



*International Hydrological Programme (IHP)*

**56<sup>th</sup> session of the IHP Bureau**

Paris, 20-22 February 2018

# **FINAL REPORT**



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## 1. OPENING OF THE SESSION

### 1. Opening of the Session

1. The 56<sup>th</sup> session of the Bureau of the International Hydrological Programme (IHP or “the Programme”) was held at UNESCO Headquarters in Paris from 20 to 22 February 2018. The Chairperson and the Vice-Chairpersons from five UNESCO Electoral Groups attended the session. The IHP Council Finance Committee and the Communication and Outreach Committee, 45 delegations from Member States, three non-governmental organizations, three water-related category 2 centres (C2C), one UN Organization (United Nations Economic Commission for Europe) and two UNESCO Programmes (International Geoscience Programme and the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission) were represented as observers. Overall, 111 people participated, of which 68 men and 43 women (37%). The list of participants is attached as Annex III.

2. The Chairperson of the IHP Council, Mr András 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 necessity of improving the funding situation of IHP and the impact of the budget cuts in the second half of 2017. In view of the priority attributed to IHP within UNESCO and of the primordial importance of the water issues supported by the Programme for the entire 2030 Agenda, he urged the Member States to provide additional resources to IHP.

4. On behalf of Ms Flavia Schlegel, Assistant Director-General for Natural Sciences (ADG/SC), Ms Blanca Jimenez-Cisneros, Director of the Division of Water Sciences, welcomed the Bureau members and observers. Conveying the ADG/SC message, she expressed her gratitude to Member States and regarding their efforts to establish a Main Line of Action dedicated to water within the [39 C/5](#) and the establishment of an IHP Special Account to support the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goal 6 by the Member States. She further 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 23<sup>rd</sup> Conference of the Parties (COP23) of the UN Framework Convention, raising concerns on the impact of glacier melt and advocating means to adapt our cities; mainstreaming gender in water and the support provided to Member States on Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) indicator 6.5.2.

## 2. Adoption of agenda and timetable ([IHP/Bur-LVI/1](#))

5. The Secretariat proposed an additional element to be added to the fourth segment of the agenda on “Programme implementation”, element “4.8 Strategic Planning of the 9th Phase of IHP (IHP-IX, 2022-2029)”, to ensure that the appropriate weight be placed on this item. The Bureau agreed with the proposal and the amended agenda and timetable were adopted.

### 3. INSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENTS AT UNESCO ([IHP/Bur-LVI/6](#))

#### 3.1 Developments at the Division of Water Sciences following the 202<sup>nd</sup> session of the Executive Board and the 39<sup>th</sup> session of the General Conference, including the Programme and Budget for 2018-2019 ([39 C/5](#))

6. Following the report by the IHP Secretary on recent institutional developments in the Division of Water Sciences, the Vice-Chairperson of Region I stated that the importance attributed by UNESCO to water had been duly marked by establishing a separate Main Line of Action (MLA) for water in the [39 C/5](#) and thanked all Member States who worked on making this a reality.

**The Bureau took note of the institutional developments related to the Division of Water Sciences.**

#### 3.2 Proposed New Global Water Architecture

7. The IHP Secretary informed the Bureau of the progress made in implementing its recommendation related to this item since the 55<sup>th</sup> session. She also informed the Bureau on follow-up on the findings of the June 2017 Dalberg report on a “System-wide Outline of the Functions and Capacities of the United Nations Development System (UNDS)”, established in response to the Quadrennial Comprehensive Policy Review of the UN’s operational activities for development (QCPR). In particular, the IHP Secretary highlighted the results of the report regarding UNESCO’s water programmes, indicating that it recognized UNESCO as covering all targets of the Sustainable Development Goal 6 (SDG 6). She further added that UNESCO is the only UN Agency providing a comprehensive overview on SDG 6 and ended her intervention by outlining the action items proposed to the Bureau report for the agenda sub-item 3.2 and highlighting the relevance of the MLA for water, since it improved UNESCO’s position in the on-going mapping exercise.

8. The Chairperson congratulated the Secretariat for its work and for the proposal to organize a political session at Ministerial level during the 23<sup>rd</sup> IHP Council session, which responded to the important need to support decision-makers in better understanding and recognizing the role of science and education in the water sector. He requested that the Secretariat works with the Permanent Delegations (PDs) on preparing the invitations. The Bureau agreed with the Secretariat’s proposal.

9. The observer from the Delegation of Sweden requested additional information on the two working level dialogues on the New Global Water Architecture in New York and a status report to date. The IHP Secretary explained that the formal dialogues as part of the Resolution of the UN General Assembly [A/RES/71/222](#) International Decade for Action, “Water for Sustainable Development”, 2018-2028 (2016), have ended and that the Secretariat expects that unofficial discussions would recommence during the World Water Day celebration in New York, 22 March 2018. The IHP Chairperson, representative from Hungary<sup>1</sup>, mentioned that he had no additional information.

10. The observer from the Delegation of Turkey expressed support for IHP’s work and asked why IHP is co-custodian of only one SDG Indicator, indicator 6.5.2 (Proportion of transboundary basin area with an operational arrangement for water cooperation), despite the fact that its work covers all SDG 6 targets. She further requested the Secretariat to organize more information meetings in order

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<sup>1</sup> Hungary co-chaired along with Tajikistan the two working level dialogues on the New Global Water Architecture

to follow the major activities and issues of IHP, as well as the status of UNESCO and its IHP vis-à-vis the discussions on the Global Water Architecture.

11. The observer from the Delegation of Togo, highlighted that they have been informing the country's Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Ministry of Water on the New Global Water Architecture, asking them to help ensuring that IHP is more visible. He requested that a short information note be prepared by the IHP Secretariat that could be used to this end. The IHP Secretary agreed to prepare such a note to be used by the PDs to convey relevant information on IHP and its role. The Chairperson of the Bureau added that this note should also be used at regional meetings

12. The Vice-Chairperson of Region Va explained that the visibility of IHP is very important for the leadership of UNESCO in the area of water, which needs to be recognized. He further noted that Senegal raised the issue of water in the context of peace and security for the first time at the level of the United Nations Security Council. He highlighted that Senegal also advocated for greater recognition of the issue of water and peace via the High-Level Panel on Water and the Global High Level Panel on Water and Peace and will organize the 9<sup>th</sup> World Water Forum. He expressed its appreciation for the IHP Secretariat's support in organizing a pre-launch meeting for the Forum to assist the country and the African region in better defining the major outcomes of the forum vis-à-vis the region. He pointed out that Senegal has managed to raise awareness among the country's political authorities on the importance of water and that the country stands ready and available to play a very active role in advocating for water in UNESCO for its visibility at the United Nations in New York.

13. The IHP Secretary summarized the additional three proposals from the discussions: to organize more information meetings on the role of UNESCO-IHP to raise its visibility, as requested by Member States at the Information meeting on the global water architecture discussions in September 2017; to prepare a short information note on IHP to be distributed to PDs for their perusal; and to inform regional meetings of PDs.

14. The Vice-Chairperson of Region I requested the Secretariat to prepare a draft information note highlighting that UNESCO-IHP is the only intergovernmental body of the United Nations system dealing with water sciences for the approval of the Bureau. The observer from the Delegation of Uruguay supported all three suggestions (cf. paragraph 13) and proposed that the Bureau endorse them. The Chairperson of Region IV informed the session that the Regional meeting for Asia is a good example of an event where IHP can raise its visibility, as it is usually a multi-stakeholder event, with the participation of administrative officials, scientists as well as private sector representatives.

15. The observer from the Delegation of The Netherlands asked why specifically at this moment awareness should be raised for IHP through highlighting its contributions to addressing water challenges. The observer from the Delegation of Russia reminded the Bureau that IHP's unique position should be protected not only in the UN system, but in any context, and that the scientific part of the Programme's work needs to always be emphasized.

16. The Chairperson of Region I stressed the fact that IHP is a scientific intergovernmental programme and the Chairperson added that science should also include social sciences.

