prioritizing areas of common interest.

IHP contribution to the UN World Water Development Report (agenda sub-item 6.3)

33. IHP is an active contributor to the annual United Nations World Water Development Reports and also supports WWAP on the organization of events to disseminate WWAP results, reports and products globally.

The 2018 United Nations World Water Development Report: Nature-based solutions.

34. IHP, through its IIWQ and Ecohydrology Programme, co-led, in cooperation with UN Environment, Chapter 3 on “Nature based solutions for managing water quality”. IHP contributed also to Chapter 1 on “Nature based solutions and water”, led by WWAP. The UNESCO Multisectoral Regional Office in Abuja and UNESCO cat 2 water centres (IHE Delft Institute for Water Education and the Centre for Water Law, Policy and Science at University of Dundee) contributed to Chapter 5 “National and Regional Experiences with Implementation”.

35. The World Water Development Report 2018 will be launched at the 8th World Water Forum in Brasilia, Brazil. As in previous years, WWDR will also be presented in national and regional events throughout 2018 by WWAP, UNESCO Regional Offices and UN and national partners.

The 2019 United Nations World Water Development Report (WWDR 2019): Leaving no one behind.

36. Following the WWDR2019 Developmental Workshop organized by WWAP in Perugia 14-15 September 2017, UNESCO-IHP agreed to lead Chapter 3 (Social dimensions - Challenges and opportunities for improvement) of the WWDR2019. IHP will also contribute to other chapters of the WWDR2019, as relevant.

Actions expected from the Bureau:

The Bureau may wish to take note of IHP’s contribution to the UN World Water Development Reports 2018 and 2019 and recommend ways to strengthen further thematic cooperation with between WWAP and IHP, as well as with the broader UNESCO Water Family.

6.4 IHP’s role in key international events

World Water Week 2017

37. The World Water Week was held under theme “Water and waste: Reduce and reuse” in Stockholm, Sweden, from 27 August to 01 September 2017. UNESCO-IHP convened jointly with Oregon University, German International Development Cooperation (GIZ), GEF, the Government of Finland and UNECE a seminar entitled “Monitoring transboundary water cooperation: how the dedicated SDG indicator helps”. The event analyzed the experience of baseline reporting of SDG indicator 6.5.2 dedicated to transboundary cooperation, undertaken in 2017. Aspects such as the methodology, the experience of countries in reporting, the presentation of the data and the use of its results to advance cooperation worldwide were discussed. Approximately 150 experts attended the session, out of which 50% were women.

38. IHP’s International Initiative on Water Quality (IIWQ) led and convened several technical and awareness-raising events on water quality, wastewater management and emerging pollutants. The event on “Emerging pollutants in water reuse — Addressing

knowledge and policy gaps”, convened jointly with SIDA on 31 August 2017, focused on knowledge and policy gaps on emerging pollutants (pharmaceuticals, endocrine disruptors, etc.) in water and wastewater. Technical and policy approaches to managing emerging pollutants and reducing health and ecosystems risks were discussed. The new and upcoming publications UNESCO Emerging Pollutants in Water Series were presented, which include: Pharmaceuticals in the aquatic environment in the Baltic Sea region (volume 1) and Microplastics in freshwater environments (volume 2).

39. IHP’s IIWQ also contributed to: Seminar “Opportunities and limits to water pollution regulations” (convened by IIASA, OECD, SIWI and UN Environment); Technical event “Journey to a world free of untreated wastewater” (convened by IWMI, SUEN, UNU-FLORES and UNU-INWEH); and Technical event “Solving the plastic waste crisis in urban waterways” (convened by GIZ, Ellen MacArthur Foundation, Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development of Germany, ISWA and KfW Development Bank).

Twenty-third session of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) Conference of the Parties (COP 23)

40. IHP was represented during the COP23, which was held in Bonn, Germany, in November 2017. During the dedicated day on water at COP23, the Water Action Day, a number of events were held at the UNESCO Pavilion including: "The role of Youth in Bridging Water and Climate Change"; "Regional cooperation for capacity building for Arab climate negotiators"; and "Water Security and Climate Action". These sessions discussed and called for action on topics such as the role of youth engagement in climate and water action, the regional dimension of climate action and negotiations, and shared best practices and successful stories of IHP projects. The session also presented key outcome of the UNESCO Conference on Water Security in Pacific SIDS, held in Nadi, Fiji, on 23-24 October 2017 with Fiji’s Ministry of Infrastructure and Transport. It included the UNESCO IHP International Initiative on Water Quality Regional Consultation on Water Quality in the Pacific SIDS.

41. IHP received high visibility during the Water Action Day as the progress of the Megacities Alliance on Water and Climate was presented during the official opening, advocating for further synergies between Megacities to solve issues of water management and climate change and to decrease the water and energy footprint. Furthermore, IHP organized one of the three parallel sessions on Urban resilience, where the new initiative DANURBIS was presented. IHP also contributed and participated in the UN-Water side event on “Climate Action for Improved Water Resources Management”. The session presented case studies from Uganda, Mexico, Guatemala and experiences from the Rhine Region. Following the case study session, the panel session focused on how the science and policy developments needed to address the key aspects of Climate Action for improved water resources management.

42. IHP was the co-organizer of and participated at the UN side event on Human settlement, where issues related to urban development and climate change were discussed. UNESCO’s contribution took place via the Vice Mayor of the City of Ulm, Germany, who discussed the DANURBIS initiative.

IHP contribution to the preparation of the 8th World Water Forum, Brasilia, Brazil, March 2018

43. IHP continues its cooperation with the Secretariat of the 8th World Water Forum as a member of the Theme Coordination Group (TCG) of one of the Forum’s nine Themes: “Sharing - Involving stakeholders at all levels for sharing water benefits”. IHP has taken the

lead of the TCG “Sharing” and also in the Theme “Climate” on the topic “Climate science and water management: the communication between science and decision/policy making”. IHP continues also its engagement in the Regional processes, notably for Latin America and the Caribbean, and the Arab States.

Actions expected from the Bureau:

The Bureau may wish to take note of IHP’s role in key international events and recommend IHP’s priorities in participating in them.