

## **Intergovernmental Hydrological Programme**

4<sup>th</sup> Extraordinary Session of the Intergovernmental Council  
(29 September – 1 October 2021)

### **RELATIONS WITH UNITED NATIONS, INTERGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS AND NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS**

**Item 7** of the provisional agenda

#### **Summary**

This document provides a concise summary of IHP's cooperation and relations with UN, intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations on water-related issues, in particular of:

- 7.1. Cooperation with the UN System on freshwater issues
- 7.2. Cooperation with intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations
- 7.3. IHP's contribution to the UN World Water Development Report
- 7.4. IHP's role in World Water Forum and other key international events and agendas

No decision on this agenda item is required.



## **COOPERATION WITH THE UN SYSTEM ON FRESHWATER ISSUES (Agenda sub-item 7.1)**

1. UNESCO's Intergovernmental Hydrological Programme (IHP) and UNESCO Field Offices closely collaborate with UN, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations on a wide range of water-related issues at the global, regional and national levels.

### **UN-Water**

2. UN-Water is a coordinating mechanism with the goal of facilitating the United Nations family's "delivery as one" in response to water related challenges. UN agencies, programmes and entities dealing with water-related issues, including sanitation and natural disasters are members of UN-Water. Decisions related to UNESCO during UN-Water annual meetings from 2019 to 2021 are:

- The 30th meeting of the UN-Water, held at the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) in Rome (31 January-01 February 2019), decided that World Water Day 2020 "Water and Climate Change" would be coordinated by an Expert Group, composed by the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE), UNESCO and the World Meteorological Organization (WMO). It was also decided "Valuing Water" as the theme of World Water Day 2021 and "Groundwater: making the invisible visible" as the theme of World Water Day 2022.
- At the 32<sup>nd</sup> meeting, held at IFAD in Rome (28-29 January 2020), the following decisions were taken to:
  - a) Request UNESCO and the UN-Water Management Team to present at the 33<sup>rd</sup> UN-Water Meeting a revised and improved formulation of the suggested citation (of the World Water Development Report) that takes into account the truly collaborative spirit needed to make the UN World Water Development Report (WWDR) the UN-Water flagship report as a joint effort of UN-Water Members and Partners.
  - b) Request the Expert Group, led by UNESCO and UNECE, to revise the 2008 UN-Water Thematic Paper "Sharing Waters, Sharing Benefits" as a UN-Water Policy Brief and allocate up to 20,000 USD for this revision in the UN-Water Work Programme 2020-2021. The Expert Group will report on progress at the 35<sup>th</sup> UN-Water Meeting in October 2021.
- The 33<sup>rd</sup> meeting of UN-Water took place online on 29-30 September 2020. At the meeting, UN-Water and UNESCO agreed upon the citation to be used for the WWDR series as following: "United Nations, The United Nations World Water Development Report [YEAR]: [THEMATIC TITLE]. UNESCO, Paris".
- At the 34<sup>th</sup> meeting, organized online from 15-17 March 2021, the following decisions related to UNESCO were taken:
  - a) Endorsed the proposal to organize a Groundwater Summit in December 2022 at UNESCO, Paris, as a contribution to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the SDG 6 Global Acceleration Framework. It was also decided to create a Task Force on World Water Day 2022 and World Toilet Day 2022, to be co-coordinated by UNESCO and the international Groundwater Resources Assessment Centre (IGRAC, Category 2 Centre under the auspices of UNESCO) and with members including UN organizations and UN-Water partners. The scope of the Task Force will include the organization of the Groundwater Summit. UNESCO will provide an update on it at the 35<sup>th</sup> UN-Water Meeting.
  - b) Decided to bring the Capacity Development Initiative out from the UN-Water Task Force on Country-level Engagement and to establish it as a UN-Water

initiative, which will directly support the capacity development accelerator of the SDG 6 Global Acceleration Framework. The Initiative is co-coordinated by UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA) and UNESCO. The Initiative will report on progress at each UN-Water Meeting.

