

International Hydrological Programme

23rd session of the Intergovernmental Council
(Paris, 11-15 June 2018)

UNESCO'S WATER FAMILY

Items 8.3 and 8.4 of the provisional agenda

Summary

This document briefly describes the proposal from the Government of Uruguay for the establishment of a category 2 centre under the auspices of UNESCO, already endorsed by the IHP Bureau, for consideration by the Intergovernmental Council of IHP.

The Council may wish to discuss and endorse the proposal described in this document, taking into account the requirements set forth in the revised comprehensive strategy for category 2 institutes and centres under the auspices of UNESCO (document [37 C/18 Part 1](#) and Annexes), which was adopted by the 37th session of the General Conference ([37 C/Resolution 93](#)). The endorsed centre will be submitted to the review and approval of UNESCO's governing bodies.

The document also provides succinct information on WWAP's Gender and Water Toolkit.

Actions expected by the IHP Council:

The Council may wish to consider adopting

- the draft resolution shown in Annex I for the proposed centre;
- the draft resolution presented in document [IHP/Bur-LVI/Ref.3](#) and encourage the wide application of the WWAP Toolkit on Sex-Disaggregated Water Data.

BACKGROUND

1. At its 37th session the General Conference of UNESCO adopted [37 C/Resolution 93](#), which approved a revised strategy ([37 C/18 Part 1](#) and Attachments) for category 2 institutes and centres. This strategy (IHP website reference document <http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0022/002217/221715e.pdf>) stipulates that “where a UNESCO intergovernmental or subsidiary body exists, such body shall be invited to review the proposal, as appropriate, in order to determine if it fits within the relevant framework and sectoral strategy and provide a recommendation to the Director-General as to whether a feasibility study should be conducted” (Attachment 1, article ii.c).

2. In doing so, the Council may also take note of article B.2 of the revised strategy, which states that “each category 2 entity shall contribute to the achievement of UNESCO’s strategic programme objectives and global priorities of the Organization, as well as sectoral or intersectoral programme priorities and themes, defined in the C/5 document”. This applies to the proposed water-related centres in terms of their envisaged contribution to the implementation of IHP-VIII themes and focal areas. The Council should also give consideration to the guidelines for the establishment of category 2 centres set forth in the strategy, including that “the designation as a category 2 institute and centre may be granted to an existing entity or to an institution in the process of being created” (article A.1.3).

3. Based on these considerations, the Council would decide whether: (1) it endorses the proposal for each centre and recommends that a detailed proposal incorporating its own comments, if any, and a feasibility study be submitted to the governing organs of UNESCO for the approval of the establishment of the proposed Category 2 Centre; or (2) it deems the proposal lacking in form or substance, and thus the proposal should not be processed further.

4. The new centre proposed to be established or designated as Category 2 Centre under the auspices of UNESCO was endorsed by the IHP Bureau for consideration by the Council. The full proposal is consultable in the reference document IHP/IC-XXIII/Ref. 8.

PROPOSAL FOR CONSIDERATION BY THE IHP COUNCIL

Proposed Regional Experimental Center for Sanitation Technologies (CERTS) in Uruguay

5. On 12 April 2018, the Government of Uruguay through its Permanent Delegation to UNESCO submitted a proposal to the Director-General and the Secretary of IHP for the establishment of a “Regional Experimental Centre for Sanitation Technologies” (CERTS) as a category 2 centre under the auspices of UNESCO.

6. The Centre will work throughout the development of projects in three strategic areas related to water and sanitation: i) research and knowledge; ii) technology transfer, training capacities and human resources and iii) coordination of inter-institutional capacities.

7. On 4 May 2018, the Secretariat organized a special consultation of the Bureau by correspondence, to decide whether the proposal could be presented at the 23rd IHP Council. The majority of the members of the IHP Bureau agreed to present it to the consideration of the Council.

Actions expected by the Council:

The Council may wish to decide to endorse the proposal from the Government of Uruguay for submission to UNESCO's governing bodies, and it may wish to adopt the Draft Resolution on the proposed Category 2 Centre, presented in Annex I.

