

Intergovernmental Hydrological Programme
25th session of the Intergovernmental Council
(Paris, 26 – 29 April 2022)

PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION

Item 4 of the Provisional agenda

Summary

This document provides a summaries and proposed decisions of the following sub-item of the Provisional Agenda:

4.2 Preparation of the Operational Implementation Plan and of the Financial Plan of the Ninth Phase of the Intergovernmental Hydrological Programme

The Council is invited via Draft Resolution XXV-I to take note of the Operational Implementation Plan.

4.3. IHP Flagships and Major Initiatives framework and their contribution to the implementation of IHP-IX

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

- XXV-2: Framework for the Planning, Implementation and Monitoring of IHP Flagship Initiatives;
- XXV-3: Continuity of Flagship Initiative during IHP-IX.

4.4. Thematic working groups for the Operational Implementation of IHP-IX

The Council may wish to discuss and approve the proposed through Draft Resolution XXV-4 the establishment of eight Thematic working groups for the operational implementation of IHP-IX.

Preparation of the Operational Implementation Plan and of the Financial Plan of the Ninth Phase of the Intergovernmental Hydrological Programme (Agenda sub-item 4.2)

1. In June 2021, the Intergovernmental Council (IGC) of the Intergovernmental Hydrological Programme (IHP) adopted, by Resolution XXIV-1, the Strategic Plan for the Ninth Phase of IHP (IHP-IX, 2022-2029). The IGC of IHP encouraged the UNESCO Water Family Members to take up the responsibility in the implementation of the IHP-IX, and decided to identify Members of an Open-Ended Working Group (OEWG) to prepare Operational and Financial Plans for the implementation of the IHP-IX.
2. On August 25, 2021, the IHP Secretariat launched to the UNESCO Water Family, partner agencies, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, a survey for Expressions of Interest (EOI) for the IHP-IX Operational Implementation Plan (OIP), requesting them to identify the outputs they are interested to be engaged in. As of 1 March 2022, 182 responses were obtained from the UNESCO Water Family (68 Member States, 13 Chairs, 21 Category 2 Centres) and 19 responses were submitted by IHP partners.
3. On 21-22 September 2021, the first meeting of the OEWG took place in a virtual fashion. During the meeting, the Members agreed on the Group's working modalities and on the timeline that would lead to the discussion of the OIP and Financial Plan at the 25th session of the Intergovernmental Council of the Intergovernmental Hydrological Programme.
4. The working modalities of the open-Ended Working group and the timeline for the preparation of the OIP and Financial Plan were presented and approved by the 60th session of IHP bureau held on 27 and 28 September 2021 and the 4th Extraordinary session of the IHP council (29 September 2021 – 1 October 2021).
5. On 7 October 2021, the IHP Secretariat launched a call initially to those who expressed interest to lead certain outputs for contribution in drafting of Key Activities of the OIP. Based on these inputs, the IHP Secretariat drafted the draft zero of the OIP, which was submitted to all who have expressed interest to be involved, in preparation of the OIP thematic meetings.
6. On 3-4-5 November 2021, a 3 days online thematic meeting was organized. During the meeting, the zero draft of the OIP was discussed and commented on under each priority area. As a result of this process, the first draft of the OIP was prepared by the IHP Secretariat. This draft included a total of 168 Key Activities for 34 Outputs. This draft was submitted to the Members of the OEWG, in preparation of the second meeting.
7. The second meeting of the OEWG took place, in an hybrid modality, on 25 and 26 November 2021. The participants had the opportunity to provide feedback and comments on the first draft of the OIP. The IHP secretariat compiled these comments, and prepared a second draft of the OIP.
8. Between December 2021 and February 2022, the second draft of the OIP was revised using the lens of Results Based Management (RBM), with the objective of ensuring that activities and performance indicators would meet the RBM requirements. This led to the preparation of a third draft of the OIP.

9. In February 2022, the third draft of the OIP was submitted for comments to the Thematic Groups. Based on the inputs received, a pre-final draft was prepared and submitted to the OEWG, in preparation of the third meeting.

10. The third meeting of the OEWG took place, online, on 10 March 2022. During the meeting, the pre-final version of the OIP was discussed, comments were received and a revised version of the OIP was submitted to the Intergovernmental Council of the IHP. During the same meeting, the Financial Plan was presented.

11. The following draft resolution on the IHP-IX Operational Implementation Plan and of the Financial Strategy was prepared by the Secretariat for the Council's approval.

