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# **FINAL REPORT**

UNESCO, Paris 2021

IHP/IC-XXIV/6

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## **1. OPENING OF THE SESSION**

1. The 24<sup>th</sup> Session of the Intergovernmental Council of the Intergovernmental Hydrological Programme (IHP) of UNESCO took place online from 28 to 30 September 2021. The meeting was attended by 125 participants, from 33 UNESCO Member States members of IHP Intergovernmental Council and from 32 observer countries. Representatives of 12 UNESCO category 2 water-related Centres, two (2) UNESCO Water Chairs, one (1) UN organization and one (1) non-governmental organization attended the meeting as observers. The list of participants is provided in Annex 2 to the report (separate document).

### **1.1 Address by the Director-General of UNESCO or her representative**

2. Ms Shamila Nair-Bedouelle, Assistant Director-General for Natural Sciences (ADG/SC) welcomed the delegates on behalf of Ms Audrey Azoulay the Director-General of UNESCO. ADG/SC recalled the Director-General's emphasis on the critical role of water, and her active involvement in enhancing the visibility of the Programme, more recently expressed through UNESCO's contribution to the United Nations (UN) Sustainable Development Goal 6 (SDG 6) Global Acceleration Framework: coordinating, with the UN Department for Economic and Social Affairs (UN-DESA), the Framework's capacity development component. ADG/SC highlighted the innovative nature of the 9th phase of IHP (IHP-IX) that the Council session is expected to approve, emphasizing its integrated aspect and results-based approach, the involvement of youth in its development, linkages with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and other water related international agendas and integration into the UNESCO Medium-term Strategy (41 C/4) for the following eight years. She informed the Council that UNESCO is leading the authorship on most chapters of the World Water Development Report 2022 (WWDR) on groundwater, as well as on the World Water Day 2022 campaign, and has been requested by UN-Water to organize a Groundwater Summit in 2022. She apprised the Council on the continuous work on the development of an indicator on water education and stressed that the IHP is key to international scientific cooperation and is closely connected to the UNESCO Recommendation on Open Science.

### **1.2 Address by the IHP's Intergovernmental Council's Chairperson, Mr Fadi Comair**

3. Mr Fadi Comair, Chairperson of the IHP Council welcomed the participants to the Council session. He thanked the Secretariat and all Member States for supporting the preparation of the IHP-IX Strategic Plan, despite the challenges faced. He welcomed the recommendations of the Mid-term evaluation of the 8th phase of IHP (IHP-VIII) as invaluable input into the preparation of the IHP-IX Strategic Plan. He urged the Member States to take on board these recommendations and stressed the role of IHP flagship initiatives in the implementation of IHP-IX. He highlighted that IHP-IX would be the start of a new eight-year journey that requires a stronger involvement, not only of the IHP National Committees, which, as the foundation of the Programme, need to be strengthened, but also of the entire UNESCO Water Family. He thanked the work of the Open-ended Working Groups (OEWG) on the revised Statutes and the one on the Revised Rules of Procedure of the IHP Intergovernmental Council and the one on the finalization of the preparation of the IHP-IX Strategic Plan. He proposed an extraordinary session of the IHP Council to be held in September 2021 to deal with any agenda items that could possibly not be addressed by this Council session, in particular the Programme implementation.

## **2. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND DETERMINATION OF THE COUNCIL'S METHOD OF WORK**

4. The Secretariat informed the Council of the reduced agenda for the 24<sup>th</sup> Session, due to limited time imposed by the online modality, proposing that the elections of various IHP Council committees as well as any agenda items pending at the end of the session could be addressed by an Extraordinary session of the IHP Council to be organized later in 2021.

5. The Council adopted the agenda, with no amendments. Considering the time constraints and the need to hold the 59th Session of the IHP Bureau immediately after the Council meeting, the Council agreed to the IHP Secretary's proposal to prioritize Agenda items requiring Council decisions: Items, 4, 6, 5 and 7; and that any agenda item not addressed would be included in an Extraordinary Session planned for 29 September to 1 October 2021 (following the 60th Session of the IHP Bureau, 27-28 September 2021).

### 3. PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION

#### 3.1 Strategic Plan of the 9th Phase of IHP (IHP-IX, 2022-2029)

6. The Secretary of the IHP, Mr Abou Amani, briefly outlined the process for the preparation of the IHP-IX Strategic Plan, highlighting its participatory approach. He noted that further to the numerous meetings of the Task Force (TF) and Experts of Member States (EoMS) in preparing the draft, two extraordinary sessions of the IHP Council and three meetings of the OEWS on IHP-IX had taken place to enable the finalization of the document.

7. Mr Mitja Brilly (Slovenia), Chairperson, and Mr Amr Morsy (Egypt), Rapporteur of the OEWS on IHP-IX presented the outcomes of the Group's work, recalling the relevant decision of the 3rd Extraordinary Session of the IHP Council that took place 22-24 February 2021. Noting that the Working Group met three times in April and June 2021, the Rapporteur summarized the discussions and conclusions on the issues on which diverging views were observed and then convergence was reached namely: "inclusive" versus "integrated" water resources management; reference to UN water conventions; the role of citizen science; transboundary water management; data for all and open access to data; IHP's role in water governance; nature-based solutions and ecohydrology; and the title of the priority area on water education. Mr Morsy also emphasized the important role of Member States and UNESCO water-related Chairs and Centres in the implementation of IHP-IX, recalling the Working Group's recommendation that the operational and financial plan of IHP-IX should be prepared in close collaboration with Member States.

8. Following the report of the OEWS Rapporteur, the Council discussed the draft resolution on preparation of IHP-IX (XXIV-1). The representative of Turkey suggested highlighting in the resolution the role of Member States in the preparation of the operational and financial plan of IHP-IX. This was supported by the representative of the United Kingdom. The Council unanimously adopted the resolution, as amended, and thereby endorsed the Strategic Plan of the Ninth Phase of the Intergovernmental Hydrological Programme (IHP-IX, 2022-2029).

