

## DRAFT RESOLUTION XTR-IV-2

### UNESCO WWAP-led Call for Action: “Accelerating gender equality in the water domain: bridging the data gap and developing concrete actions”

The Intergovernmental Council of the Intergovernmental Hydrological Programme of UNESCO

- Bearing in mind** the UNESCO global priority of Gender Equality, in line with the UNESCO Gender Equality Action Plan (2014-2021),
- Highlighting** that the Sustainable Development Goal 5 (SDG 5) on Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment and the Sustainable Development Goal 6 (SDG 6) on Water and Sanitation for all have evident interlinkages, as no aspect or impact of the changing hydrological cycle is gender neutral,
- Recalling** that the Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development also pledges the need for high-quality, timely and reliable data disaggregated by gender (SDG 17, Target 18), as they are key to decision-making and in ensuring that no one is left behind,
- Reiterating** that the “Water and Gender Toolkit”, developed by the UNESCO World Water Assessment Programme (WWAP), consisting of a methodological framework and gender-responsive indicators, was endorsed in June 2018 by the 23<sup>rd</sup> Inter-Governmental Council of the UNESCO Intergovernmental Hydrological Programme – IHP (Resolution XXIII-2) with the request for financial and in-kind support to disseminate the Gender Toolkit among the Member States,
- Acknowledging** that UNESCO WWAP has developed in 2019 a second version of the ‘Water and Gender Toolkit’ based on the field tests done in four Member States, containing 105 gender-responsive indicators, to close the gender gap in national and regional water data, enable the creation of data-driven gender-responsive water policies, foster gender-transformative actions in water strategies, and monitor progress towards SDG 6 and SDG 5 and the interlinkages with the other SDGs,
- Recognizing** that the year 2020 marked the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, and that, despite numerous international gender- and water-related commitments, the world is still not on track with the global promises made,
- Recognizing further** that the limited gains made in the past decades are at risk because of the COVID-19 pandemic, and how urgent actions are now more crucial than ever,

**Taking note**

that UNESCO WWAP is leading a Multi-Stakeholder Coalition to assess the progress made so far towards gender equality in the multi-faceted water domain, through the interconnections between water, gender, and numerous relevant aspects (e.g. health, governance, knowledge resources, transboundary waters, agriculture, industry and enterprise, human rights-based water management, migration, displacement and climate change, indigenous and traditional knowledge and community water rights, and education and training), which identification, evaluation, and associated recommendations for concrete actions are put forward in the Call for Action: “Accelerating gender equality in the water domain: bridging the data gap and developing concrete actions”, launched in August 2021,

**Calls upon**

the interest, goodwill and support of the Member States to the critically urgent “Call for Action” promoted by UNESCO WWAP to accelerate gender equality and women’s empowerment (SDG 5) in the water domain (SDG 6), and to join the Multi-stakeholder Coalition to advocate the development and implementation of gender-inclusive strategies, and sustain concrete actions among which to ensure adequate gender-equal financing;

**Encourages**

the provision of financial and in-kind support to implement the necessary concrete activities to support this Call for Action, including the implementation of integrative water and gender analyses, capacity development programmes on water and gender and advancing the collection of sex-disaggregated water data in all regions; and to sustain WWAP’s advocacy process (e.g. communication campaign, establishment of a digital community to exchange best practices) and monitoring of actions and progress in light of the celebrations for the completion of the UN Water Decade in 2023).