



IHP/Tech-meeting/Report/2019/1
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International Hydrological Programme (IHP)

Technical Meeting of the members of the Bureau of IHP

(Paris, France, 16-17 January 2019)

FINAL REPORT

1. Opening of the meeting

1. The Chairperson of the Council of International Hydrological Programme (IHP), Mr Baba Ly, welcomed the members of the Bureau, Mr Alan Jenkins (Group I - Western Europe and North America), Mr András Szöllösi-Nagy (Group II - Eastern and Central Europe), Mr Carlos Alberto Luaces Socarrás (Group III — Latin America and the Caribbean), Mr Farhad Yazdandoost (Group IV - Asia and the Pacific), Mr Mahmoud Abu-Zeid (Group Vb - Arab States). He welcomed the observers and representatives of the Permanent Delegations present in the room. He also congratulated Maria Donoso on her appointment as Secretary a.i. of IHP.

2. The Chairperson underlined the importance of 2019 for IHP because it will involve the preparation of the Ninth Phase of the Programme and the organization of the UNESCO International Water Conference.

2. Adoption of the agenda and of the method of work

3. The Chairperson presented the agenda and explained that there will be no voting and that the Bureau will be only giving orientations to the Secretariat. The Members of the Bureau adopted the agenda and method of work.

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

4. The IHP Secretary welcomed the Members of the Bureau, as well as all Observers and Permanent Delegations present and the Secretariat introduced the item. The Members of the IHP-IX Task Force introduced themselves to the Bureau.

5. Ms Agatha Tommasi (Task Force member for Group IV - Brazil) and Mr Mark Honti (Task Force member for Group II - Hungary) presented the main results of the Task Force's discussions. They highlighted the methodology used and presented the three main categories of the elements that the Task Force and the Experts of Member States (EoMS) had identified: 1) addressing the

data and information gap in water resources; 2) dealing with the consequences of decisions and uncertainty in a dynamic reality, and 3) addressing sustainable water management in a dynamic framework. They conveyed that the EoMS highlighted the role of big data, adaptation to climate change and climatic variability, river deltas and wetlands, the role of ecosystem services, human induced modification of microclimate, megacities, and water quality as important elements to be considered in the IHP-IX strategy, as well as the request of Member States to align the IHP-IX strategy with the 2030 Agenda.

6. Among the key elements for IHP-IX in the outline of the zero-order draft strategy, the Task Force members reported the water-energy-food nexus, and other nexus elements; non-conventional water resources (including wastewater reuse); affordable technologies and multi-disciplinary water resources management; water education (both formal and informal); ecohydrology; stakeholder involvement; water governance as a social sciences approach, as well as its integrating in water resources management activities. Furthermore, they highlighted transboundary water issues, notably the need for cooperation frameworks and transboundary groundwater management; blue and circular economy, hydrology for large river basins, regional water budgets and water resources gaps as topics to be considered within IHP-IX.

3.2. Discussion

7. The Secretariat presented the timetable for the adoption of the IHP-IX strategy.

8. The Vice-Chairperson of Group II recommended that the Secretariat consider two important elements; the need for renewal of the Programme and the need to position the Programme as a laboratory of ideas, taking into consideration the fact that there is increasing competition within the UN System. He pointed out that IHP should focus on its comparative advantage, i.e. water sciences and also noted the importance of dealing with uncertainties and the role of social sciences in water governance. Highlighting the need for IHP to re-establish the role of experimental hydrology, he further noted the increasingly relevant role of pattern recognition and artificial intelligence, and suggested that an international research programme in this area be created. He underlined the role and importance of trans-disciplinarily in water education.

9. The Vice-Chairperson of Group I congratulated the members of the working group for identifying three priority areas and agreed on the need for the Programme to re-position itself as a laboratory of ideas. He recommended that the Programme should focus on water education and sciences, and suggested that water education be mainstreamed across all three of the identified priority areas. He concurred on the need and importance of data to inform policy, on the increasing relevance of artificial intelligence, and on the need to strengthen the science-policy nexus. He also noted that flagship initiatives of the Programme should be considered as cross-cutting elements in the upcoming phase.

10. The Vice-Chairperson of Group IV highlighted the emerging relevance of anthropogenic impacts on water resources, the importance of strengthening water education, the role of science as a paramount element of the Programme, and the need to develop toolkits for the sustainable development and management of water resources. He also stressed the importance of involving IHP National Committees in the process.

