



International Hydrological Programme (IHP)

55th session of the IHP Bureau

Paris, 20-22 June 2017

FINAL REPORT

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1. OPENING OF THE SESSION

1. The 55th session of the Bureau of the International Hydrological Programme (IHP or “the Programme”) was held at UNESCO Headquarters in Paris from 20 to 22 June 2017. The Chairperson and the Vice-Chairpersons from four UNESCO Electoral Groups and a/the representative of Region III, attended the session. Representatives of the IHP Council Finance Committee and of the Communication and Outreach Committee, 17 delegations from Member States, three non-governmental organizations, three water-related category 2 centres (C2C) and one UNESCO Water Chair, one UN Organization (World Meteorological Organization) and one UNESCO Programme were represented as observers. The list of participants is attached as Annex III.

2. The Chairperson of the IHP Council, Mr Andras Szöllösi-Nagy (Group II, Eastern Europe), welcomed the participants in the presence of Mr Helmut Habersack, Vice-Chairperson of Group I (Western Europe and North America), Mr Felipe I. Arreguin Cortés, Vice-Chairperson of Group III (Latin America and the Caribbean), Mr Yasuto Tachikawa, Vice-Chairperson of Group IV (Asia-Pacific Region), Mr Gaye Cheikh Becaye, Vice-Chairperson of Group Va (Africa) and Mr Mahmoud Abu-Zeid, Vice-Chairperson of Group Vb (Arab States).

3. Opening the meeting, the Chairperson underlined the important developments since the 22nd session of the Intergovernmental Council of the IHP (June 2016). Drawing on the historic role of IHP, he noted that both the programme and the International Hydrological Decade together started the UNESCO Water Programmes over 52 years ago, with the purpose to foster scientific cooperation across political divides. He underlined that IHP continues to be driven by the same basic message since its inception: *water is indispensable for human life in all its aspects*. This fact would open the scope of the Programme beyond the natural sciences to the social, political and cultural dimensions of water within the framework of UNESCO’s interdisciplinary mandate and expertise, demonstrating IHP’s unique delivering capacity. Likewise, the Chairperson explained that the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 6 on water and sanitation would tie together all SDGs, by representing a basic prerequisite for the implementation of each of them, and notably SDG 1: “End poverty in all its forms everywhere”. He emphasized that IHP should therefore be given the appropriate priority within UNESCO and that the next phase of IHP should be reviewed to be better aligned with the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and other international development agendas.

4. On behalf of Ms Flavia Schlegel, Assistant Director-General for Natural Sciences (ADG/SC), Mr Qunli Han, Director of the Division of Ecological and Earth Sciences, welcomed the Bureau members and observers. Conveying the ADG/SC message, he highlighted the longstanding priority of IHP for UNESCO and its capacity as the only intergovernmental scientific programme within the United Nations system dedicated to water sciences, emphasizing, *inter alia*: IHP’s strong presence at the 21st and 22nd Conference of the Parties (COP21 and COP22) of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC); its leading role in the Megacities Alliance for Water and Climate; its role in the Steering Committee of the Global Expanded Monitoring Initiative (GEMI) for the SDG indicator 6.5.2; the expanding network of UNESCO water-related category 2 centres and Chairs; and the development of the IHP Water Information Network System (WINS). Mr Han further highlighted IHP’s initiative to organize a special session of the UN High-level Panel on Water during the 39th General Conference of UNESCO in November 2017.

2. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

5. Ms Blanca Jiménez-Cisneros, Secretary of IHP, presented the meeting’s agenda. The agenda was adopted without changes. The Secretary announced additional elements that were to be presented under the sub-item 6.2 Cooperation with intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, on the Sustainable Water Future Programme; and under the sub-item 8.3 Other Council-related matters, on: the preparation of IHP-IX; the endorsement of the WWAP toolkit for

mainstreaming gender in water; the use of an online registration system for the IHP Council session; and support for the Global Network of Water Museums.

3. INSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENTS AT UNESCO

3.1 Developments at the Division of Water Sciences following the 200th and 201st sessions of the Executive Board, including the preparations for 2018-2019 (39 C/5)

6. Following the report by the IHP Secretary on recent institutional developments in the Water Sciences Division, the Vice-Chairperson of Region I stated that it was not clear how the structure of the 39 C/5 would be changed. He stressed that the IHP cannot effectively carry out its mandate under the proposed governance structure, noting that although water has received prominent positions in the Director-General's speeches, as well as a stand-alone SDG, it is insufficiently reflected in the Organization's Programme and Budget structures.

7. The Vice-Chairperson of Region Va expressed his dissatisfaction with what was perceived as a downgrading of IHP to an Expected Result level in 39 C/5, when water has been specifically recognized as a key issue by the 2030 Agenda and was equally included in the UN Security Council agenda. The Chairperson and the Vice-Chairperson of Region I successively expressed their discontent with the current state of affairs, concurring that water security should be a Main Line of Action (MLA), rather than an Expected Result, and that it is already delivering several concrete results in diverse fields of the UNESCO mandate (education, natural and social sciences and culture). The Vice-Chairperson of Region I noted that the aforementioned change of the level of water security in the 39C/5 was not acceptable for Region I, based on the on-going discussion on the global water architecture (see relevant agenda sub-item 6.4 IHP's role in key international events and agenda). He mentioned that water security should be within UNESCO at the level of discourse of the Organization on IHP as the leading intergovernmental programme, otherwise other organisations might be taking over IHP's role. The Vice-Chairpersons of Region Vb seconded this position.

8. The Bureau therefore agreed to prepare a letter to the current Director-General to raise the above-mentioned concerns, including the issue of the rigidity and limitations of the current structure of the MLA, and to recommend assigning a MLA dedicated to water security. The Bureau members also requested the Secretariat to assist their respective delegations in obtaining a meeting of the Bureau with the incoming Director-General, as soon as appointed, in order to convey the position of the Bureau.

9. In this context, the observer from Turkey questioned whether it was still possible for the Director-General and the Secretariat to include any changes at this stage in the structure of the 39 C/5 and mentioned that there were concerns among the Member States regarding the way the budget has been prepared and decided. The Bureau decided that even if changes were no longer possible, conveying its position directly to the Director-General was necessary for the record and for future UNESCO strategies and programming. The Bureau asked the Secretariat to find out if it was still possible to move water to the level of an MLA.

10. The Bureau further debated how to make IHP more visible and attractive to youth and young water professionals, so as to strengthen partnerships by including the new generation of water experts. The Chair mentioned the need to involve young leaders in the management of IHP. The Vice-Chairperson of Region I emphasized this view and further proposed to rebrand the water-related activities of UNESCO under "UNESCO-Water" and develop a revitalized mission statement and presentation of concrete actions, outcomes and results in cooperation with the UNESCO Water Family. The representative of the International Centre for Water Resources and Global Change (ICWRGC, Category 2 Centre under the auspices of UNESCO, Germany), also supported this position. The observer from the Netherlands suggested working with the Water Youth Network and urged the Secretariat to invite youth representatives to participate in the design and implementation of IHP activities rather than considering them as beneficiaries after the activities

have been already framed. The observer from Turkey added that a Youth Forum is organized by UNESCO's Social and Human Sciences Sector before the General Conference and represents an opportunity to engage with the youth on water issues. The Chairperson concluded by recommending the creation of a task force, which could consist of upcoming young scientists to explore mechanisms to reinvent IHP.

The Bureau took note of the institutional developments related to the Division of Water Sciences and decided to prepare and send a letter to the Director-General and the Secretariat raising its concerns about the current structure of the 39C/5 and requesting the assignment of a standalone MLA for the Water Sciences' Division allocating the same budget currently considered. The Bureau requested the Secretariat to initiate and coordinate the process of rebranding the Water activities of UNESCO under "UNESCO-Water" and develop a revitalized mission statement and presentation of concrete actions, outcomes and results and to report back at the 56th Bureau session.

3.2 Report on the governance of UNESCO and dependent funds, programmes and entities

11. The IHP Secretary informed the Bureau about the UNESCO-wide process on the optimization and harmonization of governance, procedures and working methods of the governing bodies of UNESCO and brought to the Bureau's attention the praise IHP has received in this process, that put forth many of its procedures as best practices.

12. The Chairperson underlined his perception of a currently predominant approach to governance that he qualified as "top-down", although there have been efforts to facilitate a bottom-up approach through the inclusion of the IHP National Committees. He noted as an example of best and possible unique practice at UNESCO, the preparation of an IHP phase that takes at least three years, and involves an extensive consultative process with and a consensus by Member States. This would highlight the IHP Council's democratic procedures as a scientific and policy body. This practice, extending to the democratic election of Council members by their scientific peers, should be maintained to prevent more cumbersome bureaucratic procedures and decision-making reliant on practices the Chairperson perceived as primarily motivated by political priorities. He warned that such approaches to decision-making could discourage the participation of the broader scientific and expert community in IHP, thus undermining the Programme's very potential and capacities.

13. In response to the aforementioned reflection, the Vice-Chairperson of Region IV, described the procedures for the annual IHP regional meeting in Asia and the Pacific, and notably the Member States' selection process for their representatives to the IHP Council. He stated that his region might not welcome a different approach.