3. The UN-Water facilitates cooperation and coordination on water-related issues among its Members and Partners through the following Expert Groups, Task Forces and Initiatives:

*Expert Groups:*

- 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development
- Drinking water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH)
- Regional level coordination
- Transboundary waters
- Water and climate change
- Water quality and wastewater
- Water scarcity

*Task Forces:*

- Country-level engagement
- Water Action Decade implementation
- World Water Day

*Initiatives:*

- UN-Water Integrated Monitoring Initiative for SDG 6
- UN-Water Global Analysis and Assessment of Sanitation and Drinking Water (UN-Water GLAAS)
- World Health Organization (WHO)/UN Children's Fund (UNICEF) Joint Monitoring Programme for Water Supply, Sanitation and Hygiene (JMP)

4. UNESCO is a co-coordinator of UN-Water Expert Groups on: Water and Climate Change; and Transboundary Waters. UNESCO contributed to UN-Water policy briefs on related topics, in coordination with all UN-Water members. UNESCO is a member of UN-Water Expert Group on Water Quality and Wastewater. UNESCO and UN Environment (UNEP), jointly with other partners, co-organized Webinar on "Emerging Pollutants in Wastewater: An Increasing Threat" in February 2020. UNESCO is also member of the UN-Water Joint Steering Group for a period of two years until the second annual UN-Water Meeting in 2022.

### **World Water Day celebrations**

5. The World Water Day 2020 and 2021 were celebrated under themes "Water and Climate Change" and "Valuing Water", respectively. Themes of World Water Day 2022 and 2023 will be "Groundwater" and "Accelerating Change", respectively, with the same themes for annual World Toilet Day celebrations and UN WWDR.

### **UN SDG 6 Global Accelerator Framework**

6. With an aim to accelerate progress to achieve water and sanitation-related Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the SDG 6 Global Acceleration Framework was launched at a special event in New York in July 2020, with the participation of the Director-General of UNESCO, UN Secretary-General, the President of the UN General Assembly, Heads of 10 UN entities, and stakeholders from civil society and the private sector. As a UN-Water member, UNESCO, through IHP, will contribute to its implementation by mobilizing the UNESCO Water Family and focusing on capacity building and promoting knowledge. During HLPF 2021 in July, the UNESCO Director-General contributed to the SDG 6 event focusing on the Capacity development component of the SDG 6 Global Acceleration Framework.

### **High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) 2018**

7. UNESCO, UN Major Group for Children and Youth, Water Youth Network, UN-Water and World Youth Parliament for Water organized a HLPF 2018 side-event on “Ensuring Intergenerational Policy dialogues for the achievement of SDG 6”, aimed at facilitating intergenerational dialogue among youth and decision-makers (35 participants, 50% women).

### **Special Rapporteur on the human rights to safe drinking water and sanitation**

8. In the context of the celebration of the World Water Day 2019 “Leaving no one behind” (22 March 2019), the UN Special Rapporteur on the human rights to safe drinking water and sanitation, Mr Léo Heller, the Permanent Mission of Spain, the Permanent Mission of Germany, UN-Water, IHP, and UN Human Rights Office of the High Commissioner, organized the Second Human Rights Youth Challenge to raise awareness among the youth about the human rights to water and sanitation (80 entries, 50% women). The Special Rapporteur on Human Rights for Safe Drinking Water and Sanitation participated in the Webinar “Management tools for the water sector in Latin America and the Caribbean to face COVID-19”, co-organized by IHP and WHO (April 2020), and contributed, as co-author, to the paper “Preliminary Assessment of COVID-19 Implications for the Water and Sanitation Sector in Latin America and the Caribbean”, led by IHP and WHO for the Americas.

9. The new Special Rapporteur on Human Rights for Safe Drinking Water and Sanitation, Mr Pedro Arrojo, participated in the High-level Seminar on “Advances and Challenges in Cooperation on Transboundary Water Management in the Framework of the SDGs and Indicator 6.5.2”, co-organized with the Ibero-American Conference of Water Directors (CODIA) (23-24 February 2021) and in the Regional Dialogues on Water for the Bonn International Water Conference 2021.

### **World Meteorological Organization (WMO)**

10. As part of the restructuring of WMO commissions, the WMO established a Hydrological Assembly, replacing its Commission of Hydrology (CHy), during the 18<sup>th</sup> World Meteorological Congress (Cg-18) in June 2019. Following the WMO restructuring, UNESCO and WMO have initiated discussions on the amendment of their current working agreement on water to be concluded soon through exchanges of letters between the two organizations. UNESCO participated, as an observer, in the 1<sup>st</sup> WMO Hydrological Coordination Panel that took place in Geneva, Switzerland, in December 2019. The two organizations are discussing concrete joint activities on water to be implemented collaboratively.

