

Key Recommendations
Technical Meeting of the Members of the IHP Bureau
UNESCO, HQ Room XVI (Miollis)
Paris 16-17 January

The Technical Meeting of the members of the Bureau decided on the method of work to be followed for this session. The decision called only for a few recommendations to be captured and to be followed by the Secretariat (no decisions).

Following up to the aforementioned decision, the Bureau identified the following key recommendations concerning the agenda items of discussed.

Item 3. Strategic Planning of the ninth phase of IHP (IHP-IX, 2022-2029)

3.1 Presentation of the Zero-order Draft Scoping of the IHP-IX strategy

- 1. The Bureau recommended the IHP-IX Task Force to continue its deliberations in the direction specified in the report and to concentrate on minimizing the number of issues addressed while maximizing the number of countries that are interested.**
- 2. The Bureau took note of the timetable for the adoption of the IHP-IX strategy and expressed its satisfaction with the process undertaken so far.**

Item 4. Institutional Developments at UNESCO

4.1 Update on the process towards the approval of the Statutes of the IHP intergovernmental Council

- 3. Taking note of the process for the adaptation of the statutes, the Bureau recommended that the secretariat moves forward with the process of approving the proposed changes to the statutes at the upcoming 40th Session of the General Conference of UNESCO**

4.2 Improving IHP governance beyond the recommendations of the Open-ended Working Group

- 4. The bureau recommended that the secretariat carries out a study on the mandate and function of the IHP National Committees in an effort to create mechanisms through which they can be further engaged and to widen the responsibilities of these entities.**

- 5. The chairperson proposed to Members of the Bureau to provide their input / ideas in writing before 27 March and the meeting of the Governance Group**

4.6 UNESCO at the World Water Council

- 6. The Bureau acknowledges and supports the role of IHP in the preparation of the 9th World Water Forum to be held in Senegal in 2021 in view of the fact that Africa is a priority for UNESCO, and that it will be the first Forum held in Sub Saharan Africa**

4.4. UNESCO International Water Conference

The Bureau expressed its support for the Conference highlighting the unique role of UNESCO in the water arena requesting tangible outcomes of the Conference and suggested that its outcomes be linked to the Budapest Water Conference (devoted to how the global water crisis may be averted) and future water meeting taking place in Bangalore. It further suggested that efforts will focus in ensuring high level participation at Head of State / Government at the Conference.

4.3. Information session (20 September 2018)

The Bureau took note of the information provided by the Secretariat

4.5 Proposal of the International Center for Interdisciplinary Research on Water Systems Dynamics (France)

The Bureau supports the validation of the proposal of the International Center for Interdisciplinary Research on Water Systems Dynamics (France), highlighting the strength of the proposal and the strategic value of the proposed Centre, in particular vis-à-vis sub-Saharan Africa. It was also recommended that the deadline for validation should be extended, initially until the end of January 2019.

5.1 Mid term evaluation of the eighth phase of IHP (IHP-VIII)

The Bureau noted the presentation of the preliminary results expressing its satisfaction with the overall positive outlook of the programme

5.3 Comprehensive World Water Development Report

The Bureau instructed the IHP Secretariat to continue supporting WWAP in the development of the concept note of the report and subsequently identify within and out of the UN system entities that could contribute to it, in addition to MS.

The Bureau also suggested that the Water Sciences Division consults with UN-Water for the preparation of a comprehensive report on water in 2023. Given the importance of such report, the Bureau highlighted that in case the necessary support is not received by UN-Water, UNESCO should mobilize its network aiming at preparing the report as part of its mandate.

5.2 Report on the evaluation of IHP initiatives

The Bureau took note of the report on the evaluation of the IHP Flagship Initiatives and supported the general recommendations provided in it. The Bureau requested the Secretariat to establish a Task Force aimed at operationalizing the general recommendations provided in the report and to develop standardized guidelines on the establishment, operation and termination of flagship initiatives. The result of the work of the Task Force should be presented at the 58th Bureau session in September 2019 for further consideration at the 24th session of the IHP Council.

5.4 Visibility, communication and Outreach of IHP

and

5.5. Water Museums Network

The Bureau noted the presentation of the Secretariat and welcomes the efforts of the Water Museums Network and its potential to contribute to IHP

Recommends that IHP is part of the Board of the Network

6.3 9th WWF

The Bureau requested the Secretariat to further support the overall organization of the Forum and to specifically respond to the request made by Senegal in document “Dakar 2021 and the expectations of Senegal vis-à-vis UNESCO” to the extent possible, within the available expertise and resources.

The Bureau further instructed the Secretariat to identify mechanisms to increase the visibility of the Forum within UNESCO, its Water Family and partners.

6.1 WMO reform

The Bureau expressed their concern in the latest developments within the WMO reform and recommended that the Secretariat prepare a briefing to inform the DG to this extent. The Bureau further suggested that the briefing should include a suggestion for a senior official to express their concerns to the Executive Secretary of WMO.

The Bureau further requested the Secretariat to raise the awareness of MS for the WMO reform process

A meeting of the WMO Advisory Working Group and IHP Bureau could be further explored to investigate the technical way of cooperation between the two agencies.

6.2 Proposed water related UN High-Level Events and UN-Water evaluation

The Bureau took note of the report presented by the Secretariat

7. Any other business

7.1 Project of proposal of C2C on Ecological Water Management in Australia

The Bureau took note of the project proposal and supported the continuation of the process towards a formal submission, to be discussed at the next session of the Bureau and later at the next session of the IHP Council.

7.2 Water education SDG indicator:

The Bureau encourages the secretariat to continue its work in the presented direction