



Intergovernmental Hydrological Programme (IHP)

3rd Extraordinary Session of the IHP Intergovernmental Council

Virtual meeting, from 22 to 24 February 2021

FINAL REPORT

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- Annex 1: Terms of Reference of the Member States' Working Group on IHP-IX, established by the IHP Council, as presented in-session
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- Annex 2: List of Participants

1. OPENING OF THE MEETING

1. The Third Extraordinary Session of the Intergovernmental Council of the Intergovernmental Hydrological Programme (IHP) of UNESCO took place online from 22 to 24 February 2021. The meeting was attended by 79 Member States of UNESCO, of which 36 IHP Intergovernmental Council members and 43 observers. Representatives of 12 UNESCO category 2 water-related Centres, six (6) UNESCO Water Chairs, four (4) UN and intergovernmental organizations and 2 non-governmental organizations attended the meeting as observers. The list of participants is provided in Annex 2 to the report (separate document).

1.1 Welcoming remarks by Ms. Shamila Nair-Bedouelle, Assistant Director-General for Natural Sciences, UNESCO

2. Ms Shamila Nair-Bedouelle, Assistant Director-General for Natural Sciences of UNESCO, welcomed all participants, expressing her wish to be able to welcome soon everyone to a meeting *in presentia* at UNESCO when the pandemic will be over and highlighting that UNESCO and IHP have continued to support the Member States in these difficult times. Emphasizing that the IHP belongs to the Member States, she thanked the IHP Intergovernmental Council for its guidance and advice on shaping IHP's future through the inclusive and participatory approach adopted for the preparation of the strategic plan of the Ninth phase of IHP (IHP-IX, 2022-2029). She reiterated the Director-General's proposal that UNESCO contribute to the implementation of the capacity development component of the UN SDG 6 Global Acceleration Framework and the commitment of the Secretariat to ensuring a clear and direct link between IHP-IX and the proposed UNESCO Draft Medium-Term Strategy for 2022-2029 (41 C/4) and next Programme and Budget documents (C/5). She recalled the importance of water in responding to the Covid-19 pandemic and the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). She noted that the main objective of this Council session was to review the 3rd order draft of the IHP-IX strategic plan and, if deemed appropriate, to approve a relevant draft resolution, thereby opening the door for the preparation of an operational implementation plan of the IHP-IX strategic plan.

1.2. Address by Mr Fadi Comair, Chairperson of the IHP Intergovernmental Council

3. Mr Fadi Comair, Chairperson of the IHP Intergovernmental Council, welcomed participants, stressing the importance of the Council's deliberations in shaping the course of the IHP over the coming decade for the wellbeing of all people. Referring to the draft document of the IHP-IX strategic plan, he took note of its targeted nature, results-based management framework, the incorporation of the Theory of Change, and the transdisciplinary aspect. He further took note of the IHP's commitment to the 2030 Agenda and the UN SDG 6 Global Acceleration Framework, recalling the IHP's role in providing scientific knowledge and building the capacities needed for multi-level and interdisciplinary dialogues in order to foster peace, cooperation and development related to the management of water resources.

2. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA OF THE SESSION

4. The Council considered provisional agenda of the session. The representative of France requested the Secretariat to present the outcomes of the IHP-VIII mid-term evaluation and its recommendations in relation to the main strategic axes of IHP-IX. He further requested an extension of the deadline for comments on the 3rd order draft of the IHP-IX strategic plan until 5 March 2021.

5. The agenda was adopted, as amended, following the proposal by France to include a presentation on the IHP-VIII mid-term evaluation.

3. Item 1. EXAMINATION OF THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE IHP-IX STRATEGY

3.1. The process for the development of the 3rd order draft of IHP-IX strategic plan

6. Mr Abou Amani, Director of the Division of Water Sciences and Secretary of the IHP, presented the process of the development of the IHP-IX strategic plan from the beginning to the current working document, as outlined in documents IHP/IC-XTR-III/2 and IHP/IC-XTR-III/INF.1. He provided an overview of the main elements of the draft IHP-IX strategic plan, emphasizing the inclusion of a Theory of Change and other new features. He further noted that IHP-IX will be operationalized through an implementation plan.

3.2. The development of the 3rd order draft of IHP-IX and presentation of the introductory part of the strategic plan

7. Ms Maria C. Donoso, an Expert of the Member State (Panama), presented the timeline of the 2nd-order draft IHP-IX revision process, noting the consultations with Experts of the Member States and the revision of the draft document of the IHP-IX strategic plan by a smaller drafting team. She pointed out UNESCO and IHP's comparative advantages in leveraging a wide range of expertise and information to meet global water challenges. She stressed the importance of building on expertise of the UNESCO Water Family at all levels and of ensuring a dynamic transition from the Eighth phase of IHP (IHP-VIII, 2014-2021) to IHP-IX, while ensuring continuity.

3.3. Presentations of the IHP-IX Priority Areas of the Strategic Plan

8. The five Priority Areas proposed in the 3rd order draft of the IHP-IX Strategic Plan, as outlined in document [IHP-IC-XTR-III-Ref.1](#), were presented by the members of the IHP-IX Task Force.

9. Mr Shinjiro Kanae (Japan, Region IV – Asia and the Pacific) presented **Priority Area 1: Scientific Research and Innovation**. The Priority Area 1 aims at improving the knowledge, scientific and research capacity, technologies, and management skills to secure water resources for human consumption and the maintenance of the balance of ecosystems within a sustainable development context. Contributing to the 2030 Agenda through the SDG 6 (clean water and sanitation), SDG 13 (climate action), SDG 7 (affordable and clean energy), SDG 12 (responsible consumption and production), SDG 2 (zero hunger), SDG 9 (industry, innovation and infrastructure) and SDG 1 (no poverty), the Priority Area includes 10 expected outputs on: 1) strengthening international scientific cooperation and addressing unsolved problems in hydrology; 2) conducting ecohydrology research and innovation at UNESCO-designated sites; 3) conducting research on uncertainty in climatic scenarios, hydrological projections, and water use scenarios; 4) conducting scientific research on new business models, the role of water utilities, broadening engagement and partnerships, and infrastructure by the scientific community; 5) undertaking and sharing assessments on the interaction between humans and water; 6) the use of scientific knowledge, methodologies, and tools in addressing water-related disasters, such as flood and drought; 7) the development and sharing of knowledge base on the impacts of global change and human usage on river basins, aquifer systems, coastal areas, cryosphere, and human settlements; 8) the development and sharing of knowledge and innovative solutions on improving water quality and reducing water pollution by the scientific community to facilitate science-based decision-making, improve knowledge, services and reduce health related risks; and 10) ensuring the development and sharing of new technologies using, EO (Earth Observation), AI and IoT by the scientific community and service providers for strengthening capacity, including integrating citizen science in the hydrological discipline. IHP's main role in this Priority Area is leading science, research, and innovation in cooperation with other UN Agencies and scientific partners.

