



International Hydrological Programme (IHP)

50th session of the IHP Bureau

Paris, 31 March-1 April 2014

FINAL REPORT

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OPENING OF THE SESSION

1. The 50th session of the Bureau of the Intergovernmental Council of the International Hydrological Programme (IHP) was held at UNESCO Headquarters, Paris, France from 31 March to 1 April 2014. Mr Johannes Cullmann (Germany, Group I – Western Europe and North America), Chairperson, attended on 1 April. The following Vice-Chairpersons attended the Bureau session: Mr Jovan Despotovic (Serbia, Group II – Eastern and Central Europe); Mr Soontak Lee (Republic of Korea, Group IV – Asia and the Pacific); Mr Chrispine Omondi Juma (Kenya, Group Va – Africa); and Mr Mohamed Elhassan Eltayeb Elhag (Sudan, Group Vb – Arab States). Mr Polioptro Martinez (Group III – Latin America and the Caribbean) was unable to attend due to circumstances beyond his control.
2. Also present at the meeting as observers were representatives from the delegations of Brazil (also in the capacity as Chairperson of the IHP Finance Committee), Burkina Faso, Egypt, Ethiopia, Greece, Kenya, Kuwait, Mexico, Netherlands, Oman, Pakistan, Sudan, Sweden, Turkey, United States of America; the IHP National Committees of Mexico and the Netherlands; World Meteorological Organization (WMO); International Association of Hydrogeologists (IAH), International Association of Hydrological Sciences (IAHS), category 2 centre HidroEX, National Commission of Water of Mexico (CONAGUA), Mexican Institute of Water Technology (IMTA), and National Association of Water and Sanitation Utilities of Mexico (ANEAS). The list of participants is presented in Annex II.
3. The Vice-Chairperson, Mr Lee, opened the session on behalf of the Chairperson by welcoming the participants. He underlined the importance of the session for the preparation of the forthcoming 21st session of the IHP Intergovernmental Council. He also welcomed the members of the Bureau and observers.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

4. The Secretary of IHP introduced the agenda, timetable as well as the background documentation for the session. The Bureau adopted its agenda with changes, namely that items 4 5 and 6.3 were to be handled on 31 March. The agenda is reproduced in Annex I. The documents made available for the session are listed in Annex III.

INSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENTS AT UNESCO

Developments at the Natural Sciences Sector and the Division of Water Sciences following the 37th session of the General Conference and the 190th to the 193rd sessions of the Executive Board, including the Medium-Term Strategy for 2014-2021 (37 C/4) and the Programme and Budget for 2014-2015 (37 C/5): Issues, Challenges and Opportunities

5. The Secretariat provided the Bureau with a brief overview of institutional developments at the level of the Sector for Natural Sciences and of the Division of Water Sciences. The Secretary of IHP underlined the budgetary challenges that the programme is facing. These are further presented under item 3.3. The Bureau took note of the developments, reaffirming its commitment to the success of IHP.
6. The Secretariat also presented the prototype of an Internet platform for information exchange between the Secretariat and the water-related centres and Chairs, highlighting the functionalities of the system in supporting interaction between category 2 centres and water-related UNESCO Chairs, as well as enabling the submission of reports to Member States, to be linked to the matrix developed for the implementation of IHP-VIII. The Bureau encouraged the Secretariat to ensure that UNESCO-IHE is an integral part of this platform and to provide access to information about the participation of Member States in IHP-VIII. The Bureau expects that the support expressed by the Assistant Director-General for Natural Sciences in the Nairobi meeting will lead to the

implementation of the above-mentioned tool within the first year of IHP-VIII. The Chairperson offered the support of the IHP National Committee of Germany to the development of this tool. The Bureau further decided to encourage Member States to contribute with funds that would allow the rapid preparation of the tool and requested the Secretariat to include an update in the relevant documents of the IHP Council.

7. The observer from the Netherlands highlighted the need for the use of social media tools to increase the visibility of IHP activities in a similar way to the one adopted by the World Heritage Centre and UNESCO-IHE.

