

International Hydrological Programme

22nd session of the IHP Council
(Paris, 13 – 17 June 2016)

INSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENTS AT UNESCO

Item 4.2, 4.4, 4.5, 4.6, 4.8 and 4.9 of the provisional agenda

Summary

This document contains: (1) decisions proposed to the council and (2) a proposal submitted by the IHP Finance Committee for a draft resolution on the financing of the IHP.

Decisions proposed: The Council may wish to

- Consider and approve the proposed changes by the external auditor
- Request the Secretariat to report on the approved changes to the Chairperson of the open-ended working group
- Consider and approve the proposed changes to the IHP Statutes and Rules of Procedure and request the Resolutions Drafting Committee to prepare a resolution for its approval.
- Take note of the results of the consultation regarding the establishment of an Intergovernmental Panel on Water and to request the Secretariat to formalize its status as a Friend of the High Level Panel on Water and its Members to support this effort, and to actively participate in similar initiatives as appropriate.
- Consider the draft resolution on the financing of the International Hydrological Programme contained in Annex I.
- Take note of the report of the IHP Communication and Outreach Committee and encourage National Committees and partners to further strengthen the support of IHP for communication and outreach.

AUDIT OF THE GOVERNANCE OF IHP (Agenda item 4.2)

1. The 37th General Conference of UNESCO in November 2013 acknowledged the need to optimize the governance of intergovernmental programmes, committees and conventions and decided to carry out a critical review of governance expanded to include the whole of UNESCO, the Organization itself and all attached funds, programmes, and entities. All governing bodies, intergovernmental programmes, committees and organs established by conventions were invited to perform a self-assessment, covering the overall relevance of their work in relation to their specific terms of reference, as well as the efficiency and effectiveness of their meetings, including the impact and utility of experts' time. The UNESCO External Auditor was thus invited to facilitate the self-assessment of governing bodies, by delivering a common assessment framework covering the relevant issues.

2. In July 2014 the UNESCO External Auditor provided a self-assessment questionnaire to the Chairperson of the IHP Intergovernmental Council and requested him to complete it in consultation with other IHP Bureau members. Based on the discussions that took place during the 21st session of the Intergovernmental Council of IHP in July 2014, the Chairperson requested the IHP Secretariat to circulate the questionnaire among Member States of the IHP Intergovernmental Council to compile inputs for the discussions of the Bureau on this item. In September 2014, the Chairperson made consultations with all IHP Bureau members on the proposed reply to the UNESCO External Auditor considering the comments received from Council members. On 12 September 2014 the Chairperson submitted the IHP self-assessment questionnaire and complementary documents to the UNESCO External Auditor and these documents were facilitated to Bureau members. The Chairperson presented the principal outcomes of the IHP self-assessment at the Technical Meeting of IHP Bureau Members in Merida, Mexico, on 13 November 2014. During this meeting, the Chairperson called on Secretariat to prepare proposals to improve the functioning of the IHP Council, including revision options of IHP Statutes and Rules of Procedure of the IHP Council, for submission to the next session of the Bureau in June 2015.

3. The UNESCO External Auditor then reported on the outcomes of all governing bodies self-assessments in January 2015. The observations of the External Auditor were sent to the IHP Secretariat and the Chairperson in February 2015, who then sent their comments back to the External Auditor. The Auditor produced an interim report in April 2015 followed by the final version in September 2015. The report highlighted the need to take into account the recommendations made by the audit and past evaluation reports relating to governance, and rigorously ensure that they are pursued. It was observed that the duration of Council sessions was too short in relation with the size of the Council, with its 36 members, and that the number of Bureau members was too low, all of which had an impact on efficiency, but that the implementation working group could be valuable in ensuring inter-session work progress. It was also recommended that elected representatives of governing bodies have high-level political, scientific or technical water-related profiles. A need to circulate the documents well before (more than one calendar month) the meetings and of an induction training to all new representatives of the Council or Bureau at the start of sessions (such as that of the Resolutions' Committee on the 21st Council) to support their effective and efficient participation have been reported. The audit calls for an improvement of the information provided to Member States, particularly in terms of planning, extrabudgetary resources, the budget, evaluation, scientific context and partnerships. It is further recommended that draft resolutions are debated right after the corresponding agenda item and not at the end of the session and are posted online as soon as they are adopted. Finally, it was recommended to organize synergies during concomitant meetings of governing bodies at Headquarters or avoid that their sessions overlap.

