

Intergovernmental Hydrological Programme

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

9TH PHASE OF IHP (IHP-IX)

Item 1 of the provisional agenda

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)

Decisions proposed:

The Council may wish to discuss and approve the proposed Draft Resolution.

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 presented by the IHP Secretariat.
6. Due to the effects of the COVID-19, the third meeting of the Task Force took place via teleconference from 2 to 4 March 2020, involving EoMS. It incorporated the contributions received during the 2nd in-depth consultation with the UNESCO Water Family that ended on 31 December 2019, and produced an improved 1st order draft of IHP-IX.
7. The improved 1st-order draft took the shape of five separate draft documents, each describing one of the paths of action of IHP-IX. 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 and Water Governance based on science for mitigation, adaptation and resilience.
8. The improved 1st-order draft of the IHP-IX Strategy was reviewed and endorsed by the members of the IHP Bureau by electronic consultation as a face to face meeting was not possible.
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 29 October 2020.
10. Due to the persisting movement restrictions that the COVID-19 pandemic has caused 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 were discussed and consolidated. A small drafting team was deployed to incorporate the results of the discussions in the text. The 3rd-order draft of the IHP-IX Strategic Plan 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. The following draft resolution on the 3rd-order draft of IHP-IX was prepared by the Secretariat for the Council's approval.

Resolution XTR-III-1
PREPARATION OF IHP-IX

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

- Cognizant** of the lead role played by the Intergovernmental Hydrological Programme for almost five decades in the development of hydrology as a science and integrated water resources management tools at the global level and the key role of science for informed decision in addressing complex water challenges in line with agenda 2030 and other water related international agendas,
- Noting** IHP/IC Resolution XXIII-6 on the preparation of IHP-IX and the decision of the Council at its 1st Extraordinary session on the revised timeline of IHP-IX's implementation,
- Having considered** IHP/IC documents IHP/IC-XTR-III/2 and IHP/IC-XTR-III/Inf.1,
- Expresses** its satisfaction that in line 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;
- Takes note** with satisfaction of the 3rd Order Draft of the IHP-IX as presented in the IHP/IC-XTR-III/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;
- Also expresses** its gratitude to the IHP Secretariat for supporting and coordinating the efforts of the TF and EoMS in preparing the draft strategic plan;
- Decides** to approve the 3rd order Draft Strategic Plan as the Strategic Plan for Phase IX of the IHP, on "Science for a water secure world in a changing environment";
- Requests** the IHP Secretariat to ensure the submission of the approved IHP-IX strategic plan to the 41st session of UNESCO's General Conference, via the customary IHP report;
- Recommends** that the General Conference of UNESCO, at its 41st 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 responsibility in the implementation of the IHP-IX and indicate elements they would lead as per the related recommendation on accountability of the external mid-term evaluation of IHP-VIII;
- Also requests** the IHP Secretariat, including Regional Offices, to prepare an Operational Plan for the implementation of IHP-IX in consultation with the Task Force and Experts of Members States, the IHP Bureau; Member States, IHP National Committees, category 2 centres, UNESCO chairs and relevant partners;
- Further requests** the IHP Secretariat to submit the Operational Plan for the implementation of the IHP-IX to the 61st session of the IHP Bureau and to report on the implementation progress at regular sessions of the IHP Bureau and Council.