IHP-related extrabudgetary activities

8. The Secretariat reported on ongoing and newly-started extrabudgetary activities since the 20th session of the IHP Council and highlighted the progress made in increasing the number of extrabudgetary projects and their successful execution. Out of 42 projects (for a total amount of approximately US \$26 million), 29 are fully implemented or close to conclusion (April 2014), while 13 are ongoing (for an amount of around \$15 million). Among the major donors to IHP (excluding institutes and centres) are the Global Environment Facility (GEF), the Flanders UNESCO Science Trust Fund, Japan, Italy, Switzerland and Mexico. The Secretariat also informed the Bureau about the development of a fundraising strategy for the International Year of Water Cooperation 2013 (IYWC). This effort will be continued in support of IHP-VIII and the Secretariat has called upon the Bureau members to work with IHP National Committees to support fundraising through liaising between the IHP Secretariat, national institutions and companies. The Bureau appreciated the efforts of the Secretariat. The Bureau congratulated the Secretariat for its excellent work on raising extrabudgetary resources.

Report of the IHP Finance Committee

9. In response to the request of the IHP Bureau at its 49th session, the Chairperson of the IHP Finance Committee presented the preliminary report of the Committee. He also noted that there is a table with the total budget allocated to MLA 6 after the prioritization exercise and requested the Secretariat to include it as an annex (Annex IV) to the Bureau report. The Bureau noted that the posts of the regional hydrologists in Cairo and Montevideo are budgeted for recruitment and that no significant changes are expected at Headquarters.

10. The Bureau agreed that it would be useful to have a more disaggregated budget for both IHP themes and regions, particularly in light of Priority Africa.

11. Noting the declining number of IHP staff over the last decade, the Bureau requested the IHP Finance Committee to compare the status of the different divisions and units of the Natural Sciences Sector, including allocated staff budgets and numbers of staff per category, and to clarify how the prioritization conducted by the Executive Board and General Conference is reflected in the Secretariat.

12. In response to these comments, the Chairperson of the IHP Finance Committee requested the Secretariat to provide the Committee with the necessary data.

Report of the IHP Publication and Communication Committee

13. The Bureau took note of the report of the IHP Publication and Communication Committee concerning the maintenance of the IHP website, new publications, and the various brochures and concept notes developed during the IYWC. It was also noted that the newsletter was discontinued due to lack of support and funding.

Celebration of the 40th anniversary of IHP in UNESCO

14. The Secretariat requested the Bureau to guide the preparations for the celebrations of the 40th anniversary of IHP in 2015. The Vice-Chairperson of Group IV and the Rector of UNESCO-IHE suggested to also celebrate the 50th anniversary of the International Hydrological Decade (IHD, 1965-1974), focusing both on past achievements and on IHP's future. The Vice-Chairpersons of Group II and of Group Va suggested linking the IHP anniversary with the celebration of the 70th anniversary of UNESCO. Observers from Turkey and the Netherlands inquired about modalities for the IHP celebration and highlighted the importance of including a forward looking segment. NGO observers stressed the need to mobilize governmental donors. IAHS and IAH highlighted the cooperation with IHP over the past decades and proposed to participate in the celebration. It was concluded that the IHP Secretariat establishes a task force to develop a proposal for the terms of reference for the celebration, including a dedicated fundraising programme.

Status of the IHP National Committees

15. The Bureau noted the important number of inactive National Committees despite the efforts of the Secretariat to engage them in various IHP processes. The Bureau also noted the specificities of National Committees' roles, which are to support the Secretariat in the implementation of IHP and to ensure the link between IHP and its Member States. Observers from WMO and IAH shared the experiences of their own institutions in ensuring engagement of National Committees with their activities.

16. The Bureau recognized that efforts need to be made on multiple levels to ensure that both National Committees and category 2 centres can team up for the implementation of IHP. It was agreed that a task force be established, by the Secretary of IHP, to assess the situation and suggest solutions concerning the role of IHP National Committees and the governance of IHP. Action by the Secretariat in consultation with the Bureau in that regard should be initiated as soon as possible after the 50th session of the Bureau. The task force should report to the Bureau in preparation for the 22nd session of the IHP Council and base its work on the conclusions and decisions drawn by successive sessions of the Council and its Bureau, including the work of the *ad hoc* IHP Governance Committee established in 2002 during the 15th session of the Council.