Actions expected by the Council:

The Council may wish to consider and approve the proposed changes by the external auditor

REPORT ON THE GOVERNANCE OF UNESCO AND DEPENDENT FUNDS, PROGRAMMES AND ENTITIES, 38 C/23 (Agenda item 4.4)

4. With its 38 C/Resolution 101, the General Conference decided to establish an open-ended Working Group (WG) on governance, procedures and working methods of the governing bodies of UNESCO. The Working Group, chaired by the President of the General Conference, held its first meeting on 17 February. The WG is planning to focus in a first phase (2016) on the governance of UNESCO's two main governing bodies (EXB & GC) and then review in a second phase (2017) the governance of the other subsidiary bodies, inter-governmental/international programmes/committees and organs of UNESCO conventions in 2017. Paragraph 5 of the resolution 'Invites all intergovernmental programmes, committees and organs of the conventions to inscribe, in 2016 if feasible, an item on their agenda concerning the follow-up to the recommendations of the External Auditor's report contained in document 38 C/23, to improve their governance by concrete measures, and to report on their proposals to the Chairperson of the open-ended working group'. A report with the concrete measures taken during the 22nd Council meeting will be provided to the Chairperson

Actions expected by the Council:

The Council may wish to request the Secretariat to report on the approved changes to the Chairperson of the open-ended working group.

REPORT ON THE CONSULTATION FOR THE UPDATE OF THE IHP STATUTES AND RULES OF PROCEDURE OF THE IHP COUNCIL (Agenda item 4.5)

5. Following a request of the IHP Bureau during its 52nd session, the IHP Secretariat carried out a regional consultation process regarding the extension of the term of office of the Bureau members so as to submit a proposal to the IHP Intergovernmental Council during its 22nd session. On 14 September 2015, the IHP Secretariat sent out a questionnaire to the IHP National Committees of all six electoral groups, focusing on a proposal to amend the IHP Statutes and Rules of Procedure so that the Chairperson's and Vice-Chairpersons' terms of office are increased from the current two years into four years. The proposal sought to ensure greater continuity and efficiency of the governance of IHP, with the outgoing Chairperson of IHP still remaining for an additional term as ex-officio Bureau member.

6. The deadline to receive answers was first set to 28 September 2015, but was extended to 28 October 2015 following a request by the Representative of Electoral Group I. IHP National Committees were asked the following question: 'Do you agree that the term of office of the Chairperson and Vice-Chairpersons is increased from the current two years into four years?' They were given two possible answers: 'Yes, I agree with the increase of the term of office into four years' or 'No, the term of office should remain as two years'. In total, the IHP Secretariat received fifty-six responses. Out of the fifty-six responses received, twenty-nine responses rejected the extension of the mandate of the IHP Bureau Members (52% of all answers), and twenty-seven responses approved the extension (48% of all answers). It is important to note that the IHP Secretariat received individual country responses as well as consolidated responses from Electoral Group I (North America and

Western Europe) and Electoral Group IV (Asia and the Pacific). All responses are presented in reference document IHP/Bur-LIII/Ref2.

7. The explanation provided for the rejection of the proposal to extend the mandate of IHP Bureau members was that this would prolong the chance of a region to chair the IHP Council from every twelve years to every twenty-four years, and that the two-year term allows greater participation of Member States in the IHP process. It was also argued that an extension of the term of office for IHP Bureau members might lead to difficulties in securing the level of commitment required from Member States in order to deliver effective governance of the Programme over a four-year period, and that it is unclear how a four-year term would work in practice if elections to the Council remain biennial. Furthermore, it was explained that the Chairperson already serves for four years in the Bureau thanks to its automatic election as an ex-officio Vice-Chairperson following his or her initial two-year term.