9. After the adoption of the resolution, Member States, including Japan, Republic of Korea, China, Austria, Spain, Russia, Ivory Coast, Zambia and Senegal, took the floor and expressed their satisfaction with the document, their willingness to support its implementation and underlined the consensus reached on the above-mentioned issues in the IHP-IX Strategic Plan. The representative of Egypt emphasized the active involvement of Member States throughout the process of the preparation of the IHP-IX Strategic Plan, which was echoed by many countries. The representative of Spain pointed out the holistic nature of IHP-IX, which incorporates domains outside the water sciences such as climate change, society and the environment. The representative of Zambia, Vice-Chairperson for Africa, expressed satisfaction that capacity development was included as a priority in IHP-IX, and that the needs of Africa were well reflected. The representative of Senegal invited all participants to the World Water Forum to be held in Dakar in March 2022.

10. ADG/SC congratulated the Council on the adoption of the IHP-IX Strategic Plan, thanking the Member States and IHP National Committees for their efforts and involvement. She also pointed out that the IHP-IX Strategic Plan is interlinked with the UNESCO's 41 C/5 Programme and Budget 2022-2025.

11. The Secretary of IHP thanked the Member States and all those involved in the preparation of the IHP-IX Strategic Plan. He noted that the preparation of the operational and financial plan of IHP-IX will start with a call for interest to IHP National Committees and UNESCO water-related Centres and Chairs, highlighting that Member States' contributions would be necessary for the funding of the implementation of IHP-IX.

#### 3.2 Mid-term evaluation of IHP-VIII, update on recommendations' Management Response

12. The IHP Secretary introduced the agenda item, explaining that the IHP-VIII Mid-term evaluation had served as a basis for the development of the IHP-IX Strategic Plan. Being a corporate

evaluation, it was presented both at the 58th Session of the IHP Bureau and at the 207th Session of the Executive Board, as is customary at UNESCO for such evaluations. He summarized the main findings of the evaluation, highlighting the responsibility of Member States in the delivery of the programme, and the key role of the IHP National Committees. Furthermore, he underscored the significance of adequate financial contribution from Member States and, before closing, recalled the importance for Member States to consider science as a basis for supporting water management and governance decisions.

13. The Draft Resolution on the Mid-term evaluation of IHP-VIII was then presented to the Council members. The Delegate of the United Kingdom proposed an amendment aimed at ensuring the IHP Secretariat continues to monitor the process as well as the involvement of Member States. The Delegate of Japan expressed their full support for the resolution and in reflecting on the reformulation of IHP-IX, also highlighted the importance of evaluating the achievements of IHP-VIII. He presented Japan's experience with the Catalogue of Hydrological Resources in the Asia and Pacific region, an experience that was commended by the Secretary and the Chairperson of the IHP.

14. The Resolution XXIV-2 was approved by the Council with the modification proposed by the Delegate of the United Kingdom.

### **3.3 Guidelines for the review of IHP programmes and Major Initiatives**

15. The consultant charged with the evaluation delivered a presentation on the findings and results of the evaluation of the IHP priority programmes/Flagship Initiatives [term used in what follows, for consistency], conducted by Hydroconseil in 2018. She explained that the objectives had been to evaluate the performance (activities, outputs and outcomes) of the IHP Flagship Initiatives (FI) during the period 2015-2018 and to make recommendations for the future; the methodology employed had consisted of a score card to rate the initiatives, an evaluation matrix was used. The following criteria were used to evaluate each FI: relevance, perceived added value, visibility, governance and management, and resources. The evaluation found that all FI were closely related to the IHP-VIII themes, but their success varied in terms of governance, management, perception of added value, clear institutional framework and the existence of active partners.

16. The general recommendations of the evaluation emphasized, among others: the need for measurable objectives and targets; the need for a guaranteed budget and funding commitments; and the need to ensure increased visibility for the initiatives.

17. Based on the recommendations of the evaluation, the presentation concluded by introducing a proposal for "Guidelines for developing a clear framework for priority initiatives", which included: ensuring that priority initiatives add value to other IHP activities and initiatives and, in relation to other stakeholders' activities, that they are of the interest and commitment of Member States, based on identified knowledge gaps and needs, and aligned with IHP and UNESCO priorities; building and retaining a network of partners; development of a strategic and implementation framework that includes general and specific objectives, development of related activities and a timetable for their implementation, monitoring indicators and time-bound targets as well as shared responsibility for implementation; ensuring financial capacity by estimating the required budget and identifying funding sources; ensuring maximum visibility based on a strategy; and monitoring progress, both against the indicators and via regular reporting.

18. Mr Harry Dixon (United Kingdom), the Chairperson of the experts working group established to examine the Secretariat's proposal for the way forward for the FI, informed the Council that following an analysis of the evaluation, the Working Group had produced two sets of findings: general findings and those more specifically related to the FI.

19. Among the general findings, he listed the need to create a clear framework for the establishment and evaluation of new and existing FI, similar to that of Category 2 Centres. He further suggested that the Working Group should transform the guidelines prepared by the Secretariat into a framework, to be presented at the 25th Session of the IHP Council in 2022. Specific findings

included an evaluation of the Initiatives, listing their strengths and weaknesses, indicating that for some, a restructuring or discontinuation could be foreseen. Mr Dixon further mentioned the importance of assessing how the initiatives would contribute to the implementation of IHP-IX before any decision would be taken about their possible discontinuation.

20. Resolution XXIV-3 on all IHP Flagship Programmes and Initiatives was adopted without modification.

#### **4. INSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENTS AT UNESCO**

##### **4.1. Report on the revision of the Statutes of the IHP Intergovernmental Council and of the Rules of Procedure**

21. The Chairperson gave the floor to the Rapporteur of the ad hoc Open-ended Working Group, Mr Amr Morsy (Delegate of Egypt) to present the proposed revisions of the Rules of Procedure for the analysis and approval of the Council. Mr Morsy clarified the context and the rationale behind the process, as well as the linkages to the revised Statutes of the IHP Council, adopted by the 40th session of the General Conference in 2019.