17. New initiatives should be based on the many studies and evaluations made in the past. Several suggestions were further made by the Bureau for study by the aforementioned task force:

- The use of various innovative means of communication to link with the National Committees, motivate their engagement and offer them accessible material that can support them in their work;
- The mobilization of Permanent Delegations in liaising with their respective National Committees and motivating them to get better involved in IHP's activities;
- Organization of a meeting for National Committees during the IHP Council session and in connection with a category 2 centres' meeting (e.g., on SDGs);
- Abolishing non-functioning National Committees and identifying within relevant ministries, the key persons or team that can replace them;
- Identifying in every country's relevant Ministry(ies) the academic/scientific advisory body on water that can effectively communicate with the appropriate government entity and the National Committee, while achieving actual political impact.

**REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE RESOLUTIONS AND DECISIONS
ADOPTED AT THE 20th SESSION OF THE IHP INTERGOVERNMENTAL COUNCIL**

18. On Resolution XX-1, the Secretariat reported that the Executive Board and General Conference have integrated the main elements of the strategic plan for IHP-VIII on 37 C/4 and 37 C/5 and have attributed high priority to the budgeting of Expected Results on freshwater.

19. On Resolution XX-2, the Secretariat reported that, as requested by the Council, IGRAC is carrying out the regional implementation of the Global Groundwater Monitoring Network (GGMN) Programme. The Regional Workshop for Latin America was held in Montevideo, Uruguay, 11-12 December 2013. The Secretariat also encouraged the Bureau to invite the IHP National Committees to contribute and facilitate the data collection activity.

20. On Resolution XX-3, the Secretariat reported on the substantial efforts made in 2013 to highlight the benefits of transboundary water cooperation in conjunction with the activities of the celebration of IYWC. UNESCO-IHP has continued to serve as a platform for the exchange of information, sharing of lessons learned and showcasing of good practices in the field of transboundary aquifer cooperation in all regions, pursuing the work of the aquifer mapping programme. The Bureau considered that the GEF International Waters portfolio is a potential donor for implementing the resolution and the ISARM activities. The Bureau also inquired about the application of UNESCO to become a GEF implementation agency. The Secretariat informed the Bureau that the process is still pending approval by the GEF Council. The Bureau members discussed the benefit of bringing the item to the attention of the IHP Council to request the support of all Member States. It was agreed that increased fundraising possibilities could give more impetus to the activities of IHP in supporting Member States' studies and research in this domain.

21. On Resolution XX-4, the Bureau took note of the IHP Secretariat's work regarding its implementation and highlighted that the International Initiative on Water Quality is an important mechanism to support IHP-VIII activities on water quality and to contribute to future SDG-related efforts on water and sanitation at the global level. The Chairperson of the Bureau emphasized that one of the key activities of the Initiative should focus on monitoring post-2015 SDG goals and targets on water quality and wastewater management.

22. On Resolution XX-5, the Secretariat reported on the meeting of the Working Group for the implementation of IHP-VIII that took place in Kenya, Nairobi, in September 2013. The Bureau took note with satisfaction of the progress achieved. The Chairperson encouraged the Secretariat to provide, as soon as possible, a web-based interface with the implementation matrix (cf. also paragraph 6), linking activities to the entities responsible for their implementation.

23. On Resolution XX-6, the Bureau took note of its implementation leading to the approval by the 37th session of the General Conference of all category 2 centres endorsed by the 20th session of the IHP Council. The Bureau also took note of the recent signature of the agreements with the Government of Sweden, concerning the establishment of the International Centre for Water Cooperation, with the Government of Uruguay, concerning the establishment of the Regional Centre on Groundwater Management, and with the Government of Sudan, concerning the establishment of the Regional Centre on Capacity Development and Research in Water Harvesting. The Secretariat also informed the Bureau that the General Conference, at its 37th session, has approved the establishment of the African Centre for Global Change and Water Resources Research, in South Africa, which was endorsed by the 19th session of the IHP Council. The Vice-Chairperson of Region Vb informed the Bureau that the Regional Centre on Capacity Development and Research in Water Harvesting in Sudan has started its operation within its new facilities on 1 January 2014. Mr Meganck, observer representing HidroEX, informed the Bureau of the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between the Institute for Water and Watersheds at the Oregon State University (USA), which is a part of the network of university-members of the International Centre for Integrated Water Resources Management (ICIWaRM), and the Han River Watershed Management Committee of the Ministry of Environment of the Republic of Korea. This

development may also present new opportunities for other category 2 centres to develop cooperation possibilities with K-Water and the Korean Ministry of Environment.