14. The Bureau discussed the suggestion voiced by the observer from Turkey that members of the IHP Council could start their mandate immediately after the General Conference of UNESCO. This would imply that the election of the IHP Bureau members and the IHP Chairperson would take place immediately after the General Conference. The Secretariat suggested, in this case, exploring the feasibility of an electronic vote. The Chairperson argued against this option and proposed to achieve the vote in practice, to move the IHP Intergovernmental Council's biennial meeting to the February following the General Conference. The Bureau members considered this to be an acceptable proposal. They requested that the Secretariat tentatively select a more precise date for the Bureau's consideration in line with the statutory rules.

15. The observer from Turkey stated that the recommendations of the open-ended Working group on the governing bodies of UNESCO, procedures and working methods¹: (a) would not be

¹ Established through 38C/Res 101, cf. <http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0024/002433/243325e.pdf>

implemented immediately after the next 39th General Conference and (b) are a guidance to the diverse bodies for their consideration and approval by the IHP Council.

16. The IHP Secretary informed the Bureau that IHP is already implementing some of the recommendations for the governance procedures and working methods of the governing bodies of UNESCO (e.g. the use of two languages during the Bureau session). In addition, the Secretary proposed to await the aforementioned working group's final report to combine its recommendations with comments received from Member States on the statutes and regarding the discussion on the global water architecture. The Secretariat would then produce a new draft version for consultation with Member States on the rules of procedures for IHP.

The Bureau requested the Secretariat to report on the final report of the open-ended working group on the governance, procedures and working methods of the governing bodies of UNESCO at its 56th Bureau session.

3.3 Report on the consultation for the update of the IHP statutes and rules of procedure of the IHP Council

17. The Vice-Chairperson of Region I informed the Secretariat that a recent meeting of regional IHP National Committees produced recommendations on the rules and procedures of the IHP Intergovernmental Council, which should be taken into consideration when consolidating the revised version of the documents² of the IHP statutes and rules of procedure.

18. The Chairperson stressed the need to have every Member State involved in the consultation process, regardless of their membership in the IHP Council.

19. The Secretariat informed the Bureau of the results of the survey among the Member States on some aspects of the statutes, noting that:

- Member States recommended that IHP Bureau members should serve for a two-year non-cumulative mandate;
- IHP Council and IHP Bureau members do not serve in their personal capacity. They are assigned the role of the representative of their country and as such, the Member State is responsible to ensure continuity in its representation in the two governing bodies.
- IHP Council meetings shall not be held outside UNESCO headquarters in Paris.

The Bureau requested the Secretariat to prepare a revised draft of the IHP Statutes and Rules of procedures that includes the comments from the surveys, regional consultations, including the recommendations of the open-ended working group on the governance, procedures and working methods of the governing bodies of UNESCO. The draft is to be circulated to the Bureau and presented subsequently at the 56th Bureau session.

3.4 IHP-related extrabudgetary activities

20. The Bureau took note of the Secretariat's report on IHP-related extrabudgetary activities with satisfaction. It noted that the IHP extrabudgetary funds increased to USD 43 Million and was distributed among 31 projects at headquarters and field offices. It was further mentioned that there is a ratio of one to ten between Regular Programme budget for activities and extrabudgetary funds. The Secretariat highlighted that the extrabudgetary funds complement the implementation of Regular Programme activities in Member States in line with IHP-VIII themes and priorities. However, the Secretariat stressed that the existing number of the staff in the Division of Water

² IHP/Bur-LV/Ref.1 (https://en.unesco.org/sites/default/files/55ihp_bur_ref1_item3_update_ihp_statutes_and_rop.pdf) and IHP/Bur-LV/Ref.2 (https://en.unesco.org/sites/default/files/55ihp_bur_ref2-proposal_update_ihp_statutes-and_rop.pdf)

Sciences and in the regions is not sufficient to support the increasing portfolio of extrabudgetary projects, as the supervision, organizational representation and management of extrabudgetary activities place significant demands on IHP staff, who are already at their limit.

21. The Bureau questioned the use of IHP funds in the field offices and the budget allocation to support field staff positions, raising overall concern regarding the distribution of financial resources for programme implementation, since in several FOs, the budget share devoted to IHP activities does not align with the Member States' priorities for addressing water security. The Bureau furthermore noted with concern the lack of staff in FOs that fully devote their time to working for IHP, which undermines the sustainability of the implementation of IHP activities in the regions. The members further questioned the implementation of water activities in FOs by non-specialized staff and the lack of direct reporting to the Division of Water Sciences and the Sector for Natural Sciences.

22. The Bureau reiterated the need to request an appointment with the incoming Director-General when elected to also raise the challenges and issues faced by IHP regarding budgetary constraints and the lack of human resources dedicated to the implementation of IHP in the regions. The Chairperson concluded with the statement that, "Water is a priority for the whole world and should be a top priority for UNESCO".

To draw attention to the challenges faced by IHP, the Bureau's Chairperson will request an appointment with the newly appointed Director-General, through the Permanent Delegations and coordinated by the Secretariat, during the 56th Bureau session. (Written briefing notes of the meeting shall be prepared by the Secretariat and circulated among the Bureau members.)

3.5 Report of the Finance Committee

23. The member of the IHP Finance Committee from Region I (Germany) presented the Committee's report on behalf of the Chairperson of the IHP Finance Committee (Namibia). The report illustrated two tables, highlighting the funds allocated for Regular Budget activities vis-a-vis extrabudgetary funds for the year 2017 both at the Headquarters and in the regions.

24. The Vice-Chairperson of Region I noted that the Regular Programme budget seemed too low to support the implementation of the number of IHP activities and that based on this report, it appeared that IHP's activities are supported primarily by extrabudgetary funds, in-kind suggested that the Secretariat should use the Report of the Finance Committee and should indicate which budget share is allocated for each activity to determine if the amount of Regular Budget assigned to certain Thematic Areas is adequate. This analysis, however, would need to strike the balance between the required depth to make it useful and the Secretariat's limited resources to perform it. This would enable the Bureau to define which themes could be prioritized in the next IHP phase and sharpen the focus of the programme. In general, looking at the increasing number and scope of projects, water family and initiatives, the Bureau found that IHP is insufficiently funded through the Regular Budget.

25. The representative from Germany stressed the Regular Programme budget constraints and noted that since the Secretariat is overloaded, it will be useful to strengthen the collaboration with C2Cs and UNESCO water chairs and UNITWIN networks, by increasing their involvement in the implementation of IHP.

26. The observer from Turkey raised her concern on the limited involvement of the field offices in and information sent to IHP, on the formulation of projects and how extrabudgetary funds are being spent at the field level. She suggested that the modalities of working with the field offices should be improved. She pointed out that IHP should rely more on extrabudgetary funds as the Regular Programme budget will not increase. In this context, a question was raised as to where

IHP stands in the fundraising strategy of the Natural Sciences Sector. A suggestion was made that IHP develops its own strategy in line with its new special account.

27. The Chairperson stated that the IHP Finance Committee was created to raise extrabudgetary funds and not as an additional auditing system for the Programme. He further requested information on the way in which funds are allocated to field offices, both on projects and staff, stating that obtaining this information must be a priority.

28. The Vice-Chairperson of Region I suggested adding elements to the table presented by the IHP Finance Committee on the budget breakdown by IHP Thematic Area, to include the budget of the UNESCO Water Family, as well as financial information related to the water Chairs and C2Cs, if possible. In this regard, the Secretariat noted that it might be difficult to collect all relevant information especially in a timely manner, because the centres are funded directly by Member States, which have no obligation to disclose this information.

29. The observer from Togo, on behalf of the President of the IHP National Committee of Togo, thanked UNESCO for its support to the young IHP National Committee of his country. He noted that a report on IHP activities in Togo will be presented to the meeting of the African IHP National Committees in July 2017. Appreciating IHP's work, he suggested that IHP needs to develop a communication strategy to be more visible, to promote rejuvenation and reinvigoration, and to improve its financial resources mobilisation. He drew attention to the financial difficulties of UNESCO and to the delays in financial contributions by Member States, which resulted in additional burdens on the whole Organisation. He supported the idea to have an IHP fundraising strategy with staff specifically hired for that purpose. He also informed that there will be a workshop on water, peace and security at the *Conférence de la Francophonie*, in Lomé, Togo in November 2017. He finally expressed Togo's hope that IHP will participate in it and invited all Member States to support the IHP National Committee of Togo through funding, advice, and training.

30. The Secretariat informed the Bureau that IHP has opened a special account which will be operational for the next Executive Board. An information meeting will be organized to explain its functioning and facilitate fundraising. The Bureau requested that the Secretariat pursue the follow up of the IHP Finance Committee Chairperson's report, by detailing the UNESCO Water Family budget as an additional column in the budget allocation table and breaking it down by activities and tasks related to the results, and provide this information to the next IHP Bureau meeting in order to reflect the financing needs in terms of activities.

31. The Secretariat informed the Bureau that ADG/SC has offered to provide all financial the information the Bureau might need through the Administrative Officer of the Sector for Natural Sciences (SC/AO).