**The Bureau requested the Secretariat to:**

- a. **Ensure that the invitation letters for the 23<sup>rd</sup> IHP Council session stress the importance of having decision makers along within the delegation of the representatives attending the session.**

- b. Organize a political session at Ministerial level and an open session (open house) for Permanent Delegations during the 23<sup>rd</sup> Council.**
- c. Prepare an information note highlighting that UNESCO-IHP is the only intergovernmental body of the United Nations system dedicated to water sciences, explaining IHP's Intergovernmental nature and potential role within the context of the New Global Water Architecture, to be distributed to PDs.**
- d. Organize an information meeting for UNESCO Member States to get more acquainted with the contribution of IHP to policy and decision making**
- e. After discussing with the Chairs of Regional Groups, participate and present at their meetings IHP's work and its potential role in a New Global Water Architecture**
- f. To participate in IHP regional meetings to help conveying IHP's messages and its role.**

**The Bureau members engaged themselves to inform the IHP representatives of their region on the discussions concerning the global water architecture and the need to support efforts raising IHP's visibility**

### **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**

17. The Secretariat recalled the process followed to update the Statutes and Rules of procedures of IHP, while, in parallel the Member States started to review the governance of UNESCO's programmes, such as IHP, at a housewide level. Since the latter impacts IHP's Statutes and Rules of Procedure, the Secretariat underlined the need to align the outcomes of both processes to reach a draft proposal for discussion and eventual approval at the next IHP Council.

18. Following up on the presentation of the Secretariat on the matter, the Co-Chairpersons of the Open-Ended Group on Governance presented its work and the recommendations to all intergovernmental bodies and programmes in UNESCO. These recommendations are to be adopted, as appropriate, as part of the relevant governance mechanisms and are available online<sup>2</sup>. The following three particular recommendations on IHP were presented: a) explore the possibility to implement intersessional sessions; b) enhance coordination with field offices; c) expand use of the UN working languages. The Co-Chairpersons stressed that IHP was cited in their work for a number of the best practices proposed, especially on the public access of the documents and the process on draft resolutions.

19. The Vice-Chairperson of Region I, suggested to form an informal Working Group (WG) to initiate a process of harmonizing the Statutes and Rules of Procedure with the applicable recommendations of the Open-Ended Group on Governance, leading to a draft version put forward for debate and decision by the 23<sup>rd</sup> session of the IHP Council's. The IHP Secretary suggested to the Bureau to invite representatives of the PDs as part of the WG, due to their familiarity with UNESCO's modalities of operation, instruments and organs. The Bureau's Chairperson suggested that the WG be comprised of the representatives from the PDs of the Bureau Members.

20. The IHP Secretary recalled the discussion and decision of the 55<sup>th</sup> session of the IHP Bureau on branding, and suggested that the name of IHP changes from "International Hydrological Programme" to "Intergovernmental Hydrological Platform" to emphasize the intergovernmental nature of the Programme. The new name would maintain its scientific focus with the word

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<sup>2</sup>[http://www.unesco.org/new/fileadmin/MULTIMEDIA/HQ/GBS/EXB/images/Final\\_Consolidated\\_recommenda\\_tions\\_Eng.pdf](http://www.unesco.org/new/fileadmin/MULTIMEDIA/HQ/GBS/EXB/images/Final_Consolidated_recommenda_tions_Eng.pdf)

“Hydrological” and underscore the fact that there are a number of initiatives and programmes under IHP’s umbrella, making it a “platform” or a “process”. The Vice-Chairperson of Region I expressed no objection against the name but would like to see a concept paper analyzing the pros and cons of the proposal submitted to the 23<sup>rd</sup> session of the IHP Council. The Bureau members expressed their agreement with this approach.

21. Additionally to the reformulation of IHP’s name, the Vice-Chairperson of Region I suggested to further consider the name UNESCO Water as an umbrella designation of all water activities of UNESCO. (cf. para. 34)

22. The Co-Chairperson of the Open Ended Group from the Philippines, stressed six points: 1) that the recommendations of their Group go beyond the Statutes of Intergovernmental and International Bodies and Programmes, addressing also working methods; 2) that besides the particular recommendations for IHP, there are a number of other recommendations (e.g. number 55, 57, 58, 62, 67, 70) on the role of the Bureau, including the orientation of new Members; 3) the formation of a WG to prepare the amendments; 4) that the WG will include the Permanent Delegations of the countries represented in the Bureau; 5) to circulate recommendations to all IHP Council members; and 6) to add the element to the 23<sup>rd</sup> IHP Council’s Agenda.

23. Summarizing, the IHP Chairperson stated that an informal WG will be set up to examine the proposed changes of the Statutes and Rules of Procedure, considering the proposals received so far from Member States, the consultation made during previous Bureau and Council meetings, the different surveys the Secretariat has performed and the report of the Open Ended Group. The new text will be submitted at the next session of the Intergovernmental Council of the IHP (IGC).

24. The Vice-Chairperson of Region Vb expressed his concern regarding the short time available to the WG. The observer from the Delegation of Turkey expressed her agreement with the formation of the WG and asked that the draft of the Statutes and Rules of Procedure be consulted with the respective regional groups along the process before presenting it to the 23<sup>rd</sup> Council.

25. The Chairperson requested the Secretariat to prepare a concept note on the proposal to change the name of IHP, including legal implications thereof.

**The Bureau decided to establish an informal Working Group composed of the Permanent Delegations of its Member States who will consult with their Regional Groups along the process.**

**The Bureau requested the Secretariat to:**

- a. **support the work of an informal Working Group tasked to prepare a draft of the Statutes and the Rules of Procedure of IHP to harmonize them with the applicable recommendations of the Open-Ended Group on Governance, considering also the proposals received so far from Member States, the consultation made during previous Bureau and Council meetings and the different surveys the Secretariat has performed, leading to a draft version to be put forward for debate and decision by the 23<sup>rd</sup> session of the IHP Council.**
- b. **prepare a concept paper analyzing the pros and cons of the proposed rebranding of IHP’s name for the Council’s decision, including legal implications thereof.**



### 3.4 IHP-related extrabudgetary activities

26. The Bureau took note of the Secretariat's report on IHP-related extrabudgetary activities with satisfaction. It noted that the IHP extrabudgetary portfolio is improving. The sum of IHP and WWAP extrabudgetary activities amounts to USD 48.5 million.

27. The Bureau recalled that UNESCO applied to become an implementing agency of the Global Environmental Facility (GEF), but that the application had not been accepted. The Secretariat informed the Bureau that GEF has put on stand-by all requests from UN agencies to become GEF implementing agencies. Priority has been given to a number of international associations and regional development banks to acquire the status of implementing agency. The Secretariat informed the Bureau that by decision of the GEF Council, to avoid conflicts of interest, it is recommended that a GEF implementing agency should not also act as an executing agency.

**The Bureau took note of the Secretariat's report on IHP-related extrabudgetary activities with satisfaction.**

### 3.5 Report of the IHP Finance Committee

28. The Chairperson of the IHP Finance Committee, presented the Committee's report, complemented by the Secretariat, on the 2018-2019 Biennium budget allocation for Main Line of Action 3 of the [39 C/5](#).

29. Responding to a question from the Bureau, the Secretariat informed that the 5% budget reduction for the biennium 2018-2019, as compared to 2016-2017, was consistent throughout all MLAs in the Science Sector. The Bureau regretted this fact although understood the reasons behind it.

30. The Bureau suggested to also include information related to the Category 2 Centres' financial contribution in the report to the IHP Council.

**The Bureau took note of the report of the IHP Finance Committee and encourages National Committees in their regions and partners to further strengthen their financial support to IHP.**

### 3.6 Report of the IHP Communication and Outreach Committee

31. The Secretariat presented the report of the IHP Communication and Outreach Committee (CnOC) and provided additions to the elements shared in [IHP/BUR-LVI/6](#), such as an analysis of actual access statistics for the homepages for Water Security (<https://en.unesco.org/themes/water-security>) and IHP (<https://en.unesco.org/themes/water-security/hydrology>). The Secretariat pledged to make an updated report with the access data available to the Bureau members and added that a new, official Twitter account was operational for IHP and members of the UNESCO Water Family: "@unescoWATER".

