

International Hydrological Programme
58th session of the IHP Bureau
(Paris, 10-12 September 2019)

**RELATIONS WITH UNITED NATIONS, INTERGOVERNMENTAL
ORGANIZATIONS AND NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS**

Item 6 of the provisional agenda

SUMMARY

This document presents a consolidated summary report on collaborative activities undertaken and results obtained with the UN system through UN-Water and on bilateral basis with UN specialized agencies and programmes, and with intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, for the period from March 2018 to May 2019, in particular:

- 6.1 Relations with other UN agencies
- 6.2 Relations with intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations
- 6.3 IHP contribution to the UN World Water Development Report (WWDR)
- 6.4 IHP's role in key international events and agendas, including 9th World Water Forum in Dakar 2021 and UN-Water evaluation

The Bureau may wish to:

- 6.1 Take note of the IHP's active collaboration with the UN system on water issues and encourage to strengthen it further.
- 6.2 Take note of the IHP's active collaboration with intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations on water issues and encourage to strengthen it further
- 6.3 Take note of IHP's contribution to WWDRs
- 6.4 Take note of IHP's roles and involvement in key international events and agendas related to water.

COOPERATION WITH THE UN SYSTEM ON FRESHWATER ISSUES (sub-item 6.1)

UN-Water

1. UN-Water is the United Nations interagency coordination mechanism for all freshwater related matters, including sanitation, established by the UN System Chief Executives Board for Coordination in 2003. As of May 2019, it is composed of 32 members¹ and 41 partners².

2. UN-Water coordinates the efforts of its Members and Partners through expert groups and taskforces. All activities outlined in the UN-Water Work Programme are primarily implemented through its Members and Partners. As agreed at the 26th UN-Water meeting in February 2017, the current organization of UN-Water coordination of activities implemented by its members and partners, includes the following expert groups and taskforces (coordinators indicated in square brackets):

Expert Groups

- 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development [UN-Water Vice-Chair]
- Drinking-Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) [UNICEF, WHO]
- Regional-level Coordination
- Transboundary Waters [UNECE, UNESCO]
- Water and Climate Change [WMO]
- Water Quality and Wastewater [UN Environment, UNESCO a member]
- Water Scarcity [FAO]

Task Forces

- Country-level Engagement
- Inventory
- Unconventional Water Resources
- Water Action Decade Implementation
- World Water Day and World Toilet Day 2019

Projects/Initiatives

- Integrated Monitoring of Water and Sanitation Related SDG Targets (GEMI)
- UN-Water Global Analysis and Assessment of Sanitation and Drinking-Water (UN-Water GLAAS)
- WHO/UNICEF Joint Monitoring Programme for Water Supply and Sanitation (JMP).

3. UNESCO is one of the eight UN agencies (alongside FAO, UN Environment, UN-HABITAT, UNECE, UNICEF, WHO, and WMO), participating in the “Integrated Monitoring of Water and Sanitation Related SDG 6 Targets” (GEMI), under the UN-Water umbrella. The GEMI’s goal is to develop a coherent framework for monitoring the SDG 6 on water. During the GEMI phase 1 (2015-2019), methodologies for monitoring the SDG 6 indicators were developed, with support to Member States in their efforts to develop a baseline for all SDG 6 indicators for the first reporting cycle. Main activities of GEMI in 2018 include: the completion of SDG 6 indicator reports; the development of the SDG 6 data portal; and regional and sub-regional capacity building workshops. The GEMI phase 2 is planned for the period 2019-2020. Further details are reported in document IHP/Bur-LVIII/10.

4. The first SDG 6 Synthesis Report was launched in July 2018 to inform the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF) for its in-depth review of SDG 6. An online

¹ UN agencies, programmes and other UN entities dealing with water-related issues, including sanitation and natural disasters are Members of UN-Water.

² International organizations, professional unions, associations or other civil-society groups that are actively involved in water, international in structure and membership are Partners of UN-Water. Other UN connected entities such as Special Rapporteurs, panels and advisory boards are Partners with Special Status.

Public Dialogue was organized to facilitate feedback, exchange on main obstacles, lessons learned and the way forward, which results were published as a Report in early 2019.

