

## **Intergovernmental Hydrological Programme**

60<sup>th</sup> Session of the IHP Bureau  
(Paris, 27-28 September 2021)

### **REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECISIONS ADOPTED AT THE 58<sup>TH</sup> SESSION OF THE IHP BUREAU**

Item 4 of the provisional agenda.

#### **SUMMARY**

This document provides an overview of the implementation of the decisions adopted at the 58<sup>th</sup> session of the IHP Bureau.

Actions expected from the Bureau:

The Bureau may wish to take note of the progress on the listed items.

**DECISIONS by the 58<sup>th</sup> IHP Bureau and actions taken**

Sub-item and paragraph number (cf. <a href="#">Final Report of the 58<sup>th</sup> IHP Bureau</a> )	Decision taken / Actions required	Action taken / Note
<p><b>Sub-item 3.1 (para. 5) Developments at the Natural Sciences Sector and the Division of Water Sciences following the 205th session of the Executive Board, and the preparation of UNESCO's 40th General Conference and the Programme and Budget 40 C/5</b></p>	<p>The Bureau decided to draft a letter addressing the Director-General, recommending to reinstate the principle that Specialists should have adequate qualifications related to the Programme and to fill the current vacant posts as soon as possible.</p>	<p>Two letters to the Director-General, respectively in September 2019 and January 2020, by the successive Chairpersons of the IHP Council reflected this matter. The vacant posts were filled in line with the decision.</p>
<p><b>Sub-item 3.3 (para. 19) Update on the process towards the approval of the Statutes of the IHP intergovernmental Council</b></p>	<p>The Bureau requested that the Secretariat:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Facilitate the organization of regional group meetings of IHP NCs/focal persons prior to the 40th General Conference to ensure their input in the election of new Bureau Members during the extraordinary session of the IGC, immediately after the General Conference;</li> <li>• Circulate the adapted version of the Statutes to all Council Members, highlighting the changes and their implications for elections of the Bureau and encouraging dialogue between Permanent Delegations and IHP National Committees and Focal Persons;</li> </ul>	<p>The Secretariat raised the awareness via communication to IHP NC/focal persons about the process and to ensure their active involvement to the elections of the Bureau Members as per the revised statutes at the end of the 40<sup>th</sup> General Conference. The composition of the current Bureau reflects the success of the Secretariat's communication and the response of the IHP NC/FPs. It has to be noted though that no regional meetings were able to be organized in presentia between September and November 2019.</p> <p>As aforementioned the revised statutes were circulated and awareness was raised on the changes and implications for the elections.</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prepare a draft letter for the approval and signature of the Bureau, requesting UNESCO to increase the financial support of the programme to enable the participation of Least Developed Countries and Small Island Development States.</li> </ul>	<p>Due to the change in the Bureau composition this item was not pursued</p>
<p><b>Sub-item 3.4 (para. 26) Progress on the ninth phase of IHP (IHP-IX, 2022-2029)</b></p>	<p>The Bureau requested that the Secretariat</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• take into consideration its comments and circulates the current version of the first order draft of IHP-IX to the UNESCO Water Family Members, UNESCO associated intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations along with UN Agencies and Organizations with whom UNESCO cooperates to receive their comments.</li> <li>• facilitate the Task Force's work on creating a more concise version of the document, more strategically oriented, stating clearly the goals for the eight years 2022-2029 based on the Theory of Change,</li> <li>• and prepare an operational plan on the implementation of the strategy.</li> </ul>	<p>Completed</p> <p>The IHP-IX strategy was discussed in the 1<sup>st</sup> extraordinary session of the Council in November 2019 and a decision was taken for a new timeline.</p> <p>Ever since, the Secretariat facilitated numerous online meetings of the Task Force and of the Experts of Member States, followed by extraordinary sessions of the Council where the results were presented and decisions for the way forward were taken. Additionally, the Secretariat facilitated the meetings of an Open-ended Working Group whose role was to ensure convergence of opinions on the text with a view of achieving consensus and approving the IHP-IX Strategic Plan. UNESCO Office for Strategic Planning (BSP) supported the development and inclusion in the document of a Theory of Change.</p> <p>A Working Group on the preparation of the Operational Implementation Plan that supports the realization of the IHP-IX Strategic Plan met the first time in September 2021</p>
<p><b>Sub-item 3.5 (para. 30) IHP related extrabudgetary activities</b></p>	<p>The Bureau called on Member States and donor institutions to continue supporting the IHP and to contribute to advocating for improved fund raising.</p>	

