

IHP-IX The ninth phase of the Intergovernmental Hydrological Programme 2022-2029

Science for a Water Secure World in a Changing Environment.

3rd ORDER DRAFT 26 January 2021

Finland appreciates the possibility of commenting the 3rd draft on IHP-IX. The program as a whole is well written and comprehensive. It raises many important issues such as:

- Water management is a long-term process that requires a vision that goes beyond decades.
- Water education as a main axis of continuity and transition from phase VIII to phase IX, as well as water education at all levels for an improved water culture.
- A vision of the water secure world where people and institutions have adequate capacity and scientifically based knowledge for informed decisions on water management and governance to attain sustainable development and to build resilient societies.
- The importance of building communities and societies that are resilient in the face of changing and evermore complex environmental conditions requires that science inform policy.
- Public awareness at all levels raised towards better understanding their contribution to the important multi-functions of water in domestic life, ecosystems and productive development.

A few general comments:

1. The draft notes in several points both water resources and services, which is important. *The water services cannot be underestimated*. We need to remember the SDG6 "Clean water and sanitation". It is alarming that 1 out of 3 people or 2.2 billion people around the world lack safe drinking water and over half of the global population or 4.2 billion people lack safe sanitation.

<https://data.unicef.org/resources/progress-drinking-water-sanitation-hygiene-2019/>

In this context *The Berlin Rules on Water Resources* by the International Law Association (2004) should also be taken into consideration. For example, according to the Berlin Rules, Article 3, Definitions, (20) " 'Vital human needs' means waters used for immediate human survival, including drinking, cooking, and sanitary needs, as well as water needed for the immediate sustenance of a household."

2. *Biodiversity and its protection* are not highlighted clearly enough in the program. Their importance could be emphasized. "Healthy ecosystems" is not the same thing as safeguarding biodiversity. Therefore, we suggest the following addition to the Priority Area 4 "Inclusive water management under conditions of global change" (page 38):

“Healthy Rivers, Lakes, Wetlands, aquifers, and Glaciers do not just supply safe drinking water, **safeguard biodiversity** and maintain all ecosystems on the planet; they also support agriculture, hydropower, industry, recreation, communications, and transportation of goods.”

3. Priority areas are well chosen. As to the Priority Area 5. “Water governance based on science for mitigation, adaptation, and resilience” we want to highlight that efficient water governance is fundamental to the entire concept of setting global goals, such as the SDGs. Governance needs to be adaptive, context-dependent, and location-based to take into account historical and territorial specificities and challenges. Therefore, climate mitigation and adaptation policies should take better into consideration the water policy in the sense of relevant synergies.