11. The Vice-Chairperson of Group III highlighted the need to address emerging challenges, including the communication needs of the programme.

12. The Vice-Chairperson of Group Vb noted the need to cooperate with other institutions such as the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and agreed with the priority given to data. He suggested that the Members of the Bureau consider the social aspects of water. He also noted the need to consider the role of stakeholders in data management, and stressed the importance of water education for youth, women, and other key stakeholder groups including water technicians.

13. The Vice-Chairperson of Group II noted that the consultation process with Member States on the definition of IHP-IX should strive to identify the minimum number of issues shared by the maximum number of Member States. He then recommended that, given the financial situation of the organization, the Secretariat should explore how to increase the interconnectedness between the Category 2 Centres under the auspices of UNESCO (C2C), and recommended the development of a master plan for the centres. He then noted the critical importance of the functioning of the IHP National Committees, suggesting that the mandate of the Committees should be modified so that they may act as governmental advisory bodies to governments on

water, and more effectively liaise with UNESCO. He underlined the importance and role of anthropogenic change, and that of effective communication.

14. The Chairperson noted the importance of the involvement of the national committees and emerging stakeholders as well as providing tools for decision makers to support them in eradicating poverty. He highlighted that IHP-IX has to build on what has been done in its previous phase. He also pointed out the importance of looking at the interrelation between water and nature. He noted the importance of emerging challenges and the need for the next phase of the Programme to position itself strongly in this area. He pointed out the role of the water, food, energy nexus in achieving water security and employment and the importance of considering culture in doing so, highlighting the role the Water Museums Network Initiative could play. The representative of the Permanent Delegation of Turkey to UNESCO noted that efforts should be made to ensure that UNESCO stays relevant in answering the needs for achieving Agenda 2030, and in particular SDG6.

15. The representative of the Permanent Delegation of Ghana to UNESCO congratulated the Secretariat for its work, and proposed that the Programme strive to not limit itself to its scientific nature, but rather aim to be more applicable and present at the community and grass-roots levels. In this context, she noted the potential role of National IHP Committees in addressing gaps at the community level.

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.

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.

4. Institutional developments at UNESCO

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

16. The Secretariat summarized the process and timeline regarding the review of the statutes of the Intergovernmental Council of IHP.

17. The Chairperson mentioned that the changes to the statutes, allowed for gender mainstreaming, incorporated input made by the Central Services. He also noted that the changes concerning the role of the Bureau members and the timing of the elections. The Secretariat suggested that the Members of the Bureau may wish to express their preference regarding elections of the Bureau members. The Secretariat also noted additional proposed changes, concerning the distribution of documents and the necessary quorum for meetings. The Secretariat underlined that the main suggested changes to the statutes concern the name of the Programme, the composition of the Council, and the timing of elections.

18. The Secretary of IHP noted that three versions of the statutes will be made available to Member States: 1) the document brought to the Council for discussion, 2) the document with track-changes including all comments made at the Council and by the Central Services, and 3) the final clean version where all changes will be easily visible.

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

19. The Vice-Chairperson of Group II provided feedback received from academic and political communities regarding the name of the Programme (Intergovernmental Hydrological Programme), which predominantly welcomed the new name. He further suggested that the

members of the Bureau consider the possibility of holding consultations of the Bureau electronically. Concerning the electoral process, he highlighted the importance of the post of Chairperson to rotate among regions. He continued highlighting the importance of strengthening the mandate of the National Committees. He suggested that a study, similar to what was prepared for the renaming of the Programme, be also conducted on the National Committees.

20. The representative of the Republic of Turkey mentioned that the election of the Bureau will be made by the Council, as always. Time wise, UNESCO has to decide not only for IHP but for every other of its International and Intergovernmental Programmes, on when the elections will be made: during the General Conference or just immediately after that.

21. The Chairperson agreed with the proposal of Vice-Chairperson of Group II to explore the possibility of having meetings electronically. Following a question posed by the Vice-Chairperson of Group Vb, the Secretary of IHP clarified that the Council will have six Members (with four Vice-Presidents instead of five). The composition of the Bureau will include a Chairperson, a Rapporteur, and four Vice-Chairpersons.

The Bureau recommended that the Secretariat carry 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.

The Chairperson proposed to Members of the Bureau to provide their input / ideas in writing before 27 March 2019 and the meeting of the Governance Group.