22. The Rapporteur indicated that the corresponding document, the Provisional Draft of the Rules of Procedure (RoP), harmonized the RoP with the revised Statutes of the IHP Council. He summarized the proposed changes, which included, among others: change of name to Intergovernmental Hydrological Programme; timelines for receiving documents for Council sessions; addressing extraordinary meetings; as well as gender equality, language; and the introduction of the UNESCO Water Family as a concept. The Rapporteur concluded by indicating that a draft Resolution had also been proposed to the Council.

23. The Resolution XXIV-4 on the Revised Rules of Procedure of the IHP Council was adopted without any amendments. Document [IHP-IC-XXIV Ref.2 final](#) reflects the RoP as adopted.

##### **4.2 Terms of Reference/guidelines for IHP National Committees**

24. The IHP Secretary introduced the agenda item, emphasizing the relevance of IHP National Committees in the successful implementation of IHP-IX. He invited comments from Member States on the proposed terms of reference/guidance for IHP National Committees.

25. The Vice-Chairperson of Regional Group Va (Zambia), agreeing with the importance of IHP National Committees, described his efforts to establish a National Committee in Zambia before the end of 2021 and to subsequently strengthen Zambia's participation in the regional activities of the IHP. The Delegate of the Republic of Korea expressed appreciation for the IHP Secretariat's efforts in reviewing the Rules of Procedure (RoP) of the Council and welcomed the proposed revised RoP. He further expressed support for the proposed Terms of Reference (ToR) and guidelines for IHP National Committees. He also informed Council members that from 2022, the Korea Water Forum would function as Secretariat of the Korean IHP National Committee.

26. The Delegate of France described the French IHP National Committee's involvement with IHP over several years. She indicated that currently, there is significant collaboration with Ministries and the French Water Partnership (FWP). Recent activities include the organization of congresses and conferences. The Delegate agreed with the proposed draft ToR, highlighting that they enable flexibility to take into consideration the different circumstances of Member States.

27. The Delegate of the Russian Federation stated that the Russian IHP National Committee was re-elected in 2020 through a government directive. He hoped the ToR and guidelines would bolster the position of IHP at national level and proposed an amendment to the paragraph on the ToR relating to the nomination of the chairperson of the National Committee.

28. The IHP Vice-Chairperson of Regional Group IV emphasized that the guidelines must be flexible. He highlighted that IHP National Committees in the Asia-Pacific region have been successfully working together on water-related forums and events. The Vice-Chairperson further stated that countries should establish National Committees that include stakeholders from the water sector and the government and agreed that the network could be a platform to improve collaboration on IHP-IX and the sharing of experiences.

29. The IHP Secretary clarified that there is no intention to impose the guidelines on Member States, but that they should be viewed as a guiding framework to be adapted by Member States. He suggested that institutional arrangements for IHP National Committees must be established to recognize and legitimize the Committees, enabling them to ensure funding for their operation. He suggested that there be a political authority in the IHP National Committee to enable its intergovernmental operation while maintaining its scientific character.

30. The Delegate of Lebanon stated that their National Committee worked to ensure its national water strategy aligned with IHP-IX, agreeing that the National Committee network existed as an important platform to share country experiences. The Delegate of China supported the idea of flexible guidelines and agreed that all countries should establish National Committees, which should include members from various sectors as well as the government. The Delegate of Senegal informed that they benefitted from the past presidency of the Bureau and this was an opportunity to revitalize their National Committee. The Delegate of Côte d'Ivoire stated that the country desired to establish a National Committee with representatives from all water-related sectors, academia and ministerial representatives, considered indispensable for implementing IHP-IX. He requested further information and support in establishing the IHP National Committee. The Delegate of Libya stressed the importance of linking National Committees with relevant Ministries.

31. The IHP Secretary confirmed that National Committees should include all stakeholders including scientists and all relevant government Ministries. He stated that the Secretariat is conducting efforts to establish a baseline and assess the current status and capacity of IHP National Committees, which will guide the development of a strategy for the strengthening of their capacity.

32. After a rich exchange, in which participated, among others, the Delegates from Algeria, Chile, China, Côte d'Ivoire, Egypt, Germany, Japan, Lebanon, Libya, Madagascar, Mexico, Morocco, Nigeria, Pakistan, Russian Federation, Senegal, Slovenia, Sudan, Uganda and Zambia, the Council agreed to adopt a text which would provide the necessary flexibility to Member States to nominate the chairperson of their IHP National Committee according to their local/national specific structures. Three points were emphasized: (i) the text is not binding, as it should be considered as a guideline framework; (ii) Member States should establish an appropriate link between science and policy to fulfil the goals clearly established by the IHP; (iii) the IHP National Committee chairperson should have the capacity to orient discussions regarding water-related issues and contribute to capacity building, ensuring that the IHP National Committee is operational.

33. Subsequently, the Chairperson declared the adoption of the amended text reflecting the agreed modifications. Document [IHP-IC-XXIV-Ref.2 final](#) reflects the ToR/Guidelines as modified and adopted. The Resolution XXIV-5 was adopted as presented.

## **5. REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE RESOLUTIONS AND DECISIONS ADOPTED AT THE 23<sup>RD</sup> SESSION OF THE IHP INTERGOVERNMENTAL COUNCIL**

34. Invited by the Chairperson, the IHP Secretary reported on the implementation of the Resolutions adopted by the 23rd Session of the IHP Council. There were no comments regarding the actions taken with reference to Resolutions XXIII-1 (revision of statutes), XXIII-2 (WWAP toolkit and gender sensitive indicators), XXIII-3 (World's Large Rivers Initiative), XXIII-4 (water-related Category 2 Centre in Uruguay), Resolution XXIII-11 (decisions and draft resolutions) and Resolution XXIII-13 (Year of Snow and Ice). Resolution XXIII-6 (preparation of IHP-IX), Resolution XXIII-7 (evaluation of IHP VIII) and Resolution XXIII-12 (Flagship Initiatives) were addressed in earlier

sessions of the meeting. Mr Amani, explained that Member States would be contacted to share the appropriate information on water-related diploma degrees and graduate numbers at the tertiary level according to Resolution XXIII-8 (indicator on water education), and that due to travel restrictions related to COVID-19, the next Science Policy Interface Colloquium on Water (SPIC Water) is envisaged to take place during the 25th session of the IGC of IHP (Resolution XXIII-9 on IHP's visibility).

