

Intergovernmental Hydrological Programme

24th session of the Intergovernmental Council
(Paris, 28-30 June 2021)

PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION

Item 3 of the provisional agenda

Summary

This document provides a summary of the following sub-items of the Provisional Agenda:

- 3.1 The Strategic Planning of the 9th Phase of IHP (IHP-IX, 2022-2029)
- 3.2 The update on the recommendations management response taken by the Secretariat on the Mid-Term evaluation of IHP-VIII
- 3.3 The proposed guidelines for the review of IHP Programmes and Major Initiatives, according to the Resolution XXII-6

Decisions proposed:

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

STRATEGIC PLANNING OF THE 9th PHASE OF IHP (IHP-IX, 2022-2029; Agenda sub-item 3.1)

1. Resolution XXIII-6 of the Intergovernmental Council of the Intergovernmental Hydrological Programme (IHP) at its 23rd session (Paris, 11-15 June 2018) focused on the development of the ninth phase of the Programme, IHP-IX 2022-2029.
2. In the second half of 2018, Member States identified the experts, serving on a voluntary basis, that were to comprise the two main bodies responsible for developing the draft document for the consultation of the UNESCO Water Family: the Task Force (TF) and the Experts of Member States (EoMS). For this endeavour, both bodies, TF and EoMS, rely on the assistance of two senior consultants, as well as on the support of the IHP Secretariat.
3. The Secretariat facilitated two sessions of the IHP-IX Task Force (TF). The first one, in January 2019, when the zero-order draft document of IHP-IX was developed. The document, which reflected mainly the contents of the new IHP Phase, was presented during a special technical session of the Bureau Members (January 2019) and received their feedback. Subsequently, it was shared with the Experts of Member States. Comments of the EoMS were incorporated to the extent possible and a full-fledged consultation with UNESCO's Water Family Members followed.
4. The Members of the TF met for a second time at UNESCO headquarters in Paris, in April 2019, to review the consolidated comments received and to develop the 1st-order draft of IHP-IX. This draft was then circulated to the Experts of Member States in July 2019 and, in October 2019, was shared for a full consultation with all Members of the UNESCO Water Family. The consultation process lasted till the end of December 2019.
5. The 1st Extraordinary session of the IHP Council (28 November 2019) agreed to a revised timeline/workflow of the finalization of IHP-IX presented by the IHP Secretariat.
6. Due to the effects of the COVID-19, the third meeting of the Task Force took place via teleconference from 2 to 4 March 2020, involving EoMS. It incorporated the contributions received during the 2nd in-depth consultation with the UNESCO Water Family that ended on 31 December 2019, and produced an improved 1st order draft of IHP-IX.
7. The improved 1st-order draft took the shape of five separate draft documents, each describing one of the paths of action of IHP-IX. Sciences: Research and Innovation; Water Education in the fourth industrial revolution; Bridging the data and knowledge gaps; Inclusive water management under conditions of Global Change and Water Governance based on science for mitigation, adaptation and resilience.
8. The improved 1st-order draft of the IHP-IX Strategy was reviewed and endorsed by the members of the IHP Bureau by electronic consultation as a face to face meeting was not possible.
9. Based on the IHP Bureau's review and endorsement, the Secretariat, with the support of the two Consultants accompanying the process, complemented the five paths of action with the necessary elements to constitute a unified, structured draft strategic plan for IHP-IX. This consolidated document constituted the 2nd order draft of IHP-IX and was presented to UNESCO's Member States in an information meeting held on 29 October 2020.
10. Due to the persisting movement restrictions that the COVID-19 pandemic has caused globally, the 24th session of the IHP Council was postponed and the Council agreed to meet

in an extraordinary session to discuss in detail and provide guidance on the 2nd order draft of IHP-IX.

11. The 2nd Extraordinary Session of the IHP Council was held from 30 November to 1 December 2020. During the session, the Council Members decided the next steps and timeframe of the IHP-IX Strategic Plan preparation. The deadline for Member States' comments on the 2nd order draft was extended to 4 January 2021. The IHP-IX Task Force and the Experts of the Member States, with the support of the Secretariat, were to integrate all comments on the 2nd order draft provided by the Member States and other partners and prepare a 3rd order draft of the IHP-IX Strategic Plan by 31 January 2021. On that date the IHP Secretariat was to circulate the 3rd order draft of the IHP-IX Strategic Plan to all Member States, inviting them to further comment on it by 15 February 2021.

12. Following up to the decisions of the Council, the Secretariat facilitated five meetings of the TF and EoMS members in January 2021, where the comments made during the 2nd Extraordinary Council meeting and the received written comments were discussed and consolidated. A small drafting team was deployed to incorporate the results of the discussions in the text. The 3rd order draft of the IHP-IX Strategic Plan was presented to the last meeting of the combined groups (TF and EoMS) on 28 January 2021. After receiving their approval, it was edited to improve the language used, translated and transmitted to Member States and partners on 31 January 2021 as planned, in English. A French version of the document was circulated on 3 February 2021.