<p><b>Sub-item 3.6 (para. 33) Report of the IHP Finance Committee</b></p>	<p>The Bureau took note of the report of the IHP Finance Committee and encouraged National Committees in their regions and partners to further strengthen their support to IHP.</p>	
<p><b>Sub-item 3.7 (para. 34) Report of the IHP Communication and Outreach Committee</b></p>	<p>The Bureau took note of the Report of the IHP Communication and Outreach Committee, and requested the Secretariat to reinforce its staff in order to sustain the implementation of the communication strategy and continue to improve the visibility of the Programme. The Bureau also invited Permanent Delegations to further their cooperation with their counterparts at the UN Headquarters in New York and Geneva, in order to better communicate on the activities of the Programme and reinforce its outreach.</p>	<p>Two temporary staff were hired in 2021 to reinforce the Secretariat's work on strengthening IHP's visibility. Communication and Outreach were continuously improved, among other measures, through dynamic social media use and the pilot phase of the UNESCO Water Family Newsletter "H2O Update" (three issues). The publication of the newsletter will be resumed.</p> <p>Visibility of UNESCO and of IHP at UN level was improved, inter alia, through: lead-authorship in the World Water Development Reports 2019, 2020, 2021 and the preparation of the 2022 edition; the co-lead of UNESCO with the UN Department for Economic and Social Affairs (DESA) in the Capacity Development Initiative of the Global Acceleration Framework for SDG 6; the co-lead with the International Groundwater Resources Assessment Centre (IGRAC, UNESCO Cat. 2 Centre) for the World Water Day 2022 campaign on groundwater.</p>
<p><b>Sub-item 4.1 (para. 37) Implementation of the eighth phase of IHP (IHP-VIII)</b></p>	<p>The Bureau requested the Secretariat to prepare a synthesis report of the achievements of UNESCO's Water Family activities during the implementation of IHP-VIII, a draft of which is to be presented at the 25th session of the IGC of IHP and the establishment of a Working Group to facilitate the coordination of such report.</p>	<p>Pending: A newsletter has been prepared on the actions taken by Chairs but no action has been taken on this item overall as the Secretariat, Bureau and Council have focused their efforts in the development of IHP-IX</p>

<p><b>Sub-item 4.7.2 (para. 60)</b> <b>Presentation of the Guidelines for the Initiatives</b></p>	<p>The Bureau took note of the presentation and encouraged the finalization and implementation of the guidelines, by the Task Force in coordination with the Secretariat, and their presentation for the approval of the IGC at its 24th session.</p>	<p>The item is still pending. Following Council decision XX_IV-2, the Working Group is developing a Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation Flagship Initiative Framework with a view to present this framework to the Council at its 25<sup>th</sup> session</p>
<p><b>Sub-item 4.7.3 (para. 62)</b> <b>New IHP Flagship Initiatives</b></p>	<p>The Bureau took note of the presentation and encouraged the Secretariat to continue its efforts towards the development of the Flagship Initiatives, in cooperation with the various partners involved, ensuring that they start the alignment of their status and modus operandi with the guidelines to be approved at the 24th session of the IGC of IHP.</p>	<p>The Secretariat is facilitating the related Working Group's efforts and providing ad hoc support to any initiative that is requesting assistance</p>
<p><b>Sub-item 5.3 (para. 78)</b> <b>Proposed Category 2 Centres</b></p>	<p>The IHP Bureau takes note of the work undertaken by the Secretariat regarding the coordination of the UNESCO Water Family, notably the proposals for Category 2 Centres. The Bureau requested that the relationship between the Secretariat and the network of category 2 centers and Chairs be improved, including the formulation of a specific IHP strategy proposal for the management of water-related centres and institutes. This specific strategy for the management of water-related centres and institutes will be proposed at the 24th session of the IHP Intergovernmental Council in 2020, and should be aligned with the Global Integrated Strategy for category 2 institutes and centres in force at UNESCO on this date. It should be noted that a revision of the current Global Integrated Strategy (37 C/93, 2013) will be</p>	<p>The new Strategy for Category 2 Institutes and Centres under the auspices of UNESCO (Document 40 C/79), as well as its associated model agreements and annexes, were finally adopted by the 207th Session of the Executive Board in October 2019 (207 EX/decision 14), and endorsed at the 40th Session of the General Conference in November 2019.</p> <p>The 2019 strategy (40 C/79) contains some specific requirements, among which:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Creation of the Intersectoral Review Committee:</b> the new Strategy foresees the establishment of an Intersectoral Review Committee (IRC) which has the tasks of receiving, examining screening and providing recommendations to senior management on Member States' proposals for the designation</li> </ul>