10. Ms Agatha Tommasi (Brazil, Region III – Latin America and the Caribbean) presented **Priority Area 2: Water Education in the Fourth Industrial Revolution**. This Priority Area aims to train a critical mass of decision-makers, educators, and citizens worldwide, raise their

awareness and knowledge on water-related challenges and opportunities based on sound scientific and research information to facilitate sustainable water management and governance. It will also aim to strengthen networks of scientists to develop and disseminate related material and conduct trainings. Contributing to the SDG 6 (clean water and sanitation), SDG 4 (quality education), SDG 9 (industry, innovation and infrastructure) and SDG 12 (responsible consumption and production), the Priority Area has six expected outputs: 1) raising public awareness at all levels towards a better understanding of stakeholder contribution to the important multi-functions of water; 2) the development and implementation of transdisciplinary research collaborations and educational approaches by the UNESCO Water Family; 3) the elaboration of teaching and learning materials on water-related matters for formal, non-formal and informal education at all levels; 4) supporting the development and sharing of methods and tools based on new practices by the scientific community to facilitate education, decision-making and policy formulation; 5) strengthening capacities of skilled professionals and technicians at water-related tertiary and vocational education to address gaps and the 2030 Agenda SDG targets; and 6) strengthening the capacities of decision-makers and water managers to allow them to take advantage of new technologies and research to make better decisions and policies. The role of IHP in this Priority Area includes leading water education in cooperation with other UN Agencies and partners.

11. Mr Mark Honti (Hungary, Region II – Eastern Europe) presented **Priority Area 3: Bridging the Data-Knowledge Gap**. The Priority Area 3 aims to contribute to transparency and accessibility of water data, which allow the development of open-access science platforms and facilitate instruments for integrated watershed management, particularly for transboundary water resources. Contributing to the SDG 6 (clean water and sanitation) and 17 (partnerships to achieve the goal), the Priority Area includes four expected outputs: 1) supporting the development and use of scientific research methods by the scientific community to correctly collect, analyse, and interpret the data; 2) the establishment of harmonized experimental basins by Member States, scientific and research communities, to collect scientific data and gain knowledge; 3) supporting the comparison and validation of open access data on water quantity and quality; and 4) strengthening the capacity of the scientific community to develop, share and apply scientific tools for data processing. IHP's role for this Priority Area was mainly identified as contributing to bridging the data-knowledge gap, in cooperation with other UN Agencies and scientific partners.

12. Ms Sandra de Vries (the Netherlands, Region I – Western Europe and North America) presented **Priority Area 4: Inclusive Water Management under Conditions of Global Change**. It focuses on participatory water management practices to adapt to, or mitigate, water-related risks and on new opportunities for the future of our planet, contributing to the SDG 6 (clean water and sanitation), SDG 11 (sustainable cities and communities), SDG 5 (life on land) and SDG 17 (partnerships for the goals). The expected outputs of this Priority Area include: 1) conducting and sharing of research on inclusive and participatory approaches to ensure open, gender-responsive engagement of youth, local and indigenous communities to enable all stakeholders to be part of the water management process; 2) research on upstream-downstream river uses for hydropower, navigation and flood risk management to minimize socio-economic and ecological consequences; 3) research on non-conventional water resources in support of improving water cycle management; 3) strengthening capacities of local, regional, and national decision-makers, and enhanced acceptance of public; 4) using the source-to-sea and nexus approaches, and capacities strengthened to improve water management, particularly in transboundary watersheds; 5) understanding pollutants' sources; 6) assessment of ecosystem services and environmental flows in ecohydrology pilot sites to improve IWRM; 7) assessments and methods to monitor changes in the cryosphere system for improved understanding of their potential use to inform decision-makers; and 8) implementing IWRM at all levels, through transboundary cooperation, as appropriate, to achieve the SDG Target 6.5 (implement IWRM).

13. Ms Agnes Mbugua (Kenya, Region Va – Africa) presented **Priority Area 5: Water Governance based on Science for Mitigation, Adaptation and Resilience**, highlighting its linkages to SDG 6 (clean water and sanitation) and SDG 1 (no poverty), SDG 2 (zero hunger), SDG 3 (good health and well-being), SDG 4 (quality education), SDG 5 (gender equality), SDG 8 (decent work and economic growth), SDG 11 (sustainable cities), SDG 13 (climate action), SDG 16 (peace and justice) and SDG 17 (partnerships). The Priority Area 5 includes five expected outputs: 1) awareness raising at all levels, especially of decision makers, on science-based water governance to improve and update Member States' policies and institutional frameworks that enhance the overall resilience of communities to effects of global change; 2) science-based assessments on water governance, legal, policy and institutional frameworks ensuring that they are context-dependent, location-based, reflecting adaptation to climate change and IWRM, and integrating surface and groundwater; 3) science-based assessment and development of guidelines for strengthening water-related components in Nationally Determined Contributions and National Adaptation Plans; 4) novel approaches of adaptive water management; and 5) capacities of the scientific community and decision makers strengthened on new frameworks and tools. To underpin water governance and build resilience of the scientific community and decision makers, the cooperation with other UN agencies and scientific partners was stressed in this Priority Area through: the development of new, and strengthening of existing, frameworks and tools with a participatory approach; and training and awareness raising to implement the innovative frameworks.

3.4. Presentation on the IHP-VIII mid-term evaluation

14. Upon request by France and supported by other delegates, Ms Martina Rathner, representing UNESCO's Internal Oversight Service (IOS), presented key recommendations of the mid-term evaluation of the IHP-VIII phase, which was conducted in 2018.