DRAFT RESOLUTION XXV-1
Preparation of Operational Implementation Plan of IHP-IX

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

Noting	IHP/IC Resolution XXIV-2 on the preparation of IHP-IX,
Considering	IHP/IC documents IHP/IC-XXV/Ref.1, IHP/IC-XXV/Ref.1bis, which present, in a matrix and narrative form, the Operational Implementation Plan (OIP) for IHP-IX,
Also considering	IHP/IC IHP/IC-XXV/Inf.4, which presents IHP-IX financial plan for the biennium 2022-2023 for IHP,
Commends	the Members of the Open-Ended Working Group (OEWG) and the Members of the Thematic Groups for their valuable contribution in developing the draft Operational Implementation Plan IHP-IX;
Expresses	its gratitude to the IHP Secretariat for supporting and coordinating the efforts of the OEWG and of the Thematic Groups teams in preparing the OIP for IHP-IX;
Recalls	that the OIP and the Financial Plan for IHP-IX are living documents that will require periodic updates;
Decides	to take note of the draft documents IHP/IC-XXV/Ref.1, IHP/IC-XXV/Ref.1bis and IHP/IC-XXV/Inf.4 as the OIP and Financial Plan for IHP IX;
Invites	the IHP Secretariat to organize a periodic Structured Financing Dialogue for IHP IX, that will bring together current and future donors, stakeholders and partners, including Member States, development agencies, public and private actors to support the implementation of the IHP-IX strategic plan;
Further Invites	the IHP Secretariat to update every biennium the Financial Plan and the OIP and submit them to the ordinary session of the Intergovernmental Council of the IHP;
Encourages	all Members of the UNESCO Water Family to support the implementation of the OIP by providing technical and/or financial support.

4.3. IHP Flagships and Major Initiatives framework and their contribution to the implementation of IHP-IX (Agenda sub-item 4.3)

12. Pursuant the decision taken by the IHP Intergovernmental Council at its 21st Session (IHP/IC Resolution XXI-8) on the synchronization of all IHP programmes and activities within IHP phases and the establishment of an evaluation mechanism, and as a follow-up of 22nd session decision on “The Monitoring and Review of IHP Programmes and Major Initiatives” (IHP/IC Resolution XXII-6), the IHP Secretariat made an international call for proposals to evaluate the 15 IHP Flagship Initiatives.

13. During its 23rd session, the “Terms of Reference for an evaluation of the Flagship Initiatives under the UNESCO International Hydrological Programme” was submitted (IHP IC-XXIII/Ref.3) and the Council further requested the Secretariat to present to the 58th IHP Bureau session the results of the evaluation of the 15 IHP Programmes and major Initiatives, and to prepare recommendations regarding a future continuation of IHP Programmes and major Initiatives for the 24th IHP Council session (IHP/IC Resolution XXIII-12).

14. The Evaluation of IHP’s Programmes and Major Initiatives ([IHP/Bur-LVIII/Ref.6](#)) and the Development of Guidelines for IHP Priority initiatives ([IHP/Bur-LVIII/Ref.7](#)) were presented to the Bureau of IHP at its 58th session (September 2019).

15. The Evaluation of IHP’s Programmes and Major Initiatives identified knowledge gaps and requirements to further increase the added value of the initiatives and to ensure their alignment with the priorities of UNESCO and IHP’s specific phases, and to reinforce the commitment of Member States. Following the presentation of the related documents, a Working Group was created, with six experts identified (one expert per Regional Group) to finalize the Framework.

16. The IHP Intergovernmental Council in its 24th session requested (IHP/IC Resolution XXIV-2) 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 Flagship Initiatives and for the alignment of all existing ones. The Council further requested to present this Framework during the 25th session of the Council for consideration and adoption.

17. Following various meetings and with the support of the secretariat, the Working Group further revised the Flagship Initiative Framework which is presented as [IHP/IC-XXV/Ref.2](#) and reviewed the current flagships and initiatives. Based on this document, and on the Evaluation of IHP’s Programmes and Major Initiatives (IHP/Bur-LVIII/Ref.6), two separate draft resolutions are submitted for Council’s consideration:

- IHP Flagship Initiative Framework for the Planning, Implementation and Monitoring including governance mechanism;
- Continuation of Flagship initiatives during IHP-IX.