11. UNESCO serves as a member of the Advisory Council of the WMO HydroHub initiative on hydrological data and collaborates on WMO’s Integrated Drought Management Programme, Associated Programme on Flood Management and Global Cryosphere Watch on Cryosphere and Water-related issues. IHP co-organized the World Mountain Summit, hosted by WMO in Geneva in October 2019, with the objective to foster high-level dialogue and engage decision-makers and local actors to develop a roadmap to science-based, user-driven knowledge and information systems supporting sustainable development and risk reduction in mountain and downstream regions. UNESCO collaborates with WMO on the recently-initiated Water and Climate Coalition. UNESCO, jointly with WMO, UN Environment and other partners, collaborate in the scope of the World Glacier Monitoring Service, whose General Assembly met in Argentina in October 2019.

### **UN Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO)**

12. UNESCO served for 2018-2020 in the Steering Committee of the Global Framework on Water Scarcity in Agriculture (WASAG), hosted by FAO, provided technical contributions and co-organized side events during the World Water Week.

### **UN Environmental Programme (UN Environment)**

13. UNESCO collaborates with UN Environment on water quality and serves in the Steering Committee of UN Environment's Global Environmental Monitoring System (GEMS)/Water Programme. IHP, jointly with UN Environment and other partners, co-organized a Webinar on "Emerging Pollutants in Wastewater: An Increasing Threat" in February 2020.

### **World Health Organization (WHO) and UN-Habitat**

14. UNESCO collaborates with WHO and UN-Habitat to develop a proposal that will increase the confidence of people in tap water, minimize plastic waste, carbon emissions and ocean pollution, and help developing states to achieve the SDG 6. Furthermore, UNESCO's Global Water Pathogen project provided the basis for WHO publication on Guidelines on Sanitation and Health. UNESCO co-organized, with UN-HABITAT and UN Environment, a COP-25 side-event on climate change effects in an urban environment.

15. In the context of the COVID-19 pandemic, IHP and WHO for the Americas/Pan-American Health Organization (PAHO) co-organized six online events (with over 1400 participants) and two technical training courses. A paper with a Preliminary Assessment of COVID-19 Implications for the Water and Sanitation Sector in Latin America and the Caribbean was prepared.

### **United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE)**

16. UNESCO and UNECE are the co-custodian agencies for the monitoring of SDG Indicator 6.5.2 (see document IHP/IC-XTR-IV/Inf.5). The second monitoring exercise of the SDG Indicator 6.5.2 took place in 2020-2021 and the second global progress report was released in August 2021 during the Stockholm World Water Week.

### **UNESCO Field Offices' cooperation with UN organizations on water**

17. The UNESCO Office in Jakarta worked with the UN Resident Coordinator and UN agencies in Indonesia on the celebrations of the World Water Day 2018, 2019, and 2020 (virtually) with participation of 83 participants (48 women), 95 participants (67 women), and 150 participants, respectively. The UNESCO Office in Jakarta also hosted, jointly with the IHP Secretariat, UNECE and other partners, an online regional workshop supporting monitoring and implementation of the SDG Indicator 6.5.2 (transboundary water cooperation) in September 2020, with participation of 63 participants from the Asia region. The workshop aimed to support Member States in Southeast Asia, East Asia, and South Asia to collect, report and make use of data for the 2<sup>nd</sup> reporting exercise on SDG Indicator 6.5.2.

18. The UNESCO Office in Beijing, in cooperation with the UNESCO Chair on Integrated River Research and Management in Vienna, Austria, is implementing a project on "The Role of Sediments and Hydropower in River Basin Management - A contribution to the UNESCO IHP World's Large Rivers Initiative (WLRI)", funded by the World Bank. The project is conducting case studies in three rivers: the Danube, the Mekong and the Niger. It aims to extend the approach to other rivers of the world, within the framework of the WLRI.