8. Following the request of the Bureau, the Secretariat conducted internal consultations regarding proposed changes to a number of articles and paragraphs of the IHP Statutes, as these are presented in reference document IHP/Bur-LIII/Ref. 1 with modifications marked in bold for ease of identification, deletions presented with strikethrough and inclusions underlined.

9. Furthermore, and following up to the request of the 53rd Bureau session the Secretariat distributed for information among IHP council Members three scenarios to ensure regional representation continuity via the use of alternates reference documents IHP/IC-XXII/Ref.3 and IHP/IC-XXII/Ref.4.

Actions expected by the Council:

The Council may wish to consider and approve the proposed changes to the IHP Statutes and Rules of Procedure and request the Resolutions Drafting Committee to prepare a resolution for its approval.

REPORT ON THE CONSULTATION REGARDING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AN INTERGOVERNMENTAL PANEL ON WATER (Agenda item 4.6)

10. Following the decisions taken during the 52nd session (Paris, 1 to 2 June 2015) of the IHP Bureau on item 5.6 of the agenda 'Proposed IHP Panel for Water Future and Sustainability', the IHP Secretariat held a consultation among IHP National Committees and Focal Points in different regions on the establishment of an Intergovernmental Panel on Water.

11. The consultation procedure, as agreed by IHP Bureau members, was conducted electronically. Answers to the following two questions were required: (i) do you agree with the establishment of the Intergovernmental Panel on Water? and (ii) if the panel is established, shall it be created as a subsidiary body of the IHP Council?

12. The IHP Secretariat sent a first electronic message to the IHP National Committees and Focal Points inviting them to answer these questions by 28 September 2015. Subsequently, in response to a request made by the Representative of Regional Group I, the deadline for reply was extended to 28 October 2015.

13. A total of 56 country individual responses were received. Thirty-three responses (59% of the responses received) were in favor of the creation of the Panel whereas twenty-three responses (41% of received responses) opposed it. Detailed information on the responses is available in reference document IHP/ Bur-LIII/Ref.3

14. The vast majority, 84% of the positive responses received in favor of the creation of the Panel, call for the establishment of the Panel within IHP.

15. The IHP Secretariat received additionally consolidated answers from Regional Groups I and IV, who opposed to the establishment of the Panel (see reference document [IHP/Bur-LIII/Ref.3](#)). The collective sum of the individual responses of countries per region for regions II, III, Va and Vb resulted in a positive answer to the creation of the Panel. This indicates that the majority of the Member States were in favor of establishing the Panel, as four regions were positive to the proposal, whereas two were negative. However, as the results were close, it is recommended that the item is further discussed during the 22nd session of the IHP Intergovernmental Council.

16. A High Level Panel on Water (HLPW) was launched at the World Economic Forum in Davos last January, aiming to mobilize effective action to accelerate the implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 6 (SDG6). The United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon and World Bank Group President Jim Yong Kim announced the appointment of 10 Heads of State and Government, as well as two Special Advisors, to the HLPW. It was decided at the 53rd session of the IHP Bureau, that the Secretariat communicates with the HLPW Secretariat to become a Friend of the Panel. The panel will provide the leadership required to tackle these challenges and champion a comprehensive, inclusive and collaborative way of developing and managing water resources, and providing improved access to clean water and sanitation. Subsequently, the Secretariat participated as a Friend of the Panel at the second Sherpas / Advisers meeting in Rotterdam on 22-23 May 2016 and has volunteered to contribute to a Framing Note on the topic of Water Quality, Sanitation and Health to help inform their deliberations.

Actions expected by the Council:

Take note of the results of the consultation regarding the establishment of an Intergovernmental Panel on Water and to request the Secretariat to formalize its status as a Friend of the High Level Panel on Water and its Members to support this effort, and to actively participate in similar initiatives as appropriate.