The Bureau will address a written request to ADG/SC and SC/AO to provide the aforementioned financial information. In order to reflect the Bureau's discussion on the under-budgeting of the IHP regular funds, the Chairperson is requested to urgently put forward to ADG/SC the issue of respecting the budget priorities. The Secretariat shall report to the next session of the Bureau the outcomes of the discussion. The Bureau requests the C2C and Chairs to disclose the financial information collected by the IHP Secretariat in a timely manner.

3.6 Report of the IHP Communication and Outreach Committee

32. The member of the IHP Communication and Outreach Committee (CnOC) and Secretary of the IHP National Committee of The Netherlands, presented elements of the Committee's report on behalf of its Chairperson from China. She reiterated the Committee's position that communication and outreach was a key enabler for all activities, inter alia, increasing the visibility and transparency of IHP's actions and helping to attract extrabudgetary funding. She underlined the importance of cooperation among the three main actors of IHP's communication and outreach: the

Secretariat, the CnOC and the UNESCO Water Family. She expressed satisfaction with the recent recruitment of a Communication Officer (P2 level) at the Secretariat, noting that additional staff was necessary, while temporary assignments had drawbacks, i.e. the lack of continuity.

33. The CnOC member further commended the Secretariat and fellow committee members, especially its Chairperson, for their follow-up of Resolution XXII-3, notably regarding the dissemination and collection of information on events and the progress of IHP's internet presence, including on social media. She pointed at identified milestones, such as the finalization of the CnOC's Terms of References and the IHP Communication and Outreach Strategy for submission to the next IHP Bureau and Council sessions. She encouraged further implementation efforts by the Secretariat, underlining the need for increased cooperation among the CnOC, the Bureau members, and their Regions, and proposed an initiative for Region I, aiming to collect communication-related information every three months.

34. The Secretariat noted that an increase of IHP's online visibility through UNESCO's general web and social media pages remained challenging and sought the Bureau's support in this regard. In the ensuing discussion, the Chairperson of the IHP Council emphasized the need to communicate based on the vital importance of water to society, suggesting that this should be done using all UNESCO communication tools, as well as through other innovative tools, and by involving more young women and men. Supporting this point, the Vice-Chairperson of Region I reiterated the role of a "catchy" rebranding of the water activities of UNESCO for communication purposes, e.g. under the name of "UNESCO Water" (cf. sub-item 3.1), and requested the Secretariat to present an IHP communication and outreach strategy to the next Bureau and Council sessions.

The Bureau requested that the Secretariat present an IHP Communication and Outreach Strategy to the next IHP Bureau and Council sessions in 2018.

4. PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION

4.1 Implementation of the eighth phase of IHP (IHP-VIII)

35. The Bureau expressed its appreciation to the Secretariat for its efforts in the implementation of IHP-VIII and congratulated the Secretariat for managing to achieve great results with limited resources.

36. The Vice-Chairperson for Region I highlighted the work of the International Centre for Water Hazard and Risk Management (ICHARM, Japan), a UNESCO C2C, in addressing water-related disasters as the Technical Secretariat of the International Flood Initiative (IFI). He also stressed that initiatives such as the World Large Rivers Initiative (WLRI) could further integrate aspects covered by IHP-VIII thematic areas, e.g. groundwater. He also suggested that the reporting on IHP implementation be improved to clearly show the results achieved and the need to facilitate more transparent and structured reporting at the regional level.

37. The IHP Secretary stressed that providing information requested by the Bureau and the IHP Council was sometimes limited by the reporting requirements of UNESCO's programme monitoring and reporting system SISTER (System of Information on Strategies, Tasks and the Evaluation of Results).

38. The Chairperson praised the exemplary and unique results of IHP activities on groundwater, in particular for having provided scientific support to the development of international legal instruments such as the Draft Articles on the Law of Transboundary Aquifers. He noted that IHP activities on groundwater are particularly important in the context of climate change, as groundwater has a pivotal role in the context of climate change adaptation strategies. He also suggested that current efforts on groundwater and water diplomacy could be linked to outcomes of

the High-Level Panel on Water and Peace. The Chairperson furthermore suggested to re-focus IHP-VIII, taking into account the need to align it with the new SDG framework to raise the profile of the Programme globally, which could also significantly increase the opportunities for funding. The Bureau identified the need to establish training initiatives for journalists and the media on water-related issues.

39. The Vice-Chairperson of Group I emphasised the need to consider the conjunctive management of surface water and groundwater.

40. The representative of the ICWRGC C2C expressed his appreciation for the work of the Secretariat in implementing IHP-VIII and suggested that each member of the Bureau share the IHP communication material and the presentations delivered during the Bureau with each Member State.

4.2 Regional perspective on IHP

41. The IHP Secretary mentioned that the absence of a regional hydrologist for Region I created difficulties in reporting and communicating on the activities in the Region and that the appointment of an expert, e.g. via a secondment from a Member State, would support the implementation of IHP activities and strengthen the visibility of the Programme. The Vice-Chairperson of Group I requested a Regional Hydrologist for Region I. It was further noted that there is a need to develop a regional strategy to re-invigorate the IHP National Committees in Region II.

42. The Vice-Chairperson for Region I suggested to consider the theme water and migration as part of WLRI and to apply for funds from the EU. The Vice-Chairperson of the Region would request the Secretariat through the EU liaison office to put forward such a proposal to the EC/appropriate donor agencies.

43. Noting the designation of Regions I and II as two electoral regional groups due to historical reasons, the Chairperson suggested organizing joint meetings of IHP National Committees of both groups in coordination with the IHP Secretariat.

44. The IHP Secretary informed the Bureau that regional hydrologists do not report directly to the Division of Water Sciences, but to some degree work independently from HQ, from a financial and programmatic point of view. Furthermore, Regional Hydrologists are often called upon to deputize as Directors of the field office and implement activities not related to water.

45. The Vice-Chairperson of Region Va highlighted that IHP should make a special effort to provide capacity building and support to Member States in the region and to enable exchanges within and between regions. The G-WADI Programme was particularly acknowledged for bridging this gap and bringing the African countries together, as well as the meeting of Flow Regimes from International Experimental and Network Data (FRIEND-Water), which was held in Dakar (November 2016). Considering the importance of improving groundwater governance capacity in Sub-Saharan Africa, the Vice-Chairperson of Region Va requested the Secretariat to organize during the biennium 2018-2019 a regional workshop on the topic for the experts of the Region and suggested that the Secretariat should inform and coordinate with the IHP National Committees of the Region.

The Bureau expressed its concern for the lack of full time dedicated Regional Hydrologists working for IHP and requested ADG/SC to remedy this situation. The Bureau will place this item on the agenda of the next IHP Council.

4.3 Report on the implementation of the resolutions and decisions adopted at the 22nd session of the IHP Intergovernmental Council

46. Concerning Resolution XXII-1 on “Proposal for a procedure to update the IHP statutes and the rules of procedure of the IHP Council”, the Bureau requested the IHP Secretariat to develop, in close consultation with the UNESCO Water Family, a position paper (preferably a White Paper) to provide background information on a potential reform of IHP’s statutes based on the discussions of the ad-hoc committee on governance. It noted that the paper should include all comments received on the current documents³ from Member States and regions and consider the recommendations of the open-ended working group on the governance, procedures and working methods of the governing bodies of UNESCO (cf. sub-item 3.2) and regarding international initiatives (such as the discussion on the new global water architecture). The Bureau requested that this position paper be presented at the next Bureau session and, subsequently, at the next Council session for the consideration of Member States. The Bureau also suggested that the document should focus on “Reforming IHP” to better suit Member States’ needs and to make its governance more effective and efficient. The document should also consider how to make IHP’s activities more coherent by examining the composition and role of IHP National Committees and improving the coordination with WWAP, water-related C2Cs and Chairs (role of the IHP Secretariat). The Bureau’s relevant decisions are captured under item 3, Institutional Developments of this report.

47. The “Implementation of the proposed IHP communication and outreach strategy”, content of Resolution XXII-3, was presented and discussed under agenda sub-item 3.6 and is reported in the relevant section of this report.

48. Regarding Resolution XXII-6 on “The monitoring and review of IHP programmes and major initiatives”, the Vice-Chairperson of Region I recommended that the Secretariat undertake an evaluation of the framework for IHP flagship projects and initiatives despite current financial constraints. The IHP Secretariat informed the Bureau that the evaluation process is currently underway and that to afford its costs, the Secretariat divided the process into two parts which will each be covered by different budget instalments. Therefore, the results will be reported at the 23rd session of the IHP Intergovernmental Council.

49. As a follow-up of Resolution XXII-7 on “IHP support to Member States for a sound science based implementation of the Sustainable Development Goal No. 6 and of water related goals”, the Bureau took note of the report on IHP’s role to support Member States in SDG 6 monitoring, particularly on Indicator 6.5.2, for which UNESCO has been designated as a custodian agency. The IHP Secretariat provided clarifications on the role of IHP-WINS. The Vice-Chairperson of Region I suggested to establish an Advisory Board to support the IHP-WINS activities, which should consist of representatives designated by each region. The Bureau decision in this regard is outlined under agenda sub-item 4.4.