32. The member of the CnOC and Secretary of the IHP National Committee of The Netherlands reported that a lack of interaction among the CnOC members and the current vacancy of the Chairpersonship hampered the work of the Committee. She requested the members of the Bureau to contact their respective regional Committee members and encourage their active participation in

the task of revising the Terms of References of the Committee, as per [Resolution XXII-3](#), for submission to the 23<sup>rd</sup> Intergovernmental Council.

33. The IHP Secretary underlined that the online visibility of IHP on the web had improved, for instance that the term “UNESCO Water” on major search engines now led to the IHP homepage. The Vice-Chairperson of Region I welcomed the positive developments and reminded everyone to reinforce the use of the brand name “UNESCO Water” as a common umbrella under which to portray the public image of IHP and other UNESCO programmes. He recommended that the Secretariat establish a communication road map for the period until the 23<sup>rd</sup> IHP Council.

**The Bureau requested the Secretariat to prepare a communication roadmap for consideration and discussion by the next IHP Council.**

#### **4. PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION ([IHP/Bur-LVI/7](#))**

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

34. The Secretariat presented a summary of the main activities and achievements per thematic area under IHP-VIII.

35. The Bureau suggested that the Secretariat includes in the report the major achievements of the water-related C2Cs and Chairs. The purpose would be to better illustrate the strengths and capacities of the programme in a summary including the contribution of its networks.

36. The IHP Secretary explained that the information presented is sourced from the UNESCO internal reporting platform, System of Information on Strategies, Tasks and the Evaluation of Results (SISTER). However, there is no dedicated space within SISTER in which to enter reporting information on the activities of water-related C2Cs and Chairs. UNESCO Member States would have to specifically request the Organization’s central services that this option be created. The IHP Secretary meanwhile invited Member States to contribute to the effort of compiling the achievements of C2Cs and Chairs by directly sending information to the Secretariat. She noted that in the past, requests to water-related C2Cs for further information on their activities have received very low levels of response. Finally, the IHP Secretary noted that the Secretariat prepared thematic brochures for each IHP-VIII theme for the 39th session of the General Conference November in 2017.

37. The Secretariat informed the Bureau of a template it has created to accommodate the work of UNESCO’s Water Family, where the members can input data to show their activities and outputs. Once filled, this template can provide vital information to the Secretariat on which it could report.

38. The IHP Chairperson expressed its appreciation to the Secretariat for its efforts in the implementation of IHP-VIII and congratulated it on having achieved great results with limited resources.

39. The Bureau members requested that the Secretariat finds an innovative communication strategy to more effectively present achievements, results and key messages in a more reader-friendly and attractive manner to Member States (MS) and the non-technical community. The Vice-Chairperson of Region I also indicated that it would be better to have a more condensed report on the implementation of IHP with clear achievements integrating also the great work of water-related C2C and Chairs. The Vice-Chairperson of region Vb underlined the need for a better way of

presenting the results. The Chairperson suggested collaborating with the World Water Assessment Programme (WWAP) in this effort, due to its experience in this regard with the World Water Development Report (WWDR). He further invited the Secretariat to consider glossy publications that present the main achievements of IHP with references for further information where necessary.

40. The Delegation of Turkey congratulated the Secretariat on its achievements despite the difficult financial situation and requested a presentation to Member States highlighting the problems encountered regarding programme implementation that resulted from the 2017 contingency plan, and which regions were mostly affected.

41. The Secretariat noted that this information was already available in the Report of the Financial Committee. The Chairperson concluded that an analysis of the impacts of the budget cuts should be presented very clearly for Member States.

**The Bureau took note of the report and congratulated the Secretariat on the implementation of IHP-VIII, achieving great results with limited resources. The Bureau requested the Secretariat to:**

- a. **find an innovative communication strategy to more effectively present achievements, results and key messages in a more reader-friendly and attractive manner to Member States and the non-technical community and to consult with WWAP in the process.**
- b. **produce attractive material to inform Member States on IHP achievements and results for the next Council.**
- c. **draft a letter for the Bureau to request to UNESCO Central Services to create a space in SISTER for C2C and chairs to report.**

## 4.2 Regional perspectives on IHP

42. The Secretariat presented its report on key activities in each region.

43. The Bureau members provided additional information on major activities taking place in their region. The Vice-Chairperson of Region IV reported that the Regional IHP Steering Committee took place in 2017 in Manila, Philippines, where the Committee decided to welcome as a member, any country in Asia and the Pacific (ASPAC). It also agreed to adopt the new name "IHP Steering Committee for ASPAC", changing "South East Asia and the Pacific" to "Asia and the Pacific".

44. The IHP Chairperson highlighted that the hydrological forecasting conference of the Danubian countries reported in paragraph 86. of the relevant working document IHP/Bur-LVI/X under Region I, was actually a joint project between Regions I and II.

45. The Vice-Chairperson of Region I provided some key updates regarding activities by the World Large Rivers Initiative (WLRI). He noted that there is some collaboration between the WLRI and the Danube Strategy for the European Union (EU) region to improve water-related research in the region. He also noted that following the 3rd World Large Rivers Conference in Delhi, India, in April 2017, the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs in India met with the Secretariat of WLRI on potential opportunities for collaboration. In this regard, he indicated that the World Bank is working on several projects in India and that there are opportunities for collaboration they will consider further. Finally, he reported on the "Water and Climate – Meeting of the Great Rivers of the World" which took place in Rome in October 2017, where the WLRI was recognized as a complementary activity. He underscored this as an example of where more effort should be made to raise the visibility of the two

activities to remain relevant and be recognized and to explore the potential of a cooperation among them. He also mentioned that this information should be part to the report of the IHP Bureau, for which he committed himself to send it to the Secretariat.

46. The Vice-Chairperson of Region Vb reported on two recent events, which took place in partnership with the UNESCO Office in Cairo. One event was the 4<sup>th</sup> Arab Water Council Forum, where six policy papers were presented on non-conventional water resources. The other event was a workshop in Bahrain, centered on groundwater recharge.

47. The Chairperson thanked the Secretariat for its work. He also recommended that the Secretariat prepare a concise brochure from each region, noting that such material is very important to raise the profile of IHP.

**The Bureau took note of Regional perspectives of the Programme Implementation and requested to the Secretariat to prepare a concise and attractive brochure to present IHP achievement's for each region**

#### **4.3 Report on the implementation of the resolutions adopted at the 22<sup>nd</sup> session of the IHP Intergovernmental Council**

48. The Chairperson of the IHP Bureau took note of the report and expressed his satisfaction with the implementation of the resolutions adopted at the 22<sup>nd</sup> Session of the IHP Council, encouraging the Secretariat to continue their successful work.

#### **4.4 Report on the implementation of the decisions adopted at the 55<sup>th</sup> session of the IHP Bureau**

49. Following up the presentation of the sub-item by the Secretariat, the Chairperson expressed his gratitude for the report, stressing that this was a good practice on following up the Bureau's work.

50. The Vice-Chairperson of Region I made reference to the Bureau decision requesting WWAP to replace every 5<sup>th</sup> edition of the Thematic WWDR with a comprehensive report evaluating the state of freshwater resources at the global level. He underlined that the aim of the Bureau's decision was to replace the thematic report by the comprehensive one and not to ask WWAP for publishing two reports. Thus, the issue of additional cost should not be a challenge, unless a comprehensive report was more expensive to put together. He further raised his concern of losing this needed global assessment and suggested to explore a different approach and to think of including the extensive network of the UNESCO Water Family.

51. The Chairperson stated that he shared the views of his colleague, giving a historical retrospective on the creation of WWAP and its principal mandate, as well as the first three WWDR produced. He mentioned that the UN-Water decision to change from a comprehensive report to a thematic one has left a gap on the periodic comprehensive assessment of the resource and thus is questionable. He called upon Member States to support WWAP both financially and in-kind, via the secondment of experts.

52. The Chairperson further informed the Bureau of his efforts to prepare a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for the cooperation with the Future Sustainable Water Programme.