4.3. Information session (20 September 2018)

22. The Secretariat informed the members of the Bureau of the proceedings and main outcomes from the information meeting that took place on 20 September 2018.

23. The representative of the Delegation of Turkey to UNESCO inquired about the participation of Member States in UN-Water meetings. She noted UNESCO's role as co-custodian vis-a-vis SDG indicator 6.5.2. She brought to the attention of the members of the Bureau that as a follow up to Resolution XXII-7 of the IHP Council (2016) and the 56th session of the Bureau

(2018), which requested the organization of a regional and thematic workshop about the SDG indicator 6.5.2, Turkey will host and provide financial support to UNESCO IHP for the organization of a workshop in Istanbul, in February 2019. The Secretariat thanked the Government of Turkey for providing their support for the organization of the workshop in Istanbul, as well as for providing funding for the organization of a global meeting on SDG 6.5.2 that will be organized at the beginning of 2020.

The Bureau took note of the information provided by the Secretariat.

4.4 International Water Conference

24. The Secretariat informed the members of the Bureau about the preparation for the UNESCO International Water Conference to be held in May 2019. A draft Agenda and a concept note were shared with the members of the Bureau. The Secretariat highlighted that the main goal of the Conference is to facilitate an intersectoral approach for achieving water security and peace, reviewed the structure of the proposed Agenda and provided an update on the logistics of the event. The Secretary of IHP noted that the Conference will be the first conference that facilitates the participation from all UNESCO Sectors. She also noted that the Conference is strengthened by a full-fledged financial and fund-raising strategy and announced that agreements are under negotiation with two very strong potential sponsors. The Secretary of IHP called upon Member States to provide financial support for the organization of the conference and ensure the participation of all stakeholder groups in the conference. She also noted that a competitive approach has been put in place to encourage country engagement and participation.

25. The Vice-Chairperson of Group I expressed his support for the Conference and asked about the nature of the tangible outcomes of the Conference. The Secretary of IHP emphasized the concept of intersectorality as a valuable contribution to science and to the Conference outcomes. She also highlighted the call for action that will emerge from the Conference, as well as the value of the Conference internally at UNESCO.

26. The Vice-Chairperson of Group II welcomed the initiative and suggested that its outcomes be linked to the Budapest Water Conference and to the Water Future Conference taking place after the UNESCO International Water Conference. He highlighted the unique role of UNESCO in the water sector.

27. Answering a question from the Vice-Chairperson of Group V, the Secretariat confirmed that the Conference includes a panel linked to agriculture and water use, in the context of the water-food nexus.

28. The representative of the Delegation of Turkey to UNESCO requested the Secretariat to elaborate on linkages between the International Water Conference and the World Hydropower Congress, organized by the International Hydropower Association. The Secretariat noted that although the two events would be held back-to-back, they are separate and that UNESCO will serve as the knowledge-sharing host institution for both of them. Efforts are being made to maximize the mutual benefit for both events.

29. The representative of the Delegation of Cuba to UNESCO expressed her satisfaction with the organization of the Conference, which positions IHP as a leading water institution, and asked for additional information on the organization of the panels, in particular, the one related to peace and security. The Secretariat clarified the process and also recalled that the Conference is organized in line with UNESCO's mandate to promote peace in the minds of men and women.

30. The Vice-Chairperson of Group II recalled that the mandate of UNESCO is to build peace and contribute to conflict resolution through culture, education, communication and sciences, noting that, within the UN-System, UNESCO's mandate is unique. The Chairperson highlighted UNESCO's work on transboundary waters as a key tool in advancing towards peace.

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

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

31. The Secretariat informed the members of the Bureau of the proposal for the establishment of the International Centre for Interdisciplinary Research on Water Systems and Dynamics, as a Category 2 Centre under the auspices of UNESCO, in Montpellier, France.

32. The Vice-Chairperson of Group IV asked the Secretariat to clarify the processes for communicating and consulting with Council Members regarding the nomination of C2C.

33. The Vice-Chairperson of Group II suggested that the members of the Bureau may wish to support the validation of the proposal on the Centre, highlighting the strength of the proposal and its strategic value.

34. The Vice-Chairperson of Group IV inquired on the possibility for extending the deadline for the Council's validation through the ongoing electronic consultation, while reconfirming his favorable evaluation of the proposed Centre. The Secretariat confirmed that an extension of the deadline would indeed be possible.