50. Regarding Resolution XXII-9 on “Contribution of the IHP to the preparation and follow-up of the 22nd Conference of Parties (COP 22) of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) held in Marrakesh, Morocco, in November 2016”, the Bureau took note of IHP activities during the Water and Climate Day at COP 22. It further noted that at the Executive Board, no specific item or report to Member States on water activities would be available, since a joint report on the climate change-related actions of all UNESCO programmes is usually presented instead. The Bureau agreed that IHP and the UNESCO Water Family should play a major role related to the sessions and side events of COP 23 in Bonn, for which IHP is in charge.

- *The Bureau decided to set up a Task Force, composed of one member per region, to prepare a publication compiling all IHP activities on Water and Climate Change. The publication should*

3 IHP/Bur-LV/Ref.1 (https://en.unesco.org/sites/default/files/55ihp_bur-ref1_item3_update_ihp_statutes_and_rop.pdf) and IHP/Bur-LV/Ref.2 (https://en.unesco.org/sites/default/files/55ihp_bur_ref2-proposal_update_ihp_statutes-and_rop.pdf)

also include activities from the UNESCO Water Family and inputs from the World Water Development Reports. The Bureau suggests discussing this issue of climate change and water at the next IHP Council session. The financial support required for this publication should be borne by the Member States.

- The Bureau requested the Secretariat to keep all Member States duly informed of the Bureau's decision to prepare a White Paper.

4.4 IHP-Water Information Network System (WINS)

51. The representative of the ICWRGC C2C indicated that WINS could be a useful tool to highlight activities of C2Cs and ways in which regional and global activities with young water professionals can be strengthened.

52. The Vice-Chairperson of Region I suggested that IHP-WINS could be an opportunity to disseminate information about IHP activities of the entire UNESCO Water family and to raise the awareness of Member States on water problems and solutions. He further requested the Secretariat to prepare a concept note with information on the types of data can be uploaded to IHP-WINS and suggested to re-focus WINS on knowledge-sharing and networking. Furthermore, it should focus on metadata rather than raw data. In his view, the automatic creation of GIS layers should be discussed in order to guarantee the quality of the outcome (for example, required expertise for interpolation). The Secretariat responded that these tasks would be considered by the Advisory Board.

53. The IHP Secretariat responded that uploading data to IHP-WINS would be done on a voluntary basis, mostly by Member States and not by the IHP Secretariat, except for the data generated through IHP projects (and validated by the Member States). It was also clarified that IHP-WINS has a protected data environment, in which users define whether data should be publically available or not. The Secretariat added that Terms of Use (ToU) for IHP-WINS had been approved by UNESCO's Legal Affairs Department. The ToU outline that before uploading data to IHP-WINS, data contributors are required to receive clearance from their IHP National Committees. The Chairperson pointed out that in case the IHP National Committees do not have the mandate to give final clearance for the data to be uploaded in IHP-WINS, they could liaise with relevant governmental bodies and inform the IHP-Secretariat of the outcome.

54. The observer from the Netherlands requested clarification on the role of IHP-WINS in contributing to SDG 6 implementation. The IHP Secretariat responded that the role of IHP-WINS does not overlap with other existing initiatives such as the Global Environmental Management Initiative (GEMI) for the monitoring of SDG 6 targets, which provides the follow up of specific indicators. The Secretariat noted that IHP-WINS was developed as a tool to communicate and highlight the IHP activities related to IHP thematic areas and its impacts in all UNESCO regions which ultimately also contribute to the implementation of SDG 6 .

The Bureau requested the IHP Secretariat to prepare the Terms of Reference of an Advisory Board with equitably distributed regional and gender representation that would provide support and guidance to IHP-WINS. The ToR will be reviewed and eventually approved electronically by the Bureau, so as to enable the Secretariat to report its progress at the next IHP Council session.

4.5 Cooperation with other UNESCO programmes

55. The Secretary of the Man and the Biosphere Programme (MAB) highlighted the collaboration with IHP on the status of the mountains, Lake Chad Basin and the World Landslide Forum, drawing attention to the new phase of the MAB Programme, which builds further on the Madrid and Lima Action Plans. He further noted the potential for cooperation between the two programmes under WLRI, combining hydrology and ecological considerations and involving World

Heritage Sites. The Chairperson and the Vice-Chairperson of Region I welcomed the collaboration with MAB on the WLRI.

56. The Secretariat presented IHP's cooperation with the other UNESCO Programmes and in particular with the International Oceanographic Commission (IOC), the International Geoscience and Geoparks Programme (IGGP), the Communication and Information Sector, the UNESCO Task Force on Climate Change and the Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) team. The Bureau took note of these collaborative efforts and encouraged the Secretariat to strengthen them further.

57. The Secretariat presented the collaboration with the World Commission on Ethics of Scientific Knowledge and Technology (COMEST), where IHP is contributing to the COMEST report on Water Ethics: Ocean, Freshwater, Coastal Areas, due in September 2018.

58. The Chairperson requested information on the development of the publication on "Water History and Humanity". The IHP Secretary informed the Bureau that the book project's second re-submission to the UNESCO Publications Board is currently being prepared. The Board had previously requested that the publication be substantially shortened from its current 1200-page length. The Bureau expressed its concern regarding the delay and urged the UNESCO Publication Board to take immediate actions allow finalizing the publication.

The Bureau expressed its satisfaction with the Secretariat's efforts and encouraged it to further strengthen and expand the current cooperation.

5. UNESCO'S WATER FAMILY

5.1 IHP Information Kit

59. The IHP Secretary presented the new IHP Information Kit, designed to provide additional background and elements to water-related C2Cs and IHP National Committees and further strengthen their participation. While available online (see <http://en.unesco.org/themes/water-security/hydrology/resources>), the physical kit was distributed on a USB flash drive and with an IHP-branded lapel pin. The latter and video elements of the kit has already been adopted as good practice by other UNESCO programmes. The Bureau congratulated the Secretariat on the initiative and encouraged the widespread dissemination of the kit.

5.2 Status of the UNESCO Water Family

60. The Secretariat reported on the situation of the UNESCO Water Family, highlighting the recent developments. The proposed CIRAT Centre (Brazil) has yet to organize the required feasibility study conducted for a proposed C2C, which will possibly be carried out later this year. Regarding the alignment with the UNESCO Comprehensive Strategy for the Category 2 Centres, the Secretariat informed the Bureau that in total, 19 water-related centres were now considered valid. Concerning the audit carried out by the UNESCO Internal Oversight Service (IOS) on the 115 C2Cs of UNESCO, the Secretariat informed the Bureau that overall, only 28% are in alignment with the UNESCO strategy for Category 2 Centres.

61. Regarding water centres, the Secretariat emphasized that only 9 out of the 36 centres are considered operational by IOS, given their alignment with UNESCO's rules and procedures, whereas 22 centres are considered operational by the IHP Secretariat, because they are collaborating with IHP or members of the UNESCO Water Family on joint activities and events, and/or have provided an activity report for the past reporting period. The Secretariat further noted that most centres are active and some of them are essential to IHP, while others are inactive and have not provided any activity report.

62. The Chairperson stressed that C2Cs are established with the mandate to contribute to UNESCO's activities and programmes and requested an estimate to indicate the financial contributions by the centres to the IHP initiatives. He also stated that the centres, besides contributing to the implementation of IHP-VIII, also provide support to raise the visibility of IHP. The Secretariat explained that some centres have indicated the budget they have at their disposal, which can illustrate their contribution to IHP. It noted the example of ICHARM, which has raised significant extrabudgetary funds for the strengthening of flood warning and management capacity in Pakistan. The Secretariat highlighted that the centres can sometimes provide substantial funds in comparison with the regular budget of the Secretariat.

63. The Chairperson suggested that the inactive centres be closed in a manner sensitive to all parties. He also suggested that the Secretariat have a deeper look at the situation of these centres and raise the element for discussion at the next session of the IHP Council by producing a factsheet on their contributions to IHP, along with guidelines on how to improve their alignment with the UNESCO Strategy. The Vice-Chairperson of Region I seconded the Chairperson's concern regarding the closure and exit strategy for non-functional centres, noting that this is also a political issue, and suggested that the Secretariat conduct a mapping of the aims, actions, and contributions of the water centres. He suggested further using policy briefs on how to improve the network of UNESCO's C2Cs as a guideline, such as those produced by the UK National Commission for UNESCO.

64. The Secretariat pointed out, that to reduce the number of inactive centres, there is need for a more rigorous consideration of future proposals for the establishment of C2Cs. This issue was also raised at the recent meeting of IHP National Committees of Region I. The Secretariat furthermore highlighted that IOS intends to make the procedure for the centres stricter, reduce the establishment of new centres and ensure better quality control of existing ones. The Secretariat emphasized that while IHP relies on the UNESCO Water Family, the administrative processes need to be improved in order to reduce the burden on the Secretariat relating to the centres. To this end, the IHP Bureau and Council members should request their delegations to review administrative procedures that are implemented by UNESCO following their instructions. Despite the necessity of improving the network's quality, the Secretariat stated that it is still open to new proposals for the establishment of centres.

65. The Secretariat informed the Bureau that Paraguay has proposed that the annual meeting of C2Cs be held in 2018, at the International Centre of Hydroinformatics, in Itaipú.

66. The Vice-Chairperson of Region I suggested that IHP-WINS could be used to better coordinate the C2Cs, with a dedicated table on the C2Cs, which provides web links to the websites of the Centres. This would at the same time create more visibility for IHP-WINS. The Secretariat informed the Bureau that a map of the water-related C2Cs and Chairs is already available on the IHP-WINS platform and that links to all centres will be added.