15. The representative of the UNESCO IOS presented the key objectives and focus areas of the IHP-VIII mid-term evaluation highlighting IHP's comparative strengths, in particular: action at the science-policy interface; its role in bringing science into the UN-Water framework; alignment with the 2030 Agenda and other global agendas; and its co-custodianship, with UNECE, of SDG Indicator 6.5.2. Challenges facing IHP were also highlighted, including the need to retain a broad approach, while strengthening focus within an overall context of increased competition for resources. The need for IHP to improve its communications, as well as coordination and involvement of the UNESCO Water Family in IHP implementation was particularly stressed, noting different levels of engagement among its members. It was noted that the evaluation considered IHP-VIII effective; but, at the same time, had not been able to fully assess long-term impacts of IHP-VIII.

16. The IHP Secretary outlined the 11 key recommendations from the IHP-VIII mid-term evaluation and the corresponding actions taken by the Secretariat, by the IHP Governing bodies and partners. It was also noted that the recommendations served to inform the preparation of the IHP-IX strategic plan. He stressed the active and clearly defined role of IHP within UN-Water and in the context of the wider global water agenda. It was further noted that efforts were made to strengthen IHP communications, as well as to improve IHP contributions towards UNESCO's cross-cutting priorities and themes including Africa, gender equality and youth.

17. Following questions by some delegates about IHP's role in UN-Water, the Secretary responded by stressing the key role of the IHP within UN-Water. He underscored that IHP is a partnership-based programme and that the IHP's role in future partnerships has been clearly defined. As an example, he stressed the leading role of IHP in the area of science, whereas in other areas IHP would play a contributing role. He noted that IHP has a clear role in bringing science as a tool to improve water management and governance—a role that was identified in the evaluation as a comparative advantage. He also recalled the IHP's role in the Water and Climate Coalition, where IHP works with WMO and plays a complementary and essential role.

3.5. Statements by IHP Intergovernmental Council Member States

Region IV - Asia and the Pacific

18. The representative of Japan highlighted the importance of developing science and technology to generate and share knowledge widely, which he thought was captured by the 3rd order draft of IHP-IX strategic plan. He recommended indicating the relationship between the performance indicators for the outcomes and outputs in the five Priority Areas of the IHP-IX strategic plan, as well as in the operational implementation plan for IHP-IX.

19. The representative of China underlined China's support for IHP, noting the active involvement of the Vice-Chairperson of the Chinese IHP National Committee in the IHP-IX process. He assured of China's continued support to the Secretariat and IHP-IX Task Force in the process.

20. The representative of Korea proposed to add to Priority Area 1 the issues related to: spatio-temporal optimization of water resources management based on ecological and hydrological boundaries and considering seasonalities; and alternative water resources such as wastewater reuse and water desalinization. He emphasized that a strategic plan focusing only on a human dimension might have negative impacts on ecosystems in the long-term.

21. The representative of Iran asked the IHP Secretariat how the challenges related to Covid-19, or the impacts of any similar virus, could be better considered in the IHP-IX strategic plan. Highlighting changes in demands for water consumption and the use of disinfecting products globally due to the pandemic, he emphasized IHP's role in contributing to the knowledge base to better understand the long-term impacts of these changing water consumption habits on water quality and availability. He suggested the development of a specific research programme on this subject. He also noted the need for capacity building and education on the most effective ways of water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) in the context of Covid-19, which could be considered under Priority Area 3. Emphasizing the need to share the knowledge between scientists and decision-makers as well as with the public, he suggested the development of knowledge exchange strategies and suggested creating action groups among UNESCO water Chairs and IHP activities to exchange experimental tools and promote education on water. He informed that additional comments will be submitted, in particular on: (i) the establishment of IHP action groups; (ii) the establishment of UNESCO international management certifications regarding water resources management and quality; (iii) the need for research focus on COVID-19 impacts on water resources; (iv) the use of modern media by IHP; and (v) the role of the new generations regarding water resources, suggesting the possibility of involving the network of UNESCO Associated Schools in IHP implementation.

Region I: Western Europe and North America

22. The representative of Germany supported the proposal by France, under Agenda Item 2, regarding the extension of the deadline for comments on the 3rd order draft of IHP-IX strategic plan and the schedule for its adoption, stating that sufficient time is needed for consultation with the scientific community. She stressed the need to clarify where IHP is positioned in the UN-Water, noting the existence of substantial weaknesses in this area and its importance to how UNESCO works with other UN organizations. She also noted the need for a definition of terms such as "inter-sectorality" in the IHP-IX draft document, since there is no universal definition.

23. The representative of France endorsed the comments by Germany and expressed appreciation for the numerous improvements in the IHP-IX draft document. He suggested that a summary of achievements of IHP-VIII would help the understanding of IHP achievements and how successful activities could continue in IHP-IX. He noted his country's intention to

submit comments on the 3rd order draft after consulting with experts. He furthermore highlighted the need to define the meaning of “water governance” in the document, since “water governance” could be confused with “water diplomacy”, noting that such a definition will enable a better understanding of the scientific aspect of water governance and its relation to IHP’s mandate. He further noted that some references were missing in the document and some terminologies could be further examined.

24. The representative of the Netherlands noted appreciation for the prominent focus on citizen science, groundwater, and youth engagement in the document. Underlining the importance of the Global Network of Water Museums, she indicated the intention of the Netherlands to propose a resolution during the upcoming IHP Council session to invite the IHP Secretariat to compile a global inventory of water museums and to request Member States to motivate their water museums to join the network and support the network financially or through the secondment of staff. She noted that emphasis now rests on the development of individual capacities, she stressed the need for increased attention to institutional capacity development in Priority Area 2—specifically, in expected output 2.6 or 2.7 related to institutions. She further noted the importance of bridging the data-knowledge gap and making data openly available and integrated, as in output 3.3 of the 3rd order draft, emphasizing the role of the UNESCO Water Family in developing and disseminating data and knowledge.

25. The representative of Spain underlined the need to consider that the field of hydrology has changed significantly in the past 30-40 years, which means that the environment, economics and sociology are also important factors that need to be considered in IHP-IX. He noted that the IHP-IX strategic plan should have an impact on policy-making and therefore should place a strong focus on data and promote a pragmatic and scientific approach to addressing water challenges, which are captured in the draft document. He also noted the need to ensure that the objectives proposed in IHP-IX strategic plan are achievable and that adequate resources are available.