19. UNESCO Office in Cairo collaborates with FAO on water scarcity and groundwater. UNESCO is a partner of the FAO Regional Water Scarcity Initiative and is serving as co-chair of the UN issue-based Coalition Pillar on Water and Food Security. UNESCO and FAO co-organized a high-level panel on Groundwater Governance in the Arab Region during the 2<sup>nd</sup> FAO Regional Land and Water Days (Cairo, 2019), with the participation of more than 60 water and agricultural experts from Morocco, Tunisia and Egypt. UNESCO, jointly with UN Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, UN Environment, and the League of Arab States, trained 80 professionals from 15 Arab countries on water-energy-food nexus and water scarcity in COP negotiations, by co-organizing four Regional Capacity-building Workshops for Climate Change Negotiators in 2018 and 2019.

20. UNESCO Office in Khartoum, jointly with UNESCO Chair in Water Resources, UNECE, WHO, and relevant ministries of Sudan, organized the 2<sup>nd</sup> National IWRM Conference on Universal Access to Safe Drinking Water and Sanitation Services (150 participants, 110 men and 40 women) and promoted national/sectoral coordination on SDG 6.

21. UNESCO Office in Montevideo, jointly with WHO-Americas, Pan-American Health Organization and UNICEF, co-organized webinars on water and Covid-19, focusing on handwashing, water and sanitation in educational settings in Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC, April-June 2020). UNECE and UNESCO, as co-custodian agencies for SDG Indicator 6.5.2, and with the participation of the UN Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (UNECLAC), conducted a series of workshops for LAC countries (Uruguay, 2018; Guatemala, 2019; virtual, 2020). UNESCO and UNECLAC co-organized a side-event "The value of water in the 2030 agenda" during the 3<sup>rd</sup> Forum of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development (Chile, April 2019). In 2021, the LAC regional event "Dialogues on water" for the Bonn International Water Conference 2021 was co-organized by IHP, the German government and UNECLAC, with over 500 participants.

23. The UNESCO Office in Nairobi is working with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) on Hydrological and Geological Study of the Rift Valley Lake System in Kenya. The IHP Africa is collaborating with UN Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) on providing Africa regional outlook to annual World Water Development Reports. Under the lead of UNESCO and UN Environment, the UN Resident Coordinator in Kenya formulated a team to strengthen the government capacity to implement risk-informed strategies to increase water security and provide effective response and recovery to drought and flood emergencies. Smartphone applications "Rainwater harvesting for Africa" and "Know water", developed under IHP Africa in collaboration with the African Ministers' Council on Water (AMCOW), UN Environment Regional Office for Africa and UNECA, were launched during the 7<sup>th</sup> IHP Africa Steering Committee meeting in Praia, Cape Verde, in October 2019. The event "Building on the interlinkages between Water and Sanitation and the SDGs under review at the HLPF 2019" was organized by WWAP, UNECA, the UNESCO Regional Office for Africa and UN-Water at the 5<sup>th</sup> session of the Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development in Marrakech, Morocco, in April 2019.

24. UNESCO, through its Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe based in Venice, is co-leading, with UN Environment and UNECE, the 18-agency UN Issue-based Coalition (IBC) on Environment and Climate Change for Europe and Central Asia. UNESCO is also co-leading, with UNECE, the Water Task Team of the IBC. Within this context, the UNESCO Regional Bureau in Venice and UNECE co-organized a series of webinars in support of the UN Resident Coordinators and UN Country Teams of the region in May 2020. The UNESCO Regional Bureau in Venice co-organized, with WWAP and UN-Water, a webinar on the 2020 World Water Development Report, focusing on the concrete data and tools for Member States of the region to effectively manage their water resources in this climate change era, and a webinar on transboundary water cooperation, focusing specifically on the Drin and Drina river basins in South East Europe, in July 2020.

## **COOPERATION WITH INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS (Agenda sub-item 7.2)**

### **African Ministers' Council on Water (AMCOW)**

25. UNESCO and AMCOW signed a cooperation MoU in 2019. In the framework of this MoU, UNESCO is contributing to the AMCOW's Pan-African Groundwater Program, by co-chairing three actions groups on groundwater assessments, groundwater legal framework and capacity building and education. UNESCO has cooperated with AMCOW for the

organization of the event on AMCOW hub on knowledge management during the world water week in August 2021.

### **The Baltic Marine Environment Protection Commission (HELCOM)**

26. The joint UNESCO-HELCOM study on “Pharmaceuticals in the Aquatic Environment of the Baltic Sea Region” have resulted in science-based policy development by HELCOM to address contaminants of emerging concern in signatory countries of this intergovernmental body— the Helsinki Convention. The policy recommendations of the study were welcomed in the HELCOM Ministerial Declaration 2018 “*as the information basis for developing measures, as appropriate, to prevent pharmaceuticals from reaching the Baltic Sea*”.