67. The Bureau expressed its appreciation for the contributions of the water-related C2Cs to IHP.

The Bureau requested the IHP Secretariat to proceed with a mapping process of the aims, actions to be presented at the next IHP Bureau, and contributions of the category 2 centres. In this exercise, the Bureau stressed that the example of the UK National Commission for UNESCO could be used as a guideline (two Policy Briefs in 2012 and 2015 on how to improve UNESCO's C2C network, and how to map the capacity and impact of its C2Cs).

Taking into consideration that currently, 20 out of the 36 water centres are not yet aligned with UNESCO Rules and Strategy, the Bureau requested the Secretariat to contact the concerned Permanent Delegations in order to obtain information on the internal steps necessary for the alignment of each C2C with UNESCO's requirements.

5.3 Report on the Special Consultation of the IHP Intergovernmental Council on IHE and CIRAT and proposed Centres under the auspices of UNESCO

68. The observer from Argentina requested information on the outcomes of the special consultation on the IHE Delft Institute for Water Education (IHE, The Netherlands) and the International Centre on Water and Transdisciplinarity (CIRAT, Brazil), noting that the Argentinian IHP National Committee has contributed to it, but did not receive feedback. The Secretariat clarified that the special consultation deadline had been extended until 18 April last, and that the results were sent by email on 24 April to all IHP Council members' National Committees and Delegations.

5.4 Operation of the UNESCO Water Family

69. The Secretariat reported on the situation of the UNESCO Water Family for the last period, underlining that Water Chairs are managed by the UNESCO Education Sector and therefore do not report to the Science Sector, nor to the IHP Secretariat. The Secretariat noted that it is addressing this matter, and is aiming to obtain the Chairs' reports, or at least the information necessary to assess their contributions to the Programme.

70. The representative of the ICWRGC C2C suggested a model used in Germany should be replicated where a water Chair reports to the Centre, which then reports to the IHP National Committee.

71. The Secretary highlighted that Region I and Region III already took the initiative of inviting water centres and Chairs to their regional IHP National Committee meetings, and invited the other regions to consider replicating this practice to improve the network's coordination.

72. The Vice-Chairperson of Region I suggested that the upcoming UNESCO Science Sector Chairs meeting in Geneva, 5-7 July 2017, would be a good opportunity to gather the Water Chairs in an informal meeting. The Secretariat informed the Bureau that it will organize a "brown bag lunch meeting" on water and gender Chairs to take place during this event.

5.5 United Nations World Water Assessment Programme

73. The Chairperson of the Bureau opened the agenda item by giving a brief history of the establishment of the World Water Assessment Programme (WWAP). The Coordinator of WWAP presented the UN World Water Development Report (UN WWDR) 2017, ongoing work for the SDG 6 Synthesis Report and other pillars of WWAP including complementary projects (i.e. WWAP gender-water work) and policy science dialogues (knowledge sharing, outreach, and capacity development). He highlighted that the collaboration with IHP is critical for the completeness of the WWDR contents and worldwide dissemination.

74. The WWAP Coordinator informed the Bureau on the status of the WWDR2018 preparation, whose working title is "Nature based solutions for water", and on the themes for 2019 and 2020 reports as "Leaving No One Behind" and "Climate Change", respectively.

75. The Chairperson noted that the theme of WWDR2020 on Climate Change provides an excellent opportunity for IHP's network to contribute with their recent scientific work and suggested the possibility of a complementary joint IHP-WWAP publication on the theme. The Vice-Chairperson of Region IV expressed interest and enthusiasm to contribute to WWDR2020.

76. The Bureau highlighted that although annual WWDRs focus on specific themes, it was important also to periodically take stock of the overall status of the world's water resources and

suggested that this issue could be addressed by replacing the annual thematic report with a comprehensive report every five years.

77. The IHP Secretariat clarified that WWDR is both a UN-Water and UNESCO flagship publication and that UNESCO drives WWAP through extrabudgetary funds, whereas UN-Water decides the themes and content of WWDRs. The Bureau also discussed WWAP's institutional governance structure and its relationship to IHP. It noted that WWAP is hosted by the UNESCO Programme Office on Global Water Assessment, which is an integral part of the Secretariat of UNESCO, within the Division in charge of Water Sciences.

78. The Vice-Chairperson of Region I stated that given IHP's substantial contribution to WWDRs and support to WWAP, the IHP logo should be added to the publication's front page. The Bureau internalized the position of the Vice-Chairperson of Region I.

The Bureau acknowledged the strong financial support of Italy to WWAP and noted with appreciation the policy support that WWAP provides to Member States. The Bureau invited the secondment of experts to the WWAP Secretariat and financial contributions to the WWAP multi-donor platform that is being created. The Bureau requested Member States to convey this message to their respective delegations. The Bureau requested that the IHP logo should be added to the publication on the front page. The Bureau requested the DG to communicate to the UN-Water Chair the recommendation of the Bureau of the IHP Intergovernmental Council to replace every 5th edition of the Thematic WWDR with a comprehensive report evaluating the state of freshwater resources at the global level, as this would be beneficial to the international water agenda.

5.6 UNESCO-IHE Institute for Water Education

79. The Secretariat reported on the status of IHE Delft Institute for Water Education, noting that the proposal for its designation as a C2C under the auspices of UNESCO is progressing. The proposal was circulated for internal UNESCO review before submission to the Executive Board.

80. The Vice-Chairperson of Region Vb expressed his surprise about the UNESCO-IHE transformation, stating that usually C2Cs rather intend to transition into the Category 1 Centre status, and asked for an explanation for this new status of IHE.

81. The Chairperson responded that the reasons for the change of status of IHE Delft Institute for Water Education were mainly administrative and legal due to its national and international status. He further noted that UNESCO did not provide any funding, that IHE needed to implement and renew a business model to raise funds for its activities while the financial and legal systems of UNESCO and IHE, in particular, were very different and complicated to align. He emphasized that IHE will be able to function more independently as a C2C, but will still be a significant contribution to IHP. The Secretariat underlined that IHE continues its close collaboration with IHP within the framework of a Cooperation Agreement which runs until 30 June 2018.

82. The Bureau underlined the outstanding work provided by IHE and its important visibility at the global level.

6. Relations with United Nations, intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations

6.1 Report on the Cooperation with the UN System on freshwater issues

83. The Bureau took note of the IHP cooperation with the UN system through UN-Water and bilaterally with UN organizations and programmes on freshwater issues.

84. The representative of the World Meteorological Organisation (WMO) reported on the recent and ongoing collaboration between IHP and the WMO, highlighting that this cooperation is among WMO's closest within the UN System. He noted that the areas of collaboration between IHP and WMO include water resource management, droughts and floods, climate change, and recommended that IHP be part of the newly established WMO Hydrometry Support Facility (HydroHub).

85. The Bureau expressed its appreciation for the long-lasting and successful cooperation between IHP and WMO and recommended that IHP continue to further strengthen the cooperation with the UN System on freshwater issues in areas of common interest.

86. The IHP Secretary expressed her appreciation for the strong support of WMO, highlighting the contribution of the former IHP Chairperson Mr Johannes Cullman, who is currently Director of the Water and Climate Department of WMO.

6.2 Cooperation with intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations

87. The Bureau took note with appreciation of the IHP Secretariat's ongoing collaboration with a wide range of intergovernmental organizations (IGOs) and non-governmental organizations (NGOs), via headquarters and UNESCO field offices, notably in Latin America and the Caribbean and in Central Asian regions.

88. The Director of the Sustainable Water Future Programme, an initiative under the International Council for Science's (ICSU) Future Earth programme, made a presentation outlining its key features. The Chairperson of the Bureau noted the potential new perspectives and valuable scientific networks that could be offered through a potential cooperation with IHP. The Vice-Chairperson of Region I raised a concern about the increasing number of scientific networks in the field of water, and suggested that Member States should consider carefully how IHP could capitalize on these linkages, which should contribute concretely to IHP's objectives, but not result in a duplication of efforts. The representative for the ICWRGC C2C stressed the importance of connecting with the scientific community, noting that the ICWRGC is already partnering with the Sustainable Water Future Programme on key initiatives, and emphasized his enthusiasm in participating in the strengthening of such types of cooperation.

The Bureau recommended that IHP also participate in this initiative particularly through WINS. In response, the Vice-Chairperson of Region I raised the question whether WINS has sufficient resources to support additional responsibilities and proposed that a joint concept note be developed to elaborate the collaboration. The IHP Secretariat noted that it would then first explore how this collaboration could take place.

6.3 IHP contribution to the UN World Water Development Report (UN WWDR)

89. The Bureau took note with appreciation of IHP's substantial contributions and support to the UN WWDR 2017 "Wastewater: The Untapped Resource". In particular, the Bureau highlighted that IHP voluntarily contributed not only to its content preparation by leading, co-leading and contributing to chapters together with UNESCO field offices and C2Cs, but also by disseminating and promoting the report through UNESCO field offices and IHP networks and supporting its translation into Spanish, Russian, Arabic and Hindi. The Bureau noted with appreciation the support of IHP to WWAP.