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

Draft Resolution XXV-2

Framework for the Planning, Implementation and Monitoring of IHP Flagship Initiatives

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

- Noting** IHP/IC Resolution XXI-8 on the revision and monitoring of IHP's programmes and IHP/IC Resolution XXIII-12 on the preparation of the future governance of all IHP programmes and major initiatives,
- Considering** Document IHP/IC-XXV/Ref.2, Framework for the planning, implementation and monitoring of Flagship Initiatives,
- Expresses** its gratitude to the IHP Secretariat and Working Group for preparing the Framework for the planning, implementation and monitoring of Flagship Initiatives;
- Decides** to adopt the Framework for the Planning, Implementation and Monitoring, which includes also the governance mechanism of Flagship Initiatives;
- Further decides** that all existing and new Flagship Initiatives within IHP-IX shall have to comply to the Framework;
- Recommends** to the hosts/secretariat of the IHP Flagship Initiatives to align their governing mechanisms to the Framework and report the adoption of this alignment to the Council on its 26th Session;
- Requests** the IHP Secretariat to provide an update every biennium on the status of the IHP Flagship Initiatives within IHP-IX and submit it to the ordinary session of the Intergovernmental Council of IHP;
- Encourages** all Members of the UNESCO Water Family to support the implementation of IHP Flagship Initiatives by providing technical, in-kind and/or financial support.

Draft Resolution XXV-3

Continuation of Flagship Initiatives during IHP-IX

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

- Noting** IHP/IC Resolution XXIV-2 on all IHP Flagship Programmes and Initiatives and its decision 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, concerning the examination of the continuation of the IHP Flagship Programmes and Initiatives as part of the IHP-IX Implementation Plan,
- Further noting** the recommendation of the "Evaluation of IHP's Programmes and Major Initiatives" (IHP/Bur-LVIII/Ref.6) and the "Development of Guidelines for IHP Priority initiatives" (IHP/Bur-LVIII/Ref.7) presented to the IHP Bureau at its 58th session,
- Considering** The document "Framework for the planning, implementation and

	monitoring of Flagship Initiatives”, developed by the Working Group on IHP Flagship Initiatives;
Recognizes	the contributions made by all IHP Flagship Initiatives within all the previous phases of IHP;
Decides	to close the Flagship Initiatives “Integrated Water Resource Management” and “Joint International Isotope Hydrology Programme” by the end of 2022;
Recommends	to the IHP Secretariat, the Working Group and the hosts/secretariat of the following Flagship Initiatives to consider and review the potential future role in contributing to IHP-IX and in line with the revised Guidelines: Urban Water Management Programme (UWMP), Hydrology for the Environment, Life and Policy Programme (HELP), From Potential Conflict to Cooperation Potential (PCCP) Programme, and the International Drought Initiative (IDI). The IHP Secretariat, the Working Group and the hosts/secretariat of these Initiatives shall provide their findings and progress concerning the role of the Initiatives during the 26 th Session of the IHP Council session;
Further decides	to continue the following groundwater-related initiatives for IHP-IX: Managed Aquifer Recharge (MAR), Groundwater Resources Assessment under the Pressures of Humanity and Climate Change (GRAPHIC) Programme, World-wide Hydrogeological Mapping and Assessment Programme (WHYMAP), Land Subsidence International Initiative (LaSII), and the International Shared Aquifer Resources Management (ISARM) and decides to combine the groundwater-related initiatives into a single UNESCO Groundwater Initiative and encourages coordination among them;
Further decides	Following the compliances of the IHP Flagship Initiative Framework for the Planning, Implementation and Monitoring (Resolution XXV-3) that the following Flagship Initiatives are recommended to continue within IHP-IX: Flow Regimes from International Experimental and Network Data (FRIEND) Initiative, International Initiative on Water Quality (IIWQ), International Sediments Initiative (ISI), Global Network on Water and Development Information for Arid Lands (G-WADI), International Flood Initiative (IFI), Global Network of Water Museums (WAMU-NET), and World’s Large Rivers Initiative (WRLI);
Further requests	that every Flagship Initiative approved by the Council will have to comply to the Flagship Initiative Framework for the Planning, Implementation and Monitoring including governance mechanism within IHP-IX;
Encourages	the current hosts/secretariat of the Flagship Initiatives to consider the best way to go forward in their implementation and to work closely together with the IHP Secretariat to determine the best pathway to maximize their contribution to the IHP-IX;
Further invites	all Members of the UNESCO Water Family to support the implementation of the IHP Flagship Initiatives by providing technical and/or financial support.

Thematic working groups for the operational implementation of IHP-IX (Agenda sub-item 4.4)

19. 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.

20. Following various inclusive and intensive consultations with Member States, the UNESCO Water Family and partners and led by a Task Force (TF) and the Experts of Member States (EoMS) and then by an Open-Ended Working Group (OEWG), the 24th session of the IHP council held in June 2021 approved the Strategic Plan of 9th phase of IHP. The Council established also an Open-Ended Working Group for the preparation of the Operational Implementation Plan (OIP) and financial plan for the implementation of the strategic plan.