53. The Secretary suggested to present the decisions listed under each agenda item in a more dynamic and strategic manner in the future (presenting decisions based on the results). The Chairperson expressed his satisfaction with the report.

**The Bureau took note with satisfaction of the work of the Secretariat to respond to their decisions and requested the Secretariat to prepare a letter for the Director-General of UNESCO communicating to the UN-Water Chairperson the added value of having a comprehensive WWDR every five years, replacing the annual thematic report as initiated by the relevant UNGA Resolution [A/RES/50/126](#) in 1996, followed up by report [E/CN.17/1997/9](#) and subsequent actions as contained in [ACC/1998/18](#).**

#### 4.5 Report on IHP Flagship Initiatives

54. The Secretariat presented the progress in evaluating IHP's Flagship Initiatives.

**The Bureau took note with appreciation of the efforts of the Secretariat and requested to present a draft of the results of the external evaluation of all 15 IHP Flagship programmes and initiatives at the 23<sup>rd</sup> session of the IGC.**

#### 4.6 IHP Water Information Network System (WINS)

55. Following the presentation of WINS, the Bureau Members approved the proposed Terms of Reference of its Advisory Board and the Chairperson clarified that WINS is a tool made freely available by IHP, and that Member States and organizations are free to use it and/or contribute to it by sharing information. Additionally, contributors can decide on the level of accessibility to the information they share (i.e. make information available for visualization and/or download). This information is embedded in the metadata. He further elaborated that one of the main purposes of WINS is to give the opportunity to developing countries to store and share their knowledge. This will also participate in closing the knowledge-access gap between North and South.

56. The observer from the German Category 2 Centre informed that the Global Terrestrial Network Hydrology (GTN-H) is coordinated by the International Centre for Water Resources and Global Change. He stressed that it is important to establish synergies between the different platforms. In this regard, IHP-WINS will be presented at the Global Earth Observation System of Systems (GEOSS) summit in May 2018. Member States were also encouraged to raise awareness with their Delegations at the UN in New York.

57. The Vice-Chairperson of Region IV offered to share information on the Catalogue of Rivers of Southeast Asia and the Pacific on WINS and requested access to the platform. The Secretariat offered to set up a meeting to further discuss this opportunity and to set up a Catalogue of Rivers group on WINS.

58. The Secretariat informed the Bureau that during the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) HydroHub advisory committee meeting in Geneva, 29 November-1 December 2017, WMO, Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and UNESCO clarified the scope of their different water databases. Recognizing their differences on items of convergence, it was agreed to work together on the production of a poster explaining the scope of each database. This poster will be presented at the Global conference on Hydrological Services organized by WMO 7-9 May 2018, in Geneva, Switzerland.

59. The Secretariat stated that since WINS was launched after the 22<sup>nd</sup> IHP Intergovernmental Council, a comprehensive presentation of the platform will be made at this 23<sup>rd</sup> IHP Intergovernmental Council. A comprehensive report on WINS will be also distributed to Member States prior to the upcoming IHP Council.

**The Bureau congratulated the Secretariat for the progress achieved with IHP-WINS, approved the ToRs of its Advisory Board and requested a comprehensive report to be made at the 23<sup>rd</sup> session of the IGC.**

#### **4.7 Cooperation with other UNESCO programmes**

60. The IHP Secretariat presented IHP's cooperation with other UNESCO Programmes. The Executive Secretary of the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC), Mr Vladimir Ryabinin presented to the Bureau IOC's freshwater-related actions and points of cooperation with IHP. A short written note by Ms Angela Melo, Director of Policies and Programmes, representing the Management of Social Transformation Programme (MOST), was shared with Bureau members.

61. The Bureau took note with appreciation of the cooperation between IHP and other UNESCO programmes. The Chairperson highlighted the importance of cooperation between IHP and UNESCO's Management of Social Transformations (MOST) Programme.

#### **4.8 Strategic Planning of the 9<sup>th</sup> Phase of IHP (IHP-IX, 2022-2029)**

62. Following the presentation of the sub-item by the IHP Secretary, she requested the Members of the Bureau to nominate young experts from their Regions that will be part of the IHP-IX Task Force, and to approve, in principle, the draft Terms of Reference presented.

63. The Chairperson explained that the IHP-IX Task Force ought to identify the minimum number of issues shared by the maximum number of Member States. The drafted list of priorities is then approved electronically by the Bureau members and then presented at the Council. The IHP-IX Task Force should include in the process preferably one young expert per region, as well as scientific associations.

64. The observer from the Delegation of Turkey stressed that since IHP is an intergovernmental programme, the drafting process of IHP-IX should be inclusive of all its Member States. The Chairperson responded that preparing an IHP phase is a long process, having at least three to four stages of consultations until consensus is built. The IHP Secretary added that the consultation process will include other UN agencies, all IHP National Committees and focal points, as well as water-related Category 2 Centres and Chairs, but that the final decisions on the content of the strategy document will be made by the IHP Council.

#### **The Bureau**

- a. approved the ToRs of the IHP-IX Task Force and will nominate preferably young experts from their Regions to be part of it.**
- b. requested to the Secretariat to prepare a timetable of the Task Force's work and facilitate its work.**

### **5. UNESCO'S WATER FAMILY ([IHP/Bur-LVI/8](#))**

#### **5.1 Status and operation of the UNESCO Water Family**

65. The Secretariat presented the status and operation of the UNESCO Water Family as reported in document [IHP/Bur-LVI/8](#) and recalled, in particular, the report of the audit conducted by UNESCO's Internal Oversight Service (IOS) in 2017 on UNESCO's 115 Category 2 Centres at the time, which led to the establishment of an Intersectoral Working Group (ISWG), currently chaired by the IHP Secretariat. The ISWG held three meetings so far, and a document will be presented to the

upcoming 204<sup>th</sup> session of the Executive Board in April 2018, proposing a new revised strategy and actions for solving the situation of unaligned C2Cs.

66. To respond to the Bureau decision of last year, a mapping work was started, and two consultations were launched by the Secretariat: one for all Permanent Delegations concerned with unaligned C2Cs, and one for all C2Cs and Chairs concerning their financial information. As stated in the relevant Bureau document, these two consultations received very few answers.

67. The Secretariat presented an example of a mapping table comparing the Governance and the Activities status of the Centres. The idea is to reflect the fact that many C2Cs are unaligned with the UNESCO strategy due to their current governance status (i.e. Agreement not signed, Agreement not entered into force, expired Agreement), but are active and operational at the activity level for IHP, showing key successes.

68. The IHP Chairperson commented that the mapping process of the aims, actions to be taken and contributions of the C2Cs as presented by the Secretariat was a good start, and underlined the importance of C2Cs. Concerning the lack of responses to the Secretariat's requests for information from the C2Cs and Chairs regarding their financial information and contributions to IHP, he suggested that it might be due to several difficulties and issues at the governmental level.

69. The Vice-Chairperson of Region IV approved of the mapping exercise and proposed that the Secretariat send this table to all C2Cs with a request for them to fill in the required information, notably including their key successes. The Vice-Chairperson of Region I reported on the need for finding a solution for non-functioning C2C.

70. The Vice-Chairperson of Region Vb noted that some issues existed in drafting the agreement for a C2C in Egypt, and those difficulties remained at the government level, even though that C2C is active.

71. The Chairperson emphasized the fact that IHP's network comprises 37 C2Cs out of the 127 at UNESCO (as at the last 39<sup>th</sup> UNESCO General Conference in November 2017), which denotes the importance for IHP to better manage its associated centres. He also noted that the functioning centres and their contributions to UNESCO should be better valorized, but as well that sunset clauses would be needed and applied if the centres were not meeting their objectives. He highlighted that the existence of a number of dysfunctional centres could negatively impact the image and functioning of IHP. For the 23<sup>rd</sup> IHP Council, the Chairperson requested a full mapping to be provided in a way that allows identifying the reason for the centres' inefficient functioning.

72. The observer from Germany stated that the model agreement already included in the strategy for C2Cs an explicit clause authorizing unilateral denunciation of the agreement under specific conditions. However, he noted that even though this possibility exists, it might in most cases not be used due to political reasons.