6.4 IHP's role in key international events and agendas

90. The Secretariat informed the Bureau on key events and recent developments in the international water agenda, including discussions on a new global water architecture.

91. Regarding this new global water architecture, the Chairperson referred to the recommendations of the 2013 Budapest Water Summit, calling for a sustainable development goal on water and an intergovernmental mechanism, which were echoed at the 2016 Budapest Water Summit, as part of the event's recommendations. He further commented that several countries increasingly see a need for an intergovernmental mechanism where governments could discuss water issues at a political level, while others are not in favour of establishing such a mechanism.

92. The Vice-Chairperson of Region I urged the Bureau, the IHP Chairperson and the Secretariat to make efforts to ensure that information on IHP's current role and activities, as an intergovernmental water programme, is communicated to Member States, in particular for consideration in their discussions at the UN in New York regarding an intergovernmental body on water.

93. The Chairperson of the Bureau commented that the countries that support the Budapest Statement of 2016 envision a "light" structure with a small size. This could be supported by UN Water to host its Secretariat, and that the frequency of its meetings could be low, and the size of the mechanism small. He also noted that the aim of the High Level Panel on Water is to raise the political profile of water, but not to serve as an intergovernmental body to further integrate and coordinate activities. He added that other Member States support the idea that a new water decade could be a catalyst for cooperation.

94. The Vice-Chairperson of Region I suggested that in relation to the further discussion on a new UN water architecture, IHP and its expertise should be involved.

95. The observer from Turkey emphasized that further efforts should be made to ensure that information on IHP's potential positioning towards and within the new UN water architecture under consideration is provided to Member States. Member States should be clear on the IHP Secretariat's actions and position in this regard, so that Member States can consider this when they ultimately take a decision on this issue. The observer stated that in general, information about IHP's work should be shared with Member States, particularly when it directly relates to the Programme's intergovernmental nature and activities.

96. The Vice-Chairperson for Region I noted that no consensus was established on the new global water architecture in the preparatory meeting for Region I for the current IHP Bureau session, as the meeting did not reach either a positive or a negative position. The meeting had concluded on the need to ensure that Member State representatives at the UN in New York are better informed on IHP activities.

97. The Vice-Chairperson of Region I stated that regional IHP National Committees urge the Bureau, IHP Chair and Secretariat to make efforts to better communicate the current role and activities of IHP in discussions pertaining to the UN water architecture, so as to ensure that the present status of intergovernmental water programmes is taken into account.

98. Following a short presentation by the Secretariat on IHP's involvement in the 8th World Water Forum (WWForum8) to be held in Brazil in 2018, the Vice-Chairperson of Region Vb requested information on the role of IHP and, in particular, how C2Cs, Chairs and IHP National Committees could be involved. The Secretariat responded that information on WWForum8 sessions would be provided to the UNESCO Water Family and opportunities would be available to participate as soon as a call for contributions to sessions opens.

99. The Chairperson advised that IHP be strongly involved in water education activities, particularly relating to vocational training in Africa, especially considering that the 9th World Water Forum will take place in Senegal. He noted that this is the first time the conference will take place in Sub-Saharan Africa.

The Bureau took note of the various initiatives on a proposed new global water architecture and stated that IHP stands ready to contribute to the discussions. It also urged the members of the Bureau and the Council to follow and be involved in the discussions through their delegations in New York and requested the Secretariat to enhance the visibility of IHP and facilitate the active involvement and contribution of IHP and the UNESCO Water Family to this process.

7. IHP'S ACTIONS IN THE IMPLEMENTATION AND MONITORING OF THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOAL (SDG) 6 RELATING TO WATER AND SANITATION

7.1 IHP's actions in the implementation and monitoring of the SDG indicator 6.5.2 (Transboundary cooperation)

100. The IHP Secretariat reported on the process that led to the development of the SDG indicators framework by the Inter-agency and Expert Group on SDG Indicators (IAEG-SDGs), adopted by the UN Statistical Commission, noting that UNESCO and the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) are designated as the co-custodian agencies for SDG indicator 6.5.2.

101. The IHP Secretariat added that the methodology for the calculation of SDG indicator 6.5.2 was prepared by UNESCO and UNECE. The indicator is calculated at national level and reporting results against this indicator can be obtained through a simple calculation. The questionnaire that was sent to Member States contains two parts. The first part aims at collecting general information for the calculation of the indicator and was prepared by UNESCO and UNECE. The second part aims at collecting more detailed information and was drafted by the Member States at the meeting of the Parties of the UNECE Water Convention. In this regard, Member States that are not parties to the UNECE Water Convention are not obliged to complete it.

102. The observer from the Delegation of Turkey requested further information on the role of IHP in the overall process of SDG 6, stressing that IHP should contribute to the monitoring of all other SDG 6 targets, instead of being involved only in the monitoring of Indicator 6.5.2. The representative from Turkey also commented in detail on indicator 6.5.2 mentioning that Member States will have to consider still the indicators at the ECOSOC. She further added that the main purpose of her intervention was to highlight that if the countries who are parties to the UNECE Water Convention were able to meet and work on a questionnaire for the monitoring of the indicator 6.5.2, the large majority of UN Member States that are not parties to the UNECE Convention had no chance to meet and discuss. She highlighted that this has created an unbalanced process for the preparation of the questionnaire that was sent to all Member States in February 2017. Moreover, the lengthy part of the questionnaire is too detailed and notably almost impossible to be filled by many developing countries. Moreover, the Bureau discussed whether the methodology that was prepared under the 1992 UNECE Water Convention will be applicable to other regions or not. Raising concerns about the methodology itself, the observer from the Delegation Turkey also highlighted that UNESCO's Member States have had no opportunity to discuss the SDG 6 indicator 6.5.2. The Bureau requested the IHP Secretariat to organize a meeting on this matter. The Secretariat took note and responded positively to these requests.

103. The Secretariat reported that the deadline for Member States to answer to the questionnaire was on 15 June 2017, therefore there it was not possible yet to provide information about the feedback from countries. The observer from the Delegation of Turkey requested to be informed about the results of this process.

The Bureau requested that the Secretariat organize a scientific workshop aimed at bringing together water experts and statisticians to discuss and analyse the SDG 6 Indicators.

7.2 IHP's actions in the implementation and monitoring of the SDG indicator 6a

104. The IHP Secretariat noted that presently, Target 6.a is only oriented towards measuring water- and sanitation-related official development assistance (ODA). It noted therefore that as this is part of a government coordinated spending plan, it lacks the most relevant indicators which should aim to evaluate Member States' capacity development efforts. To remedy this, the Secretariat proposed the creation of a new indicator on water education to quantify the number of persons trained and related areas of specialization, in order to assist Member States to assess the available skills in the country, forecast future demand and plan accordingly for their needs in the water sector.

105. The Secretariat further highlighted that water education and skills are instrumental in building capacity to implement SDG 6 and that IHP has initiated efforts to request becoming a co-custodian of Target 6.a on capacity building. IHP is currently conducting a survey on youth employment in the water sector, the results of which will set a baseline for further discussions. The Secretariat stated that it would share the results of ongoing surveys on similar issues, which focus more on Higher Education and Technical and Vocational Training Institutes in West Africa.

106. The Chairperson urged the Secretariat to move ahead with this initiative because it will provide crucial information to support policy decisions in the water sector, especially in developing countries.

107. The Secretariat noted that only Member States can make the request for a new indicator and appoint its custodian agency. The Secretariat suggested that interested Member States may therefore wish to support this process accordingly and through the appropriate channels.

The Bureau requested the Secretariat to pursue becoming a co-custodian of Target 6.a and prepare a resolution for the endorsement by the IHP IGC at its 23rd session as well as by the UNESCO Member States to support the process.

7.3 IHP's contribution to the activities of the High Level Panel on Water (HLPW)

108. The Bureau took note of the Secretariat's contribution to the HLPW. The Bureau also took note of the Chairperson's participation in the Global High Level Panel on Water and Peace. The Secretariat informed the Bureau about the special session of the HLPW organized as part of the Leaders' Forum of the 39th General Conference of UNESCO (31 October-1 November 2017) and requested the countries attending the Bureau meeting to promote the attendance of their representatives to the event (Hungary, Senegal, The Netherlands and Mexico).

8. PREPARATORY ACTIONS FOR THE 23RD SESSION OF THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL COUNCIL OF IHP (IGC-23)

8.1 Endorsement of IGC-23 provisional agenda

109. The Bureau considered and agreed on the provisional agenda of IGC-23. It also agreed on the proposed dates for the 56th session of the IHP Bureau (20-22 February 2018) and for the 23rd session of the IHP IGC (18-22 June 2018).

8.2 The 13th Kovacs Colloquium

110. The Secretariat informed the Bureau on the preparations for the 13th Kovacs Colloquium scheduled to be held in 2018, noting that IHP and the International Association of Hydrological Sciences (IAHS) will meet in Port Elizabeth in July 2017 during the IAHS Scientific Assembly to discuss its title and format.

The Bureau took note of the progress and requested the Secretariat to report on the item at its 56th session.

