

Intergovernmental Hydrological Programme
24th Session of the Intergovernmental Council (Paris, 28-30 June 2021)

**IHP AND THE INTERNATIONAL WATER AGENDA INCLUDING ACTIONS IN THE
IMPLEMENTATION OF THE 2030 AGENDA FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT
AND OTHER RELATED INTERNATIONAL AGENDAS**

Item 6 of the provisional agenda

Summary

This document provides a brief account of the actions of UNESCO through IHP to support the “International Decade (2018–2028) for Action – Water for Sustainable Development”.

Actions expected by the IHP Council:

To discuss and approve the proposed Draft Resolution

IHP actions in support of the “International Decade (2018–2028) for Action – Water for Sustainable Development” (Agenda item 6)

1. In September 2015, the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) unanimously adopted the resolution A/70/L.1, “Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”, which for the first time included a Goal dedicated to “Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all”, SDG 6.

2. In December 2016, in an effort to help put a greater focus on water during ten years and in particular on the sustainable development and integrated management of water resources for the achievement of social, economic and environmental objectives and on the implementation and promotion of related programmes and projects, as well as on the furtherance of cooperation and partnership at all levels, UNGA unanimously adopted the resolution “International Decade (2018-2028) for Action – Water for Sustainable Development” (A/RES/71/222). The new Decade commenced on World Water Day 22 March 2018, and will terminate on World Water Day, 22 March 2028.

3. Subsequently to resolution A/RES/73/226 (December 2018), the UNGA decided to organize a Conference on the Midterm Comprehensive Review of the Implementation of the Objectives of the International Decade for Action to be convened in New York from 22 to 24 March 2023. The Conference shall be preceded by regional and global preparatory meetings, as appropriate, and informed by existing water-related meetings at the regional and global level.

4. On 21 December 2020, the UNGA adopted the resolution A/RES/75/212 “United Nations Conference on the Midterm Comprehensive Review of the Implementation of the Objectives of the International Decade for Action, “Water for Sustainable Development”, 2018–2028”, to provide guidance and information on the modalities of the Conference. Furthermore, the resolution provides details related to the preparatory process for the Conference, mentioning a high-level symposium on water during the United Nations Ocean Conference hosted by the Government of Portugal; a high-level conference on water supported by Regional Consultations and hosted by the Government of Germany; the organization of the Asia-Pacific Water Summit in April 2022 supported by the Government of Japan and the Ninth World Water Forum (WWF) in March 2022 hosted by the Government of Senegal. Also, Tajikistan will convene a high-level international conference in 2022 in Dushanbe to support an effective preparation for the midterm comprehensive review.

5. The resolution calls upon other Member States to organize meetings intended to feed into the midterm comprehensive review and relevant United Nations bodies, the specialized agencies, the regional commissions and other organizations of the United Nations system, to continue to contribute to the review and implementation of the Decade, including through capacity-building, in order to support the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

6. UNESCO's has been contributing to the aforementioned efforts by: co-organizing with Germany and Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) the Latin America and the Caribbean Regional Water Dialogue and the Science Forum as part of the preparatory process towards the Bonn International Water Conference 2021; working with the Government of Senegal and African Ministers' Council on Water (AMCOW), within the framework of Memoranda of Understanding (MoU), to organize pre-conference meetings and other technical sessions leading to the 9th World Water Forum and to co-coordinate one of its Themes as well as being part of the International Steering Committee of the Forum; being part of the Advisory Committee and provide programmatic content to the International High-level Conference on the International Decade for Action “Water for Sustainable Development”, 2018-2028, co-organized by the Government of Tajikistan and the United Nations in June 2018 and continue being involved in the preparation of International High-Level Conference in 2022 in Dushanbe to support an effective

preparation for the midterm comprehensive review; supporting the organization of the Asia-Pacific Water Summit.

7. According to the Sustainable Development Goals Report 2020, 2.2 and 4.2 billion people around the world still lack safely managed drinking water and sanitation respectively, including 785 million persons without basic drinking water and 2 billion who were without basic sanitation.