24. On Resolution XX-7, the Bureau noted that the 190th session of the Executive Board had approved the establishment of the Centre for Water for Sustainable Development and Adaptation to Climate Change in Belgrade, Serbia, and of the subsequent signing of the centre's agreement.

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE EIGHTH PHASE OF IHP (IHP-VIII, 2014-2021)

Report of the Working Group for supporting the implementation of the Strategic Plan for IHP-VIII

25. The Secretariat reported on the work of the Working Group for supporting the implementation of the Strategic Plan for IHP-VIII. The observer from the Netherlands emphasized the importance of this Working Group and congratulated the Secretariat for the outcomes of the meeting held in Nairobi in September 2013.

Focus for 2014-2015

26. The IHP Secretariat highlighted the IHP-VIII implementation focus for the 2014-2015 biennium, noting that these priorities were identified by the IHP-VIII Working Group, involving the IHP Bureau, Member States, IHP National Committees, category 2 centres, water-related UNESCO Chairs and other partners.

27. The Vice-Chairperson of Group Va recommended the development and dissemination of water quality materials for the community level as one of priorities of water quality activities under Theme 3 and offered his country's willingness to contribute to the development of such materials, which the Secretariat welcomed with appreciation. On Theme 4, the Vice-Chairperson of Group II and the observer from Mexico expressed interest in working on related issues. The Vice-Chairperson of Group Va suggested that the first Youth Water Ambassadors' Assembly, which will take place in Turkey, could be linked with IHP and could provide insights to activities on water education under Theme 6. The observer from Turkey noted that she would seek additional information about this activity. The IHP Secretariat expressed its availability to explore potential collaboration with this project. The IHP Secretariat also informed the Bureau on the production of open access electronic briefing notes on sanitation.

28. The observer from Turkey requested to establish a modus operandi to allow the delegations to receive information about IHP activities in a more continuous manner. The Bureau agreed that the delegations via the regional groups could invite the IHP Secretariat to actively participate in informal meetings organized on a rotational basis by delegations to provide information on different technical themes developed by IHP.

29. The Bureau underlined that the IHP-VIII implementation focus for this biennium should be flexible to include additional and new priorities, taking into account specific issues and interests.

UNESCO'S WATER-RELATED INSTITUTE AND CENTRES (CATEGORY 1 AND CATEGORY 2)

Proposed water-related centres

30. Following a brief introduction by the IHP Secretariat and interventions by the representatives of the Permanent Delegations of Ethiopia, Egypt, Greece and Kuwait, the Bureau welcomed and endorsed the following proposals for new category 2 centres, to be submitted for the consideration by the IHP Intergovernmental Council:

- African Regional Centre for Ecohydrology (ARCE) in Ethiopia;

- Central Laboratory For Environmental Monitoring (CLEQM), at Alqanater, Egypt;
- Integrated and Multi-Disciplinary Water Resources Management Centre at the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, Greece; and
- Water Research Centre at the Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research (KISR), Kuwait.

31. The Bureau also reviewed the resubmission of the proposal by Iran for the establishment of the Centre on Integrated Management of Watershed and Bio-resources in Arid and Semi-Arid Regions. The Bureau endorsed this proposal, noting that the Government of Iran has addressed the questions raised at the 49th session of the Bureau.

32. For each of the above-listed centres, members of the Bureau highlighted the regional and topical importance of the proposals and thanked the concerned Member States for submission of the proposals.

33. Upon consideration of a letter of intent from the Government of Pakistan to submit a proposal for the establishment of a Water Research Centre at the COMSATS Institute of Information Technology in Abbottabad, Pakistan, and the presentation by the observer from Pakistan, the Bureau agreed to review the full proposal for this centre in an out-of-session discussion.