REPORT OF THE IHP FINANCE COMMITTEE (Agenda item 4.8)

17. This report presents the financial situation in a simple and holistic format to give the Council a complete overview for better informed decision-making. It is to be noted that the 53rd Bureau found this overview very useful.

Financial overview

18. Last November (2015) the General Conference approved the Programme and Budget for UNESCO for 2016-2017 (38 C/5) for a total amount of USD 667 million. Due to expected nonpayment of some contributions the total available budget (called 'Expenditure Plan') will be USD 518 million. This amount was allocated to UNESCO's programmes during a prioritization exercise. The budget for IHP was increased from USD 12,9 million (2014-2015) to USD 13,9 million (2016-2017). The break-down by theme is presented in the Table 1 below both for 2014-2015 (without brackets) and for 2016-2017 (between brackets).

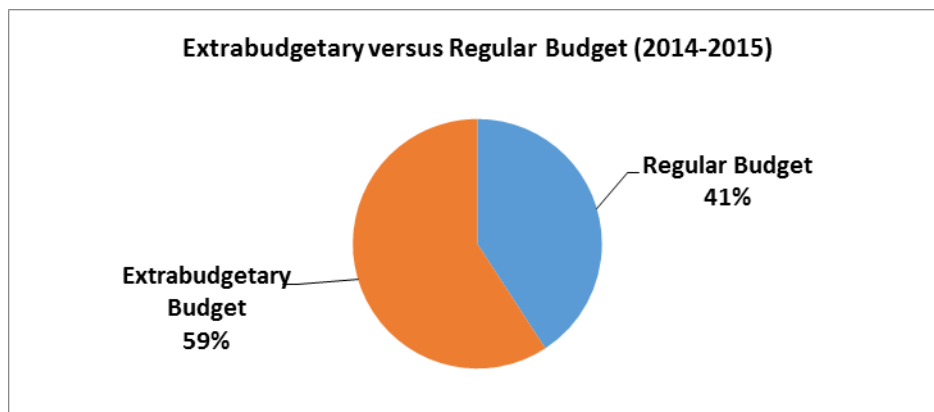
Table 1: Comparison between budget allocation in 2014-2015 and 2016-2017

BUDGET 2014-2015 (2016-2017)					
REGULAR BUDGET				EXTRABUDGETARY	
MLA 6: Strengthen Water Security	12,9 M (13,9 M)			18,7 M (11,8 M)	
		Activities	Staff		
ER10 : Responses to water challenges	9,7 M	2,4 M (2,7 M)			
		284	(378)	662	(3,8 M)
1 Water Disasters		466	(499)	9,3 M	(2,7 M)
2 Groundwater		575	(597)	657	(323)
3 Water scarcity/quality		304	(226)	872	(464)
4 Settlements		344	(416)	678	(478)
5 Ecohydrology		439	(585)	2,9 M	(2 M)
6 Water education					
ER11: Institutional water capacity	3,2 M	1,1 M (1,3 M)		2,1 M	
		917	(1,1M)	193	(12)
1 Governance		45	(243)	4	(0)
2 Institutional capacities		40	(0)	3,4 M	(2 M)
3 WWAP/WWDR					

19. The left side of Table 1 represents UNESCO's 'Regular Budget', meaning the funding coming from mandatory contributions paid by Member States. The shaded part is the part of this Regular Budget that is allocated to IHP by the General Conference, the 'big envelopes' so to speak. The white part shows how these big envelopes are divided into smaller envelopes that go to the actual IHP themes. This lower level allocation is decided by the Secretariat. The 53rd Bureau considered this allocation method appropriate: the Council only gives guidance regarding IHP priorities and themes, while the allocation of funds to these themes is the task of the Secretariat.

20. The right side of Table 1 represents UNESCO's 'Extrabudgetary Budget'. It is composed of voluntary contributions by Member States on top of their mandatory contributions and of contributions by other donors (EU, UN agencies, GEF, etc.). There is currently no strategic discussion in UNESCO about how to allocate and raise these voluntary funds. Still this 'voluntary part' of IHP deserves strategic discussion because it represents the biggest share of IHP's activities and impact (59%) as is shown in the following graph:

Graph 1: how IHP's activities are financed from UNESCO's Regular Budget (mandatory contributions) and from Extrabudgetary resources.