World Water Day celebrations

5. UNESCO contributed, as a co-lead and a member, to UN-Water Taskforces on World Water Day 2018 and 2019 campaigns.

6. The World Water Day 2018 was celebrated under the theme “*Nature for Water*”. UNESCO co-led the UN-Water Task Force on World Water Day 2018 “*Nature for Water*”, jointly with the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and UN Environment Programme (UN Environment). For the UN-Water official celebration of World Water Day 2018, UNESCO, CBD and UN Environment, in collaboration with the World Water Council (WWC), co-organized a Special Session “*The World Water Day: Nature for Water*” on 22 March during the 8th World Water Forum in Brazil. The event mobilized the participation of high-level government officials and other stakeholders, including indigenous and youth representatives. In the framework of the World Water Day 2018 campaign, UNESCO hosted a Photo Exhibition by “*Clean Water Here*” at the UNESCO Headquarters in Paris in April 2018. The exhibition was displayed at the UN in New York on 22 March on the occasion of launching of the new International Decade for Action: Water for Sustainable Development (2018-2028).

7. The World Water Day 2019 was celebrated under the theme “*Leaving No One Behind*”. The UN-Water official celebration of World Water Day 2019 took place as a special session during the Human Rights Council Meeting in Geneva, Switzerland, on 19 March. The event brought together high-level representatives, such as the UN-Water Vice-Chair, United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, Assistant High Commissioner for Operations, Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, the Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of Italy and the Special Rapporteur on the Human Rights to Water and Sanitation. HRH Princess Sumaya bint El Hassan of Jordan, UNESCO Special Envoy for Science for Peace, delivered a speech on behalf of the UNESCO Director-General.

8. On World Water Day 2019, the UN Special Rapporteur on the human rights to safe drinking water and sanitation, Mr. Léo Heller, the Permanent Mission of Spain, the Permanent Mission of Germany, UN-Water, UNESCO-IHP, and OHCHR, jointly organized the Second Human Rights Youth Challenge to raise awareness among the youth about the human rights to water and sanitation. The winner will be announced in September 2019 during the UN Human Rights Council in Geneva at a side event co-organized by IHP.

9. The World Water Day 2020 will be celebrated under the theme “*Water and Climate Change*”, as agreed at the 26th UN-Water meeting in February 2017. The World Water Day 2021 and 2022 will be celebrated under themes “*Valuing Water*” and “*Groundwater*”, respectively, as agreed at the 28th UN-Water meeting in January 2018.

UN International Decade for Action on “Water for Sustainable Development” 2018-2028

10. The UN International Decade for Action on “Water for Sustainable Development” 2018-2028 was launched at the UN Headquarters in New York on 22 March 2018. To define Decade’s action, the Government of Tajikistan, in collaboration with the UN, organized the High-level International Conference on UN International Decade for Action “Water for Sustainable Development” 2018-2028 in Dushanbe, Tajikistan, from 19-22 June 2018. UNESCO contributed to the conference by leading two action panels on: “*Water Quality and Ecosystems*”, led by IHP’s International Initiative on Water Quality; and “*Capacity Building, including improving Knowledge and Education*”, co-led by UNDP/Cap-Net and IHP. The IHP-led Action Panel on “*Water Quality and Ecosystems*” aimed at facilitating high-level policy support and science-based decision-making on improving water quality and ecosystem management. It brought together Ministers and government officials from Bangladesh, Nigeria,

and Indonesia, as well as representatives of international/regional organizations such as the International Water Management Institute (IWMI) and the Central Asia Regional Economic Cooperation (CAREC). IHP also contributed to the Action Panel on “Water, Food, Energy and Environment Nexus” by disseminating best practices on water reuse, and to the Pre-Conference Forum on Water and Science for a Sustainable Future with a technical contribution on “New challenges and frontiers in water quality management for SDGs achievement”.

Global Environment Facility (GEF)

11. IHP cooperates with GEF/UNDP and GEF/UNEP projects on groundwater resources, climate change and glaciers. Three new GEF projects were prepared: Strengthening the institutional capacities of the African Network of Basin Organizations (ANBO), contributing to the improved transboundary water governance in Africa; Implementation of the Strategic Action Program of the Dinaric Karst Aquifer System: Improving groundwater governance and sustainability of related ecosystems; and Fostering multi-country cooperation over conjunctive surface and groundwater management in the Bug and Neman Bug and Neman river basins and the underlying aquifer systems. IHP continues its cooperation on the GEF project “International Waters Learning Exchange and Resource Network” (IW:LEARN) on groundwater governance and surface waters and groundwater conjunctive management. Several sessions on these topics were organized at the 9th GEF International Water Conference in Marrakesh, in November 2018, attended by about 70 participants (30% women). IHP has hosted at UNESCO the validation meeting of the GEF-UNEP project “Mediterranean Sea Programme: Enhancing Environmental Security”, aimed at reducing transboundary environmental stresses affecting the Mediterranean Sea and its coastal areas.