8.3 Other Council-related matters

111. The Bureau considered the following four additional items and agreed on:

- The preparation of the Terms of Reference (ToRs) for the Task Force for the 9th phase of IHP (IHP-IX) to be presented at the 56th session of the IHP Bureau, noting that young and visionary water professionals should be sought to lead the process.
- Requesting the Secretariat to initiate the process for soliciting Member States' views on water challenges to be addressed in view of the preparation for IHP-IX.
- The consideration by the IHP Council for its endorsement at its next session, of the WWAP toolkit for mainstreaming gender in water. The kit will be distributed to the IHP Council Members prior to the 56th session of the IHP Bureau.
- The use of an online registration system for the IHP Council sessions.
- The support for the proposal on the Global Network of Water Museums for endorsement at the next IHP Council session. The proposal for Water Museums was received with enthusiasm by the Bureau Members, who requested the Secretariat to prepare the necessary documentation, with support of UNESCO Regional Office in Venice.

The Bureau endorsed the proposal of the Global Network of Water Museums and the use of an online registration system for IHP Council sessions. The Bureau requested the Secretariat to distribute the draft ToRs for the IHP-IX Task Force to IHP Council members, and prepare the endorsement of the WWAP toolkit for mainstreaming gender in water, prior to its 56th session and to prepare a resolution for the approval of Global Network of Water Museums by the next IHP Council session.

9. OTHER MATTERS

112. No other matters were discussed.

10. ADOPTION OF THE REPORT

113. The Bureau and observers reviewed and commented on the draft report. The Bureau subsequently adopted the revised report, which addressed the comments made by its members.

11. CLOSURE OF THE SESSION

114. In his closing remarks, the Chairperson highlighted the link between water, climate and migration and suggested a conference on this matter in the next biennium. He thanked the Bureau, the observers, and the Secretariat for the productive session. The Secretariat thanked the Bureau members and all staff, including interns, for the work in making the Bureau a success. The observer from the Delegation of Turkey thanked the Bureau and complimented the Secretariat on

its work, underlining that IHP's governance efforts could serve as example. She stressed the importance of the participation of the Member States in the work of IHP and of their ownership of the Programme, and complimented the Chairperson on his proposal for a conference on water and migration, and expressed her support for the organization of such an event by the IHP. The Chairperson closed the 55th session of the IHP Bureau at 16:21 on 22 June 2017.

ANNEX I

DECISIONS

Sub-item and paragraph number	Decision taken / Actions required
Sub-item 3.1 (para. 10)	<u>The Bureau took note of the institutional developments related to the Division of Water Sciences and decided to prepare and send a letter to the Director-General and the Secretariat raising its concerns about the current structure of the 39C/5 and requesting the assignment of a standalone MLA for the Water Sciences' Division allocating the same budget currently considered. The Bureau requested the Secretariat to initiate and coordinate the process of rebranding the Water activities of UNESCO under "UNESCO-Water" and develop a revitalized mission statement and presentation of concrete actions, outcomes and results and to report back at the 56th Bureau session.</u>
Sub-item 3.2 (para. 16)	<u>The Bureau requested the Secretariat to report on the final report of the open-ended working group on the governance, procedures and working methods of the governing bodies of UNESCO at its 56th Bureau session.</u>
Sub-item 3.3 (para. 19)	<u>The Bureau requested the Secretariat to prepare a revised draft of the IHP Statutes and Rules of procedures that includes the comments from the surveys, regional consultations, including the recommendations of the open-ended working group on the governance, procedures and working methods of the governing bodies of UNESCO. The draft is to be circulated to the Bureau and presented subsequently at the 56th Bureau session.</u>
Sub-item 3.4 (para. 22)	<u>To draw attention to the challenges faced by IHP, the Bureau's Chairperson will request an appointment with the newly appointed Director-General, through the Permanent Delegations and coordinated by the Secretariat, during the 56th Bureau session. (Written briefing notes of the meeting shall be prepared by the Secretariat and circulated among the Bureau members.)</u>
Sub-item 3.5 (para. 31)	<u>The Bureau will address a written request to ADG/SC and SC/AO to provide the aforementioned financial information. In order to reflect the Bureau's discussion on the under-budgeting of the IHP regular funds, the Chairperson is requested to urgently put forward to ADG/SC the issue of respecting the budget priorities. The Secretariat shall report to the next session of the Bureau the outcomes of the discussion. The Bureau requests the C2C and Chairs to disclose the financial information collected by the IHP Secretariat in a timely manner.</u>
Sub-item 3.6 (para. 34)	<u>The Bureau requested that the Secretariat present an IHP Communication and Outreach Strategy to the next IHP Bureau and Council sessions in 2018.</u>
Sub-item 4.2 (para. 45)	<u>The Bureau expressed its concern for the lack of full time dedicated Regional Hydrologists working for IHP and requested ADG/SC to remedy this situation. The Bureau will place this item on the agenda of the next IHP Council.</u>

<p>Sub-item 4.3 (para. 50)</p>	<p><u>-The Bureau decided to set up a Task Force, composed of one member per region, to prepare a publication compiling all IHP activities on Water and Climate Change. The publication should also include activities from the UNESCO Water Family and inputs from the World Water Development Reports. The Bureau suggests discussing this issue of climate change and water at the next IHP Council session. The financial support required for this publication should be borne by the Member States.</u></p> <p><u>-The Bureau requested the Secretariat to keep all Member States duly informed of the Bureau's decision to prepare a White Paper.</u></p>
<p>Sub-item 4.4 (para. 54)</p>	<p><u>The Bureau requested the IHP Secretariat to prepare the Terms of Reference of an Advisory Board with equitably distributed regional and gender representation that would provide support and guidance to IHP-WINS. The ToR will be reviewed and eventually approved electronically by the Bureau, so as to enable the Secretariat to report its progress at the next IHP Council session.</u></p>
<p>Sub-item 4.5 (para. 58)</p>	<p><u>The Bureau expressed its satisfaction with the Secretariat's efforts and encouraged it to further strengthen and expand the current cooperation.</u></p>
<p>Sub-item 5.2 (para. 67)</p>	<p><u>The Bureau requested the IHP Secretariat to proceed with a mapping process of the aims, actions to be presented at the next IHP Bureau, and contributions of the category 2 centres. In this exercise, the Bureau stressed that the example of the UK National Commission for UNESCO could be used as a guideline (two Policy Briefs in 2012 and 2015 on how to improve UNESCO's C2C network, and how to map the capacity and impact of its C2Cs).</u></p> <p><u>Taking into consideration that currently, 20 out of the 36 water centres are not yet aligned with UNESCO Rules and Strategy, the Bureau requested the Secretariat to contact the concerned Permanent Delegations in order to obtain information on the internal steps necessary for the alignment of each C2C with UNESCO's requirements.</u></p>
<p>Sub-item 5.5 (para. 78)</p>	<p><u>The Bureau acknowledged the strong financial support of Italy to WWAP and noted with appreciation the policy support that WWAP provides to Member States. The Bureau invited the secondment of experts to the WWAP Secretariat and financial contributions to the WWAP multi-donor platform that is being created. The Bureau requested Member States to convey this message to their respective delegations. The Bureau requested that the IHP logo should be added to the publication on the front page. The Bureau requested the DG to communicate to the UN-Water Chair the recommendation of the Bureau of the IHP Intergovernmental Council to replace every 5th edition of the Thematic WWDR with a comprehensive report evaluating the state of freshwater resources at the global level, as this would be beneficial to the international water agenda.</u></p>
<p>Sub-item 6.2 (para. 88)</p>	<p><u>The Bureau recommended that IHP also participate in this initiative particularly through WINS. In response, the Vice-Chairperson of Region I raised the question whether WINS has sufficient resources to support additional responsibilities and proposed that a joint concept note be developed to elaborate the collaboration. The IHP Secretariat noted that</u></p>

	<u>it would then first explore how this collaboration could take place.</u>
Sub-item 6.4 (para. 99)	<u>The Bureau took note of the various initiatives on a proposed new global water architecture and stated that IHP stands ready to contribute to the discussions. It also urged the members of the Bureau and the Council to follow and be involved in the discussions through their delegations in New York and requested the Secretariat to enhance the visibility of IHP and facilitate the active involvement and contribution of IHP and the UNESCO Water Family to this process.</u>
Sub-item 7.1 (para. 103)	<u>The Bureau requested that the Secretariat organize a scientific workshop aimed at bringing together water experts and statisticians to discuss and analyse the SDG 6 Indicators.</u>
Sub-item 7.2 (para. 107)	<u>The Bureau requested the Secretariat to pursue becoming a co-custodian of Target 6.a and prepare a resolution for the endorsement by the IHP IGC at its 23rd session as well as by the UNESCO Member States to support the process.</u>
Sub-item 8.2 (para. 110)	<u>The Bureau took note of the progress and requested the Secretariat to report on the item at its 56th session.</u>
Sub-item 8.3 (para. 111)	<u>The Bureau endorsed the proposal of the Global Network of Water Museums and the use of an online registration system for IHP Council sessions. The Bureau requested the Secretariat to distribute the draft ToRs for the IHP-IX Task Force to IHP Council members, and prepare the endorsement of the WWAP toolkit for mainstreaming gender in water, prior to its 56th session and to prepare a resolution for the approval of Global Network of Water Museums by the next IHP Council session.</u>