26. The representative of the UK noted the vast improvements made in the 3rd order draft of IHP-IX. He welcomed the inclusion of performance indicators and the Theory of Change, and urged the Secretariat to expand this further into a full Monitoring and Evaluation framework. He noted that it may be premature to list IHP Flagship Initiatives in the IHP-IX strategic plan, since the IHP Council has not yet considered the recommendations from the independent review of the IHP Flagship Initiatives. He suggested removing the sentence indicating how the IHP Initiatives contribute to IHP-IX, noting that such text can be included later in the IHP-IX implementation plan. He further suggested merging some of the 34 outputs to simplify the IHP-IX strategic plan. He welcomed the identification of potential synergies with other UN agencies, suggesting that tangible ideas for this could be included in the implementation plan.

27. The representative of Austria expressed his appreciation for the inclusion of river basin management and linking the hydrological cycle to source-to-sea, mountains and coasts. He expressed interest in how IHP’s work on water sciences can contribute to water diplomacy and transboundary water resources management.

28. The representative of Turkey stressed that sufficient time should be given to Member States for consultation, stating that the deadline to provide comments was very short. She noted that the Priority Areas were adequately linked to the SDGs and to activities of other UN agencies and the IHP-VIII. However, she underscored the need for defining more clearly the objectives and expected results, pointing out that there were a number of repetitions, which made it difficult to extract main messages of IHP-IX. She also noted that the expected outcomes seemed ambitious, where limited financial resources would make it difficult to implement, and suggested that the IHP-IX strategic plan be supported by a financial strategy. She noted that it did not seem reasonable to establish an international platform for water data, since the sharing and collection of data remains under the sovereign right of States.

Furthermore, she questioned that citizen science is not a scientific method of data collection and is not compatible with national data collection mechanisms in terms of data quality and accuracy. She therefore stressed that advantages and disadvantages of this concept should be discussed in UN fora, before its implementation. Referring that UNESCO remains the main UN agency for transboundary groundwater and a co-custodian of SDG Indicator 6.5.2, she stated that UNESCO's role should be limited to reporting on transboundary aquifers. In addition, she expressed the importance of focusing on strengthening IWRM at national levels. In concluding, she underlined that UNESCO should focus on its unique role on science and education, reiterating the need to continue consultation on the draft IHP-IX strategic plan.

Region II: Eastern and Central Europe

29. The representative of Russia highlighted the need to define concrete actions in Priority Areas 4 and 5 with indicators that can show efficiency and progress. He noted that such indicators need to be agreed by the Member States. He expressed support for the draft document, but suggested that it should not lose focus due to interdisciplinary approaches, particularly for water diplomacy and related topics. He further suggested that more work be done to define Priority Areas 4 and 5. He supported the requests by France and Germany regarding the extension of the deadline to provide comments on the 3rd order draft to allow more time for consultation.

30. The representative of Slovakia pointed out that the draft IHP-IX strategic plan is well prepared and committed to supporting the achievement of the SDGs and hydrological science and water management practices.

31. The representative of Slovenia congratulated the Secretariat for producing a good document and expressed willingness to contribute to the development of future activities of the IHP-IX phase. He mentioned that the glossary, which is currently being prepared, should be used widely. He recommended that the chapter on governance should be looked at from the scientific angle.

Region III: Latin America and the Caribbean

32. The representative of Mexico stated that the draft IHP-IX strategic plan document is too long and recommended simplifying it for policy and decision-makers. She further recalled the next step to develop the IHP-IX implementation operational plan.

33. The representative from Argentina indicated that the document was well structured, but recommended the preparation of a short executive summary. In an effort of a holistic approach, he stressed the importance of water resources management as a part or a larger system, such as the risk system developed by the United Nations Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO), or in relation to climate change. He supported the suggestion of France and other delegates to extend the deadline for the submission of written comments to 5 March 2021.

34. The representative of Paraguay appreciated IHP-IX cross-sectoral approach to the sustainable management of water resources and ecosystems. She pointed out that water governance issues need to be addressed in a way that conforms with national regulations, especially for managing transboundary river basins. She suggested that there should be more specific reference to both data and knowledge generated for sustainability, proposing the use of terminologies "*citizen knowledge*" instead of "*citizen science*" and "*global climate change*" instead of "*global change*". She also suggested looking at different tools for the dissemination of education and pointed out the need to continue the discussion on the IHP-IX strategic plan, mentioning that Paraguay will submit written comments.

35. The representative of Chile endorsed the suggestion of Paraguay to change the term "*global change*" to "*climate change*", noting his support for statements made by other countries of the region.

Region Va: Africa

36. The representative of Zambia supported the Priority Areas and the Theory of Change in the document, noting that Zambia is exploring the possibility of adapting the document to the needs in the country. He mentioned that Zambia is considering establishing a water institute and will need IHP's support for it. He stressed the need to strengthen the component on resources mobilization for IHP-IX implementation in the document. Underlining that capacity building efforts in Africa should be strengthened, he requested to increase the number of category 2 water-related centres in the region. He furthermore pointed at how water education can be promoted in institutions where it does not exist. He noted that Zambia will send written comments on the draft document.

37. The representative from Senegal, referring to his country's written comments, agreed with other countries on the title of the IHP-IX strategic plan and with respect to Priority Area 3. He pledged to continue cooperating with IHP in water governance and for the monitoring of the SDG 6 indicators.

38. The representative of Ethiopia agreed with the draft IHP-IX strategic plan and highlighted that the country is trying to align their national water strategy with it. She asked for challenges related to land degradation to be clearly defined in the document and highlighted the importance of strengthening water quality issues in the science and research component of IHP-IX. She stated that output one and four of the Priority Area 3: Bridging the data-knowledge gap need clarification.

Region Vb: Arab States

39. The representative of Egypt emphasized the participative process of developing the IHP-IX strategic plan and the need for an efficient tracking mechanism with clear indicators and objectives identified in the IHP-IX operational plan. He noted the synergies between the IHP-IX strategic plan and the UNESCO Operational Strategy on Youth, Open Science, and Education for Sustainable Development Programme. He outlined the importance of building on the outcomes of the previous IHP phases and welcomed the recommendations of the IHP-VIII mid-term evaluation. He underlined that the resources mobilization for IHP-IX should be in line with UNESCO's strategy on resource mobilization.

40. The representative of Lebanon underlined that the document provided a comprehensive strategy for achieving the SDGs. She noted that the research aspect of the IHP-IX strategic plan is essential and can be linked to filling data gaps. She underlined that technical and legal harmonization at the country and global levels is essential for achieving the expected results of IHP IX. She supported water education, noting a shortage of qualified people in the water sector in many countries. She highlighted the importance of the digitization of the water sector to ensure smart systems and dealing with conventional and non-conventional water resources approaches.