United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF)

12. UNESCO, jointly with UNICEF and the Global Water Partnership (GWP), are supporting the elaboration and validation process of the Cameroonian National Policy of water resources.

United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA)

13. UNESCO’s WWAP, UNESCO Regional Office in Nairobi, UNECA and UN-Water jointly carried out a pilot research on “Empowering people and ensuring inclusiveness and equality: Building on the interlinkages between water and sanitation and the SDGs under review at the HLPF 2019”. The outcome report was presented at the 5th Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development, held in Marrakech, Morocco, on 16 April 2019, to discuss interlinkages with the African Regional Policy paper on SDG 6. The report focuses on the SDG 6 interlinkages with the SDG 4 (quality education), SDG 8 (decent work and economic growth), SDG 10 (reduced inequalities), SDG 13 (climate action), SDG 16 (peace, justice and strong institutions) and SDG 17 (partnerships).

United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE)

14. UNESCO and UNECE are collaborating as co-custodian agencies of SDG Indicator 6.5.2 on transboundary water management. The two organizations published, jointly with UN-Water, the first report on the “Progress of transboundary cooperation – SDG 6.5.2 baseline”, which was launched in August 2018 (details in IHP/Bur-LVIII/10).

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and UN Environment

15. UNESCO, in partnership with UNDP and UN Environment, produced a film on the UNESCO Biosphere Reserve in Lake Tana, Ethiopia, to raise awareness through expert interviews on hydro-ecological issues, such as the sedimentation of Lake Tana due to soil erosion and the loss of wetland habitats around the lake.

World Health Organization (WHO)

16. IHP's International Initiative on Water Quality contributed on the climate change impact on water quality and its implications to human health to the WHO-led Chapter on "Water, sanitation and climate change: Human health impacts" of the World Water Development Report 2020 "Water and Climate Change".

World Meteorological Organization (WMO)

17. IHP participated in the Extraordinary session of the WMO Hydrology Commission (CHy) in Geneva, February 2019, and the CHy Advisory Working Group meeting in Geneva, October 2018. The UNESCO-WMO liaison meeting was held in December 2018 and discussed the ongoing WMO reform and its implication for CHy and partnership with IHP. The WMO reform called for close cooperation and synergies of water-related programmes of both organizations. WMO participated in coordination meetings of the IHP International Flood Initiative, held in 2018 and 2019. UNESCO and WMO co-organized a session on "Hydrology towards Sustainable Resilient Societies" during the HLPF in July 2018. UNESCO provided a lecture on "Decision-making under uncertainty for water resources management" as part of the Climate Classroom organized at COP24, organized by the One UN Climate Change Learning Partnership (UN CC:Learn), WMO and the Swiss Agency for Development Cooperation (SDC).

18. UNESCO Offices in Apia and Jakarta, jointly with WMO and UNDP, support a consultancy, led by the Pacific Regional Environmental Programme (SPREP), to carry out a capacity gaps and needs assessment of the Pacific Island Hydrological Services. UNESCO is a member of the Pacific Hydrological Services (PHS) Panel and helped the development of the terms of reference of both the panel and assessment. The consultancy is to be carried out between June and August 2019. The report will include recommendations for future activities and opportunities for collaboration between partner and stakeholders.

COOPERATION WITH INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS (sub-item 6.2)

African Network of Basin Organizations (ANBO)

19. In the framework of the GEF-UNDP Project on "Strengthening the institutional capacities of the African Network of Basin Organizations", IHP supports the mainstreaming of groundwater governance principles, implemented in cooperation with the Senegal River Basin Development Organization (OMVS).

African Ministers' Council on Water (AMCOW)

20. UNESCO, jointly with AMCOW, supported the organization of the 7th Africa Water Week in Libreville, Gabon, 29 October-2 November 2018. UNESCO, in close collaboration with AMCOW and other partners, organized seven sessions on various water-related issues in Africa. IHP attended the AMCOW Technical Advisory Committee meeting and presented priority areas of its cooperation with AMCOW. These priorities constituted core cooperation areas of the Memorandum of Understanding of cooperation between UNESCO and AMCOW, signed during the UNESCO Water Conference in May 2019.

