

# **Praia Statement**

## **The 7<sup>th</sup> IHP Africa Regional Steering Committee Meeting**

### **BAI Center, Praia, Cabo Verde**

### **1-3 October 2019**

In Praia, 60 (30 Cabo Verde and 30 International) representatives of the International Hydrological Programme (IHP) National Committees, focal points and observers from Sub-Saharan African Countries as well as various experts from the Government of Cabo Verde and representatives of UNESCO Offices (Dakar, Nairobi, IHP Secretariat, and Bamako) met, discussed on IHP activities under 2017-2019, proposals and priorities for 2020-2021 and proposed IHP IX themes. The country representatives presented country reports. The Honorable Minister for Agriculture and Environment, Mr. Gilberto Silva launched two smartphone applications (Know Water and Rainwater Harvesting for Africa) developed by UNESCO Secretariat. Discussions were held on IHP Phase IX and demonstration of the Water Information Network System (WINS) of the IHP and changes in the constitutions etc.

Resulting from an intensive and interactive process, the participants:

**Extended** special thanks and appreciation to the host of the meeting, the Government and people of Cabo Verde; they also extended their appreciation to the Ministry of Agriculture and Environment of Cabo Verde for its logistical support in hosting the meeting.

**Underlined** the urgent need for knowledge exchange and transfer of information as well as the sharing of experiences on Water Resources Management among member countries through their National Committees, relevant national partners, and water resource managers through exchange of experiences;

**Supported** the idea of:

- establishing National IHP Committees in countries where they do not exist;
- each National IHP Committee developing their own operating strategies outlining visions, objectives, institutional representation, partnership, resource mobilization strategies, definition of programmatic areas in relation to national and regional priorities, communication and
- visibility, knowledge and information sharing etc.;
- each National IHP Committee improving linkage with National Commissions for UNESCO (NATCOM) through clear Memorandum of Understanding;
- improving South-south cooperation and developing joint projects;
- develop a platform for knowledge sharing and learning; and
- each National IHP Committee improving communication and visibility of their activities through the development of communication tools/platforms. E.g. brochures/newsletters, dedicated websites if possible, social media page (Facebook, Twitter, WhatsApp); policy briefs, working papers, Info Notes, blogs etc.

**Called** upon the IHP Secretariat to enhance its technical support to the member states in establishing IHP National Committees and step up efforts to ensure periodic monitoring and evaluation;

**Called** upon the IHP National Committees and Secretariat to further strengthen its partnership with other related bilateral and multilateral organizations and institutions in the fields of water resources management and sustainable development in order to explore the possibility of regional projects and technical cooperation;

**Called** upon governments of member states to support their IHP National Committees and adequately fund them to meet international obligations.

**Called** upon the IHP Secretariat, Paris to mobilize additional funding for capacity building workshops, network meetings and other activities of IHP from all member countries, private sector and development partners;

**Committed** Member States to develop and enhance sub-regional transboundary cooperation among each other on surface and ground water management;

**Agreed** to encourage greater participation of water resource managers and gender and youth mainstreaming in IHP National Committee meetings;

**Venue** of 8<sup>th</sup> IHP Africa Steering Committee meeting:

- It was decided that the next IHP Africa Steering Committee meeting will be held in Dakar during 2021 along with the World Water Forum.

There has been a request from the members to IHP Secretariat to update regularly a list of events related to water resources management and other main priorities of IHP and circulate to all members and experts in Africa on regular basis.

All the IHP National Committees are requested to provide the details of their activities to Regional Offices and IHP Secretariat in order to share with all other IHP National Committees.

Thursday, 3 October 2019