Dear Mr. Amani,

Germany would like to thank you for sharing the 2nd order draft of the IHP IX strategy with Member States.

Unfortunately, the time provided to Member States to comment on the draft is too short to organize the necessary in-depth government-wide discussions (including relevant academia) that this important strategy deserves. It does seem disproportionately short in comparison to overall coordination efforts usually deployed in the preparation of strategic documents at UNESCO, specifically within the preparation of the C4.

Furthermore, the strategy is still very vague with regard to the activities it will entail in order to achieve its objectives. Given these constraints, we are unfortunately not able to agree with the document in its current version.

We would also like to emphasize the need to consult the other UN organisations, programmes and funds active in the water sector – via UN-Water – before deciding on the strategy in order to ensure the coherence and synergies between the collective efforts of the UN system to deliver on the 2030 Agenda.

Germany is a most committed supporter of the IHP and we recommend to extend and enlarge the consultation process of this crucial document in order to ensure that Member States will benefit from the IHP’s full potential in its upcoming phase.

We therefore humbly suggest not to submit the text to the upcoming Council for decision, but rather to establish a new calendar for the enrichment of this important document.

In addition to these remarks, please find attached further comments that we developed jointly with our French colleagues.

With kind regards
Katharina Bonnenfant