41. The representative of Sudan specified that the implementation of the IHP-IX strategic plan would be adjusted and improved every two years. He suggested that parts of the current draft document could be streamlined (for example, outputs) and highlighted the relevance of the components related to the knowledge base and the development of capacities. He stressed water scarcity and climate challenges in arid regions and more emphasis on these issues.

42. The representative of Iraq agreed with statements made by Lebanon, acknowledging that their comments on the previous draft have been considered in the 3rd-order draft.

3.6. Statements by Observers

43. The representative of Colombia indicated that the 3rd-order draft is well aligned with the SDGs. Emphasizing that ecohydrology enables an in-depth insight into the entire water cycle,

he underlined the relevance of the recommendations of the IHP-VIII mid-term evaluation and noted the lessons learned to be used for the post-pandemic work.

44. The representative of Switzerland stated that the 3rd-order draft reflects the comments made in the past by the Delegation and expressed her satisfaction for this. Indicating that the IHP-VIII mid-term evaluation was made in 2018, she mentioned that a more updated review would provide a clear picture of the success of the IHP-VIII phase. She stressed the UNESCO's role as a co-custodian of SDG Indicator 6.5.2 and underlined the importance of cooperation with other UN agencies. Noting UNESCO's core mandate in science and education, she highlighted the need for a clear definition of IHP's role and of its comparative advantage *vis a vis* the roles of other UN agencies, with enhanced communication and coordination efforts. She stressed the relevance of IHP's role in improving the understanding of water issues and providing a sound scientific base for decision-makers, arguing that sanitation is not part of the IHP mandate but of other UN partners. The draft IHP-IX strategic plan could be improved by clarifying the specific roles of each UN agency concerning the international water agendas and clearly indicating where IHP has a supporting role. Pointing out human and financial resources, she requested a more accurate estimate of costs related to new endeavours proposed in IHP-IX, since all future proposals could only be given consideration if strategic directions and an estimation of costs are provided. As other countries, she also requested an extension of the review of and commenting on the 3rd order draft until 5 March 2021, to allow further consultations.

45. The representative of the Regional Centre for Training and Water Studies of Arid and Semi-Arid Zones (RCTWS), under the auspices of UNESCO in Egypt, emphasized: the relevance of water education and training for African countries; the development of human capacities; the exchange of data in technical fields like climate change; and opportunities for positive changes in the fields of hydrology within the mandate of IHP.

46. The representative for the Bahamas indicated that he has followed the process of the IHP-IX strategic plan development from a Caribbean's perspective, taking the opportunity to comment on their specific challenges in meeting the SDGs.

47. The representative of Malaysia congratulated the Secretariat for the draft IHP-IX document. Taking as an example the benefits of the survey used for SDG Indicator 6.5.1 for the implementation of Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM), she suggested that a similar survey framework should be used for SDG Targets 6.3 (water quality) and 6.6 (water-related ecosystems). She highlighted the challenges faced by the country regarding emerging pollutants and pointed out the importance of science for developing countries to understand better what emerging pollutants are.

48. The representative of Serbia advocated for the consideration of water-related problems in Central Asia beyond the Aral Sea.

49. The representative of the International Water Resources Association (IWRA) pointed out to the importance of the inclusion of the emergent pollutants in the IHP-IX strategic plan, noting that emerging pollutants which include pharmaceuticals and persistent organic pollutants are an issue of concern for both developing and developed countries. He expressed IWRA's willingness in collaborating with IHP in this area.

50. The representative of the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) stressed the long-term cooperation with UNESCO in hydrology and the value chain included in the new IHP phase. He mentioned the potential to strengthen the future cooperation with UNESCO in areas such as applied research, water-related data acquisition and sharing, modelling of flood and droughts, and issues related to the cryosphere. He recalled the joint UNESCO/WMO International Glossary on Hydrology (2012) and invited other international partners to activate synergies with IHP. Finally, he suggested the possibility for UNESCO and WMO to develop an action plan for cooperation.

51. The representative of the International Association of Hydrological Sciences (IAHS) underlined its strong partnership with IHP and expressed his satisfaction with the 3rd order draft. He noted that several areas of the draft IHP-IX strategic plan are aligned with IAHS' focus, including open science, citizen science, and nexus approaches. He expressed interest in supporting the development and implementation of an operational plan for IHP-IX.

Questions and clarifications

52. The Secretariat responded to the clarifications and questions made during the statements by IHP Council members and observers.

53. Addressing the request for clear definitions of "governance" and "water resources management", Ms Maria Donoso, an Expert of Member State (Panama), drew attention to the glossary, which is included in the 3rd-order draft of the IHP-IX strategic plan. She explained that the definitions were gathered by the Task Force members and Experts of Member States based on existing references. She further explained that from the discussions of the Task Force and the Experts of Member States based on different comments, it deemed necessary to keep water governance in the 3rd-order draft in relation bridging the science-policy interface. In this context, IHP-IX could support Member States on improving water governance by providing the necessary scientific contributions to decision-makers to make science informed decisions. Making reference to the current sanitary situation, she explained the importance of including citizen science in IHP-IX as citizens are increasingly more knowledgeable about and involved in science. She stated that the involvement of citizens is important to ensuring transdisciplinarity and co-design, particularly now where scientists are being called to work together with the communities, noting how this could also promote public awareness and community participation on important issues. With regard to transboundary waters, it was noted that IHP has no intention to replace any organization already working in this area. The objective is to provide the best possible science to support the development of policies and instruments. She further noted that IHP-IX should contribute to advancing the water agenda, with no intention of going beyond IHP's mandate.

54. The IHP Secretary re-emphasized the intention of the Secretariat to promote and maintain partnerships and synergies with sister agencies within the UN system, noting that IHP is an active member of UN-Water and its taskforces. He cited the partnership with the WMO as a strong example of this. He noted the importance IHP placed in identifying and capitalising on the strengths of each UN agency. He indicated that all members of UN-Water received an invitation to the IHP Council session. He further noted that UNESCO through a letter sent by DG to the Chair of UN-Water, has proposed to co-lead the element on capacity reinforcement of the SDG 6 Global Acceleration Framework. He also noted that IHP has a clear position in UN-Water as the lead programme on freshwater sciences and will mobilise the international scientific community on this effort. He noted IHP's strong focus on water sciences as a means to supporting Member States to implement water resource management and improve water governance. He noted the Resolution (XXIII-12) of the past IHP Council session, restricting the creation of new IHP initiatives without first establishing an accompanying framework for implementation. He noted that this framework should be adopted by the 24th session of the IHP Council.