35. The representative of the Delegation of Turkey to UNESCO noted the level of complexity linked to the establishment of C2C. She pointed out the need for careful evaluation of the necessity to establish additional C2C. The Secretariat noted that Member States have the possibility of proposing the establishment of C2C to the Director General, according to the rules and regulations of UNESCO.

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.

4.6 UNESCO at the World Water Council

36. The Secretariat informed the members of the Bureau that during the last Assembly of the World Water Council, UNESCO was re-elected as a new Member of the Governing Board, for the next three years (until 2021). The Secretariat stated that IHP is strongly involved in the preparation of the next World Water Forum in Dakar (2021) and would fulfil an important role in supporting Senegal.

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

5. Programme implementation

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

37. The representative of UNESCO's Internal Oversight Service (IOS) summarized the background and timeline of the evaluation process. He noted that following an international call for proposals, the Institute for European Environmental Policy (IEEP) was contracted to conduct the evaluation. He summarized the methodology for the evaluation, including data collection from an in-depth literature review, semi-structured interviews, and the in-house reporting system SISTER, among other key information sources. The evaluation was conducted between July and September 2018, and it is foreseen that the final report of the evaluation will be ready by mid-to-end February 2019. He outlined that the views regarding the strategic positioning component were divergent, and a general consensus that the alignment with the 2030 Agenda is important.

38. The representative of IOS also noted that the majority of respondents agree that IHP is adequately delivering on its overreaching theme and added that the coordination role of IHP in the UNESCO Water Family was widely supported. He also summarized factors that have positively contributed to the achievement of outcomes and those that have hindered such achievement, such as lack of resources. He further noted the important influx of extra-budgetary funds, adding that fund-raising should however be strengthened and prioritized. He noted that despite reduced funds, the Programme has, however, been able to increase its efficiency and

concluded by stressing that the impression exists that cross-cutting issues (peace, security, gender, priority Africa, etc...) are only occasionally connected to activities, and that some cross-cutting issues are not given enough attention (including gender and support to young water professionals).

39. The Vice-Chairperson of Group II highlighted the importance of feeding the result of the evaluation into the work of the Task Force on IHP-IX. He suggested that the evaluators may wish to include a chapter covering gap-analysis. He added that the communication strategy is key to the visibility of the Programme and that increased attention should be given to it, underlining that IHP is the only intergovernmental programme within the UN System dedicated to freshwater, and that this position should be maintained within UN-Water. He further highlighted the role of extra-budgetary funds, as an asset of the Programme, urging the Secretary of IHP to reinforce the links between IHP and the IHE Delft Institute for Water Education (Category 2 Centre under the auspices of UNESCO, Netherlands).

40. The Vice-Chairperson of Group I noted the importance of achieving outcomes in connection with C2C, in order to raise the profile of IHP vis-à-vis fundraising in IHP-IX.

41. The representative of the Delegation of Turkey to UNESCO requested information on the availability of the final report of the mid-term evaluation of IHP-VIII, potential recommendations foreseen to be included in the report, and the stakeholder groups to whom the evaluation questionnaire was sent.

42. The Secretariat recalled the in-depth mapping of C2C that was conducted and the important potential and value of in-kind contributions from operational C2C, is estimated to amount to USD 50 million. The Secretariat also suggested that a more in-depth analysis of the distribution of funds according to activity may be of value.

43. The IOS representative indicated that a chapter of the evaluation report would be dedicated to emerging issues and that it could include the gap analysis proposed by the Vice-Chairperson of Group II.

The Bureau noted the presentation of the preliminary results of the Mid-term evaluation of IHP-VIII, expressing its satisfaction with the overall positive outlook of the programme.

5.2 Report on the evaluation of the IHP Flagship Initiatives

44. As requested by [Resolution XXII/6](#) of the IHP Council, an evaluation of the IHP Flagship Initiatives was conducted and was presented by the consultants hired for this purpose. The evaluators noted that the evaluation of the 15 initiatives covers the period since the start of IHP-XIII (2014). The evaluators summarized general as well as specific strengths and weaknesses of the Initiatives. Lack of financial planning and reporting, of logical frameworks, and in some cases, unclear objectives and goals were some of the weaknesses mentioned. The overall lack of reporting and closing of the Initiatives was also mentioned. The evaluator continued by presenting specific weaknesses of a number of Flagship Initiatives. For instance, Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) and From Potential Conflict to Cooperation potential (PCCP) are in need of a secretariat and need more partners. It was also stated that the benefit of Hydrology for the Environment, Life and Policy (HELP) was perceived as weak in comparison to other initiatives.