### **European Commission**

27. UNESCO is a partner organization of the newly-approved European Union (EU) Horizon 2020 research project “Microplastics in Europe’s Freshwater” (2019-2022), along with a consortium of 12 universities and research institutions and 12 stakeholder partners. UNESCO, through IHP’s International Initiative on Water Quality, will lead project’s policy and stakeholder dialogues. The project kick-off meeting took place on 19 October 2020.

28. IHP is a partner with the European Commission Joint Research Centre of the NEPAD ACEWATER II project, with the AU-NEPAD Networks of Water Centres of Excellence (CoE). A total of 30 courses with 22 pilot trainings were implemented in nine countries by 10 CoEs and trained a total of 684 junior/senior technicians and professionals in the water sector (41% women).

### **Global Environment Facility (GEF)**

29. The GEF project on the Guarani Aquifer was approved and the execution agreement was signed in 2021. The Development Bank for Latin America (CAF) is the project’s Implementation Agency and UNESCO is an executing agency. The implementation of the Phase 3 of the project on “Governance of Groundwater Resources in Transboundary Aquifers” (GGRETA) started in 2019, and activities are currently executed in three regions— Africa, Asia and Latin America.

30. UNESCO, in collaboration with UNDP, is undertaking a GEF-funded project on ‘Strengthening the resilience of Central Asian countries’ by enabling regional cooperation to assess high altitude glacio-nival systems to develop integrated methods for sustainable development and adaptation to climate change’. Five countries are participating in the project: Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan.

### **Global Water Partnership (GWP)**

31. UNESCO, with financing from GWP-Mediterranean, is implementing a pilot project on “Design and testing of a multi-purpose (transboundary) groundwater monitoring network” in Albania and Montenegro, in the framework of the GEF Project on "Enabling Transboundary Cooperation and Integrated Water Resources Management in the Extended Drin River Basin". The pilot project, focusing on the Skadar-Bojana Delta transboundary alluvial aquifer, aims to design and test a multi-purpose transboundary groundwater monitoring network and suggest a proposal of a program of groundwater monitoring for data collection and sharing, in line with relevant EU legislation.

32. GWP has been a partner of several regional workshops dedicated to SDG indicator 6.5.2, such as the Asia workshop held virtually on 17 September 2020. UNESCO has been also contributing to several initiatives of GWP regarding the promotion of transboundary cooperation, by providing update on the activities related to SDG indicator 6.5.2. The workshop "SDG 6.5.2 Implementation for Central America, Mexico and the Caribbean" was co-organized by IHP, CODIA, UNECE, GWP and CeReGAS in Guatemala, November 2019.

### **Ibero-American Water Directors Conference (CODIA)**

33. A High-Level Seminar "Progress and challenges in cooperation in transboundary water management in the framework of the SDGs and indicator 6.5.2 – XXI CODIA" took place on 23 and 24 February 2021. It analyzed operational arrangements for cooperation on transboundary waters in the context of SDG Indicator 6.5.2 and established the working methodology for further country engagement, supported by CODIA.

### **International Association of Hydrogeologists (IAH)**

34. The IAH is a partner in the organization of the 2<sup>nd</sup> UNESCO Conference on Transboundary Aquifers (ISARM 2021). IAH, in partnership with IHP and the International Groundwater Resources Centre, established a new Commission on groundwater quality. UNESCO has participated in the 48<sup>th</sup> IAH International Congress 2021, "Inspiring Groundwater".

### **International Association of Hydrological Sciences (IAHS)**

35. IHP and IAHS published in the Proceedings of the IAHS series "Hydrological Processes and Water Security in a Changing World", as an outcome of the 8th Global FRIEND-Water Conference (November 2018). IHP and IAHS co-organized several sessions during the 27<sup>th</sup> IUGG General Assembly in July 2019.