ANNEX II AGENDA

1. Opening of the session
2. Adoption of the agenda
3. Institutional developments at UNESCO
 - 3.1 Developments at the Division of Water Sciences following the 200th to 201st sessions of the Executive Board, including the preparations for 2018-2019 (39 C/5)
 - 3.2 Report on the governance of UNESCO and dependent funds, programmes and entities
 - 3.3 Report on the consultation for the update of the Statutes of the IHP Intergovernmental Council and of the Rules of Procedure of the IHP Intergovernmental Council
 - 3.4 IHP-related extrabudgetary activities
 - 3.5 Report of the IHP Finance Committee
 - 3.6 Report of the IHP Communication and Outreach Committee
4. Programme implementation
 - 4.1 Implementation of the eighth phase of IHP (IHP-VIII)
 - 4.2 Regional perspectives on IHP
 - 4.3 Report on the implementation of the resolutions and decisions adopted at the 22nd session of the IHP Intergovernmental Council
 - 4.4 IHP-Water Information Network System (WINS)
 - 4.5 Cooperation with other UNESCO programmes
5. UNESCO's Water Family
 - 5.1 IHP Information Kit
 - 5.2 Status of the UNESCO Water Family
 - 5.3 Report on the Special Consultation of the IHP Intergovernmental Council on IHE and CIRAT and proposed Centres under the auspices of UNESCO
 - 5.4 Operation of the UNESCO Water Family
 - 5.5 United Nations World Water Assessment Programme
 - 5.6 UNESCO-IHE Institute for Water Education
6. Relations with United Nations, intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations
 - 6.1 Cooperation with the UN System on freshwater issues
 - 6.2 Cooperation with intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations
 - 6.3 IHP contribution to the UN World Water Development Report
 - 6.4 IHP's role in key international events and agendas
7. IHP's actions in the implementation and monitoring of the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 6 relating to water and sanitation

- 7.1 IHP's actions in the implementation and monitoring of the SDG indicator 6.5.2 (Transboundary cooperation)
 - 7.2 IHP's actions in the implementation and monitoring of the SDG indicator 6.a
 - 7.3 IHP's contribution to the activities of the High Level Panel on Water (HLPW)
8. Preparatory actions for the 23rd Session of the Intergovernmental Council of IHP
 - 8.1 Endorsement of IGC-23 provisional agenda
 - 8.2 13th Kovacs Colloquium
 - 8.3 Other Council-related matters
9. Other matters
 10. Adoption of the report
 11. Closure of the session

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ANNEX IV
LIST OF DOCUMENTS

WORKING DOCUMENTS

Document Code (IHP/Bur-LV/...)	Title	Agenda item
1 Prov.	Provisional agenda	2
2 Prov.	Provisional timetable	2
3 Prov.	Provisional final report	1 – 11
4 Prov.	Provisional list of documents (this document)	2
5 Prov.	Provisional list of participants	2
6	Institutional developments at UNESCO	3
7	Programme implementation	4
8	UNESCO's Water Family	5
9	Relations with United Nations, intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations	6
10	IHP actions in the implementation and monitoring of the Sustainable Development Goal 6 relating to water and sanitation and other water-related goals	7

REFERENCE DOCUMENTS

(online consultation only)

Document Code	Title	Agenda item
IHP/IC-XXII/3	Final report of the 22 nd session of the Intergovernmental Council of IHP (Paris, 13-17 June 2016)	-
IHP/Bur-LIII/3	Final report of the 53 rd session of the IHP Bureau (Paris, 19-21 April 2016)	-
IHP/Bur-LIV/3	Final report of the 54 th session of the IHP Bureau (Paris, 17 June 2016)	-
37 C/4	Medium-term Strategy, 2014 – 2021	3
37 C/5	Approved Programme and Budget, 2014-2017	3
38 C/5	Programme and Budget for 2016-2017	3
IHP/Statutes/1996	Statutes of the Intergovernmental Council of IHP	3

Document Code	Title	Agenda item
IHP/Rules of Procedure/2000	Rules of Procedure of the Intergovernmental Council of IHP	3
39 C/5	Volume 1 draft resolutions First Biennium 2018-2019	3.1
200 EX/36	Draft decisions recommended by the Programme and External Relations Commission (PX)	3.1
200 EX/30	Contribution of the International Hydrological Programme (IHP) to the preparation of and follow-up to the 22nd Conference of Parties (COP 22) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)	3.1
200EX/DG.INF	Comments by the Director-General on items presented by Member States which may have administrative and financial implications	3.1
200 EX/5 Part I (C)	Follow-up to decisions and resolutions adopted by the Executive Board and the General Conference at their previous sessions Part I (2016)	3.1
200 EX/Decisions	Decisions adopted by the Executive Board at its 200th Session	3.1
201 EX/5 Part I (D)	Follow-up to decisions and resolutions adopted by the Executive Board and the General Conference at their previous sessions Part I (2017)	3.1
38 C/23	Follow up to the United Nations Joint Inspection Unit (JIU) recommendations concerning the methods of work of UNESCO's Intergovernmental Bodies. Report by the external auditor	3.2
38 C/Resolution 101	Governance, procedures and working methods of the Governing Bodies of UNESCO	3.2
IHP/Bur-LV/Ref 1	Report on the consultation for the update of the IHP Statutes and of the Rules of Procedure of the IHP Council – Outcome of the 52 nd IHP Bureau Session (1-2 June 2015)	3.3
HP/Bur-LV/Ref 2	Report on the consultation regarding the update of the IHP Statutes and Rules of Procedure of the IHP Council – Results of the consultation regarding the extension of terms of the IHP Chair and Vice Chairs	3.3
37 C/18 Part I	Revision of the integrated comprehensive strategy for Category 2 Institutes and Centres under the auspices of UNESCO	4.1
A/RES/71/150	UNGA resolution on the “Law of Transboundary Aquifers” (A/RES/71/150, 13 December 2016)(link is external)	4.1
IHP/IC-XXII/6	Institutional developments at UNESCO (2016)	4.1
IHP/Bur-LIII/Ref. 4	UNESCO IHP Water and Megacities Task Force draft of Terms of Reference	4.1
IHP/Bur-LV/Ref. 3	Summary of water-related Chairs’ and Centres’ participation in IHP activities and events	4.1
IHP/Bur-LV/Ref. 4	Megacities Alliance for Water and Climate Change Concept Note 2016	4.1

Document Code	Title	Agenda item
201 EX/5	Follow-up to decisions and resolutions adopted by the Executive Board and the General Conference at their previous sessions	4.1
37 C/Resolution 93	Integrated comprehensive strategy for Category 2 Institutes and Centres under the auspices of UNESCO	4.1
IHP/IC-XXII/Ref.4	Proposal for evaluation of UNESCO's International Hydrological Programme (IHP) Flagships	4.1
IHP/Bur-LIII/10	IHP actions in the implementation and monitoring of the Sustainable Development Goal 6 relating to water and sanitation (2016)	7.3
IHP/IC-XXII/Inf.4	Participation of the International Hydrological Programme in the implementation and monitoring of water related Sustainable Development Goals	7.3
IHP/Bur-XLIII/3 Annex IV	Admissibility criteria, guidelines and rules of procedure for the preparation and consideration of Draft Resolutions (DRs) at the Intergovernmental Council of IHP (revised version, 5 June 2009)	8

Note: All documents are available online here: <http://en.unesco.org/themes/water-security/hydrology/about-us/governing-bodies/ihp-bureau-55>

ANNEX V
LIST OF ACRONYMS AND SPECIAL TERMS USED IN THIS REPORT

C2C	Category 2 Centre
COMEST	World Commission on the Ethics of Scientific Knowledge and Technology
DDR	Disaster Risk Reduction
ECOSOC	United Nations Economic and Social Council
EU	European Union
COP	Conference of the Parties
FRIEND	Flow Regimes from International Experimental and Network Data
GEMI	Global Environment Monitoring Initiative
HLPW	High-Level Panel on Water
HQ	Headquarters
IAHS	International Association of Hydrological Sciences
ICSU	International Council for Science
ICWRGC	International Centre for Water Resources and Global Change
ICHARM	International Centre for Water Hazard and Risk Management
IFI	International Flood Initiative
IGC	Intergovernmental Council
IGGP	International Geoscience and Geoparks Programme
IHP	International Hydrological Programme
IHP-VIII	Eighth Phase of the International Hydrological Programme (2014 – 2021)
IHP-IX	Ninth Phase of the International Hydrological Programme (2022 – 2029)
IOS	UNESCO Internal Oversight Service
IOC	Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission
IUCN	International Union for Conservation of Nature
MAB	Man and the Biosphere Programme
MLA	Main Line of Action
OECD	Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development
SISTER	System of Information on Strategies, Tasks and the Evaluation of Results
SDG	Sustainable Development Goal
ToR	Terms of Reference
ToU	Terms of Use
UN	United Nations
UNECE	United Nations Economic Commission for Europe
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNESCO-IHE	UNESCO-IHE Institute for Water Education
UNGA	United Nations General Assembly
UNTWIN	University Twinning and Networking
WINS	Water Information Network System
WLRI	World's Large Rivers Initiative
WMO	World Meteorological Organization
WWAP	UN World Water Assessment Programme
WWDR	World Water Development Report