

**De :** Fadi Comair

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**Objet :** IHP-UNESCO- Strategy-IX Third Draft

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Dear colleagues Vice Chairs,

Dear Dr Shamila Nair Bedouelle ADG for Natural Science at UNESCO

Dear M. Abou Amani Water Director

Dear IHP Secretariat

Please find herewith the comments of the Lebanese delegation on strategy IX, 3rd draft.

1. We would first like to express our appreciation for this holistic approach to the water security problems, in the five priorities that IHP-UNESCO has identified, and the quality of the strategy IX third draft document.

2. At present, faced with the scarcity of quality resources and the pressures induced by the global change, the disruption of the climate, the water security and demand management situation is becoming very worrying. As such, we acknowledge that the material presented in this 9th strategy covers all the themes to be explored to contribute and meet the objectives leading towards:

- The resource management based on IWRM with an emphasis on Basin management.
- The water resource conservation.
- The thoughtful and sustainable development of this essential and vital resource on both the governance and technical tracks.

3. Research is also essential, and it has to be evidence-based and based on coherence and reliable information and databases. Thus, it is essential to apply the long data time series to ensure the proper implementation of the hydrological models for design purposes.

4. In many countries, currently, these data have gaps that need to be filled most rationally and accurately. The technical, administrative, and legal harmonization at each country level seems to be one of the cornerstones for obtaining the expected results and facilitating exchanges and feedback.

5. Strategy -IX discusses this subject. Accordingly, the success of this ambitious program requires the implementation of the water education components that target both the future generations and the professionals responsible for managing this vital sector.

6. In many countries, there is a shortage of qualified and responsible people to ensure sustainable implementation of our IHP UNESCO strategy IX.

7. Therefore, it would be relevant to develop a basic training program and create an on-site platform of IX strategy for learning. The website can also be utilized for discussing other topics such as coping with extreme situations (floods, glaciers melts, dryness, covid, etc.) and continuing with the Ecomed platform as a Mediterranean initiative launched by Lebanon at UNESCO in 2015.

8. Lebanon is very keen and sensitive to developing this subject, especially that it could enhance a sustainable long-term program for conventional and non-conventional water and the launching of the strategy.

9. This work could also be supported because of an overcoming weakness on the lack of links between data, information, and knowledge of the problem, which required a good understanding of the subject and applying the methods of approach likely to support the water resources security and management properly.

10. Participatory management brings the contribution of decision-makers and citizens in search of the best ideas and solutions to face the great threat of climate change and global changes hanging over our planet.

11. Finally, integrated management is a recurring concern for which you have deployed great efforts and remains essential for the sustainable management of the resource at Basin level with the Nexus approach based on Water Energy and Food related to SDG's 2,6 and 7.

12. Lebanon hopes that the effective implementation of this great project will be crowned with success.

Best Regards

Fadi Georges Comair

Head of Lebanon IHP-UNESCO National Committee