8. To remediate the situation, UN-Water launched in July 2020, the SDG 6 Global Acceleration Framework to better support countries over the next ten years to accelerate and assist them meet the targets for SDG 6. Coordinated by UN-Water, the SDG 6 Global Acceleration Framework is a contribution to the Decade of Action to deliver the SDGs by 2030.

9. UNESCO has been designated by UN-Water to co-coordinate, along with UN Department of Social and Economic Affairs (UN DESA) the Framework's accelerator on Capacity Development.

10. UN-Water has decided that the World Water Development Report (WWDR) in 2022, will be dedicated to groundwater and has requested UNESCO to lead the World Water Day celebrations and the development of the report. Furthermore, UN-Water has requested UNESCO to organize in December 2022 at its Headquarters in Paris a "Groundwater Summit".

11. Within this framework, UNESCO leads six chapters in WWDR 2022 and contributes to seven, is organizing the 2nd International Shared Aquifer Resources Management, ISARM 2021, in December 2021 and planning the Groundwater Summit.

12. There is an opportunity to coordinate the input of the Organization and prepare messages that express clearly the needs of UNESCO IHP Member States and their contribution to the International Decade for Action "Water for Sustainable Development", its mid-term review and the UN Water Conference 2023.

Resolution XXIV-5

PROPOSAL FOR RENDERING SUPPORT TO ACHIEVING SDG 6 AND THE AGENDA 2030 AND CONTRIBUTIONS TO MID-TERM REVIEW OF WATER ACTION DECADE AND UN WATER CONFERENCE 2023

Submitted by the Secretariat

Supported by

The Intergovernmental Council of the Intergovernmental Hydrological Programme of UNESCO.

- Recalling** Resolutions XXII-4 and XXII-7 on the implementation of the initiative on groundwater governance and IHP's support to Member States for a sound, science-based implementation of the Sustainable Development Goal no. 6 and of the water related goals respectively,
- Further recalling** Resolutions XXIII-8 and XXIII-9 on IHP's support to Member States towards the proposal for a new SDG indicator on water education and on enhancing IHP's visibility,
- Keeping in mind** that the IHP is an intergovernmental programme devoted to fostering water research, water resources management, education and capacity building tailored to Member State's needs,
- Expressing concern** that while groundwater use has increased manifold, with major socioeconomic benefits, little attention has been given to its governance, conservation and protection,
- Recognizing** the need to raise political awareness and strengthen political will, at global level to promote conservation and protection of groundwater and to act with urgency to improve groundwater governance in the light of increasing population, climate change and dwindling resources,
- Mindful** of UNGA Resolutions A/RES/71/222, A/RES/73/226 and A/RES/75/212 on the "International Decade (2018-2028) for Action – Water for Sustainable Development", its Midterm Comprehensive Review and the United Nations Conference on the Midterm Comprehensive Review of the Implementation of its Objectives,
- Considering** the UN-Water SDG 6 Global Acceleration Framework to better support countries over the next ten years to accelerate and assist them meet the targets for SDG 6 and the coordination role UNESCO-IHP has been requested to take, co-coordinating with UN-DESA the capacity development component,
- Emphasizing** that the UNESCO Water Family operates as a global network to implement the Organization's strategic goals and its potential for developing sound science-based tools for the implementation and monitoring of SDG 6 targets and those of other water-related goals,
- Recalling** IHP-IC/Resolutions XXI-7 and XXII-8 highlighting extensive and significant contributions of the UNESCO Water Family to promote the key role of water in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

Decides

that IHP shall pursue its involvement in the preparatory process of the Comprehensive Mid-Term Review of the “International Decade (2018-2028) for Action – Water for Sustainable Development”, so as to contribute to strengthening the international recognition of the importance of groundwater and of water science in general, as well as of the critical need to fill the gap of available and required capacities, particularly in developing countries, in view of attaining SDG 6 and other SDGs, *inter alia* by producing relevant publications and messages to be presented during the UN Water Conference 2023.