

International Hydrological Programme
58th session of the IHP Bureau
(Paris, 10-12 September 2019)

UNESCO's WATER FAMILY

Item 5 of the provisional agenda

SUMMARY

This document presents the following sub-items:

- 5.1 Category 2 Institutes and Centres – Management Framework
- 5.2 Status and operation of the UNESCO Water Family
- 5.3 Proposed Category 2 Centres
- 5.4 World Water Assessment Programme

The Division of Water Sciences continued to chair UNESCO's Intersectoral Working Group on Category 2 Centres, which submitted the related documents to the 205th and 206th sessions of the Executive Board towards the revision of the current integrated comprehensive strategy for category 2 centres and institutes. In this context, the Bureau of Strategic Planning (BSP) also started contacting all Member States officials concerned with the non-alignment of one or several of their Category 2 Centres. The number of water-related Category 2 Centres under the auspices of UNESCO did not expand (36) while that of water-related Chairs increased to 55 (plus 3 in the pipeline to be finalized soon), during the reporting period. Proposals for the renewal of the Regional Centre for Water Harvesting Category 2 Centre (RCWH), and one Agreement extension of the International Centre for Water Hazard and Risk Management (ICHARM) were submitted to and approved respectively by the 206th Session of the UNESCO Executive Board in April 2019. The Executive Board also took note of the cessation of activities of the International Centre for Education, Capacity Building and Applied Research in Water (HidroEx) in Brazil. Following the audit carried out by the UNESCO Internal Oversight Service (IOS) on all UNESCO category 2 centres, the Secretariat is constantly updating its mapping of all water-related category 2 centres.

The Secretariat of the World Water Assessment Programme (WWAP) produced and coordinated two flagship Reports of the UN system on freshwater, namely WWDR (2018 and 2019) and the SDG 6 Synthesis Report 2018.

The Bureau may wish to:

1. Take note of the actions taken by the Intersectoral Working Group on Category 2 Centres on the Management Framework for Category 2 Institutes and Centres and appreciate the Division's role for taking a leading role in this intersectoral exercise.
2. Take note of the status of the UNESCO Water Family, and of the consultations held by the Secretariat on the water-related C2Cs.
3. Take note of the results of the feasibility study undertaken for evaluation of the proposal for the creation of a C2C in Montpellier, France.
4. Take note of the outputs of WWAP.

CATEGORY 2 INSTITUTES AND CENTRES – MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK (agenda sub-item 5.1)

1. The IOS Audit of the UNESCO's Management Framework for Category 2 Institutes/centres (C2Cs; April 2017), stated that the current number of non-operational Category 2 Centre and Institutes (i.e. not aligned with the Organization's rules and regulations) "at UNESCO is due to the continuous intake of proposals for category 2 institutes/centres without a rigorous vetting process for proposals and renewals, coupled with lengthy and cumbersome procedures to create or transform an entity into a category 2 institute/centre." Following the audit, an Intersectoral Working Group on Category 2 Centres was created in June 2017, chaired by the Division of Water Sciences, in order to work on the improvement of the management framework for Category 2 Centres.

2. Pursuant 205 EX/Decision 12, in document 206 EX/19 the Director-General submitted to the Executive Board in April 2019 a proposal for revision of the "Revised Integrated Comprehensive Strategy for Category 2 Institutes and Centres under the auspices of UNESCO (2013)". Document 206 EX/19 for the revision of the 2013 Strategy and Document [206 EX/19 INF](#) presented the main changes introduced, the cross-references these proposed changes to the recommendations and findings of the IOS 2017 Audit ([IOS/AUD/2017/04.Rev](#)), as well as other benchmarks in the Organization. It further provided some comparative information on practices under the current 2013 Strategy. In the same context, the Bureau of Strategic Planning (BSP) contacted 10 Ministers through official correspondence, requesting information and/or action in view of the alignment of their water-related C2Cs (11 C2Cs) before 9 September 2019.

STATUS AND OPERATION OF THE UNESCO WATER FAMILY (agenda sub-item 5.2)

3. UNESCO works to build the scientific knowledge base to help countries in the sustainable management of their water resources. This is done through its UNESCO Water Family, comprising the International Hydrological Programme (IHP), the World Water Assessment Programme (WWAP), the Category 2 Centres under the auspices of UNESCO, and water related Chairs and UNITWIN Networks. UNESCO's Water Family operates as a global network that works together to implement the organization's strategic goals. At the time of the present document, IHP is counting 36 Category 2 Centres under the auspices of UNESCO, and 55 Chairs and UNITWIN networks.

Category 2 Centres:

Mapping of Category 2 Centres:

4. As of the date of the preparation of this document, the status of all water-related category 2 centres is as presented in the updated C2C mapping table (reference document IHP/Bur-LVIII/Ref. 8).

Renewal of ICHARM and RCWH:

5. Proposals for the renewal of one category 2 centre (RCWH), and one Agreement extension (ICHARM) were submitted to and approved respectively by the 206th Session of the UNESCO Executive Board in April 2019.