### **International Water Resources Association (IWRA)**

36. IHP, in collaboration with IWRA, Stockholm International Water Institute (SIWI) and other partners, disseminated knowledge on the source-to-sea approach to water quality and water resources management, and published the Special Issue on "Source-to-sea Management" in the IWRA Journal "Water International" (volume 46, 2021 - issue 2), which contains relevant research findings collected through an open call. New policies, resulting from the UNESCO-HELCOM study on emerging pollutants (pharmaceuticals) in the Baltic Sea region, were published in the Special Issue, as a success case on the source-to-sea approach to reducing pollution in freshwater and marine environments. UNESCO contributed to the IWRA webinar on Source-to-sea management, co-organized with UNESCO, SIWI and other partners in April 2021, with the attendance of over 450 participants.

### **Sanitation and Water for All (SWA)**

37. UNESCO, through the Director-General, joined the Global Leaders' Call to Action on Covid-19. It calls for the prioritization of water, sanitation and hygiene services, which, together with physical distancing, are central to preventing the spread of COVID-19, and a first line of defense against this serious threat to lives and health systems. The Call, under the Sanitation and Water for All global partnership, was signed by Heads of State and Government, and leaders from UN agencies, international financial institutions, civil society, private sector and research in May 2020.

38. UNESCO Field Offices collaborated with regional intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and initiatives on knowledge dissemination, capacity building, joint publications and national/regional training workshops on water-related issues, including with: Arab Sustainable Development Forum; Arab Water Council; Asia Pacific Water Forum; IberoAmerican Conference of Water Directors (CODIA); League of Arab States; and Southeast Asian Ministers of Education Organization (SEAMEO). UNESCO Offices in Almaty and Jakarta collaborated with national NGOs on awareness raising on water issues such as water and climate change and hydrological hazards.

39. The UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe has continued to strengthen its collaboration with the International Sava River Basin Commission (ISRBC) in 2020 and 2021 and contributed to the preparation of an outline of the Sediment Management Plan for the Sava River Basin. The ISRBC is also a key partner in the EU funded SHELTER project, where the Sava River basin is one of five Open Labs looking at

the effects of disasters, notably floods, on cultural and natural heritage. The ISRBC, along with the International Commission for the Protection of the Danube River (ICPDR), were key actors in the Regional Symposium on Bridging the Science-policy Gap in River Basins in South-East Europe, organized online by the UNESCO Regional Bureau in Venice and the IHP Secretariat in October 2020.

### **Source-to-sea Platform (S2S)**

40. UNESCO/IHP serves in the Steering Committee of the inter-agency collaborative Platform on Source-to-sea (S2S), hosted by SIWI. In the framework of the platform, UNESCO collaborates with other international, regional and national organizations on source-to-sea issues.

### **IHP'S CONTRIBUTION TO THE UN WORLD WATER DEVELOPMENT REPORT (Agenda sub-item 7.3)**

41. IHP contributes to annual United Nations World Water Development Reports (WWDR) on substantive issues related to IHP activities. For WWDR 2019 "Leaving No One Behind", IHP led Chapter 3 "Social dimensions" and contributed to Chapter 9 "Regional perspectives", along with the UNESCO Abuja Office. For WWDR 2020 "Water and Climate Change", IHP co-led and contributed to five Chapters: Prologue; Chapter 1 on "Climate change, water and sustainable development"; Chapter 3 on "Water availability, infrastructure and ecosystems/supply and ecosystems"; Chapter 5 on "Human health impacts related to water, sanitation and climate change"; and Chapter 13 on "Technological innovation and citizen, knowledge, capacity development, and research". For WWDR 2021 "Valuing Water", IHP led Chapter 7 on "Culture and the values of water" and contributed to Chapter "Regional perspectives", through UNESCO Nairobi Office. Content preparation of 2022 edition of WWDR is currently ongoing. IHP is leading/co-leading/contributing to several chapters.

41. IHP supports the regional and national dissemination of WWDRs. UNESCO Offices in Abuja, Accra, Almaty, Bangkok, Brasilia, Cairo, Jakarta, Montevideo, New Delhi, San Jose and Venice organized various events on the launch of WWDRs 2019, 2020 and 2021, with the participation of a wide range of stakeholders and in partnership with UN organizations, NGOs and the academia. In 2019, the WWDR2019 was presented in more than 40 events, including to the Member States' representatives at the UN Headquarters and at UNESCO Headquarters in Paris. Regional launches of the WWDR2019 were organized by local and national institutions, partners, UN agencies and their field offices. The WWDR2020 was launched online due to the Covid-19 pandemic, along with more than 30 webinars by UNESCO Regional Offices and other water institutions for regional launches of the report in different regions. As of August 2021, more than 40 events (hybrid and online) have been organized around the world to present the main findings of WWDR2021.

