

Intergovernmental Hydrological Programme

4th Extraordinary session of the IHP Intergovernmental Council
(Paris, 28 September - October 2021)

PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION

Item 4 of the provisional agenda

Summary

This document provides a summary of the implementation of the Programme, in particular pertaining to the following sub-items of the Provisional Agenda:

4.1 A summary of the implementation of the Programme related to Theme's 4 focal areas 4.3 on Institution and leadership for beneficiation and integration, and 4.4 on Opportunities in emerging cities, and in particular of the concept of a UNESCO project for "Seal of Excellence for Urban Water Management";

Decisions proposed:

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

IMPLEMENTATION OF IHP-VIII (Agenda sub-item 4.1)

Theme 4: Water and human settlements of the future

1. Theme 4 of IHP-VIII: Water and human settlements of the future, aims at supporting cities and rural settlements facing climate change, population growth, deterioration of urban infrastructure systems and other global challenges in understanding the issues and in adopting an approach based on the interdependence of the different water systems.

2. Within the framework of activities that Focal area 4.3 Institution and leadership for beneficiation and integration Opportunities in emerging cities, a project concept note for “Seal of Excellence for Urban Water Management” (see reference documents [IHP/IC-XTR-IV/Ref.2a](#) and [IHP/IC-XTR-IV/Ref.2b](#)) has been developed and presented with the participation of K-water, a Republic of Korea public utility as a technical advisor. Seoul and Daegu have been identified as the first ever cities to pilot the project and calibrate the framework prior to launching it officially.

3. The purpose of the project is to contribute to Member States (MS) efforts in achieving their target of SDG6 by ensuring sound water management, promoting excellence in the provision of clean water within cities, through appropriate tools the urban water management process and by developing a platform for member cities to share best practices. Cities receiving the seal of excellence will have to twin with another city of a developing MS and support its capacity to also achieve SDG 6 related targets. Furthermore, the project will contribute in the elimination of plastic waste and its disposal to the oceans and to minimizing their carbon footprint.

4. The IHP Bureau at its 58th session approved the Terms of Reference of the Working Group (see [IHP/Bur-LVIII/Ref.4](#)), and representatives of Regional Groups were identified.

5. Ever since the IHP Secretariat coordinated the Working Group’s work and initiated consultations for partnership with World Health Organization (WHO) and United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-HABITAT), sharing the proposed project document, receiving their comments and incorporating them.

6. The IHP Secretariat continues the work with a view to finalize the document and commence efforts to assess its feasibility utilizing the two identified cities as the first pilot sites. Upon successful implementation of the project in the aforementioned cities a call for expression of interest of cities in various regional groups will be made to further test the feasibility of the project, in order to propose in future sessions of the IHP Council its approval.

Draft Resolution XTR-IV-1

**DRAFT RESOLUTION ON THE PREPARATION FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE
“SEAL OF EXCELLENCE FOR URBAN WATER MANAGEMENT”**

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

- Noting** that lack of access to drinking water of adequate quality and quantity remains one of the largest human health problems globally,
- Recalling** the UN General Assembly resolution declaring access to clean water and sanitation a human right in July 2010,
- Further recalling** that the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development includes a dedicated goal on water and sanitation (SDG 6) that aims to “ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all” as well as targets of other goals related to water” such as 3.3, 3.9, 11.5, 12.4, 15.1 and 15.8,
- Further noting** that UNESCO has committed along with other UN organizations and specialized agencies in the implementation of the UN SDG 6 Global Acceleration Framework, a new, unifying initiative that involves all sectors of society to speed up progress by improving support to countries, and has been entrusted to co-lead along with UNDESA its Capacity development Accelerator.
- Considering** that water demand continues to increase in the future, an increasing number of cities will face challenges of managing scarcer and less reliable water resources in an efficient way,
- Also considering** one of the objectives of the IHP-VIII Focal area 4.3 "Institution and leadership for beneficiation and integration" and Focal area 4.4 "Opportunities in emerging cities" is to improve and promote the tap water and public water supply system.
- Recognising** the need for an international platform for balanced improvement of the drinking water supply by sharing best practices and trouble-shooting case with the aim of helping cities in developing Member States for the achievement of SDG6.
- Requests** the IHP Secretariat to continue cooperating with other UN agencies, especially WHO and UN-HABITAT, and facilitating the work of the Task Force in reviewing the feasibility and implementation plan of the project;
- Further requests** the IHP Secretariat to report to the IHP Bureau at its 62nd session the results with a view of initiating pilot activities and to report the results of these pilots to the 26th session of the IHP Council;
- Encourages** Member States to actively participate in this initiative.