Arab Water Council (AWC)

21. IHP participated in the 5th General Assembly of the Arab Water Council held in Cairo, Egypt, 16-17 March 2019, and presented the IHP-VIII main achievements, in particular, activities related to groundwater and arid zones. The IHP participation allowed all Arab States' delegations to be updated on main results of the IHP-VIII implementation and also on the preparation of the next IHP-IX phase.

Development Bank of Latin America (CAF)

22. IHP is collaborating with CAF on the Guarani Aquifer and on the development of a GEF project, focusing on the implementation of the Guarani Aquifer Strategic Action Program.

Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS)

23. IHP, jointly with ECCAS, UNECE, GWP-Central Africa and under the chairmanship of the Minister of Water and Energy of Cameroon, organized a sub-regional workshop to support the SDG 6 implementation in Central Africa in Douala, Cameroon, in July 2018.

Global Water Partnership

24. IHP collaborated with GWP on the organization of the Course on International Water Law, with a focus on groundwater, in Montevideo, Uruguay, September 2018. It was attended by 48 participants (28 women, 20 men). Close cooperation was established with the regional networks of GWP Central Africa and South America to support Member States in the monitoring of SDG 6. Cooperation with GWP Central America is already established and a work plan has been agreed to conduct SDG 6 related activities in the region

InterAmerican Development Bank (IADB)

25. IHP, as coordinator of the South American Process of the World Water Forum, collaborated with IADB for the publication of the South American sub-regional report for the 8th World Water Forum. This report is based on the country reports on main water challenges and opportunities in South America.

Inter-American Network of Academies of Sciences (IANAS)

26. IANAS, with the support of the IHP and CODIA, launched on 22 March 2019 the publication "Water Quality in the Americas" Risks and Opportunities", which represents the joint effort of the Academies of Sciences from 21 countries of the Americas to analyze water quality challenges and to offer suggestions for better water quality management. The publication is based on national experts' contributions to the UNESCO-IANAS Meeting on Water Quality in the Americas, organized by IHP's International Initiative on Water Quality in Irvine, USA, in September 2015.

International Association of Hydrogeologists (IAH)

27. Under the UNESCO-IHP World Hydrogeological Map Programme (WHYMAP), IHP and IAH published a special edition of the Groundwater Resources of Africa Map, which was launched at the Africa Water Week in Libreville, Gabon, in November 2018. IHP contributed to the participation of young scientists at the 46th IAH Congress in Daejeon, Korea, in September 2018. IHP supported IAH in the organization and facilitated the participation of experts from developing countries in the 10th International Symposium on Managed Aquifer Recharge in Madrid, Spain, 20-24 May 2019 (<https://www.ismar10.net/en/ismar10-3/>). IHP and the IAH Commission on Managed Aquifer Recharge (MAR) are jointly preparing a publication on the status of the knowledge on MAR presenting several successful case studies from different regions of the world.

International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)

28. IUCN collaborated with IHP as the local implementing partner in the execution of the Central American component of the Groundwater Governance in Transboundary Aquifers (GGRETA) the Ocotepeque-Citalá Aquifer project, supported by the Swiss Agency of Development and Cooperation. The project ended in April 2019. and contributed to a better understanding of flood risks in the Sava River Basin. The International Sava River Basin Commission (ISRBC) participated actively in both the International Symposium on Water Equity, organized by the UNESCO Regional Bureau and WWAP in Venice, Italy, in March 2019, contributing with their expertise on water and disaster risk reduction, and the I-REACT project end event "Improving Resilience to Emergencies through Advanced Cyber

Technologies”, organized in Venice, Italy, in May 2019. The ISRBC participation in these events provided the countries involved with an example of successful regional cooperation in the area of water management. The Sava River Basin was one of the pilot areas in the project. UNESCO Regional Bureau and ISRBC are working closely on building a resilient society against floods in the river basins of the region and are involved as partners on related activities in the H2020 project “SHELTER”, which will start in June 2019.

Observatory of the Sahara and the Sahel (OSS)

29. UNESCO-IHP provided technical support on groundwater in arid zones at the 20th OSS Steering Committee held in Tunis, Tunisia, 25-26 March 2019.

30. IHP is collaborating with OSS on the implementation of the groundwater governance and capacity-building component of the GEF-funded project “Improving IWRM, Knowledge-based Management and Governance of the Niger Basin and the Iullemeden-Taoudeni/Tanezrouft Aquifer System”. Activities are expected to start in June 2019.