45. Overall, the evaluation of the Flagship Initiatives is positive. The evaluators noted that efforts should be made to increase the extrabudgetary funds dedicated to the initiatives and encouraged the IHP to improve its communication and visibility efforts.

46. The Vice-Chairperson of Group II commended the work of the evaluators. He noted that four initiatives related to groundwater existed, and suggested that this presents an opportunity to combine them into an 'International Groundwater Initiative'. He further noted that some initiatives may be revitalized through connecting them to Category 2 Centres. He encouraged the Secretariat to identify senior professionals to follow up on the recommendations of the report.

47. The Vice-Chairperson of Group IV suggested that synergies between initiatives could be also explored. Consequently, he proposed that a volunteer Task Force be established, with the support from National Committees and C2C, so as to have little burden on the Secretariat.

48. The Vice-Chairperson of Group I suggested that the recommendations of the evaluation should be taken into consideration for the 24th IHP Council.

49. The Chairperson highlighted the need for the creation of a Task Force in order to operationalize the recommendations made by the evaluators. He also noted that more reflections on the initiatives and the proposed Task Force should be submitted to the next session of the Bureau.

The Bureau took note of the report on the evaluation of the IHP Flagship Initiatives and supported its general recommendations. 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.

5.3 Comprehensive World Water Development Report

50. The Coordinator of the World Water Assessment Programme (WWAP) presented the World Water Development Report (WWDR) 2018 and informed the Bureau about the ongoing preparation of the content for the WWDRs 2019 and 2020. He also presented relevant steps for publishing a comprehensive, full-fledged WWDR for 2023 that is aligned with Resolution [A/RES/73/226](#) on the implementation of the International Decade for Action “Water for Sustainable Development” (2018-2028). This report could be launched during a 3-day meeting at UN Headquarters in New York (22-24 March 2023).

51. The Vice-Chairperson of Group II pointed out that the last comprehensive report on water was launched 7 years ago. He endorsed the proposal and indicated that IHP has the mandate to undertake the preparation of such report without creating any conflict with other agencies within UN-Water. He further invited the Bureau to provide financial support for the report.

52. The Vice-Chairperson of Group I supported the proposal for a comprehensive WWDR. However, he underlined that a clear definition of its objectives and outcomes is needed. The Delegation of Turkey to UNESCO also drew attention the need for better clarification of the purpose and content of the global report.

53. The Vice-Chairperson of Group IV suggested the report to build on lessons learnt.

54. The Vice-Chairperson of Group Vb suggested to include the comprehensive report within the IHP-IX strategy and to invite partner agencies to contribute to its publication.

55. The Secretariat highlighted its need for guidance from the Bureau to create a strategy for the consultation process within UN-Water concerning the comprehensive report.

56. The Chairperson suggested that the Secretariat establish a Working Group to develop a clear roadmap for the consultation process for the report with UN-Water.

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 outside of the UN system entities that could contribute to it, in addition to Member States.

The Bureau also suggested that the Water Sciences Division consult 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.

5.4 Visibility, Communication and Outreach of IHP

57. The Secretariat made a presentation on IHP's communication and outreach needs noting the financial constraints currently being faced and their consequences. It highlighted the pressing need to dedicate additional human resources to the Programme's communication and outreach component and reiterated the call voiced at the 23rd IHP Council to Member States to second professionals to this end. Furthermore, the Secretariat appealed to the Bureau to encourage the Communication and Outreach Committee to mobilize the UNESCO Water Family to provide greater support towards the IHP network's communication and visibility.

5.5 Water Museums Network

58. The Secretariat provided the Members of the Bureau with an update of the Water Museums Initiative. The initiative will be hosted at the University of Venice, and a UNESCO Chair shall be proposed to support it. A Conference of the Water Museums Network shall take place in May/June 2019, in Valencia, Spain.

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

The Bureau recommended that IHP is part of the Board of the Water Museums Network.

6. Other matters

6.1 WMO reform

59. The Secretariat provided an overview of the on-going reform of the World Meteorological Organization. During the presentation, it was mentioned that WMO and IHP have a long-standing cooperation. The impact that the reform may have on IHP was also discussed during the presentation.