21. With the facilitation of the Secretariat and following various experts meetings and three meetings of the Open-Ended Working Group, the implementation plan of the strategic plan of IHP-IX has been prepared and submitted to the 25th session of the Intergovernmental Council of the Intergovernmental Hydrological Programme (IHP) for endorsement as a living document.

22. The Strategic Plan of IHP-IX has five interrelated and intertwined priority areas and 34 outputs. Under each output, key activities were identified for the delivering the expected result. In total, 150 key activities are considered under the Operational Implementation Plan. The IHP-IX Strategic Plan is a visionary document to be collectively delivered by the IHP Secretariat, the UNESCO Water Family and interested partners.

23. As follow up to the recommendation of the Mid-term review of the previous IHP phase, the delivery of IHP-IX calls for more involvement of Members States, as well coordinated UNESCO Water Family with revigorated national IHP Committees. It also requires an enhanced engagement with other UN agencies and partners.

24. A coherent and effective implementation of IHP-IX requires an appropriate operational framework for strong coordination and collective delivery. The operational framework should be flexible enough to facilitate synergies and strong involvement of UNESCO Water Family and should also optimize the current available expertise within the division and in the field.

25. Following the call of express of interest in contributing to the implementation of the strategic plan, members of UNESCO Water Family and partners have positioned themselves under each one of the 34 outputs to be involved as leads, co-leads and contributors.

26. A critical analysis of the different outputs and key activities has clearly shown important interlinkages among various outputs and therefore the critical need for synergy in delivering these outputs. As it would be very difficult to manage 34 groups one for each output and due to interrelated priority areas, outputs and key activities, the creation of a limited number of thematic working groups has been proposed to help ensuring synergy among outputs during the implementation and facilitate the operational implementation of IHP-IX.

27. Each thematic working group will be in charge of certain synergic outputs and will comprise relevant C2Cs, Chairs and Member States through their National Committees and partners jointly working with the IHP Secretariat to collectively deliver related relevant IHP-IX outputs. From the IHP Secretariat, the work of each thematic group will be facilitated by a thematic team leader.

28. Building on the analysis of the 34 outputs, related key activities and taking into account interlinkages for their clustering and the thematic expertise available within the Secretariat, the following eight cross-cutting thematic working groups have been proposed:

- Eco-hydrology, experimental basin and designated sites;
- Water quality, pollution, source to sea including non-conventional water;
- Groundwater sustainability;
- Urban/rural water including transition to circular economy and related changes;
- Hydrological processes, scarcity and extremes, erosion and sediment, and cryosphere;
- climate change, risk analysis, decision making and adaptation on river basins;
- Water management, governance and cooperation;
- Water education including support to the Global acceleration framework.

29. Document [IHP/IC-XXV/Inf.4](#) is providing a preliminary clustering of outputs under each thematic working group for synergy, with the assumption that some outputs can be covered under various thematic groups, like, for example citizen science and data issues and the draft terms of reference of the thematic working groups.

30. The following draft resolution on establishment of thematic working groups for the operational implementation of IHP-IX was prepared by the Secretariat for the Council's approval:

Resolution XXV-4

Thematic working groups for the operational implementation 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 24 th Council approving the strategic plan of IHP-IX (2022-2029) and the establishment of an Open-Ended Working Group for the preparation of an implementation plan and financial plan,
Taking note	with satisfaction of the implementation plan of IHP-IX Strategic Plan as this is presented in the IHP/IC documents IHP/IC-XXV/4, IHP/IC-XXV/Inf.4,
Having considered	IHP/IC documents IHP/IC-XXV/4, IHP/IC-XXV/Inf.3,
Expresses	its gratitude to the IHP Secretariat for preparing the documents on the operational implementation framework of IHP-IX;
Decides	to approve the establishment of the following eight thematic working groups and related terms of reference in support of the operational implementation of IHP-IX: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. Eco-hydrology, experimental basin and designated sites

- ii. Water quality, pollution, source to sea including non-conventional water
- iii. Groundwater sustainability
- iv. Urban/rural water including transition to circular economy and related changes
- v. Hydrological processes, scarcity and extremes, erosion and sediment, and cryosphere
- vi. Climate change, risk analysis, decision making and adaptation on river basins
- vii. Water management, governance and cooperation
- viii. Water education including support to the Global acceleration framework

Requests

the IHP Secretariat to facilitate the operationalizing of these thematic working groups;

Encourages

All UNESCO Water Family Members and partners to take up the responsibility in the implementation of the IHP-IX, indicating thematic working groups they are willing to participate to and finance as per the recommendation on accountability of the external mid-term evaluation of IHP-VIII.