35. Activities related to the follow-up of Resolution XXIII-10 (Land Subsidence International Initiative) were presented by Members of the Network.

36. To present the action taken regarding Resolution XXIII-5 on the Global Network of Water Museums (WAMU-NET), the Chairperson invited Mr Eddie Moors and Mr Eriberto Eulisse, President and Executive Director of WAMU-NET respectively, to present the second phase for the Network, which also included a call for support to the UNESCO Member States.

37. The Netherlands, with the initial support of Portugal, Italy and Greece, presented a draft Resolution involving four main actions for the continued support of IHP to WAMU-NET. The Delegate stressed that the Network remained active despite COVID-19 restrictions, and had even put on a successful water exhibition. Italy declared its full support to the global network of water museums, reiterating the challenges that had been overcome related to the pandemic, and the importance of preserving water museums, as formulated in the resolution.

38. Mexico, Spain and Zambia also expressed their support to the Global Network of Water Museums, with the latter offering to provide related material (e.g. for the envisaged exhibition) to the World Water Forum in 2022. Slovenia, China, Austria, Sudan, Madagascar, Portugal, Lebanon, Republic of Korea, Russia, Iraq, Senegal, Belgium, Uganda, Morocco and Indonesia also expressed support for the decision. They committed to cooperate, highlighting the need for awareness raising and the transfer of scientific knowledge (Austria), the need to make use of past experiences and the relevance of the Cairo Water Museum (Sudan). The Delegates stressed the link with youth and climate change (Portugal), the fact of having already implemented steps for water education (Lebanon), integrating the different cultural, historical and regional perspectives (China), and highlighting the full support of their National Committee (Republic of Korea).

39. The Netherlands expressed its thanks to the Delegations for their support.

40. The IHP Secretary introduced the Draft Resolution XXIV-7 which was subsequently adopted without any amendment.

## **6. IHP AND THE INTERNATIONAL WATER AGENDA INCLUDING ACTIONS IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE 2030 AGENDA FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND OTHER RELATED INTERNATIONAL AGENDAS**

41. The IHP Secretary presented the corresponding document and mentioned a number of processes at international level as well as upcoming events in which IHP is already involved: the International Decade (2018-2028) for Action – Water for Sustainable Development; the Mid-term Comprehensive Review of the Decade combined with the second UN Water Conference in 2023, with a variety of events with messages around SDG 6 achievements and beyond, prepared by Member States; Water Dialogues for Results - Bonn 2021 - UNESCO with Germany and the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) co-organized the "Latin America and the Caribbean Regional Water Dialogue", the results of which will be presented during the Bonn International Water Conference on 1 July 2021 during the "Capacity Development" segment, an event facilitated by the ADG/SC; and finally, the World Water Forum in Dakar, in March 2022, the biggest water event worldwide, with significant involvement from IHP and WWAP.

42. The IHP Secretary recalled a resolution by the Council to support the Government of Senegal in its preparations for the World Water Forum. With this in mind, he informed the session that

Memoranda of Understanding had been signed with Senegal, the African Ministers' Council on Water (AMCOW), and with the World Water Council. He also informed the session that as a consequence, UNESCO is part of the international steering committee of the Forum. The IHP Secretary also mentioned that the World Water Development Report 2022, sub-titled, "Groundwater: Making the invisible visible", would be launched, as is customary, at the Forum.

43. Furthermore, Mr Amani mentioned other high-level conferences being organized either by UNESCO or with the support and active involvement of the Organization. These include the second UN Water Conference in 2023, co-led, inter alia, by Tajikistan and The Netherlands to advance implementation of the 2030 Agenda; the Asia Water Summit, with the Government of Japan leading the preparation and the UNESCO Jakarta Office in a supporting role; the UN Ocean Conference within the context of the Ocean Decade, where water symposia will be organized; the Groundwater Summit in 2022, an UN-Water event with UNESCO as co-organizer; the Conference on Internationally Shared Aquifer Resources Management in December 2021 (ISARM2021), and the 2nd International Conference on Water, Megacities and Global Change.

44. The IHP Secretary informed the session of UNESCO's involvement in the SDG 6 Global Acceleration Framework which aims to assist Member States in accelerating their implementation of the five priority areas of SDG 6. He emphasized that, given the comparative advantage of the Organisation through its Water Family as well as its global mandate in Education, UNESCO, together with UN DESA, had been entrusted to co-ordinate the Capacity Development accelerator. He concluded his intervention by seeking guidance from Member States regarding the second UN Water Conference in 2023, which represents the greatest opportunity since the Conference in Mar del Plata, Argentina in 1977, for IHP to position itself and convey concrete messages.

45. The Delegate of Spain stressed the overall relevance of SDG 6 and its cooperation with UNESCO, notably the Conference of Ibero-American Water Directors, which exemplified its support of the processes related to indicator 6.5.2. He reiterated Spain's commitment to supporting the ongoing processes regarding events on groundwater in 2022 and 2023, and to continue working closely with UNESCO to enhance capacity and achieve SDG 6.

46. The Delegate of Libya requested further clarification regarding the involvement of countries in SDG 6 processes, given that several reporting mechanisms already exist.

47. The IHP Secretary informed the Council that, with the assistance of focal points in each country, UN-Water is leading the monitoring process for the achievement of SDG 6 through the Integrated Monitoring Initiative (IMI-SDG6). With UNECE, UNESCO is the co-custodian of indicator 6.5.2 and, based on a former Resolution by the Council, is developing an indicator on water education. He explained that a methodological approach had been developed and that guidelines for the proposed indicator were currently in preparation.

48. Resolution XXIV-5 on rendering support for the achievement of SDG 6 and 2030 Agenda, and contributing to the Mid-term Review of the Water Action Decade and the UN Water Conference 2023 was adopted without modification.

## **7. OTHER MATTERS**

49. The Delegate of Germany presented a draft resolution on the establishment of an International Glossary of Water (IGW), which aims to present an agreed-upon list of existing definitions in hydrology and water-related issues in general. While UNESCO should act as 'custodian' of this endeavour, the work should be carried out in coordination with UN-Water. Two challenges were identified, notably translation of the glossary into different languages and the importance of certain key words.

