

Draft Resolution XTR-IV-3

DRAFT RESOLUTION ON THE PREPARATION FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE “UNESCO ECOMED¹ Academy Network”

The Intergovernmental Council of the Intergovernmental Hydrological Programme (IHP) of UNESCO

- Noting** that the MENA (Mediterranean and North Africa) region is facing, as many other regions, to the consequences of climate change, water stress and sustainability of the ecosystem of the Mediterranean coast
- Further noting** that these phenomena along with the massive population displacements cause Governments at all levels in this region to face an increasing scarcity of water resources, lack of sufficient treatment infrastructure for wastewater discharged into the sea as well as adequate urban drainage systems
- Recalling** the UN General Assembly resolution declaring access to clean water and sanitation a human right in July 2010 and the COP21 ‘Paris Declaration’ in December 2015, calling for a Mediterranean Dialogue on climate change adaptation strategies facing severe impacts on fast depleting water resources, environmental hazards and growing public health risks
- Further recalling** The UfM strategy recommendations for the implementation of prioritized programs for establishing minimum quality requirements for wastewater treatment effluents and securing adequate treatment of wastewaters to avoid downstream pollution and the provisions of the Barcelona Convention whereby all agglomerations have to ensure treatment of their urban wastewaters before discharging to the environment
- Considering** that the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development includes a dedicated goal on water and sanitation (SDG 6) that aims to “ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all” and that UNESCO has been designated to co-lead along with UNDESA the Capacity development Accelerator of the UN SDG 6 Global Acceleration Framework and that UNESCO is the only UN Organization with Intergovernmental bodies on water and ocean sciences
- Also considering** the objectives of the IHP-IX and its five priority areas as they were approved by the IHP Council at its 24th session, as well as the draft 41 C4 and C5 and its water related output
- Recognising** the need for an international platform to facilitate knowledge exchange by sharing best practices and inspire research projects on innovative solutions in the countries concerned as well as education, societal awareness and professional training programs of future managers and engineers of urban services facing the climatic challenges of sustainable development of the region
- Decides** the establishment of the “ECOMED (Environmental Coastal Cooperation for Metropolitan Eco-sustainable Development)” Academy as a Network

¹ Environmental Coastal co-Operation for Metropolitan Eco-sustainable Development

of capacity building support centers, with coastal ecosystem monitoring, sharing knowledge to support local research, education, and professional development programs of the countries concerned facing the ever-growing climate impacts and able to support and adapt the program of each Members to the local conditions and needs, with a secretariat based at W-SMART, an International NGO with an Associate Status with UNESCO

Requests the network to prepare their strategic and implementation frameworks in coordination and consultation with the Working Group on Flagship Initiatives and presented them for approval to the 25th session of the IHP Council

Further requests the IHP Secretariat to pursue cooperation with UfM, UNEP MED POL and MAP and other UN agencies, especially UN ESCWA, to facilitate the feasibility and implementation plan of the network.

Encourages Member States to actively participate in this initiative.