73. The Director of the International Groundwater Resources Assessment Centre (IGRAC) informed the Bureau that the Government of The Netherlands has reconfirmed its support for the centre for five more years. The renewed agreement approved by UNESCO's Executive Board, states that Member States can express their interest in being represented on the Board of IGRAC in order to substantially contribute to the activities of the Centre. In this regard, he asked the Bureau Members to consider which other C2C director in their region would like to participate and contribute to the governing board of the IGRAC. The Bureau took note and will take actions to follow up with the request.

74. The Chairperson recalled that IHP was in the past very supportive of the establishment of C2Cs, especially in the 1990s. He reiterated that the Bureau hopes to improve the networking among C2Cs, as in-depth cooperation would be more effective and useful.

75. The Secretariat provided the following responses to the different questions and comments:
- The current issues relating to managing C2Cs need to be resolved. Only then should proposals for the establishment of new C2Cs be considered. In theory, when a C2C is approved by the General Conference, the agreement between the C2C and UNESCO could be finalized in the following days (the approval on a finalized agreement is necessary for submission of the proposal to the Executive Board and General Conference). In reality, many Member States continue negotiations on the text long after approval of the proposal by the General Conference.
  - Concerning a sunset clause, or the denunciation clause, the Secretariat is only aware of one case where a Government asked for the closure of a C2C (the RCUM-LAC in Colombia). The Secretariat further explained that it is not its role to take decisions on closures and denunciations.
  - The Secretariat reiterated that there is indeed a lack of communication between water-related C2Cs, Chairs and the Secretariat. This is an outreach and communication problem, but the Water Family is large, and consequently the amount of work is vast, compared to the current available staff at the Secretariat.
76. The Vice-Chairperson of Region I suggested that the Secretariat should focus on concrete criteria for the creation of C2Cs and sunset clauses be considered accordingly.
77. The observer from Germany reminded the Bureau of the C2Cs and Chairs that a common platform was proposed by China in 2016. The Bureau responded that there might be possibilities of outsourcing this task of managing and coordinating C2Cs and that the Secretariat should consider it.
78. A consensus was reached on several points, and the Chairperson enumerated two key actions:
- The mapping exercise is very important, and should be carried out by the Secretariat.
  - In the meantime, a concept note could be drafted with concrete recommendations on how the Secretariat will propose solutions to resolve this problem regarding C2Cs, and to communicate in a clear way the different issues, in a step-by-step approach.
79. The Chairperson added that the Secretariat is in the best situation to evaluate the need for new C2Cs, because it has all relevant information available.
80. The observer from Turkey supported these ideas and reiterated that recommendations concerning future actions to take on C2Cs be submitted to the Executive Board of UNESCO. The observer also suggested that a mapping of the Chairs' situation could be made, as the management and coordination of the Chairs network faces similar problems.
81. The Secretariat responded that it has already accomplished a lot of work concerning the issue of C2Cs. This work has led IHP being appointed to chair the established ISWG on C2Cs. It was also suggested that in case the mapping exercise on Chairs is carried out, Member States should consider seconding staff to the Division and suggested that UNESCO allots additional resources to the Division of Water Sciences.
82. The Secretariat concluded on the last point concerning a moratorium on the approval of new proposals for C2Cs until the next General Conference in 2019, leaving time to work on solving the current issues. This idea was proposed by the ISWG, was at first considered, but then not implemented by UNESCO's Central Services. The ISWG is working on a new strategy for C2Cs, and this has been proposed as a concrete action in the document to be submitted to the 204th session of the Executive Board, in April 2018.
83. Mr Pietro Teatini, Vice-Chairperson of UNESCO's Working Group on Land Subsidence, presented a proposal for a Land Subsidence initiative. The Bureau congratulated Mr Teatini and the



Working Group for its accomplishments. The representative of Turkey requested that a feasibility study is presented that explores the implications the Initiative would have for the Secretariat and that the results of the evaluation of the IHP Flagship Initiatives are taken into consideration.

**The Bureau decided that the Secretariat should**

- a. **report on the work of the Intersectoral Working Group (ISWG) on Category 2 Centres in a reference document to be submitted to the upcoming 23<sup>rd</sup> IHP Council, including a concept note with a step-by-step approach, with specific criteria.**
- b. **continue working on the mapping of the C2Cs and present the results at the next IHP Council. Such exercise should include a comparison of the Governance and the Activities status of the Centres using the template developed by the Secretariat and suggested to include reference to the C2C website in the mapping.**

**The Bureau decided that the Working Group on Land Subsidence prepares a feasibility study exploring the implications of the proposed Initiative on Land Subsidence on the Secretariat and present it along with their proposed initiative proposal to the 23<sup>rd</sup> session of the IGC.**

**The Bureau congratulated the Secretariat for the excellent work of the mapping exercise of the C2C.**

## 5.2 World Water Assessment Programme

84. The WWAP Coordinator presented the World Water Development Report (WWDR) 2018 and informed the Bureau about the ongoing preparation of the content for the WWDR 2019.

85. The Bureau expressed its full satisfaction with the WWDR as the flagship report. However, referring to the Bureau's discussion of the previous day, the Bureau underlined the importance of having a comprehensive Water Assessment Report, which would replace the annual thematic WWDR every 4 or 5 years. The WWAP Coordinator agreed with the idea and pointed out that the current level of funding would not be sufficient for its production. Furthermore, UN-Water had already decided upon the themes of the WWDR until 2020.

86. Additionally, he emphasized that the annual WWDRs are aligned with the theme of the World Water Day campaigns and they influence the content platform for year-round discussions on the selected theme.

87. The Observer from the Delegation of Turkey and the Vice-Chairperson of Region I requested to present to the Council detailed information on the funding and activities to examine if the current budget was sufficient to produce the report and if fundraising should be needed to implement additional activities by WWAP. The representative of Turkey pointed out the importance of accountability and requested clarification on the mechanism used to select and prepare content for publications, such as that of the recently produced report entitled migration and its interdependencies with water scarcity, gender and youth employment and questioned whether relevant Member States were consulted along the process of preparations.

88. The Chairperson highlighted the need for WWAP to complement IHP activities, as was designed since its inception.

89. The Observer from the Delegation of The Netherlands pointed out the need to raise WWAP's national visibility.

90. The Bureau requested WWAP to submit an information note to the IHP IGC on all its activities and financial situation. The IHP Chairperson proposed that this information will support Member

States' contribution to WWAP's newly established Multi-Donor Partnership for the preparation of the comprehensive WWDR and other relevant products in line with the MoU signed between UNESCO and the Government of Italy on WWAP. The Chairperson underlined the value of WWAP in producing the WWDR and reiterated his request to Member States to support the WWAP Secretariat financially or in-kind (such as through the secondment of experts). The Bureau asked IHP to inform the Director-General of UNESCO, so that she communicates to the UN-Water Chairperson the added value of having a comprehensive WWDR in a periodical manner.

**The Bureau:**

- a. **took note of the WWAP presentation and requested the Secretariat to prepare a letter for the Director-General of UNESCO communicating to the UN-Water Chairperson the added value of having a comprehensive WWDR every five years, as detailed in the decision related to paragraph 53 (supra).**
- b. **requested to the WWAP coordinator to present at the IHP Council an information document detailing the activities that are being implemented and the funding required for them.**

## **6. RELATIONS WITH UNITED NATIONS, INTERGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS AND NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS ([IHP/Bur-LVI/9](#))**

### **6.1 Cooperation with the UN System on freshwater issues**

91. The Secretariat presented recent developments regarding cooperation with the UN System on freshwater issues. The Vice-Chairperson of Region I stressed the importance of cooperation amongst key actors from the different scientific disciplines/professions linked to freshwater. The IHP Chairperson concluded by highlighting the active cooperation of IHP at the UN and international level and encouraged IHP to further strengthen its efforts.

### **6.2 Cooperation with intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations**

92. The Secretariat presented recent developments regarding cooperation with intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations.