50. The Delegate of Spain suggested the glossary should be expanded beyond hydrology to cover a wider range of water-related issues of a technical nature. He further highlighted the current challenges posed by the existence of multiple definitions, giving the example of those contained in the EU Water Framework Directive, which may not be aligned with definitions in other parts of the world.

51. The Delegate of Slovenia highlighted the need for a glossary to facilitate understanding, as was clearly evident during the preparation of IHP-IX. The Delegate of Austria supported the IGW, recognizing that while challenges prevail, these could be overcome. The Delegate of Zambia stressed the role of IHP in ensuring the existence of a common language and expressed its full support to the resolution.

52. The Delegates of Libya and the Russian Federation agreed it was necessary to update the glossary and supported the proposal. The Delegate of Chile highlighted an existing initiative in the LAC region and suggested drawing links between the two. The Delegate of Lebanon expressed its support, adding that the Arab Water Council is also working on a glossary. The Delegate of China highlighted that there might be language issues. The Delegate of Sudan mentioned a previous version elaborated in around 1998 with WMO. The Delegate of Egypt also supported the endeavour, highlighting the need for an inclusive process and regular updates to the glossary once established.

53. The draft Resolution was edited in line with the discussions and adopted as Resolution XXIV-7. It was co-sponsored by Austria, Bulgaria, Chile, China, Croatia, Czechia, Egypt, Hungary, Lebanon, Libya, Romania, Russian Federation, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Sudan and Zambia, as well as Iraq, Kenya, Senegal and Uganda.

54. The IHP Secretary then proposed holding the 60th Session of the Bureau from 27 to 28 September 2021, followed by an Extraordinary Session of the Council, from 29 September to 1 October 2021, in order to examine elements of the Programme Implementation that were not addressed in the current ordinary session due to time constraints. The Council approved the proposal and the dates were adopted.

## **8. CLOSURE OF THE SESSION**

55. The ADG/SC thanked and congratulated everyone for the excellent work of the Council, particularly for the approval of the IHP-IX Strategic Plan, which she praised for its trans-disciplinary nature. She also expressed appreciation for the intergovernmental process used in its development. ADG/SC stressed the importance of working groups in the process required for developing, implementing and monitoring both the implementation plan and the financial plans, and assured the meeting of the continued support of the Secretariat. She highlighted the need to work in cooperation with Category 2 Centres and IHP National Committees, in particular with regard to the participation of IHP in the International Decade for Action on Water for Sustainable Development and the SDG 6 Global Acceleration Framework, especially the capacity development component, as well as in raising awareness on the importance of groundwater in general.

56. The Chairperson of the IHP Council agreed and further stressed the importance of the implementation plan and financial mechanisms for IHP-IX. He commended everyone for their hard work in reaching a conclusion on the process.

57. The IHP Secretary expressed his appreciation for all the consultations, which had allowed for the Strategic Plan to be developed, joining ADG/SC and the Chairperson in highlighting the relevance of developing operational and financial tools, as well as in thanking the Task Force Members and the Experts of Member States.

58. The Chairperson declared the session closed and invited interested Member States to attend the subsequent Bureau meeting.

## **ANNEX I: AGENDA**

### **Intergovernmental Hydrological Programme** 24<sup>th</sup> session of the IHP Intergovernmental Council (Paris, 28-30 June 2021)

#### **1. Opening of the session**

- 1.1. Address by the Director-General of UNESCO or her representative
- 1.2. Address by the IHP's Intergovernmental Council's Chairperson, Mr Fadi Comair

#### **2. Adoption of the agenda and determination of the Council's method of work**

#### **3. Programme implementation**

- 3.1. Strategic Plan of the 9<sup>th</sup> Phase of IHP (IHP-IX, 2022-2029)
- 3.2. Mid-term evaluation of IHP-VIII, update on recommendations' Management Response
- 3.3. Guidelines for the review of IHP programmes and Major Initiatives

#### **4. Institutional developments at UNESCO**

- 4.1. Report on the revision of the Statutes of the IHP Intergovernmental Council and of the Rules of Procedure
- 4.2. Terms of Reference/guidelines for IHP National Committees

#### **5. Report on the implementation of the resolutions and decisions adopted at the 23<sup>rd</sup> session of the IHP Intergovernmental Council**

#### **6. IHP and the international water agenda including actions in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and other related international agendas**

#### **7. Other matters**

#### **8. Closure of the session**

**ANNEX II: LIST OF PARTICIPANTS**  
**(Separate document)**

## ANNEX III: ADOPTED RESOLUTIONS

### Resolution XXIV-1

#### PREPARATION OF IHP-IX

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

- Noting** IHP/IC Resolution XXIII-6 on the preparation of IHP-IX and the decision of the Council at its 1<sup>st</sup> Extraordinary session on the revised timeline of IHP-IX's implementation,
- Having considered** IHP/IC documents IHP/IC-XXIV/3, IHP/IC-XXIV/Inf.1,
- Expressing** its satisfaction that with IHP/IC Resolution XXIII-7, the mid-term evaluation of IHP-VIII provided an opportunity to include for the first time lessons learned in the design of the new strategic plan, IHP-IX,
- Taking note** with satisfaction of the Draft IHP-IX Strategic Plan as it is presented in the IHP/IC-XXIV/Ref.1 document,
- Commends** the Task Force (TF) Members and the Experts of Member States (EoMS) for their significant efforts and substantial work in developing the draft Strategic Plan; and the Members of the Working Group (WG) for their efforts to ensure convergence of opinions to the document.
- Expresses** its gratitude to the IHP Secretariat for supporting and coordinating the efforts of the TF, EoMS and WG in preparing the draft strategic plan;
- Decides** to approve the presented draft document as the IHP-IX Strategic Plan;
- Requests** the IHP Secretariat to ensure the presentation of the endorsed IHP-IX Strategic Plan to UNESCO's 41<sup>st</sup> session of its General Conference through its usual IHP Council Report;
- Recommends** that the General Conference of UNESCO, at its 41<sup>st</sup> session, integrate the main elements of the Strategic Plan for the Ninth Phase of the Intergovernmental Hydrological Programme into the 41 C/4 and 41 C/5;
- Encourages** all UNESCO Water Family Members to take up the responsibility in the implementation of the IHP-IX, indicating elements they would lead and finance as per the related recommendation on accountability of the external mid-term evaluation of IHP-VIII;
- Further decides** to identify Members of an Open-Ended Working Group to prepare Operational and Financial Plans for the implementation of the IHP-IX Strategic Plan to be carried out in close consultation with the Member States and report progress during the 60<sup>th</sup> session of the IHP Bureau and the 4<sup>th</sup> Extraordinary session (September 2021), as well as the 5<sup>th</sup> Extraordinary session (November 2021) and present full draft plans for approval during the 25<sup>th</sup> Session of the IGC of IHP Council in 2022.
- Also decides** that a mid-term review of the IHP-IX implementation be conducted by 2025.