World Water Assessment Programme (WWAP) Gender and Water Toolkit

8. Developing gender sensitive water policies is crucial in view of the global commitments to gender equality enshrined in the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development. In line with the UNESCO gender strategy, WWAP developed the Gender and Water Toolkit to facilitate sex-disaggregated data collection for national, regional and global scale monitoring related to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG). The toolkit features a number of priority gender-sensitive indicators with particular reference to SDG 5 (gender) and SDG 6 (water and sanitation), which are interlinked with all the other SDGs. Guidelines for data gathering and questionnaires for field surveys are a part of the Toolkit.

9. The validity of the Toolkit has been recognized, among others, by the African Ministers' Council on Water (AMCOW, 2014), the 60th Commission on the Status of Women (CSW60, 2016), the Global Environment Facility's (GEF) International Waters Learning Exchange and Resource Network (IW:LEARN) (2015). The Toolkit was included in the Gender Guidelines of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC, 2016).

10. The Toolkit is being field tested in Africa, Latin America and Central Asia within Groundwater Resources Governance in Transboundary Aquifers (GGRETA) project led by IHP. To increase the outreach of the Toolkit, WWAP, also conducts webinars as a part of GEF-funded IW:LEARN project. Four of these webinars took place in 2017, the series will continue until 2019. A face-to-face workshop was organized for the 8th GEF International Waters Conference in 2016 and another is planned for its 9th session in 2018. WWAP delivered an ad hoc training for the Latin America and Caribbean countries in 2017 as part of the regional component of the IW:LEARN project.

11. Cooperation with IHP and its Member States on the Toolkit would strengthen the development of a gender-sensitive water data baseline, inform policy and decision-making processes in water sector with gender considerations, and foster actions for women's empowerment and gender equality in water resources management through evidence-based data.

12. At its 55th session, the IHP Bureau proposed the Toolkit for endorsement at the 23rd IHP Council. It considered the text of a draft resolution for this purpose at its 56th session.

Actions expected by the Council:

The council may wish to consider adopting the draft resolution presented in document [IHP/Bur-LVI/Ref.3](#) and encourage the wide application of the WWAP Toolkit on Sex-Disaggregated Water Data.

ANNEX I

Draft Resolution

PROPOSAL FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A WATER-RELATED CENTRE UNDER THE AUSPICES OF UNESCO (CATEGORY 2)

The Intergovernmental Council of the International Hydrological Programme of UNESCO,

- Noting** the critical importance of freshwater issues at the global, regional and national levels for sustainable development in face of mounting global changes;
- Considering** UNESCO's fundamental role in enhancing water security as defined by the strategic plan for IHP-VIII through: (1) mobilizing international cooperation to improve knowledge and innovation to address water security challenges; (2) strengthening the science-policy interface to reach water security at local, national, regional, and global levels, and (3) developing institutional and human capacities for water security and sustainability;
- Acknowledging** the role of the network of category 2 water-related centres and institutes in providing IHP with an increasing capability to implement its strategic priorities;
- Noting with appreciation** the willingness of the Government of Uruguay to undertake the establishment of a category 2 water-related centre significantly enhancing thematically the existing network of centres;
- Recognizing** the valuable services that the centre will render to Member States and stakeholders throughout the globe and the valuable contributions that they will provide to the implementation of IHP in particular on water and sanitation;
- Noting** the endorsement of the related proposal by the IHP Bureau;
- After due consideration of the proposal, endorses** the proposal for the establishment of the Regional Experimental Center for Sanitation Technologies (CERTS) in Uruguay, as category 2 centres under the auspices of UNESCO;
- Requests** the assistance of the Secretariat to prepare the necessary documentation to be submitted to the governing bodies of UNESCO towards the creation of the centre in conformity with the IHP strategy for UNESCO category 2 water-related centres and the Integrated Comprehensive Strategy for Category 2 Institutes and Centres (document 37 C/18 Part I and Annexes), as approved by the 37th session of the General Conference (37 C/Resolution 93);
- Invites** the IHP National Committee of the concerned country to support the

establishment and functioning of the centre;

Also Invites

Member States, the IHP National Committees and other partners, in particular the existing UNESCO Water Family, at the regional and international levels, to actively support the proposed centre and ensure cooperation and collaboration in their common endeavours for the benefit of all.