93. Taking into consideration the World Large River Initiative (WLRI) and the International Conference on the Future of Large Rivers (which took place in Delhi in early 2017; cf. sub-item 4.2 supra), the Vice-Chairperson of Region I highlighted the collaboration between IHP and the International Association of Hydrological Sciences (IAHS); the International Association of Hydro-Environment, Engineering and Research (IAHR); the World Association for Sedimentation and Erosion Research (WASER); and the International Association of Geomorphologists (IAGM). The Vice-Chairperson of Region I also commented on the valuable opportunities for cooperation made possible by the strong collaboration between IHP and the aforementioned organizations. He informed the members of the Bureau that the next conference would take place in Moscow in early 2020.

94. The Representative of IAHS, who also represented IUGG, highlighted UNESCO/IAHS joint initiatives, UNESCO's contributions to IAHS, and the contributions of IAHS to UNESCO. He highlighted the long-lasting and active collaboration between IHP and IAHS and invited IHP to actively contribute to the next IUGG Assembly, to take place in Montreal, Canada, in June 2018. The IAHS representative also reminded the members of the Bureau that IAHS would celebrate its 100th anniversary in 2020. Noting that IAHS is one of the founding organizations of IHP, the Chairperson invited IHP to actively contribute to the anniversary.

95. The IHP Chairperson concluded by highlighting the active cooperation of IHP at the intergovernmental and non-governmental level, and encouraged IHP to further strengthen its cooperation efforts building on the activities reported above.

**The Members of the Bureau took note of IHP's cooperation with intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations.**

### **6.3 IHP contribution to the UN World Water Development Report**

96. The Members of the Bureau took note of the report for Agenda sub-item 6.3 and highlighted the significant technical contribution of IHP to the UN World Water Development Report (WWDR), including the valuable contribution of Category 2 Centers, and expressed appreciation for the contribution of IHP to the dissemination and translation tasks linked of the publication of the WWDR.

**The Members of the Bureau took note of IHP's contribution to the UN World Water Development Report.**

### **6.4 IHP's role in key international events and agendas**

97. The Secretariat presented IHP's contribution to key international events. The Vice-Chairperson of Region I expressed his appreciation for IHP's preparation and involvement in the 8th World Water Forum (WWForum) to be held from 18-23 March 2018 in Brasilia, Brazil. He called for coordinated efforts among water-related C2C, Chairs and the IHP Secretariat during the 8th WWForum.

98. The IHP Chairperson informed the Bureau about the political preparatory process of the 8th WWF, including a ministerial meeting to be hosted at UNESCO at the end of February 2018 and organized by Brazil as host country of the WWForum, and the World Water Council. He added that the political process would include releasing the report of the High Level Panel on Water during the 8th WWForum, followed by a Ministerial Forum, Parliamentarian Forum and Forum of Mayors.

99. The Delegate from the Netherlands requested information about the Implementation Roadmaps (IRs) led by IHP based on the previous World Water Forum. The IHP Secretariat provided information regarding the IRs explaining that a number of the themes present at the 7<sup>th</sup> World Water Forum did not continue to the 8<sup>th</sup> WWForum.

100. The IHP Secretary requested Bureau members, C2Cs, Chairs and IHP National Committees to provide information related to their contributions made to the World Water Forum, which needs to be communicated to Member States during the possible upcoming information session and UNESCO Executive Board session.

101. The IHP Chairperson requested that the communication strategy for the 8<sup>th</sup> WWF includes a dedicated webpage for and a daily release of a UNESCO bulletin based on the UNESCO Water Family events. The IHP Secretariat responded that the communication strategy would be implemented according to UNESCO's policy and practice for major events.

102. The Chairperson expressed his appreciation for the Secretariat's initiatives to support the preparatory process of the 9<sup>th</sup> WWForum to be held in Senegal in 2021.

**The Bureau took note with appreciation on IHP's contribution to key international events.**

## **7. IHP'S ACTIONS IN THE IMPLEMENTATION AND MONITORING OF THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOAL (SDG) 6 RELATING TO WATER AND SANITATION ([IHP/Bur-LVI/10](#))**

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

103. The Secretariat presented a short overview of the actions taken by IHP in the implementation and monitoring of SDG 6, and gave details on the activities implemented for the reporting process of the target 6.5 indicator 6.5.2., providing information about the IHP plans foreseen for the biennium 2018-2019 to support Member States in this endeavor. It was highlighted that 106 countries, on the 153 that share water resources, had provided data and information and that the indicator was already validated for 60 reports. As lessons learnt, and in order to better support countries, it was announced that technical sub-regional and thematic meetings will be organized in the biennium 2018-2019 and that at the end of the first semester of 2019 all 153 countries will be invited to convene at UNESCO HQs in order to share their experience, discuss challenges and plans for the next steps of the SDG process. Mr Alistair Rieu-Clarke, as representative of the co-custodian agency United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE), gave some details about the UNECE Convention process, the Convention reporting mechanism and the contribution that the Convention can provide to the monitoring and reporting process for SDG 6.5.2.

104. The observer representative of Turkey expressed her deep regret on how the process for the monitoring of SDG indicator 6.5.2 was handled so far, highlighting the lack of a real inclusive process in which all Member States of UN should have been given the opportunity to participate. She stated that the mixing of the reporting processes under the UNECE Water Convention and the UN SDG process was wrong and should be avoided since they belong to two separate and profoundly different intergovernmental processes. She then expressed her support for the plans presented by the IHP Secretariat to organize actions in the 2018-2019 biennium to allow for more cooperation with the countries and a more inclusive process under the lead of the UNESCO IHP Secretariat. The observer representatives of The Netherlands and Germany, respectively, stressed the importance of the continued collaboration between UNECE and UNESCO.

105. The IHP Secretary stressed the need to deepen cooperation with the custodians of the other SDG targets. She also pointed out the need for IHP to review with UN-WATER and other agencies the possibility to greater contribute to other SDG 6 targets as a co-custodian agency. In particular, she expressed the readiness of the IHP to provide a valid contribution to the process as a co-custodian on indicator 6.3.2. "Proportion of bodies of water with good ambient water quality" through the work on quality and the IHP World Water Quality Portal; indicator 6.4.2 "Level of water stress: freshwater withdrawals as a proportion of available freshwater resources" through the work of WWAP and the comprehensive report on the assessment of water resources; target 6.6: "Protect, restore water-related ecosystems, including mountains, forests, wetlands, rivers, aquifers, lakes" through the work on groundwater and based on the IHP World Water Quality Portal data; and by establishing a new indicator on water education and training (target 6.a).

106. In response to the representative of the Netherlands, who requested information about the SDG target 11.5, the Secretariat informed on the coordination with the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and that, furthermore, IHP has been implementing drought early warning and climate services for Latin America and the Caribbean and Sub-Saharan Africa.

107. The IHP Chairperson recognized that there is a need to have more meaningful SDG indicators, and that the dialogue in the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on SDG Indicators (IAEG) is still open.

#### **The Bureau took note of:**

- a. the achievements and failures of the first phase of the indicator 6.5.2 reporting process, acknowledged the plan of actions for 2018-2019 presented by the IHP Secretariat to improve cooperation with and amongst Member States, and**

**requested the organization of regional and thematic meetings to discuss the template and the methodology to be used and the process for gathering information, followed by a global meeting at UNESCO HQ, echoing its previous request at its 55<sup>th</sup> session.**

- b. the debate concluding on IHP's capacity to become the co-custodian of additional indicators and requested that the Secretariat prepare a concept note along with a letter to be sent to IHP National Committees and focal points, requesting their support at the IAEG meetings in New York.**

## **7.2 IHP-WINS**

108. The sub-item was reported in detail at sub-item 4.6.

## **7.3 SDG 6 Synthesis Report 2018**

109. WWAP Coordinator presented the progress made in producing the UN SDG 6 Synthesis Report.

110. The members of the Bureau expressed their support for the Report, the recent progress made in compiling it, and its expected significant policy and political impact. The Bureau stressed the importance of basing the future Synthesis Report on a comprehensive water assessment report.