## Resolution XXIV-2

### MID-TERM EVALUATION OF IHP-VIII

The Intergovernmental Council of the Intergovernmental Hydrological Programme of UNESCO,

**Having considered** the documents IHP/IC-XXIII/7, IHP/IC-XXIII/Inf.3, IHP/Bur-LVIII/Ref. 5, IHP/IC-XXIV/5 and IHP/IC-XXIV/Inf.1 on the implementation of the Eighth Phase of IHP (IHP-VIII, 2014-2021);

**Noting** IHP/IC Resolution XXIII-7 on the evaluation of IHP-VIII to align all IHP programmes and activities with the IHP programme phases and to base the continuation, reorientation, reinforcement, exit strategies or termination of programmes and activities upon periodic reviews during and at the end point of each phase;

**Takes note** with satisfaction of the successful implementation of IHP-VIII and of achievements resulted from numerous projects and activities carried out thus far, addressing a broad range of water-related topics and contributing to water security, as well as to the internationally agreed goals such as the Sustainable Development Goals, the Sendai Framework and the New Urban Agenda, and other agreements, such as the Paris Agreement;

**Commends** the UNESCO Water Family for its efforts and substantial work in coordinating and implementing the IHP-VIII projects and activities.

**Thanks** the IHP Secretariat for ensuring that the results of the evaluation are being used as an input to the preparation of IHP-IX

**Further notes** the management response to the 11 recommendations of the Mid-term Evaluation of Phase VIII of the Intergovernmental Hydrological Programme (2014-2021) as they were presented to UNESCO's Executive Board at its 207<sup>th</sup> Session (207 EX/5.II.B).

**Recommends** that Member States implement the recommendations of the Mid-term Evaluation of Phase VIII of the Intergovernmental Hydrological Programme (2014-2021) applicable to them and ensure their active involvement in the elements requiring their contribution such as:

- a. Identify IHP-IX priorities that they will contribute in taking it forward and commit to implement activities towards their implementation, supporting the monitoring of the results of such activities;
- b. Participate at the SPIC Water II (Science Policy Interface Colloquium on Water);
- c. Financial support for extra-budgetary project proposals in support to the implementation of IHP;

**Requests** the Secretariat to continue to monitor the implementation of the recommendations of the Mid-term Evaluation of Phase VIII of the IHP (2014-2021) applicable to the Secretariat and ensure that they are taken into account in the development and execution of the operational plan for IHP-IX.

## Resolution XXIV-3

### RESOLUTION ON ALL IHP FLAGSHIP PROGRAMMES AND INITIATIVES

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

- Noting** IHP/IC Resolution XXI-8 to align all IHP programmes and activities with the IHP programme phases and to base the continuation, reorientation, reinforcement, exit or termination of programmes and activities upon periodic reviews during and at the end of each phase,
- Also Noting** IHP/IC Resolution XXIII-12 on the future governance of all IHP Programmes and Major Initiatives,
- Recalling** its request in IHP/IC Resolution XXII-6 that the IHP Secretariat prepares and commissions a review of IHP's programmes and major initiatives and reports the findings to the 23<sup>rd</sup> session of the IHP Council,
- Acknowledging** that the progress made by the Secretariat in commissioning an evaluation of the IHP initiatives, outlined in IHP/IC-XXIII/7, meant that the anticipated review of the evaluation findings in order to consider how best to strengthen the high impact IHP Flagship Programmes and Initiatives with strategic plans and how to re-orient or terminate others, was not possible at its 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> session but remains critical to implementation of effective results-based management within the IHP;
- Welcomes** the findings of the review and the suggested guidelines for the future management of the Initiatives;
- Requests** the Members of the Working Group to develop a Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation Flagship Initiative Framework, aligned with the IHP-IX Strategic Plan and its Implementation and Financial Plans, detailing the minimum requirements for the establishment, operation and evaluation of new Initiatives and for the alignment of all existing ones, and present this Framework to the 25<sup>th</sup> session of the Council for consideration and adoption;
- Further requests** current hosts / focal persons of all existing initiatives to, in consultation with the Secretariat and the Working Group, develop plans, describing their specific contribution in achieving IHP-IX Strategic Objectives, Expected Results and Priority Outputs, including clear indicators for monitoring the results achieved for presentation to the IHP Intergovernmental Council for its consideration and approval at its 25<sup>th</sup> session;
- Expresses** its gratitude to the IHP Secretariat for facilitating the review process, for preparing the necessary documentation and recommendations regarding future continuation of IHP Programmes and Flagship Initiatives;
- Decides** to examine and approve in its 25<sup>th</sup> session the suggested Framework presented by the ad-hoc Working Group and the proposal, in accordance with IHP/IC Resolution XXI-8, on which IHP Flagship Programmes and Initiatives should be continued as part of the IHP-IX Implementation Plan.

## Resolution XXIV-4

### PROPOSAL FOR REVISED RULES OF PROCEDURE OF THE IHP COUNCIL

The Intergovernmental Council of the Intergovernmental Hydrological Programme of UNESCO.