55. The IHP Chairperson expressed appreciation for the crosscutting approach of IHP-IX which he explained eliminated compartmentalisation of IHP themes.

56. The representative of France noted that he had no doubt on the intention of the Secretariat to promote maximum cooperation with other UN agencies. Requesting clarifications about certain terms in the document, he stressed the intended long-term relevance of the IHP-IX strategic plan and therefore the importance of ensuring unambiguous and clear definitions in the text and its content.

57. The representative of Germany indicated her confidence in the willingness and ability of IHP to collaborate with the UN family. Underscoring the importance of a long-term perspective, she emphasized the need for clarity in the draft IHP-IX document.

58. In response to the concerns about UNESCO's role in monitoring SDG Indicator 6.5.2, the Secretariat clarified that UNESCO is the co-custodian of SDG indicator 6.5.2, together with UNECE, stating that this information might have not totally been clear in the presentation on the IHP-VIII mid-term evaluation by the UNESCO Internal Oversight Service. The IHP Secretary underlined that in the draft IHP-IX strategic plan, UNESCO is listed as co-custodian of indicator 6.5.2, with UNECE.

59. The representative of China highlighted that certain terms such "citizen science", "transboundary" and also "water governance" may have different meanings depending on the developed or developing country perspective. He also urged the Member States to collaborate across regions on the implementation of IHP-IX.

60. The representative of Iraq praised the current IHP-IX strategic plan and highlighted that often water problems are of a transboundary nature, and stressed the relevance of groundwater contamination, highlighting the importance of developing a strong strategic plan to support the Member States to address such challenges.

61. The representative of Poland emphasized the critical importance of building synergies with other UN agencies, using the strength of the multidisciplinary nature of its mandate, which encompasses also culture and education.

62. The representative of Russia supported the statements by France and Germany on the need for additional time for consultation on the draft IHP-IX strategic plan, with a focus on the Priority Areas. He noted with concern the new priorities which he stated blur the focus of IHP.

63. The representative of Spain stated that extending the deadline for submission of Member States comments would be very useful since there are areas which could be improved. However, he also expressed concern that new changes could dilute the strategic plan. He suggested as a compromise to extend the consultation deadlines without broadening the scope of consultations. He stressed the need to focus on moving towards the development of an implementation plan, which would clarify many issues. He stated that there has been sufficient time to discuss the IHP-IX strategic plan and efforts should now be made to finalize it.

64. The representative of France explained that his Delegation's comments on the IHP-IX will seek to provide clarification on specific points rather than change its content, reiterating his request the deadline for providing comments on the 3rd-order draft to 5 March 2021.

3.7. Examination of the draft resolution

65. The Secretariat emphasized that the determination of a timeline for the revision and adoption of the IHP-IX strategic plan was in the hands of the Member States. It was noted that an IHP Council resolution on IHP-IX would request the Member States to ensure the incorporation of IHP-IX elements in UNESCO 41 C/4 and C/5 which could be considered during the Executive Board discussions on 41 C/4 and 41 C/5. It also suggested that alternatively, this could be assured during the Science Commission of the upcoming 41st session of the UNESCO General Conference in 2021.

66. The representative of Germany suggested that instead of preliminarily adopting documents of the IHP-IX strategic plan and a related draft resolution, it would be preferable to prolong the deadline for their adoption to another date.

67. The IHP Chairperson explained that he was not suggesting adoption but was seeking agreement on the way forward.

68. The IHP Council decided not to discuss, nor adopt, at the present session the draft resolution on IHP-IX (draft Resolution XTR-III-1), proposed in the document IHP/IC-XTR-III/2, considering that the draft IHP-IX strategic plan needs further consultations and revisions in order to incorporate the Member States comments therein, as highlighted by the IHP Council members.

3.8. The way forward

69. Following the concerns raised above by many delegates regarding the need for additional time for further consultation on the draft IHP-IX strategic plan, the IHP Council discussed the requests by France and Germany to extend the deadline to provide further comments on the 3rd-order draft until 5 March 2021. Several delegates supported the extension of the deadline.

70. The IHP Council Chairperson encouraged all to look ahead towards the finalization of the IHP-IX strategic plan and proposed a way forward, comprising: the extension of deadline for comments on the 3rd-order draft until 5 March 2021; and the delivery of an updated draft for consideration by the Member States by 31 March 2021. Noting that the IHP Council needs to approve the IHP-IX strategic plan, he suggested that the relevant decision is taken at the 24th ordinary session of the IHP Council.

71. The Secretariat recalled that the preparation of the IHP-IX operational plan would be contingent on the adoption of an IHP Council resolution on IHP-IX strategic plan, reminding that the operational plan requires the mobilization of the entire UNESCO Water Family.

72. The representative of Germany put forward a proposal for the way forward and the organization of the work in the next stage of the IHP-IX strategic plan preparation, suggesting: the extension of the deadline for comments on the 3rd-order draft of the IHP-IX strategic plan until 5 March 2021, followed by the compilation of Member States' comments on the 3rd order draft, amendments and persisting differences by the Secretariat, by the end of March or April 2021; and the establishment of a Working Group of the IHP Council to work on an updated draft of the IHP-IX strategic plan after the compilation of Member States' comments on the 3rd-order draft. She suggested that the IHP Council Working Group on IHP-IX could either comprise three members from each electoral group or open to all members of the IHP Council and interested observers. She further suggested that the Working Group could meet during April 2021 and reach a compromise document of the IHP-IX strategic plan by May 2021; thereby allowing for the document's adoption at the 24th session of the IHP Council in June 2021.

73. The representatives of Russia, Egypt, Turkey, France, Libya, Senegal and Ethiopia expressed support for the proposal of Germany concerning the extension of the deadline for comments and the establishment of a Working Group.

74. Supporting the establishment of a Working Group, the representative of Iran asked that an overview of the issues raised during the present session the IHP Council be prepared in order to serve to guide the Working Group and ensure its focused deliberations. He suggested establishing two or three sub-Working Groups, each focusing on specific aspects of the report; for example, one on scientific parts, another on language editing etc.