60. The Vice-Chairperson of Group II stressed that operational hydrology and hydrology in general might lose momentum because of the proposed reduction of the technical commissions at WMO from eight to two, as foreseen in the proposed reform plans. He recalled the long-standing cooperation between WMO and IHP at the technical level, and stressed the need to improve this cooperation. He further noted that although there is a good case to support the continuation of a Hydrology Commission in WMO focusing on operational hydrology, he was concerned with the proposals included in the proposed reform that included elements of education, science and research, which are mandated to UNESCO.

61. The Vice-Chairperson of Group I stressed the need to find complementarities and synergies between WMO and IHP in order to avoid potential duplication of activities, which might occur if the proposed reform is accepted.

62. The representative of the Delegation of Turkey to UNESCO highlighted that Member States have a key role to play in ensuring that the mandates of both organizations are not duplicated.

63. The Vice-Chairperson of Group I highlighted that IHP and WMO could strengthen cooperation at the local level through National Committees.

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

The Bureau further requested the Secretariat to raise the awareness of Member States for the WMO reform process. A meeting of the WMO Advisory Working Group and IHP Bureau could be further explored to investigate an operational approach of cooperation between the two agencies.

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

64. The Secretariat presented a brief overview of the on-going activities resulting from A/RES/73/226 on the implementation of the International Decade for Action “Water for Sustainable Development” (2018-2028).

The Bureau took note of the report presented by the Secretariat.

6.3 9th World Water Forum in Dakar 2021

65. The Secretariat presented the changes in the organization of the 9th World Water Forum in Dakar, Senegal, and underlined the instrumental role of IHP in its organization.

66. The Vice-Chairpersons of Groups II and IV suggested that the Secretariat use the 9th World Water Forum as an opportunity to increase the visibility of IHP and to promote the Forum within UNESCO and the UNESCO Water Family. The Secretariat informed the Bureau members that a session will be devoted to the Forum during the UNESCO International Water Conference.

67. The representative of the Delegation of Turkey to UNESCO highlighted the active role that IHP can play in the organization of the Forum, in accordance with the Decision 204 EX/29, as a follow-up to the 8th World Water Forum Ministerial Declaration that recommends UNESCO to continue to 'Promote the potential of the young generation as agents for change and innovation in the search for solutions for water and sanitation challenges and implement and share water education policies and best practices on water and sanitation, benefiting from existing international centres as well as from UNESCO's expertise and network, including the International Hydrological Programme'.

The Bureau requested the Secretariat to further support the overall organization of the 9th World Water Forum and to specifically respond to the request made by Senegal in the 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.

7. Any other business

68. The Secretariat presented a preliminary project proposal from Australia to establish a Category 2 Centre on Ecological Water Management that would be hosted at the Griffith University in Australia. The Centre aims at enhancing the understanding of freshwater ecosystems and their services and would have a strong focus on research training and capacity building.

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.

69. The Secretariat updated the members of the Bureau on the background and lead-up to the proposal of SDG indicator 6.a.2 related to water education. After the 56th Bureau and the 23rd session of the Council, the proposal was further discussed in the Dushanbe Conference (June 2018) and during the High-Level Political Forum in New York (July 2018). After these milestones, a first meeting with several partners (OECD, WHO, UNDP CapNet, C2C IHE Delft¹) was organized in September 2018 to discuss how this indicator should be developed. The methodology is now under development and it will be developed based on the lessons learnt from the indicators on formal water education systems as used in SDG4 by UNESCO's Education Sector. The complete methodology shall be in place within the next months and shall be tested in countries with a small number of Universities to better understand how water education is managed.

The Bureau encouraged the Secretariat to continue its work in the presented direction.

70. The Secretariat recalled the decision of the Bureau at its 55th session and requested its Members to identify and nominate focal points for the development of the report on the water and climate change activities of the Water Family.

71. The Secretariat and the members of the Bureau agreed on the following dates for the upcoming statutory meetings:

- 58th Session of the Bureau: 10-12 September 2019
- 59th Session of the Bureau: 11-12 March 2020
- 24th session of the Intergovernmental Council: 15-19 June 2020.

72. The Chairperson closed the meeting at 17:20.

¹ Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), World Health Organization (WHO), United Nations Development Programme International Network for Capacity Development in Sustainable Water Management (UNDP Cap-Net)