13. The IHP Intergovernmental Council held its 3rd extraordinary session from 22 to 24 February 2021 to examine the 3rd order draft of the IHP-IX Strategic Plan and decided to convene an Open-Ended Working Group of Member States on IHP-IX, open to both IHP Council member and non-member countries with a view to provide convergence in parts of the document where divergent opinions were observed.

14. Following the 3rd Extraordinary IHP council meeting, the task force and the experts of member states met twice to discuss and incorporate the comments received until 5 March 2021 on the 3rd draft which led to the production of the draft IHP-IX Strategic Plan shared with member states on 31 March and 3 April both in English and French on which for the discussions of the open-ended working group.

15. The Working Group met three times from April to June 2021, discussed the elements of the IHP-IX text that required convergence and edited and approved paragraph by paragraph the Draft IHP-IX Strategic Plan.

16. The following draft resolution on the IHP-IX Strategic Plan was prepared by the Secretariat for the Council's approval

Draft Resolution XXIV-1
PREPARATION OF IHP-IX

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

- Noting** IHP/IC Resolution XXIII-6 on the preparation of IHP-IX and the decision of the Council at its 1st Extraordinary session on the revised timeline of IHP-IX's implementation,
- Having considered** IHP/IC documents IHP/IC-XXIV/3, IHP/IC-XXIV/Inf.1,
- Expressing** its satisfaction that with IHP/IC Resolution XXIII-7, the mid-term evaluation of IHP-VIII provided an opportunity to include for the first time lessons learned in the design of the new strategic plan, IHP-IX,
- Taking note** with satisfaction of the Draft IHP-IX Strategic Plan as it is presented in the IHP/IC-XXIV/Ref.1 document,
- Commends** the Task Force (TF) Members and the Experts of Member States (EoMS) for their significant efforts and substantial work in developing the draft Strategic Plan; and the Members of the Working Group (WG) for their efforts to ensure convergence of opinions to the document.
- Expresses** its gratitude to the IHP Secretariat for supporting and coordinating the efforts of the TF, EoMS and WG in preparing the draft strategic plan;
- Decides** to approve the presented draft document as the IHP-IX Strategic Plan;
- Requests** the IHP Secretariat to ensure the presentation of the endorsed IHP-IX Strategic Plan to UNESCO's 41st session of its General Conference through its usual IHP Council Report;
- Recommends** that the General Conference of UNESCO, at its 41st session, integrate the main elements of the Strategic Plan for the Ninth Phase of the Intergovernmental Hydrological Programme into the 41 C/4 and 41 C/5;
- Encourages** all UNESCO Water Family Members to take up the responsibility in the implementation of the IHP-IX, indicating elements they would lead and finance as per the related recommendation on accountability of the external mid-term evaluation of IHP-VIII;
- Further decides** to identify Members of an Open-Ended Working Group to prepare Operational and Financial Plans for the implementation of the IHP-IX Strategic Plan, and report progress during the 60th session of the IHP Bureau (September 2021) and the 4th Extraordinary session (November 2021) and present full draft plans for approval during the 25th Session of the IGC of IHP Council in 2022.
- Also decides** that a mid-term review of the IHP-IX implementation be conducted by 2025.

**GUIDELINES FOR THE REVIEW OF IHP PROGRAMME AND MAJOR INITIATIVES
(Agenda sub-item 4.5)**

17. In accordance with the Resolution XXII-6 “The monitoring and review of IHP programmes and major initiatives” of the 22nd Intergovernmental Council of the IHP-, the Secretariat made an international call for proposals to evaluate the 15 IHP Flagship initiatives. A team of consultants was hired and the evaluation report was presented during a January 2019 special technical session of the Bureau Members.

18. Following the evaluation and the request of the Bureau draft “Guidelines for Priority Initiatives of the IHP” ([IHP/Bur-LVIII/Ref. 7](#)) was developed and presented to the Bureau of IHP at its 58th session (September 2019). The main objective of the guidelines is to ensure that IHP Initiatives are well structured and harmonized, so as to increase their impact, visibility and contribution to the Programme.

19. A Working Group of experts identified by the IHP’s Bureau, examined the proposed document and amended it in order to produce the Guidelines document to be presented at the 24th session of IHP’s Intergovernmental Council for approval.