- Recalling** 38 C/Resolution 101 on the governance, procedures and working methods of the governing bodies of UNESCO as well as decision 40/62 corr. by which the General Conference of UNESCO approved the revised Statutes of the IHP,
- Noting** the need to ensure consistency of IHP's governance with the decisions of the Governing Bodies of UNESCO, as well as further consider the recommendations of the audit of Governance of UNESCO and evaluations of IHP,
- Recalling** the intergovernmental nature of the IHP and its competent bodies,
- Recognizing** that updates to the Rules of Procedure of the IHP Intergovernmental Council will provide clarity on the operation of the Programme, improving its efficiency and efficacy,
- Expresses** its gratitude to the open-ended working group for their work in reviewing and harmonizing the Rules of Procedure in line with the Council's Statutes as approved by the 40<sup>th</sup> General Conference;
- Further** thanks the IHP Secretariat for facilitating the review process and for preparing the necessary documentation so that the revised Rules of Procedure can be discussed and decided upon at the 24<sup>th</sup> session of the IHP Intergovernmental Council;
- Decides** to approve the revised Rules of Procedure as presented in Annex of this document.

## RESOLUTION XXIV-5

### IHP GOVERNANCE

The Intergovernmental Council of the International Hydrological Programme of UNESCO

- Recalling** the intergovernmental nature of the IHP and its competent bodies,
- Taking into account** decisions concerning governance taken by the 12<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup>, and 15<sup>th</sup> sessions of the IHP Council, reports of the *ad hoc* Governance Committees established by the 13<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> sessions of the Council, and the recommendation of the External Evaluation of the 5<sup>th</sup> Phase of the IHP,
- Considering** the importance of a governance mechanism for the IHP and the functioning of the IHP Committees, as this has been expressed with Council resolution XVI-7,
- Stresses** the importance of linking all parts of the IHP system: its governing bodies, its National Committees, the UNESCO water related Chair and Category II Centres;
- Recommends** that Member States review the mandate and functioning of IHP National Committees according to the principles which would empower them to:
- i) serve as governmental advisory bodies,
  - ii) co-ordinate contacts with IHP National Committees in other countries and with the IHP Council and its Bureau as well as UNESCO Field Offices and category II centres and water chairs,
  - iii) be multi-disciplinary in nature,
  - iv) commit policy-makers,
  - v) be closely linked to UNESCO National Commissions;
- Invites** the Secretariat to ensure that priority continues to be given at Headquarters and by the Regional Hydrologists to assisting Member States through every means at its disposal
- i) to implement the revised mandate for IHP National Committees, and
  - ii) to organize regular meetings of national committees in all regions, taking into account the particular needs of the African region (regional, inter-regional or sub-regional, as appropriate and feasible), in close collaboration with the Bureau members from the relevant regions;
- Recommends** that Member States and the Secretariat seek innovative solutions to address the funding problem to enable all National Committees to take part in regional meetings and contribute to the implementation of the IHP programme;
- Invites** Member States to report to the 25<sup>th</sup> session of the Council on the status of their National Committees according to these principles and to every regular IGC session thereafter as part of their regular national IHP report.

## Resolution XXIV-6

### PROPOSAL FOR RENDERING SUPPORT TO ACHIEVING SDG 6 AND THE AGENDA 2030 AND CONTRIBUTIONS TO MID-TERM REVIEW OF WATER ACTION DECADE AND UN WATER CONFERENCE 2023

The Intergovernmental Council of the Intergovernmental Hydrological Programme of UNESCO.

- Recalling** Resolutions XXII-4 and XXII-7 on the implementation of the initiative on groundwater governance and IHP's support to Member States for a sound, science-based implementation of the Sustainable Development Goal no. 6 and of the water related goals respectively,
- Further recalling** Resolutions XXIII-8 and XXIII-9 on IHP's support to Member States towards the proposal for a new SDG indicator on water education and on enhancing IHP's visibility,
- Keeping in mind** that the IHP is an intergovernmental programme devoted to fostering water research, water resources management, education and capacity building tailored to Member State's needs,
- Expressing concern** that while groundwater use has increased manifold, with major socioeconomic benefits, little attention has been given to its governance, conservation and protection,
- Recognizing** the need to raise political awareness and strengthen political will, at global level to promote conservation and protection of groundwater and to act with urgency to improve groundwater governance in the light of increasing population, climate change and dwindling resources,
- Mindful** of UNGA Resolutions A/RES/71/222, A/RES/73/226 and A/RES/75/212 on the "International Decade (2018-2028) for Action – Water for Sustainable Development", its Midterm Comprehensive Review and the United Nations Conference on the Midterm Comprehensive Review of the Implementation of its Objectives,
- Considering** the UN-Water SDG 6 Global Acceleration Framework to better support countries over the next ten years to accelerate and assist them meet the targets for SDG 6 and the coordination role UNESCO-IHP has been requested to take, co-coordinating with UN-DESA the capacity development component,
- Emphasizing** that the UNESCO Water Family operates as a global network to implement the Organization's strategic goals and its potential for developing sound science-based tools for the implementation and monitoring of SDG 6 targets and those of other water-related goals,
- Recalling** IHP-IC/Resolutions XXI-7 and XXII-8 highlighting extensive and significant contributions of the UNESCO Water Family to promote the key role of water in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;
- Decides** that IHP shall pursue its involvement in the preparatory process of the Comprehensive Mid-Term Review of the "International Decade (2018-2028) for Action – Water for Sustainable Development", so as to contribute to strengthening the international recognition of the importance of groundwater and of water science in general, as well as of the critical need to fill the gap of available and required capacities, particularly in developing countries, in view of attaining SDG 6 and other SDGs, *inter alia* by producing relevant publications and messages to be presented during the UN Water Conference 2023.

