

Intergovernmental Hydrological Programme

3rd Extraordinary session of the Intergovernmental Council
(Paris, 22-24 February 2021)

9TH PHASE OF IHP (IHP-IX)

Summary

This document provides a summary of the implementation of the Programme, in particular pertaining to the development of the 3rd Order draft of the Strategic Plan of the 9th Phase of IHP (IHP-IX, 2022-2029)

STRATEGIC PLANNING OF THE 9th PHASE OF IHP (IHP-IX, 2022-2029; Agenda Item 1)

1. Resolution XXIII-6 of the Intergovernmental Council of the Intergovernmental Hydrological Programme (IHP) at its 23rd session (Paris, 11-15 June 2018) focused on the development of the ninth phase of the Programme, IHP-IX 2022-2029.

2. In the second half of 2018, Member States identified the experts, serving on a voluntary basis, that were to comprise the two main bodies responsible for developing the draft document for the consultation of the UNESCO Water Family: the Task Force (TF) and the Experts of Member States (EoMS). For this endeavour, both bodies, TF and EoMS, relied on the assistance of two senior consultants, as well as on the support of the IHP Secretariat.

3. The Secretariat facilitated two sessions of the IHP-IX Task Force (TF). The first one, in January 2019, when the zero-order draft document of IHP-IX was developed. The document, which reflected mainly the contents of the new IHP Phase, was presented during a special technical session of the Bureau Members (January 2019) and received their feedback. Subsequently, it was shared with the Experts of Member States. Comments of the EoMS were incorporated to the extent possible and a full-fledged consultation with UNESCO's Water Family Members followed.

4. The Members of the TF met for a second time at UNESCO headquarters in Paris, in April 2019, to review the consolidated comments received and to develop the 1st-order draft of IHP-IX. This draft was then circulated to the Experts of Member States in July 2019 and, in October 2019, was shared for a full consultation with all Members of the UNESCO Water Family. The consultation process lasted till the end of December 2019.

5. The 1st Extraordinary session of the IHP Council (28 November 2019) agreed to a revised timeline/workflow of the finalization of IHP-IX proposed by the Secretariat, including: a third face-to-face meeting of the Task Force; a technical session of the members of the IHP Bureau to review the document and consider its submission to the 24th session of the IHP Council (then planned for spring 2020); review of the document by the Council and, possibly, agreement in principle; a subsequent, larger consultation on the document that was to include the UNESCO Water Family and the intergovernmental and non-governmental partner organizations of IHP. After consolidating the inputs to be received through this final larger consultation, the IHP Council was to be consulted electronically regarding the IHP-IX strategy's submission to UNESCO's Executive Board in spring 2021, in view of its submission to the 41st session of the UNESCO General Conference in autumn 2021 through the customary IHP report.

6. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the scheduled third face-to-face meeting of the Task Force took place via teleconference from 2 to 4 March 2020, involving EoMS. It aimed at further improving the 1st-order draft of IHP-IX and incorporating the contributions received during the 2nd in-depth consultation with the UNESCO Water Family, which had ended on 31 December 2019, with the help of the IHP Secretariat and two senior consultants.

7. The meeting of the Task Force resulted in the improved 1st-order draft Strategic plan of IHP-IX to reach Water Security through Achieving Sustainable Water Management, by the means of the following five principal paths of action, which are systematically interacting and reinforcing each other:

- Sciences, Research and Innovation
- Water Education in the fourth industrial revolution
- Bridging the data and knowledge gaps
- Inclusive water management under conditions of Global Change
- Water Governance based on science for mitigation, adaptation and resilience

8. The improved 1st order draft of the IHP-IX Strategy was scheduled to be submitted to a Technical Meeting of the IHP Bureau and subsequently to the 24th session of the IHP Council, initially planned for March and May 2020, respectively. Both meetings were also postponed due to the COVID-19 crisis. The improved 1st-order draft of the IHP-IX Strategy was reviewed and endorsed by the members of the IHP Bureau by electronic consultation.

9. Based on the IHP Bureau's review and endorsement, the Secretariat, with the support of the two Consultants accompanying the process, complemented the five paths of action with the necessary elements to constitute a unified, structured draft strategic plan for IHP-IX. This consolidated document constituted the 2nd-order draft of IHP-IX and was presented to UNESCO's Member States in an information meeting held on October 29, 2020. During the meeting, the Secretariat urged Member States to send comments on the document to be summarized and presented during the 24th session of the IHP Council, scheduled from 30 November to 4 December 2020,

10. Due to the persisting restrictions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic globally, the 24th session of the IHP Council was postponed and the Council agreed to meet in an extraordinary session to discuss in detail and provide guidance on the 2nd-order draft of IHP-IX.

11. The 2nd Extraordinary Session of the IHP Council was held from 30 November to 1 December 2020. During the session, the Council Members decided the next steps and timeframe of the IHP-IX Strategic Plan preparation. The deadline for Member States' comments on the 2nd order draft was extended to 4 January 2021. The IHP-IX Task Force (TF) and the Experts of the Member States (EoMS), with the support of the Secretariat, were to integrate all comments on the 2nd order draft provided by the Member States and other partners and prepare a 3rd-order draft of the IHP-IX Strategic Plan by 31 January 2021. On that date the IHP Secretariat was to circulate the 3rd order draft of the IHP-IX Strategic Plan to all Member States, inviting them to further comment on it by 15 February 2021. The IHP Intergovernmental Council is to convene an extraordinary session to allow for consultations on and examination of the 3rd order draft of the IHP-IX Strategic Plan 22-24 February 2021.

12. Following up to the decisions of the Council, the Secretariat facilitated five meetings of the TF and EoMS members in January 2021, where the comments made during the 2nd Extraordinary Council meeting and the received written comments from the UNESCO Water Family (Members and non-Members of the Council, Centres and Chairs) and partners, such as the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), UN Environment Programme (UNEP), International Associations of Hydrologists (IAHS) and of Hydrogeologists (IAH), were discussed and consolidated. The Secretariat worked with the Bureau of Strategic Planning (BSP) in aligning the wording of different results (outcome and outputs) to RBM and on the Theory of Change (ToC). A small drafting team comprising of the TF (one expert), EoMS (two experts), the Secretariat and the consultants, was deployed to incorporate the results of the discussions in the text. The 3rd-order draft, was presented to the last meeting of the combined groups (TF and EoMS) on 28 January 2021. After receiving their approval, it was edited to improve the language used, translated and transmitted to Member States and partners on 31 January 2021 as planned, in English. A French version of the document was circulated on 3 February 2021.

13. A draft resolution on the 3rd-order draft of IHP-IX was prepared by the Secretariat for the Council's approval and is presented document [IHP/IC-XTR-III/2](#).