21. This strategic discussion about financing will be organized as UNESCO just started the implementation of so-called Strategic Financing Dialogues (199 EX/5 Part II, F)¹. These are dialogues between Member States about the complete picture of what UNESCO's programmes want to achieve, by what activities, how much these activities cost and where the necessary funding will be found (either in Regular Budget or in Extrabudgetary resources). Even though it is not realistic to expect that all donors will immediately adapt their funding allocation exactly to the new funding targets set collectively by Member States. But IHP can evolve in such direction: a strategic debate about the full picture of IHP's ambitions will help donors to better inform their decisions to donate to specific themes/programmes. It may influence their decisions in the interest of a more strategic IHP programme implementation.

22. To prepare for this strategic discussion about financing, the Draft Resolution contained in Annex I proposes that from now on the IHP Council agenda will contain a document presenting a complete budgetary overview as in Table 1. This overview shows the total allocation for each theme (Regular Budget and Extrabudgetary resources) including an analysis of needs, meaning underfunded themes and activities. This way no IHP theme or activity will be left behind. This comprehensive overview should enable the IHP Council and the Implementation Working Group to ensure that the planned IHP activities can be implemented financially. For information: these activities are planned in the 'IHP Implementation Matrix' in Annex IV in document IHP/Nairobi Meeting/2013/Final Report.²

Fundraising

23. UNESCO's Programme Implementation Report as discussed by the 199th Executive Board indicated that fundraising is insufficient (199 EX/4 Part I (A), p. 36)³. More specifically, it shows that for most of IHP's activities (under Expected Result 10 'Strengthen Water Security') Africa received the least extrabudgetary funding before Europe (p. 56). This is a concern, because Africa is a global priority for UNESCO and should therefore receive the most extrabudgetary funding.

¹ The Executive Board document on the introduction of Strategic Financing Dialogues: <http://unesdoc.unesco.org/ulis/cgi-bin/ExtractPDF.pl?catno=243925&lang=e&from=76&to=168&display=2>

² The IHP Implementation Matrix (Annex IV): <http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0022/002259/225993e.pdf>

³ The Programme Implementation Report: <http://unesdoc.unesco.org/ulis/cgi-bin/ExtractPDF.pl?catno=243991&lang=e&from=1&to=128&display=2>

24. The Secretariat indicated that it already uses a consultant for fundraising, but only in the specific context of GEF projects. This comprised groundwater projects originally but it has now been extended to include climate change impacts, ecohydrology and urban water proposals for projects. As UNESCO is currently developing a shared fundraising strategy for the whole Science Sector, IHP could benefit from new fundraising capacity in this context. These future fundraising efforts require two things: (i) better visibility for IHP (see report Communication and Outreach Committee) and (ii) a 'catalogue' of IHP's successful flagship projects (FRIEND, GRAPHIC, etc.) as a fundraising tool for approaching donors. This tool could look like this:

Table 2: Fundraising catalogue of IHP Flagship programmes

IHP's Flagship programmes	Key outputs	Regular Budget	Voluntary contributions
FRIEND			
JIHP			
HELP			
GRAPHIC			
Others			

25. In light of these findings, the 53rd Bureau requested the Secretariat to provide to the 22nd Council for discussion an item regarding fundraising. This item will update the Council on new additional fundraising efforts. It will also propose ways to involve Member States more in these efforts, inter alia by presenting to them the fundraising tool as proposed in Table 2 and by showing them how it will be used.

Actions expected by the Council:

The Council may wish to consider the draft resolution contained in Annex I.