111. The WWAP coordinator also clarified for the Bureau that water disasters and climate change are also included in the Synthesis Report. The Secretary of IHP stressed, based on the preliminary results of the synthesis report that some indicator values could be improved (i.e. they could be more detailed and more realistic), if other data would be considered in the future. She noted that IHP could play a key role in that respect (e.g. in providing estimations related to water scarcity).

**The Bureau took note with appreciation of the SDG 6 Synthesis Report.**

## **8. PREPARATORY ACTIONS FOR THE 23<sup>rd</sup> SESSION OF THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL COUNCIL OF IHP (IGC-23)**

### **8.1 Endorsement of IGC-23 provisional agenda**

**The Bureau approved the proposed provisional agenda.**

### **8.2 13<sup>th</sup> Kovacs Colloquium**

112. The IHP Bureau decided to organize a forum on the Science-policy interface instead of having a Kovacs Colloquium at the 23<sup>rd</sup> IHP Council session. The Bureau proposed the title, "Water Science-Policy interaction in the era of Global Changes". The forum will look at the science-policy interface and include one or more Ministerial roundtable(s). The science-policy interface component will be organized in cooperation with IAHS and other partners.

**The Bureau requested that the Secretariat organizes, in cooperation with IAHS and other partners, a forum on "Water Science-Policy interaction in the era of Global Changes" instead of having a Kovacs Colloquium at the 23<sup>rd</sup> IGC session.**

### **8.3 Other Council-related matters**

113. Upon invitation of the Secretariat, the photojournalist Franck Vogel presented photographs on large rivers of the world, also reflecting on tensions in the river basins. He proposed a photographic exhibition during the 23<sup>rd</sup> IHP Council, to be displayed on the outer fence of UNESCO Headquarters.

114. The Bureau expressed its strong interest in the exhibition, considering that this could give great visibility to IHP and the Council meeting and raise awareness on water issues among a large audience. The observer from Turkey requested the Bureau to carefully consider the selection of images and to focus on positive messages, which are agreeable to the concerned Member States. The Vice-Chairperson of Region I underlined the positive intention of the exhibition and recommended that UNESCO's rules and procedures for organizing this type of event be followed.

**The Bureau suggested that the Secretariat pursues the organization of the proposed exhibition in close collaboration with UNESCO's relevant services and Member States.**

## **9. OTHER MATTERS**

115. The IHP Chairperson asked the Secretariat about the status of the publication project "History of Water and Humanity". The Secretariat reported that the book had passed the Publication Board in autumn 2017 and that work on the publication was to be resumed, for a publication date in 2018.

## **10. ADOPTION OF THE REPORT**

116. 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**

117. The Chairperson closed the 56<sup>th</sup> session of the IHP Bureau at 13:00 on 22 February 2018.

ANNEX I

**DECISIONS**

<b>Sub-item and paragraph number</b>	<b>Decision taken / Actions required</b>
<p>Sub-item 3.2 (para. 16)</p>	<p>The Bureau requested the Secretariat to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Ensure that the invitation letters for the 23<sup>rd</sup> IHP Council session stress the importance of having decision makers along within the delegation of the representatives attending the session.</li> <li>b. Organize a political session at Ministerial level and an open session (open house) for Permanent Delegations during the 23<sup>rd</sup> Council.</li> <li>c. Prepare an information note highlighting that UNESCO-IHP is the only intergovernmental body of the United Nations system dedicated to water sciences, explaining IHP's Intergovernmental nature and potential role within the context of the New Global Water Architecture, to be distributed to PDs.</li> <li>d. Organize an information meeting for UNESCO Member States to get more acquainted with the contribution of IHP to policy and decision making</li> <li>e. After discussing with the Chairs of Regional Groups, participate and present at their meetings IHP's work and its potential role in a New Global Water Architecture</li> <li>f. To participate in IHP regional meetings to help conveying IHP's messages and its role.</li> </ol> <p>The Bureau members engaged themselves to inform the IHP representatives of their region on the discussions concerning the global water architecture and the need to support efforts raising IHP's visibility</p>
<p>Sub-item 3.3 (para. 25)</p>	<p>The Bureau decided to establish an informal Working Group composed of the Permanent Delegations of its Member States who will consult with their Regional Groups along the process.</p> <p>The Bureau requested the Secretariat to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. support the work of an informal Working Group tasked to prepare a draft of the Statutes and the Rules of Procedure of IHP to harmonize them with the applicable recommendations of the Open-Ended Group on Governance, considering also the proposals received so far from Member States, the consultation made during previous Bureau and Council meetings and the different surveys the Secretariat has performed, leading to a draft version to be put forward for debate and decision by the 23<sup>rd</sup> session of the IHP Council.</li> <li>b. prepare a concept paper analyzing the pros and cons of the proposed rebranding of IHP's name for the Council's decision, including legal implications thereof.</li> </ol>

Sub-item 3.5 (para. 30)	The Bureau took note of the report of the IHP Finance Committee and encourages National Committees in their regions and partners to further strengthen their financial support to IHP.
Sub-item 3.6 (para. 33)	The Bureau requested the Secretariat to prepare a communication roadmap for consideration and discussion by the next IHP Council.
Sub-item 4.1 (para. 41)	<p>The Bureau took note of the report and congratulated the Secretariat on the implementation of IHP-VIII, achieving great results with limited resources. The Bureau requested the Secretariat to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. find an innovative communication strategy to more effectively present achievements, results and key messages in a more reader-friendly and attractive manner to Member States and the non-technical community and to consult with WWAP in the process.</li> <li>b. produce attractive material to inform Member States on IHP achievements and results for the next Council.</li> <li>c. draft a letter for the Bureau to request to UNESCO Central Services to create a space in SISTER for C2C and chairs to report.</li> </ul>
Sub-item 4.2 (para. 47)	The Bureau took note of Regional perspectives of the Programme Implementation and requested to the Secretariat to prepare a concise and attractive brochure to present IHP achievement's for each region.
Sub-item 4.4 (para. 53)	The Bureau took note with satisfaction of the work of the Secretariat to respond to their decisions and requested the Secretariat to prepare a letter for the Director-General of UNESCO communicating to the UN-Water Chairperson the added value of having a comprehensive WWDR every five years, replacing the annual thematic report as initiated by the relevant UNGA Resolution <a href="#">A/RES/50/126</a> in 1996, followed up by report <a href="#">E/CN.17/1997/9</a> and subsequent actions as contained in <a href="#">ACC/1998/18</a> .
Sub-item 4.5 (para. 54)	The Bureau took note with appreciation of the efforts of the Secretariat and requested to present a draft of the results of the external evaluation of all 15 IHP Flagship programmes and initiatives at the 23 <sup>rd</sup> session of the IGC.
Sub-item 4.6 (para. 59)	The Bureau congratulated the Secretariat for the progress achieved with IHP-WINS, approved the ToRs of its Advisory Board and requested a comprehensive report to be made at the 23 <sup>rd</sup> session of the IGC.
Sub-item 4.8 (para. 64)	The Bureau