Senegal River Basin Development Commission (OMVS)

31. As a follow-up to the UNECE Roundtable on “Transboundary collaboration on the Senegalese-Mauritanian Aquifer”, held in Geneva, Switzerland, on February 2019, UNESCO-IHP is providing technical support to OMVS on a project proposal preparation on the Senegalo-Mauritanian Aquifer/Senegal River Basin Development Authority to be submitted to the GEF.

Southern Africa Development Community (SADC)

32. IHP supported the organization of the 1st SADC Groundwater Conference in Johannesburg, South Africa, from 26-28 September 2018, as a member of its Organizing and Technical Committees. The conference was attended by 120 participants from 26 countries.

Country and regional level collaborations with UN and international organizations

33. IHP collaborates with a number of UN, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations at the regional level (for detailed information, see document [IHP/Bur-LVIII/7](#) – Regional perspectives). IHP also contributes actively to UN activities at the country level, carried out by UN country teams.

IHP CONTRIBUTION TO THE UN WORLD WATER DEVELOPMENT REPORT (sub-item 6.3)

34. IHP is an active contributor to the annual United Nations World Water Development Reports (WWDR) and also supports WWAP on the organization of events to disseminate the reports and main messages globally.

35. In the 2019 edition of the Report ‘Leaving No One Behind’, IHP led Chapter 3 “Social Dimensions” and contributed to Chapter 9 “Regional Perspectives” along with the UNESCO Multisectoral Office in Abuja.

36. In 2020 edition of the WWDR, contents of which are currently being developed, IHP is co-leading four Chapters: Prologue; Chapter 1 (climate change, water and sustainable development); Chapter 3 (Water availability/supply and ecosystems); and Chapter 13 (Technological innovation, knowledge, capacity development, and research).

37. In March 2019, the Office of the Director General initiated a discussion with the UN-Water Chair with the aim to conclude a letter of exchange between UNESCO and UN-Water that clarifies the role of each entity in preparation, production and dissemination of the annual WWDR series, their rights and obligations. The process is ongoing in consultation with the Legal Advisors in UNESCO.

IHP'S ROLE IN KEY INTERNATIONAL EVENTS AND AGENDAS, INCLUDING 9TH WORLD WATER FORUM IN DAKAR 2021 AND UN-WATER EVALUATION (sub-item 6.4)

High-level Political Forum (HLPF) on the Sustainable Development Goals 6

38. The HLPF 2018, held in New York on 18 July 2018, reviewed the implementation of the SDG 6, among other goals, and discussed progress, successes, challenges and lessons learned on the road to a fairer, more peaceful and prosperous world and a healthy planet by 2030. IHP contributed to raise awareness by organizing the side-event "Hydrology towards Sustainable Resilient Societies". Furthermore, IHP also contributed to the high-level policy dialogue on "Ensuring International Policy Dialogues for achieving SDG-6".

Twenty-fourth session of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) Conference of the Parties (COP 24)

39. IHP organized several sessions during the COP24, which was held in Katowice, Poland, in December 2018, to disseminate lessons learned from various projects and activities related to climate adaptation. Two publications on Climate Risks Informed Decision Analysis and Andean Glacier and Water Atlas were presented during the COP 24.

World Water Week 2018

40. The 2018 World Water Week was held in Stockholm, Sweden, from 26 to 31 August 2018. The IHP's International Initiative on Water Quality organized three technical and showcase sessions on water quality and emerging pollutants: "Microplastics in freshwater environments", attended by 89 participants (47 men, 42 women); "Monitoring water quality using EO: UNESCO World Water Quality Portal", attended by 50 participants (27men, 23 women); and "Achieving water-related SDGs: Managing emerging pollutants", attended by over 30 participants and livestreamed online. The IIWQ contributed to other sessions: "UN World Water Development Report 2018: Nature-based solutions for water", organized by UN-Water; and "The source-to-sea balancing act: Development needs and ecosystem preservation", organized by the Stockholm International Water Institute (SIWI).

9th World Water Forum

41. The 9th World Water Forum will be held in Dakar, Senegal, in 2021, for the first time in Sub-Saharan Africa, with the theme "Water security for peace and development". During the UNESCO International Water Conference in May 2019, two Memoranda of Understanding related to the 9th World Water Forum were signed: one with the Government of Senegal to stress the commitment of UNESCO emanating from the Executive Board decision to support Senegal in the process of the preparation of the forum; and the second with the World Water Council and Senegal to strengthen IHP cooperation in the organization of the forum. The kick-off meeting of the forum preparatory process was held in Senegal in June 2019, in which IHP participated.