75. The representative of Austria expressed support for a final consultative phase, as suggested by Germany. Supported by the Netherlands and Zambia, he, however, called for the present session of the IHP Council to clarify the scope of changes and deliberations by the Working Group.

76. The representative of Sudan underlined the importance of consensus and the consideration of all viewpoints, however cautioned against opening the discussion too widely at the present advanced stage of the IHP-IX strategic plan preparation. The delegate from

Egypt agreed with Sudan, recalling that the IHP-IX document should contain the major thrusts of the programme.

77. The IHP Council Chairperson noted that the discussions of the Working Group would be limited to the comments and suggestions already made on the 3rd-order draft and would not constitute a major revision of the document, which will be analyzed by the Working Group, supported by the IHP Secretariat and the IHP-IX Task Force. He noted that all key elements now included in the strategic plan would be retained.

78. The representative of Turkey stressed that the establishment of a Working Group should not lead to the opening up of new areas, but should serve to examine the document in light of the comments raised during the present session of the IHP Council. She recalled the intergovernmental nature of IHP and of its Council, stressing that negotiations and compromise are part of an intergovernmental process and recalling the responsibility of the IHP Council members to reach a satisfactory outcome for all.

79. The representative of Lebanon noted that there is no document that is ideal and asked the Members States to be considerate of the cost of time. She highlighted the challenges faced by this process and expressed that she preferred that the IHP-IX strategic plan be finalized as soon as possible. She noted that the document is comprehensive and tackles the main challenges and solutions. She underscored that if there are no radical changes to be made to the document, the time for additional input needs to be extended.

80. The IHP Council Chairperson noted the support of most of the delegates to extend the deadline for written comments by Member States on the 3rd order draft. He also underlined the consensus on the establishment of the IHP Council Working Group on IHP-IX, suggesting that the Working Group should address specific issues and to be time-bound. He also suggested that the Working Group take into consideration the decision-making process of the IHP Council and its Bureau.

81. The delegate from Japan supported the idea of establishing a Working Group, but asked for clarification about the relationship between the Working Group and the IHP-IX Task Force.

82. The Secretary highlighted that some comments by the Member States require negotiation and recommended that the Working Group should be established to finalize negotiation on specific issues in the 3rd-order draft document. He indicated that the Working Group would see if the comments of the Members States are reflected in the updated document. He recalled that the consultation process started three years ago and, as pointed out by the Member States, the draft is a good document, with no radical changes needed. It was noted that the IHP-IX Task Force and Experts of Members of States will compile additional comments by Member States after 5 March 2021 and will produce an updated draft document, which will be subsequently submitted to Member States by the end of March 2021. It was underlined that following the compilation of the comments and inputs by the IHP-IX Task Force and Experts of Members States, the Working Group will identify specific issues in the document that need to be negotiated and ensure that the comments of the Member States are well reflected in the IHP-IX strategic plan. He stated that following the review of the Working Group of the updated version of the document, the IHP-IX strategic plan will be submitted to the IHP Council at its 24th session in June 2021. The Secretariat proposed that at that stage, the IHP-IX strategic plan could possibly be approved by acclamation by the IHP Council and the draft resolution approving the IHP-IX strategic plan could also be adopted by the IHP Council.

83. The Secretariat further clarified that there is no need for the approval of the IHP-IX strategy by the UNESCO Executive Board, since a resolution on the IHP-IX strategic plan by the IHP Council as subsidiary body of the General Conference is sufficient. He called on the Member States in the UNESCO Executive Board and IHP Council to ensure that the UNESCO

C/4 and C/5 include the IHP-IX elements. The need to define the composition and Terms of Reference (ToR) of the Working Group was mentioned. (Cf. paragraph 65, *supra*.)

84. The IHP Council Chairperson pointed out that the negotiation process between the IHP Council's Working Group and IHP-IX Task Force will be facilitated by the IHP Secretariat. He mentioned that the main task of the Working Group is to harmonize the work of the IHP-IX Task Force. He further emphasized that the Working Group would discuss specific issues.

85. The delegate from France, supported by Germany, highlighted that many members of the IHP Council agreed with the proposal of the Working Group. He recalled that the role of the Working Group would not be to rebuild the strategic plan, but to finalize it. He thanked the IHP-IX Task Force for its work and noted that the structure of the strategic plan is cohesive and comprehensive. He stated that the Member States can fine tune the strategic plan and propose a resolution that can be adopted at the next session of the IHP Council.

86. The delegate from Egypt highlighted that most countries agree with the proposal of creating a Working Group to verify the integration of comments of the Member States in the draft IHP-IX strategic plan. He outlined main elements of the ToR of the Working Group, which include: the composition of the Working Group; its scope and objectives; and its timeframe.

87. Referencing the Working Group that was established to review the statutes and the rules of procedures for the IHP, the representative of Russia suggested a similar approach could be used regarding the ToR of the Working Group on IHP-IX. She proposed that the Working Group on IHP-IX should be limited to a few members of the IHP Council and be given a specific a mandate to resolve issues on which there is no consensus.

88. The delegate from France suggested that the Working Group be open to all Member States of the Council that volunteer to be a part of it.

89. The delegate from Turkey stressed that under current circumstances, an open-ended Working Group to all members of IHP would be a better option. She stated that several Members States made comments on the 3rd-order draft and these Member States should be given an opportunity to be present in the discussions of the Working Group, if they wish to do so.

90. After considering different options, the IHP Council decided that:

- 1) The deadline to submit further comments by Member States on the 3rd order draft of the IHP-IX strategic plan will be extended until 5 March 2021.
- 2) The IHP-IX Task Force and Experts of Members States will incorporate the Member States' comments on the 3rd order draft and will produce a new, updated document of the IHP-IX strategic plan, identifying the issues that need to be negotiated among Member States, with the facilitation of the IHP Secretariat.
- 3) The Secretariat will submit the updated document of the IHP-IX strategic plan to the IHP Council and Member States by 31 March 2021.
- 4) A Member States' Working Group on IHP-IX will be established by the IHP Council to harmonize the divergent elements of the IHP-IX strategic plan. The Working Group will conduct its meetings in April and May 2021 to work on the updated version of the draft IHP-IX strategic plan. The work of the Working Group will be conducted in a virtual manner, facilitated by the IHP Secretariat. The composition of the Working Group will be open-ended to all interested Member States of the IHP Council and to observer States. The ToR of the Working Group are agreed upon, as included in Annex 1 to this report.
- 5) The Working Group on IHP-IX will produce by 14 May a final, agreed document of the IHP-IX strategic plan for the consideration and approval by the IHP Council.
- 6) The revised IHP-IX strategic plan, agreed by the Working Group, will be submitted to the IHP Council one month before its 24th session, with a possibility of its approval by acclamation.