REPORT OF THE IHP COMMUNICATION AND OUTREACH COMMITTEE (Agenda item 4.9)

26. The Secretariat further enhanced the communication activities of IHP; the “water website” was core-maintained online and IHP substantially updated the websites on Water Security, available in English (<http://en.unesco.org/themes/water-security>) and French (fr.unesco.org/themes/secureite-appvisionnement-eau) and finalized website material in Spanish, which was submitted for online publication to ERI, to pioneer a new house-wide approved Spanish web template of the Drupal platform. Information from older web platforms are being migrated or archived. The new Water Security website established thematic entry points based on the six IHP VIII areas and the Secretariat regularly updates them.

27. IHP implemented an action-oriented communication plan for the 50th anniversary of the UNESCO Water Programmes, International Hydrological Decade and IHP, supported by dedicated temporary staff, including a junior communication specialist on a full-time basis. The reinforced team informed Member States through frequent e-mails and news items about ongoing programme activities and events, including the 50 Years celebration. Dedicated webpages in English, French and Spanish were cited as example for good practice by UNESCO's communication services.

28. IHP issued 32 news items reporting on activities/projects, events and publications and made them available online, such as information on the 50 Years celebration and the Water and Megacities conference and events as part of COP21. IHP has been featured on social media through the general accounts of UNESCO on Facebook (3 posts) and Twitter (15 tweets). Many IHP events have also been featured on Flickr through dedicated photo albums as part of the UNESCO Natural Sciences account (<https://www.flickr.com/photos/127450990@N05/albums>).

29. The 52nd IHP Bureau concluded that informative e-mail messages should be sent to the IHP National Committees. Regular notes were thus sent to the Committees and the UNESCO Water Family to inform them on activities and events of the Programme, inviting them to attend and contribute on key issues related to IHP and its further development.

30. In 2014-2015, 23 publications were uploaded online as well as 7 videos. 88 web news items were also produced and released. A dedicated Twitter account managed by the Secretary of IHP has 130 tweets and 96 followers. In October- November 2015, the general freshwater website received 15792 visits with 39891 page views. The IHP website received 2484 visits with 9187 page views.

31. Challenges and lessons learnt included: Lack and movement of staff, caused delays in implementing the draft Communication and Outreach Strategy and in establishing a regular informative e-mail circular to IHP Council members; close collaboration with the Natural Science Sector's communication team helped establish solutions and substantial enhancements of IHP's communication and outreach activities.

32. Cost effectiveness measures included the use of temporary staff to respond to the need for communication personnel. Close collaboration with partners and other UNESCO Water Family Members allowed for increased communication output and multiplier effects.

33. The recruitment of a communication officer at a P2 level is ongoing.

Actions expected by the Council:

To take note of the report of the IHP Communication and Outreach Committee and encourage National Committees and partners to further strengthen the support of IHP for communication and outreach.

ANNEX I
DRAFT RESOLUTION ON THE FINANCING OF THE
INTERNATIONAL HYDROLOGICAL PROGRAMME

The Intergovernmental Council of the International Hydrological Programme of UNESCO,

- Having examined** the Report of the Finance Committee in document IHP/IC-XXII/6
- Acknowledging** that the 199th Executive Board session decided to implement Strategic Financing Dialogues in UNESCO to facilitate the governing bodies' strategic guidance by providing a complete overview of how all programme activities shall be financed both from Regular Budget and Extrabudgetary resources
- Mindful** of its responsibility to guide and oversee the implementation of IHP's VIII strategy and the planning of activities and that financial information is crucial for this
- Noting** that IHP's activities are planned in the IHP Implementation Matrix contained in document IHP/Nairobi Meeting/2013/Final Report and that visibility of this planning and monitoring instrument for Member States is important for their ownership of the programme
- Adopts** the IHP Implementation Matrix
- Requests** the Secretariat to provide to the future IHP Council meetings:
- (i) an updated version of the IHP Implementation Matrix
 - (ii) a comprehensive financing plan showing how the updated IHP Implementation Matrix is financed
 - (iii) a comprehensive overview as in Table 1 of document [Ref. of Report Chair FinCom] of how IHP's themes are financed both from Regular Budget and from Extrabudgetary resources including an analysis of the financial needs (underfunded themes)
 - (iv) a fundraising proposal to accommodate those needs