

International Hydrological Programme

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

DRAFT TERMS OF REFERENCE OF THE INTERNATIONAL HYDROLOGICAL PROGRAMME IX TASK FORCE

Item 4.8 of the provisional agenda

Summary

This document presents the text of the Draft Terms of Reference (ToRs) of the International Hydrological Programme IX Task Force to be submitted to the 23rd IHP Intergovernmental Council.

The International Hydrological Programme IX Task Force

Draft Terms of Reference (ToRs)

Ninth Phase of the International Hydrological Programme (2022-2029)

The overall work of the IHP-IX Task Force is to formulate a Strategic Plan for the ninth phase of the International Hydrological Programme of UNESCO in consultation with the IHP National Committees and the governing bodies of IHP that must approve the plan.

The IHP Secretariat expects that the Task Force, within the framework of its prescribed task, will come up with new ideas, new challenge areas and new perspectives in hydrology, water resources management and capacity development in the next IHP phase.

The IHP Secretariat at UNESCO Paris assists the Task Force in their duties and helps to facilitate their work, answering inquiries and providing information on current and past IHP activities and programmes.

A mandate of approximately two years is envisioned for the Task Force to shape the Strategic Plan and its attendant Implementation Plan. The final draft of the IHP-IX strategic plan and implementation plan should be presented at the 25th Session of the IHP Council in June 2021¹ for adoption and submission to the 41st General Conference.

The aim of the first Task Force meeting to be held in Paris, in May 2018, is to produce a first draft concept paper for submission to the 23rd session of the Intergovernmental Council of IHP, held in Paris, 11-15 June 2018. The first draft concept paper will be presented off-session to and reviewed by members of the Bureau. During the meeting in May 2018 the Task Force is expected to provide a vision for the future programme to be expressed in the draft Concept Paper. The Task Force's vision is intended to stimulate the National IHP Committees' responses in the consultations.

The Secretary of IHP will designate staff members of the Secretariat to support the Task Force in carrying out its functions without burdening the regular programme resources.

The Task Force will interact constantly, by e-mail, video conference, telephone conferences, e-conferences. If needed, the Task Force group may also meet at a location to be agreed upon.

¹ It may be proposed to the 23rd IHP Council to advance its 25th session to 2021.

- After a review by the 23rd session of the Council of IHP, the draft concept paper should be circulated for a first rapid consultation with the Member States in such a way that the Task Force is able to present a preliminary IHP-IX concept paper to an off session of the bureau to be elected by the coming 23rd Session of the IHP Council.
- Besides the first meeting planned in May 2018, the Task Force is expected to meet at least twice, possibly three times before the 25th Session of the IHP Council in mid 2021.
- The Task Force receives and compiles the feedback and inputs from all IHP National Committees with assistance from the IHP Secretariat and prepares the concept paper for IHP-IX. The successive versions of concept paper, outlines, the strategic plans and implementation plan are regularly presented to the IHP Bureau and the IHP Intergovernmental Council by the Task Force representative(s).
- Task Force should be open to new approaches in accordance with the guidance of the Member States and through the Intergovernmental Council and the IHP Bureau.
- The Task Force should take note of the current established international Agendas, such as the 2030 Development Agenda, the new Urban Agenda, the Paris Agreement and the Sendai Framework, and the primary results and directions observed during their implementation.
- While exploring an enhanced integration of science and technology in water resources management, there is a need to further strengthen capacities at all levels and promote science-based policy advice and bridging science and policy-making.
- Member States have emphasized that further concentration of the programme is needed.
- The Task Force should also prepare an implementation plan of the IHP-IX strategic plan to be adopted with the assistance of the IHP Secretariat.