91. The representative of Iran, while recognizing the consensus already reached not to restructure the current draft strategic plan, insisted on incorporating selected comments put forward by Member States; for instance, those submitted by Iran: a) about a more efficient and fluent interaction of IHP with UNESCO water-related Centres and Chairs, with IHP developing a systematic strategy to bring closer together those counterparts; and b) to enhance the interaction of UNESCO with society in a wider context, as programmes are often too much technical and the knowledge transfer efforts should include also other stakeholders.

92. The representative of Spain mentioned the IHP-IX operational plan of IHP-IX as a central document for the IHP-IX phase and his aspiration that its preparation could begin earlier than June 2021, since its implementation will begin in 2022.

93. The Secretariat reiterated that the IHP-VIII mid-term evaluation includes a key recommendation to fully involve the Member States and the UNESCO Water Family in the IHP-IX implementation and the achievement of individual outputs, building on the rich expertise available at the UNESCO Water Family. It was noted that even if the IHP-IX strategic plan is not yet approved, the IHP Secretariat could launch the process to map the capacities of the Member States and the UNESCO Water Family to deliver on the basis of the proposed outputs, asking IHP National Committees and other members of the UNESCO Water Family to specify the outputs, which implementation they can lead or contribute to. He also indicated that after this mapping, indicators would be defined for each output of the IHP-IX strategic plan to facilitate the monitoring and evaluation process to be undertaken during the IHP-IX phase. The IHP-IX operational plan should contain these elements for the outputs. Member States and the UNESCO Water Family will lead and coordinate different working groups, and will be accountable in delivering some of the outputs of IHP-IX. It was suggested that the IHP-IX implementation will be monitored and adjustments will be incorporated, while implementation is underway. The Secretariat proposed that a draft IHP-IX operational plan of the implementation of the IHP-IX phase could be submitted to the IHP Council for its approval at an extraordinary session either after the UNESCO General Conference in 2021, or alternatively in the beginning of 2022.

94. The Assistant Director-General for Natural Sciences acknowledged the contributions and support of the Member States for putting the UNESCO Water Family at the service of humanity. She thanked for the sharing of countries' water-related challenges and concerns, so that UNESCO can better meet the needs of Member States. She stressed that the continued commitment of the Member States is needed, with all stakeholders contributing towards a water-secure world. She reiterated that IHP is the water programme of the Member States, delivering at the national level, mobilizing the expertise available in the UNESCO Water Family and making use of South-South and a triangular cooperation. She underlined that the co-implementation of IHP at the national level with the IHP National Committees would promote informed decisions for water secure countries in a water secure world.

4. Item 2. DATES OF THE 24th SESSION OF THE IGC OF IHP AND 59th SESSION OF THE IHP BUREAU

95. Upon Secretariat's proposal, the IHP Council considered two options for the dates of the next 24th ordinary session of the IHP Intergovernmental Council: a virtual session in June 2021; or an *in presentia* session to be held in September 2021, if global sanitary conditions would permit it. After consideration of the requests by some delegates to avoid the overlapping with other major UNESCO meetings as well as with those organized by Member States, the IHP Council decided to conduct its 24th session in a virtual format from 28 to 30 June 2021.

96. The IHP Council decided to conduct the 59th session of the IHP Bureau from 27 to 28 September 2021 in presential if the sanitary situation allows.

97. The delegate from Mexico requested that, if the 59th session of the IHP Bureau could not be held in person due to the sanitary restrictions, it should be held in a hybrid online/in-person format, allowing the participation, in one way or another, of all members of the IHP Bureau. The IHP Secretariat confirmed that the meeting could be organized in such a hybrid format.

5. OTHER MATTERS

98. No items were discussed.

6. CLOSING OF THE SESSION

99. The Assistant Director-General for Natural Sciences thanked all participants and the IHP Chairperson for their contributions to the session. She also thanked the IHP-IX Task Force members and Experts of Members States for their contribution and thanked the Member States for their support to IHP.

100. The IHP Chairperson thanked all participants and closed the session.

Annex 1

Terms of Reference of the Working Group on IHP-IX as presented in-session



Way Forward

ToRs of Working Group

1. Open ended Working Group to all Council members and Observers
2. WG to elect a chair and rapporteur
3. Observers have no decision making role (as per Statutes)
4. Reference point of discussion will be the 3rd order draft of IHP-IX.
5. The document to be discussed will be the Draft IHP-IX text that will be developed by the TF and EoMS after taking into consideration the comments received on the 3rd order draft until 5 March
6. Point of discussion will not be technical but rather take decision on elements that require convergence
7. Document to be ready by May 14
8. Rapporteur to present the document to the Council (virtually 14-18 June 2021)



Annex 1 bis

Terms of Reference of the Working Group on IHP-IX
as edited/formulated by the IHP Secretariat based on
the Statutes and the Rules of Procedure of the IHP Council

1. **The [open-ended] Working Group shall be open to all Council members and observer countries** (as per Statutes of the IHP Council, Art. V, para. 2).
2. **The Working Group is to elect a chairperson, vice-chairpersons and, if necessary, a rapporteur** (as per the Rules of Procedure of the IHP Council, Art. V, para. 9. (2)).
3. **The observer countries have no decision-making role/no right to vote** (as per Statutes, Art. VII, para. 1).
4. **The reference point of the Working Group's discussion will be the 3rd order draft of IHP-IX.**
5. **The document to be discussed will be the draft IHP-IX text that will be developed by the Task Force and Experts of Member States through integrating the comments received on the 3rd order draft until 5 March 2021.**
6. **The Working Group will discuss the elements of the thus revised draft IHP-IX text that require convergence and shall decide upon them. It will not review purely technical or editorial comments in detail.**
7. **The Working Group shall agree upon a pre-final draft of IHP-IX by 14 May 2021 at the latest.**
8. **The rapporteur will present the document to the 24th session of the IHP Council** (held online 28-30 June 2021).

Annex 2: List of participants (presented in a separate document)