### **IHP'S ROLE IN WORLD WATER FORUM AND OTHER KEY INTERNATIONAL EVENTS AND AGENDAS (Agenda sub-item 7.4)**

#### **UN Framework Convention on Climate Change's Conference of the Parties (COP)**

43. UNESCO organized several side-events on water and climate adaptation, ecohydrology, and the youth at COP-24 (Katowice, 2018) and COP-25 (Madrid, 2019) to disseminate lessons learned from IHP activities. IHP presented publications on "Droughts in the Anthropocene" "Erosion and sediment problems: global hotspots" during the COP-25. UNESCO will organize several sessions during the COP-26 in Glasgow.

#### **High-level International Conference on the International Decade "Water for Sustainable Development"**

44. UNESCO actively contributed to the first High-level International Conference on the International Decade “Water for Sustainable Development”, organized by the Government of Tajikistan in cooperation with UN organizations (Dushanbe, June 2018). IHP led the Conference’s Action Panels on “Water Quality and Ecosystems” (1.3) and “Capacity-building, including Improving Knowledge and Education” (2.1) and contributed to Action Panel on “Water, Food, Energy and Environment Nexus” (3.1). UNESCO Almaty Office organized the preconference Climate and Water Dialogue focusing on glacier melting, in cooperation with the UN Regional Centre for Preventive Diplomacy for Central Asia and other partners

#### **The 9th World Water Forum**

45. UNESCO is actively engaged in the preparatory process of the 9th World Water Forum (WWForum 9) to be held in Dakar, Senegal, in 2021. UNESCO is a member of the International Steering Committee of the Forum. UNESCO signed MoUs with the Government of Senegal and the World Water Council to support the Forum’s organization. UNESCO is contributing to Forum’s Action Groups on: 4.E - Increase water efficiency and sustainable management through science, technology, innovation and education (co-coordinator); and 3.B - Implement transboundary cooperation to foster peace and prevent conflicts. The Action Groups are responsible for defining and implementing activities that will contribute to the achievement of Forum objectives. UNESCO is also contributing to Forum’s Consultative and Pilot Groups on: 1.B - Improve water quality and waste management; and 1.D - Protect and restore ecosystems and forests, including coastal and marine impacts, and combat desertification. UNESCO, along with partners, co-organized a Session “Join the Youth for the 9<sup>th</sup> World Water Forum Dakar 2021” during the World Water Week 2019.

46. In collaboration with the World Water Council and youth water organizations in Asia and the Pacific, the UNESCO Office in Jakarta hosted an online satellite event for WWForum 9 in December 2020. An online survey was conducted prior to the event with a total of 82 responses, identifying key priorities of WWForum 9 among the youth in the region and “universal and equitable access to safe drinking water” as the most important Target of the SDG 6.

#### **Stockholm World Water Week, Sweden**

47. UNESCO actively contributed to the World Water Weeks 2019 and 2018. During the World Water Week 2019, UNESCO organized several technical and showcase sessions on: water quality and emerging pollutants; satellite-based water quality monitoring; groundwater; the SDG Indicator 6.5.2 monitoring; water scarcity; water and climate; and the youth and water. The World Water Weeks 2020 and 2021 were organized online due to the Covid-19 pandemic. UNESCO co-convened the Seminar on Urban Water Management and organized online sessions and regional roundtables on various topics.

#### **Africa Water Week**

48. UNESCO organized seven side events at the 7th Africa Water Week that took place in October 2018. The sessions focused on: integrating gender equality in IWRM; fostering scientific and technical capacities of Africa’s water sector; the role of science in cooperation in transboundary waters; smart water management; promoting youth engagement in water governance; hydro climate services for water security; and groundwater management. The recommendations of the session on the youth engagement were adopted as the Youth Declaration of the 7<sup>th</sup> Africa Water Week. UNESCO promoted the youth participation in other international water-related events by organizing sessions/side-events on water and youth: Session on “Water, Migration and Youth” during the Mediterranean Water and Journalism Forum (October 2018); and Session on “The urgent need for an effective inter-generational dialogue” at the Budapest Water Summit 2019.