Draft Resolution XXIV-2

DRAFT RESOLUTION ON ALL IHP FLAGSHIP PROGRAMMES AND INITIATIVES

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

- Noting** IHP/IC Resolution XXI-8 to align all IHP programmes and activities with the IHP programme phases and to base the continuation, reorientation, reinforcement, exit or termination of programmes and activities upon periodic reviews during and at the end of each phase;
- Also Noting** IHP/IC Resolution XXIII-12 on the future governance of all IHP Programmes and Major Initiatives;
- Recalling** its request in IHP/IC Resolution XXII-6 that the IHP Secretariat prepares and commissions a review of IHP's programmes and major initiatives and reports the findings to the 23rd session of the IHP Council;
- Acknowledging** that the progress made by the Secretariat in commissioning an evaluation of the IHP initiatives, outlined in IHP/IC-XXIII/7, meant that the anticipated review of the evaluation findings in order to consider how best to strengthen the high impact IHP Flagship Programmes and Initiatives with strategic plans and how to re-orient or terminate others, was not possible at its 23rd and 24th session but remains critical to implementation of effective results-based management within the IHP;
- Welcomes** the findings of the review and the suggested guidelines for the future management of the Initiatives;
- Requests** the Members of the Working Group to develop a Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation Flagship Initiative Framework, aligned with the IHP-IX Strategic Plan and its Implementation and Financial Plans, detailing the minimum requirements for the establishment, operation and evaluation of new Initiatives and for the alignment of all existing ones, and present this Framework to the 25th session of the Council for consideration and adoption;
- Further requests** current hosts / focal persons of all existing initiatives to, in consultation with the Secretariat and the Working Group, develop plans, describing their specific contribution in achieving IHP-IX Strategic Objectives, Expected Results and Priority Outputs, including clear indicators for monitoring the results achieved for presentation to the IHP Intergovernmental Council for its consideration and approval at its 25th session.
- Expresses** its gratitude to the IHP Secretariat for facilitating the review process, for preparing the necessary documentation and recommendations regarding future continuation of IHP Programmes and Flagship Initiatives.
- Decides** to examine and approve in its 25th session the suggested Framework presented by the ad-hoc Working Group and the proposal, in accordance with IHP/IC Resolution XXI-8, on which IHP Flagship Programmes and Initiatives should be continued as part of the IHP-IX Implementation Plan.

MID-TERM EVALUATION OF IHP-VIII AND MANAGEMENT RESPONSE (Agenda sub-item 4.6)

20. A representative of UNESCO's Internal Oversight Service (IOS) presented the midterm evaluation process, during the 58th session of the IHP Bureau (Paris France, September 2019). The evaluation ([IHP/Bur-LVIII/Ref. 5](#)) showcased the uniqueness of IHP's intergovernmental nature and its science/policy interface. The findings of the report as well as its eleven recommendations were also presented.

21. The Mid-term Evaluation of Phase VIII of the International Hydrological Programme (2014-2021) was presented to UNESCO's Executive Board at its 207th Session ([207 EX/5.II.B](#)). The document contains in Annex the Management Response to the 11 recommendations. All of them, with the exception of the first recommendation referring to the title of IHP-IX have been accepted (as this is a decision of the member States) and the Secretariat has commenced activities responding to them.

22. An update of the Management Response document, IHP/IC-XXIV/Ref.5, was presented by IOS' update on the status of open evaluation recommendations to the Oversight Advisory Committee in November 2020.

Draft Resolution XXIV-3

MID-TERM EVALUATION OF IHP-VIII

The Intergovernmental Council of the Intergovernmental Hydrological Programme of UNESCO,

Having considered the documents IHP/IC-XXIII/7, IHP/IC-XXIII/Inf.3, IHP/Bur-LVIII/Ref. 5, IHP/IC-XIV/5 and IHP/IC-XIV/Inf.1 on the implementation of the Eighth Phase of IHP (IHP-VIII, 2014-2021);

Noting IHP/IC Resolution XXIII-7 on the evaluation of IHP-VIII to align all IHP programmes and activities with the IHP programme phases and to base the continuation, reorientation, reinforcement, exit strategies or termination of programmes and activities upon periodic reviews during and at the end point of each phase;

Takes note with satisfaction of the successful implementation of IHP-VIII and of achievements resulted from numerous projects and activities carried out thus far, addressing a broad range of water-related topics and contributing to water security, as well as to the internationally agreed goals such as the Sustainable Development Goals, the Sendai Framework and the New Urban Agenda, and other agreements, such as the Paris Agreement;

Commends the UNESCO Water Family for its efforts and substantial work in coordinating and implementing the IHP-VIII projects and activities.

Thanks the IHP Secretariat for ensuring that the results of the evaluation are being used as an input to the preparation of IHP-IX

Further notes the management response to the 11 recommendations of the Mid-term Evaluation of Phase VIII of the International Hydrological Programme (2014-2021) as they were presented to UNESCO's Executive Board at its 207th Session (207 EX/5.II.B).

Recommends that Member States implement the recommendations of the Mid-term Evaluation of Phase VIII of the International Hydrological Programme (2014-2021) applicable to them and ensure their active involvement in the elements requiring their contribution such as:

- a. Identify IHP-IX priorities that they will contribute in taking it forward and commit to implement activities towards their implementation, supporting the monitoring of the results of such activities;
- b. Participate at the SPIC Water II (Science Policy Interface Colloquium on Water);
- c. Financial support for extra-budgetary project proposals in support to the implementation of IHP.