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. approved the ToRs of the IHP-IX Task Force and will nominate preferably young experts from their Regions to be part of it.</li> <li>b. requested to the Secretariat to prepare a timetable of the Task Force's work and facilitate its work.</li> </ul>
<p>Sub-item 5.1 (para. 83)</p>	<p>The Bureau decided that the Secretariat should</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. report on the work of the Intersectoral Working Group (ISWG) on Category 2 Centres in a reference document to be submitted to the upcoming 23<sup>rd</sup> IHP Council, including a concept note with a step-by-step approach, with specific criteria.</li> <li>b. continue working on the mapping of the C2Cs and present the results at the next IHP Council. Such exercise should include a comparison of the Governance and the Activities status of the Centres using the template developed by the Secretariat and suggested to include reference to the C2C website in the mapping.</li> </ul> <p>The Bureau decided that the Working Group on Land Subsidence prepares a feasibility study exploring the implications of the proposed Initiative on Land Subsidence on the Secretariat and present it along with their proposed initiative proposal to the 23<sup>rd</sup> session of the IGC.</p> <p>The Bureau congratulated the Secretariat for the excellent work of the mapping exercise of the C2C.</p>
<p>Sub-item 5.2 (para. 90)</p>	<p>The Bureau:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. took note of the WWAP presentation and requested the Secretariat to prepare a letter for the Director-General of UNESCO communicating to the UN-Water Chairperson the added value of having a comprehensive WWDR every five years, as detailed in the decision related to paragraph 53 (supra).</li> <li>b. requested to the WWAP coordinator to present at the IHP Council an information document detailing the activities that are being implemented and the funding required for them.</li> </ul>
<p>Sub-item 7.1 (para. 107)</p>	<p>The Bureau took note of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. the achievements and failures of the first phase of the indicator 6.5.2 reporting process, acknowledged the plan of actions for 2018-2019 presented by the IHP Secretariat to improve cooperation with and amongst Member States, and requested the organization of regional and thematic meetings to discuss the template and the methodology to be used and the process for gathering information, followed by a global meeting at UNESCO HQ, echoing its previous request at its 55<sup>th</sup> session.</li> <li>b. the debate concluding on IHP's capacity to become the custodian of additional indicators and requested that the Secretariat prepare a concept note along with a letter to be sent to IHP National Committees and focal points, requesting their support at the IAEG meetings in New York.</li> </ul>

<p>Sub-item 8.2 (para. 112)</p>	<p>The Bureau requested that the Secretariat organizes, in cooperation with IAHS and other partners, a forum on “Water Science-Policy interaction in the era of Global Changes” instead of having a Kovacs Colloquium at the 23<sup>rd</sup> IGC session.</p>
<p>Sub-item 8.3 (para. 114)</p>	<p>The Bureau suggested that the Secretariat pursues the organization of the proposed exhibition in close collaboration with UNESCO’s relevant services and Member States.</p>

**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 202<sup>nd</sup> session of the Executive Board and the 39<sup>th</sup> General Conference
  - 3.2 Proposed New Global Water Architecture
  - 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 adopted at the 22<sup>nd</sup> session of the IHP Intergovernmental Council
  - 4.4 Report on the implementation of the decisions adopted at the 55<sup>th</sup> session of the IHP Bureau
  - 4.5 Report on the IHP Flagship Initiatives
  - 4.6 IHP-Water Information Network System (WINS)
  - 4.7 Cooperation with other UNESCO programmes
  - 4.8 Strategic Planning of the 9<sup>th</sup> Phase of IHP (IHP-IX, 2022-2029)
5. UNESCO's Water Family
  - 5.1 Status and operation of the UNESCO Water Family
  - 5.2 World Water Assessment Programme
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-WINS

7.3 SDG 6 Synthesis Report 2018

8. Preparatory actions for the 23<sup>rd</sup> Session of the Intergovernmental Council of IHP

8.1 Endorsement of IGC-23 provisional agenda

8.2 13<sup>th</sup> 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**

<b>Document Code</b> (IHP/Bur-LVI/...)	<b>Title</b>	<b>Agenda item</b>
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)

<b>Document Code</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Agenda item</b>
IHP/IC-XXII/3	Final report of the 22 <sup>nd</sup> session of the Intergovernmental Council of IHP (Paris, 13-17 June 2016)	-
IHP/Bur-LIII/3	Final report of the 53 <sup>rd</sup> session of the IHP Bureau (Paris, 19-21 April 2016)	-
IHP/Bur-LIV/3	Final report of the 54 <sup>th</sup> session of the IHP Bureau (Paris, 17 June 2016)	-
IHP/Bur-LV/3	Final report of the 55 <sup>th</sup> session of the IHP Bureau (Paris, 20-22 June 2017)	-
37 C/4	Medium-term Strategy, 2014 – 2021	3



Document Code	Title	Agenda item
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
IHP/Rules of Procedure/2000	Rules of Procedure of the Intergovernmental Council of IHP	3
39 C/5	Programme and Budget for 2018-2021	3.1
-	Final report of the UN Secretary-General's Advisory Board on Water and Sanitation (UNSGAB) of November 2015	3.1
-	An initiative for a UN Intergovernmental Body on Water	3.1
A/RES/71/222	UNGA Resolution on the International Decade for Action, "Water for Sustainable Development", 2018-2028	3.1
200 EX/DG.INF	Comments by the Director-General on items presented by Member States which may have administrative and financial implications	3.1
200 EX/Decisions	Decisions adopted by the Executive Board at its 200 <sup>th</sup> session	3.1
201 EX/Decisions	Decisions adopted by the Executive Board at its 201 <sup>st</sup> session	3.1
202 EX/Decisions	Decisions adopted by the Executive Board at its 202 <sup>nd</sup> session	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	3.4
38 C/Resolution 101	Governance, procedures and working methods of the Governing Bodies of UNESCO	3.4
39 C/20	Governance procedures and working methods of the Governing Bodies of UNESCO – Final Report	3.4
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 <sup>nd</sup> IHP Bureau Session (1-2 June 2015)	3.4
IHP/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	3.4
IHP/Bur-LVI/Ref. 1	Proposed revisions on IHP Intergovernmental Council Rules of Procedure	3.4
IHP/Bur-LVI/Ref. 2	Proposed revisions on IHP Intergovernmental Council Statutes	3.4

Document Code	Title	Agenda item
39 C/58	Revision of the Statutes of the Management of Social Transformations (MOST) Intergovernmental Council (IGC)	3.4
IHP/Bur-LIII/Ref. 4	UNESCO IHP Water and Megacities Task Force draft of Terms of Reference	4.1
IHP/Bur-LV/Ref. 4	Megacities Alliance for Water and Climate Change Concept Note 2016	4.1
IHP/IC-XXII/Ref.4	Proposal for evaluation of UNESCO's International Hydrological Programme (IHP) Flagships	4.1
IHP/Bur-XXXVI/15	Progress report on the formulation of the 7 <sup>th</sup> Phase of the International Hydrological Programme (IHP-VII, 2008 – 2014)	4.4
IHP/Bur-LVI/Ref. 3	Draft resolution for 23rd IHP Intergovernmental Council on WWAP Toolkit and Gender-Sensitive Indicators for the Collection and Analysis of Sex-Disaggregated Water Data	4.4
IHP/Bur-LVI/Ref. 4	The International Hydrological Programme's Water Information Network (IHP-WINS) Advisory Board Terms of Reference (ToRs)	4.6
IHP/Bur-LVI/Ref. 5	Draft Terms of Reference of the International Hydrological Programme IX Task Force	4.8
37 C/Resolution 93	Integrated comprehensive strategy for Category 2 Institutes and Centres under the auspices of UNESCO	5.1
37 C/18 Part I	Revision of the integrated comprehensive strategy for Category 2 Institutes and Centres under the auspices of UNESCO	5.1
IHP/IC-XXII/Inf.4	Participation of the International Hydrological Programme in the implementation and monitoring of water related Sustainable Development Goals	7.1
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)	8.1

**Note:** All documents are available online here: <https://en.unesco.org/themes/water-security/hydrology/ihp-bureau-56>

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
COP	Conference of the Parties
DRR	Disaster Risk Reduction
ECOSOC	United Nations Economic and Social Council
EU	European Union
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization
FRIEND	Flow Regimes from International Experimental and Network Data
GEF	Global Environmental Facility
GEMI	Global Environment Monitoring Initiative
GEOSS	Global Earth Observation System of Systems
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
IGP	International Geoscience 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)
IAEG	Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators
IAGM	International Association of Geomorphologists
IAHR	International Association of Hydro-Environment, Engineering and Research
IOS	UNESCO Internal Oversight Service
IOC	Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission
ISGW	Intersectoral Working Group
IUCN	International Union for Conservation of Nature
MAB	Man and the Biosphere Programme
MLA	Main Line of Action
MOST	Management of Social Transformations Programme
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
UNGA	United Nations General Assembly
UNTWIN	University Twinning and Networking
WASER	World Association for Sedimentation and Erosion Research
WINS	Water Information Network System
WLRI	World's Large Rivers Initiative
WMO	World Meteorological Organization
WWAP	UN World Water Assessment Programme
WWForum	World Water Forum
WWDR	World Water Development Report