

## **Proposals of the Russian delegation for 3rd order draft of the Strategy of the 9 phase IHP**

**(dated 26.01.2021)**

### **General remarks:**

1. The third version of the draft Strategy uses a number of terms related to water management: holistic, sustainable, inclusive, integrated, adaptive. The meaning of the term may therefore be distorted when translated into other languages. Therefore, it is proposed to use the concept «Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM)» and avoid other terms. It would also eliminate the need to introduce new terms in the glossary.

2. Amend the term «Safe Water» from «security water resources» to «safe water resources» in English.

3. Avoid the term «water security» if possible due to the lack of a single definition and the possibility of ambiguity.

4. Combine priority areas 4 and 5 as they overlap in substance and name, or avoid duplication by specifying the content of priority areas, as well as giving priority to scientific hydrological justification of the solution of the problems raised. Avoid a focus on administrative and policy approaches to water issues. Note that the terminological difference between priority areas 4 and 5 is relatively small. For example, in Russian there is no difference between the words «management» and «governance», so after translation of the document all differences will be lost.

### **Specific comments on the text of the draft Strategy:**

1. Page 6, the first paragraph after the table «One of the greatest challenges for the hydrologic science community is to identify appropriate and timely adaptation measures in a continuously changing environment» needs to be added, that the main problem in hydrology is the study of the physics of hydrological processes under conditions of non-stationary climate change, and then adaptation mechanisms under these conditions.

2. Page 9 last paragraph of the section «Working towards sustainable water management resources». Clarification should be provided as to the level of Water Management Plans at the State, regional or territorial level.

This is important to understand in terms of national boundaries.

3. Page 10, second paragraph of "Improved water security in a changing world». The reference to Program Content, which will appear later, should be deleted. It should already be in the document or not mentioned at all.

4. Page 13, first paragraph of «Outcome and Priority Areas». Instead of IHP's approach to new challenges, it is necessary to clearly the main task of the Phase 9. Since, in this formulation and as described below, the strategic objectives of the Programme are not clearly defined.

5. Page 13. In the fourth paragraph of the section «Outcome and Priority Areas» should change the strategic objectives of the Programme. As they are written in the existing document, they are totally unacceptable, neither in form nor in substance. They do not reflect the achievement of the Programme's results and its focus in Phase 9.

The strategic objectives outlined in 2d order draft of the Strategy (1 - Improving Water Management and 2 - Increasing Society's Resilience to Global Change) were also criticized, but they were more clearly articulated.

6. Page 14. Last paragraph - indicators. Indicator PI 3 should be reformulated to read "Number of water management decisions supported by scientific data and knowledge», as each country uses its own scientific data for water management.

7. P. 18 - The table is very overloaded and not well received. It is desirable to delete it.

8. Page 20, result 1.1. A list of unresolved problems in hydrology should be provided.

9. Page 24. Outcome 1.7 should form the main part of outcome 1.1. Priority 1.

10. Page 25, second paragraph. Very ambitious outcome on a global overview of the current and projected status of river basins. It can only be achieved if a professional contractor has already been identified.

11. Page 26. Result 1.10 is most in line with Priority 3, so it needs to be moved to Priority 3, especially since the same result is at page 37.

12. In the section «Cooperating with other UN Agencies and partners» in the list of organizations after GRDC/WMO it is necessary to add WMO Centre for lakes and reservoirs (HYDROLARE/WMO).

13. Page 43, result 4.5. In its title, the explanations for surface waters in brackets should be deleted, as surface waters include many more types of water bodies.

14. Page 48. Of the five outcomes of the 5th Priority, only 5.2 and 5.3 are new (in a context of the policy). Others, in one way or another, duplicate the results of the first four Priorities:

Result 5.1 is fully aligned with result 1.7 of First Priority.

Outcome 5.4 duplicates the text of Outcome 4.3 of the Fourth Priority, with an emphasis on political and administrative resources in water resources management.

Result 5.5 duplicates result 5.2 of the same 5th Priority.

As noted earlier (comments to second order draft of the Strategy), Priorities 4 and 5 are almost identical in substance, with the exception of the political and administrative pillar.

Thus, considering the name of the 4th Priority «Inclusive...», these two outputs 5.2 (combined with 5.5) and 5.3 may well be included in Priority 4, thus avoiding duplication and slightly reducing the volume of the document as a whole.

15. Page 52. The first paragraph of the section «Way forward».

The mandate of IHP of UNESCO concerns science and education.

Its success should therefore be measured on the basis of principles and indicators reflecting scientific and educational cooperation.