## Resolution XXIV-7

### UNESCO IHP IN SUPPORT OF DEVELOPING THE GLOBAL NETWORK OF WATER MUSEUMS (WAMUNET)

The Intergovernmental Council of the Intergovernmental Hydrological Programme of UNESCO,

- Recalling** that WAMUNET was established in 2017 and officially endorsed by the UNESCO IHP Council Resolution n.XXIII-5 in 2018; UNESCO's Recommendation concerning the Protection and Promotion of Museums and Collections, their Diversity and their Role in Society (2015) which promotes the use of museums for the benefit of society; the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and in particular SDG 6 which promotes sustainable water management; the IHP-VIII Strategic Programme which promotes international cooperation in favor of water security; and the Independent External Evaluation (185 EX/18 Add.), which promotes synergies between the different sectors of UNESCO to strengthen its impact,
- Recognizing** that water museums worldwide are unique repositories of different water civilizations and of humanity's multifaceted water heritage, both tangible and intangible, as well as important promoters for water awareness education and science, linking ancient knowledge to contemporary agendas that can help develop sustainable solutions to the global water crisis, and thereby also contribute to sustainable management models that support the emergence of a 'new water culture',
- Acknowledging** the success and growth of WAMUNET since its establishment in 2017, that functions on financial contributions from its members, that is coordinated by a Secretariat located in Italy, that has already organized two international conferences in Italy in 2017 and in the Netherlands in 2018, as well as a global digital art youth exhibition 'The Water We Want' in 2019,
- Cognizant** of the regional initiatives to make WAMUNET a truly global initiative and recognizing the regional efforts to promote the network, including by the UNESCO Chair of Water and Culture for Latin America and the Caribbean (PHI-LAC) in Montevideo, Uruguay,
- Bearing in mind** that Covid-19 has placed museums and cultural centers under threat and duress and the International Council of Museums has called upon policy and decision-makers to urgently allocate relief funds and salvage museums and their professionals,
- Commends** the generous efforts by both the IHP Secretariat and WAMUNET to support the dissemination of water-related knowledge to worldwide audiences, thereby contributing to the preservation of water heritage and the effectiveness of water related education and science;
- Invites** the IHP Secretariat to send out a call to Member States for new water museums to join WAMUNET by directly requesting the IHP Secretariat to liaise with the WAMUNET Secretariat and oversee their admission to the network;
- Requests** the IHP Secretariat to compile an inventory of the different water museums across the world, and encourages Member States and IHP National Committees to support the Secretariat in this effort by communicating to the IHP Secretariat information on their existing water museums;
- Invites** Member States to enable UNESCO IHP's support of the WAMUNET by supporting the IHP Secretariat financially with additional funding for instance through extrabudgetary contributions, secondment of staff or contributions to the Special Account.

## Resolution XXIV-8

### ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE INTERNATIONAL GLOSSARY OF WATER (IGW)

The Intergovernmental Council of the Intergovernmental Hydrological Programme of UNESCO,

- Noting** that communication and mutual understanding require unambiguous terminology in research, planning and implementation of actions. The terminology is especially crucial in hydrology where we encounter different scientific and professional disciplines from natural sciences, social sciences, engineering, biotechnology to, and last but not least, health sciences. Different disciplines, not least UN offices, use the same terminology with different meanings and different terminology for the same meaning.
- Recalling** that WMO / UNESCO Joint Commission established in 1967 as an IHD 1965-1975 action. The work of the Joint Commission resulted in the publication of INTERNATIONAL GLOSSARY OF HYDROLOGY (IGH) in 1974, 1992 and 2013. At the end of the twentieth century, IHP UNESCO launched an action to produce a terminology dictionary in national languages.
- Highlighting** that UN Sustainable Development Goals, especially SDG2, SDG6, SDG7 and SDG11, asks for further development of IGH and extend on IGW in collaboration with UN agencies: WMO, FAO, ILO, UNDP, UNECE, CEO Water Mandate, UN Environment, UNESCO, UN-Habitat, UNICEF, UNU, WHO, the World Bank Group, IHP UNESCO water family and international scientific and professional organizations like IUGG, AGU, EGU, IAHS, IAHR.
- Recognizing** continuing work at IGW will help to eliminate confusion and abuse in communication across disciplines, offices and countries when using ambiguous terms. The new edition, like the existing ones, will help with scientific work, education and communication between different disciplines and countries.
- Requests** the Secretariat to establish an open-ended working group on IGW under the custody of IHP UNESCO. The task of the working group is primarily to lead work IGW for SDG purposes. It may, however, later assume the responsibility of supplementing and updating the IGW according to the needs and requirements of the UN.
- Invites** Member States to adapt the IGW into national and local languages.

#### **ANNEX IV: LIST OF ACRONYMS**

ARCE	African Regional Centre for Ecohydrology
CHR	International Commission for the Hydrology of the Rhine Basin
COMSATS	Commission on Science and Technology for Sustainable Development in the South (Pakistan).
COP	Conference of the Parties
DRs	Draft Resolutions
ER	Expected Result
ERCE	European Regional Centre for Ecohydrology
FRIEND	Flow Regimes from International Experimental and Network Data Sets
G-WADI	Global Network on Water and Development Information for Arid Lands
HQ	Headquarters
IAH	International Association of Hydrogeologists
IAHS	International Association of Hydrological Sciences
ICHARM	International Centre for Water Hazard and Risk Management
ICIWaRM	International Centre for Integrated Water Resources Management
ICSU	International Council for Science
ICQHS	International Centre on Qanats and Historic Hydraulic Structures
IFI	International Flood Initiative
IGCP	International Geoscience Programme
IGRAC	International Groundwater Resources Assessment Centre
IHA	International Hydropower Association
IHP	International Hydrological Programme
IHP-VIII	Eighth Phase of the International Hydrological Programme (2014-2021)
IHP-IX	Ninth Phase of the International Hydrological Programme (2022-2029)
IOS	Internal Oversight Service
IPCC	Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
IRTCES	International Research and Training Centre on Erosion and Sedimentation
ISI	International Sedimentation Initiative
IUGG	International Union of Geodesy and Geophysics
IWRM	Integrated Water Resources Management
MAB	Programme on Man and the Biosphere
MLA	Main Line of Action
MP	Main Programme
PCCP	From Potential Conflict to Cooperation Potential
RWRC	Regional Water Research Centre
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

IHE	IHE Institute for Water Education
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
UN-Habitat	United Nations Human Settlements Programme
UNU	United Nations University
WHO	World Health Organization
WLRI	World Large Rivers Initiative
WMO	World Meteorological Organization
WWAP	UN World Water Assessment Programme
WWD	World Water Day
WWDR	World Water Development Report