6. The Executive Board underlined the importance of examining the results of the evaluation and the recommendations of the Director-General on the renewal of the designation of the International Centre for Water Hazard and Risk Management (ICHARM) in Tsukuba, (Japan) as a Centre under the auspices of UNESCO (category 2). It approved the extension

of the current agreement until 22 February 2020 to allow sufficient time for the completion of the evaluation process, including the negotiation of its draft renewal agreement, and the presentation at its 207th session of the results of the evaluation on the renewal of the designation of ICHARM as a Centre under the auspices of UNESCO (category 2).

7. The Executive Board also confirmed that the Regional Centre on Capacity Development and Research in Water Harvesting (RCWH), in Khartoum, Sudan, performed satisfactorily as a category 2 centre under the auspices of UNESCO, and decided to renew its designation as a centre under the auspices of UNESCO (category 2). The corresponding renewal agreement should be signed during the course of the year 2019.

Cessation of activities of HIDROEX in Brazil:

8. On 18 July 2018, the UNESCO Secretariat received an official letter from the Permanent Delegation of Brazil to UNESCO, stating that the Government of Brazil had been informed that the State University of Minas Gerais, legally responsible for the contracts and Agreements of the International Centre for Education, Capacity Building and Applied Research in Water (HidroEx), as determined by State Law 22.291 of 19 September 2016, had formally notified its decision to cease the activities of HidroEx as a category 2 centre under the auspices of UNESCO. The letter further informed the Secretariat of the discontinuation of the project of establishing a water research complex in the city of Frutal (Brazil). The 206th Session of the Executive Board took note of this cessation of activities.

UNESCO Chairs and UNITWIN networks

9. The UNESCO Water Family currently includes 55 water-related UNESCO Chairs and UNITWIN networks plus 3 which are in the process of being established, namely the UNESCO Chair on Ecohydrology and Transboundary Water Management, Sokoine University of Agriculture, Tanzania, the UNESCO Chair on South Asia Sustainable Water Resources Management, University of Moratuwa, Sri Lanka and the UNESCO Chair on Water and Peace, Universidad Nacional de Educación a Distancia (UNED), and Universidad Rey Juan Carlos (URJC), Madrid, Spain.

10. At the occasion of the UNESCO International Conference on Water, the Division of Water Sciences also organized a C2Cs and Chair meeting on 14th of May 2019, gathering 24 attendants, including 12 chairs, 11 centres and WWAP, from 21 Countries. The meeting was the occasion to discuss the status of the UNESCO Water Family and its role, notably on the cooperation of all members with the Secretariat, highlighting the key successes and creating synergies.

PROPOSED CATEGORY 2 CENTRES (Agenda sub-item 5.3)

Proposal for the creation of a Category 2 Centre in Montpellier, France (ICIReWaRD)

11. On 14 November 2018, the Government of France through the Ministry of Higher Education, Research and Innovation, submitted a proposal to the UNESCO Director-General for the establishment of an “International Center for Interdisciplinary Research on Water systems Dynamics” (ICIReWaRD-Montpellier) as a Category 2 Centre under the auspices of UNESCO.

12. After a first consultation with IHP Bureau members, who issued a favorable opinion, the IHP Council members were consulted through an electronic consultation to which a strong majority responded favorably. After these first steps, the UNESCO Director-General requested

the realization of a feasibility study mission, in order to evaluate the project of Category 2 Centre and report on its results along with the proposal and a draft Agreement to the 207th Executive Board (October 2019) and the 40th General Conference (November 2019). A mission for the feasibility of establishing ICIReWaRD as a water-related Category 2 Centre under the auspices of UNESCO in Montpellier, France, was thus undertaken on the premises of the proposed Centre from Wednesday 13 to Friday 15 March 2019.

13. The Montpellier site has all the resources required to tackle the complex field of water sciences through close ties between research, teaching and pilot projects, based on multi- and interdisciplinary approaches. It also benefits from close links and interactions between research, education and businesses, particularly through the development of shared pilot projects. In the context of its project I-SITE MUSE (Initiatives Science - Innovation - Territories – Economy, Montpellier University of Excellence), the University of Montpellier and its partners (research organizations and higher education institutions) are federating an internationally recognized and organized community in the field of water sciences. This community is grouped within the current Montpellier Institute for Water and Environment (the GIS Institute for Water and Environment IM2E, www.im2e.org) and its 16 laboratories, 340 scientists and 100 PhD researchers, which will become the proposed ICIReWaRD – Montpellier Centre. The Center will be supported by a broad network of established and structured scientific partnerships, particularly in West and Central African countries, the Maghreb and the Middle East. The Montpellier site is also home to Aqua-Valley, the largest French water competitiveness cluster with 250 members (mainly companies) as part of a global network formed with other major international hubs.

14. The proposed Centre offers a sound proposal, relying on the existing Institute for Water and Environment (IM2E), a functioning, well-known and efficient Institution, which guarantees a fluent transition/transformation in acquiring a Category 2 Centre status and avoiding the cumbersome process of establishing a completely new centre. The results of the feasibility report along with the related proposal submission document and draft Agreement will be submitted to the 207th session of the Executive Board in October 2019 and subsequently to the 40th session of UNESCO's General Conference in November 2019 for its approval.