	<p>presented to the Executive Board and the General Conference of UNESCO at their next sessions in October and November 2019. If this revision is adopted, the specific strategy proposal for the management of water-related centres and institutes will follow its principles. The Bureau suggested organizing a working meeting during the next IHP Intergovernmental Council with the Centres and Chairs to ensure an open dialogue about synergies with the IHP.</p> <p>The IHP Bureau also recommended that proposals for new Centres and Chairs related to water continue to be examined carefully by the IHP Bureau and the IHP Council. The Bureau invited UNESCO Governing Bodies evaluating the Centres and Chairs to evaluate only those</p>	<p>and renewal of Category 2 Institutes and Centres. The IRC will be composed of one UNESCO Staff representing each Programme Sector, (ED, SC, SHS, CLT, CI) and IOC, and one representative from each of: the Priority Africa Division; the Gender Equality Division; the Bureau of Strategic Planning (BSP); the Office of International Standards and Legal Affairs (LA); the Internal Oversight Service (IOS), and CAB. These staff shall act as focal points and representatives for their Sectors and Bureaux and are designated by their respective sector's ADG and DIR, for the duration of the C/5 biennium</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Designation process of C2Cs under the auspices of UNESCO:</b> This effort implies that all UNESCO's sectors and services are responsible, within the Intersectoral Review Committee, to ensure that proposed category 2 institute and centres will contribute to the implementation of UNESCO's priorities, programmes, and global development agendas during a defined period, through international and regional cooperation, research, knowledge production, policy advice, and capacity enhancement.</li> <li>- <b>Programmatic/Advisory role of IHP:</b> The strategy does not foresee any decisional role for Intergovernmental bodies such as IHP but provides a role for the UNESCO Secretariat and decision-making authority for the Executive Board and/or the General Conference. Proposals for the</li> </ul>
--	--	---

	<p>proposals that were cleared by the Bureau and the Council.</p> <p>In this regard, the Bureau postponed the examination of the proposal for a C2C in Roorkee, India, and recommended that it be submitted to the next IHP Bureau session.</p> <p>The Bureau highlighted that due to the technical nature of the Programme, the evaluation of the C2Cs and Chairs, as well as water related projects can only be done by the IHP Secretariat.</p>	<p>establishment and renewal of centres will thus be carefully selected by the Intersectoral Review Committee, the UNESCO Secretariat, the Executive Board and the General Conference. In this regard, the role of the Intersectoral Review Committee will be instrumental.</p> <p>The proposal for the establishment of a C2C in Roorkee, India, was never officially presented to the IRC by the Government of India through the Delegation of India to UNESCO.</p>
<p><b>Sub-item 7.2 (para. 100)</b> <b>Proposed SDG Indicator on Water Education</b></p>	<p>The IHP Bureau takes note of the work undertaken, and encourages the Secretariat to continue efforts towards the preparation of a methodology for a new indicator on water education, as a substantial contribution to the 2030 Agenda, in cooperation with the various related partners involved.</p>	<p>In close cooperation with members of the UNESCO Water Family, especially with a consortium of the UNESCO Chair on Water and Culture and the Category II Regional Centre for Groundwater Management (CeReGAS) based in Uruguay, and with the UNESCO Chair on Water Resources Management and Culture in Italy, two methodological proposals have been prepared for the new indicator to evaluate water education at the tertiary level of the formal education systems, following IHP Council Resolution XXIII-8, to be globally applied in the context of the 2030 Agenda and beyond it. Proposals for concrete definitions and the methodologic approaches have been synthesized in a 'technical document' on the new indicator, which was shared internally (IHP including Regional Hydrologists, WWAP, SC colleagues in the field, IHE Delft as well as all other water-related Category 2 Centres and Chairs, ED</p>

		Sector) and externally (UNDP Cap-Net, OECD, WHO), and enriched with the contributions of these partners. The way forward includes finalizing guidelines for data gathering and for the use of the new indicator, as well as the formal engagement of Member States and Associate Members through the Ministries of (Higher) Education and equivalents, including Least Developed Countries (LDCs) and Small Island Developing States (SIDS).
<p><b>Sub-item 8.2 (para. 107)</b>  <b>UNESCO Seal of Excellence in Urban Water Management</b></p>	<p>The Bureau decided that the Secretariat establish a working group to guide the finalization of the project concept and its pilot phase. It also recommended to propose the certification process for approval at the next session of the IGC of the IHP in 2020 and to commence discussions with other related UN agencies and organizations upon receiving the Council's approval.</p>	<p>The Secretariat facilitated the input of the Working Group and has been working closely with UN-HABITAT and their GWOPA programme, as well as WHO in developing and improving the project concept. A decision of the Council is pending to commence the pilot projects, which due to COVID-19 restrictions have not been implemented.</p>