Proposal for the creation of a Category 2 Centre in Roorkee, India (Regional Centre on Water and Environment for South Asia)

15. On 28 June 2019, the Government of India through the Permanent Delegation of India to UNESCO submitted a proposal to the UNESCO Director-General for the establishment of a "Regional Centre on Water and Environment for South Asia" as a Category 2 Centre under the auspices of UNESCO. The full proposal can be consulted in reference document IHP/Bur-LVIII/Ref. 9.

16. The centre would be an integral part of the National Institute of Hydrology (NIH) and the Indian Institute of Technology Roorkee (IITR) and based in Roorkee, India.

WORLD WATER ASSESSMENT PROGRAMME (Agenda sub-item 5.4)

17. The World Water Development Report (WWDR) is one of the most visible publications of UNESCO and an authoritative source of information on freshwater.

18. The developmental workshop for 2020 edition of the WWDR 'Water and Climate Change' took place 20-21 September 2018 at UNESCO World Water Assessment Programme (WWAP) premises in Perugia, Italy. Over 40 representatives of UN agencies and partners of UN-Water gathered to reach a common understanding on the scope, overall content and

general structure of the Report and on the modalities for its production, including task distribution among committed Lead Agencies and Contributing Agencies. Following the discussions, WWAP prepared the Annotated Table of Contents and circulated among UN-Water Members for their feedback. After collecting, evaluating and integrating the comments received, WWAP finalized the document in the first week of December 2018.

19. As in WWDR2018, WWAP committed itself in preparing Chapter 1 of the report, which sets the basis for other chapters to build on and describes what the Report is about, for whom it is for, why it is important and where it adds value. The initial draft of Chapter 1 was circulated to all agencies leading development of specific chapters in early January 2019. The content development of WWDR2020 is ongoing. The first full draft of the Report was circulated to UN-Water Members and Partners in June 2019 for their comprehensive review.

20. The UN-Water Task Force for the 2020 World Water Day campaign is composed of World Meteorological Organization (WMO), United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE), Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), UNESCO Division of Water Sciences, Stockholm International Water Institute (SIWI), Global Water Partnership (GWP) and WaterLex.

21. The 2019 Report focusing on the theme 'Leaving No One Behind' was released on 19 March 2019 at the Human Rights Council in Geneva. The WWDR2019 marked the 10th edition in the series since 2003. The launch event featured Her Royal Highness Princess Sumaya, UNESCO Special Envoy for Science for Peace, who delivered a speech on behalf of UNESCO's Director-General. Mr Leo Heller, United Nations Special Rapporteur on the Human Rights to Water and Sanitation participated in the event as a panelist. On 22 March 2019, WWAP organized an information session for the Permanent Delegations and Observers to UNESCO headquarters. The introduction by Mr Firmin Edouard Matoko, Assistant Director-General for Priority Africa and External Relations (ADG/PAX), was followed by the speeches of the Permanent Representatives of Italy, Sudan and Bangladesh highlighting the importance of access to safe water and sanitation for national development plans, as well as for the overall 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Until June 2019, over 40 events focusing on the WWDR2019 took place in all regions. These complementary events (list of which can be found at <https://en.unesco.org/themes/water-security/wwap/wwdr/2019>) are organized by UNESCO and UN field offices, and country partners in collaboration with WWAP.

22. WWAP is promoting the multilingual approach of UNESCO through the WWDR. The executive summary of WWDR2019 was prepared in 11 languages (6 UN languages as well as Hindi, German, Italian, Korean and Portuguese). The Report itself was launched in parallel in English, French and Spanish editions. The Chinese edition will be produced by the China Water and Power Press. WWAP also produced Arabic translations of the WWDR2017 and WWDR2018, released in October 2018 during Cairo International Water Week and in March 2019, during the fifth Arab Water Week, Jordan, respectively.

23. In May 2019, WWAP initiated the preparations for the WWDR2021 Developmental Workshop 'Valuing Water' which is tentatively scheduled for 19-20 September 2019 at WWAP premises (Perugia, Italy).

24. WWAP launched the 2nd edition of the Toolkit on Sex-Disaggregated Water Data at the UNESCO International Water Conference in May 2019. The Toolkit aims at addressing the data gap on gender and water issues at global and national levels. WWAP has applied the

Toolkit and provided capacity support in Latin America, Africa and Central Asia as gender component of the Groundwater Resources Governance in Transboundary Aquifers (GGRETA) project implemented by the Water Division.

25. WWAP coordinated the UN-Water Task Force that produced the SDG 6 Synthesis Report, launched in 2018. A public dialogue on the Report was finalized in early 2019. In order to continue promoting the critical role of water for achieving the 2030 Agenda, WWAP, in collaboration with several partners including IHP regional hydrologists in Montevideo, Nairobi and Cairo Offices' and the UN-Water Expert Group on the 2030 Agenda, produced policy documents for Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean and the Arab Region on the role of water in achieving the SDGs 4, 8, 10, 13, 16 and 17, which went through review at the meeting of the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF) in July 2019.