34. The observer from Brazil informed the Bureau of the internal consultations in his country concerning a potential proposal for conversion of HidroEX from a category 2 centre under the auspices of UNESCO into a category 1 UNESCO institute. He asked if the Bureau would be in the position to review this potential proposal out-of-session, in which modality and by which deadline, should the government decide to proceed with this request. The Bureau agreed to review the full proposal in an out-of-session consultation and requested the IHP Secretariat to organize a conference call among the Bureau members on 29 April 2014. The Bureau also asked the representatives of Pakistan and Brazil to ensure submission of the respective proposals on or before 27 April 2014, which would allow the Secretariat to prepare for introduction of the relevant documents to the Council within the statutory time requirement.

Recent developments on category 2 water-related centres

35. The Bureau took note of the implications of the General Conference decision (37 C/Resolution 93) to revise the UNESCO strategy for category 2 centres (37 C/18 Part 1) and of the current efforts by the Secretariat to finalize the renewal of centres whose agreements have either recently expired or are about to expire. In connection with the implementation of IHP-IGC Resolution XX-7, the Bureau also took note of the need for the alignment of prior agreements to be renewed with the new model agreement (37 C/18 Part 1 Annex 2). The Secretary of IHP further briefed the Bureau on the recent restructuring of the Secretariat concerning the coordination mechanism for category 2 centres, which now separates procedural responsibilities, especially those on administrative aspects of centres' operation, technical cooperation issues and the assignment of technical focal points from both Headquarters and UNESCO field offices.

36. Responding to a question by the observer from the Netherlands, the Secretariat explained that all SISTER reports on centres' activities and their contributions to UNESCO and IHP in particular are available through the EX/4 document. The Secretariat also highlighted that the biennial report is requested in advance of each IHP Council session and presented to it as an information document.

37. Mr Meganck (observer representing the category 2 centre HidroEX) highlighted the strong commitment of HidroEX to program its activities based on the strategic plan of IHP-VIII, to ensure strong alignment and contributions to IHP. He reported that HidroEX has delivered 60 short-courses in LAC and Portuguese-speaking countries in Africa and noted the important role played by UNESCO-IHE in building the capacities of HidroEX.

38. The Bureau encouraged enhanced communication and reporting from the directors of category 2 centres and requested that the need for such information be addressed during the upcoming session of the IHP Council. The Chairperson of the Bureau also noted the need for all category 2 centres, along with IHP National Committees and water-related Chairs, to be formally engaged in the delivery of IHP-VIII priorities set in the Nairobi meeting. He also requested to have the living document containing the matrix for the implementation of IHP-VIII on the IHP website report in a modality that allows interactions and the expansion of public engagement.

UNESCO-IHE Institute for Water Education

39. The Rector of UNESCO-IHE briefly recalled the history of the Institute, noting that several specific modalities for collaboration were identified by IHP and UNESCO-IHE at a meeting that took place in March 2014 in Paris. One of the outcomes of the meeting was that M.Sc. and Ph.D. theses produced at UNESCO-IHE that contribute to the implementation of IHP-VIII will carry the IHP logo and be presented as an official contribution to the programme. The IHP Secretariat, as appropriate, will become involved in defining and supervising IHP-related M.Sc. and Ph.D. thesis work. UNESCO-IHE, through its M.Sc. and Ph.D. thesis research, contributes to applied and basic empirical knowledge to water resource management. All the theses are available to Member States. He recalled that IHP has an enormous role to play in the field of freshwater science. He also informed the Bureau that the UNESCO-IHE Governing Board at its 13th session reviewed the global campus concept and decided to reinforce the current mechanisms of working via partnerships with national organizations.

40. Mr Puri, the observer from IAH, noted the importance of the interlinkages between water and energy and asked if the Institute had any course in this domain. The Rector noted that UNESCO-IHE started a small course on hydropower, which has attracted a large number of students, and became an important activity. He also referred to a current cooperation arrangement the Institute is conducting with the Asian Development Bank. He noted the need for water education and for the possibility of seeking funds for projects with IHP and category 2 centres and encouraged the Bureau to mobilize the IHP networks in this direction.

41. The representative of Sudan asked if the Institute's projects on the Nile were purely technical or also encompassed the political area. The Rector replied that the projects cover a broader area than the technical one and noted the importance of the M.Sc. specialization on water conflict resolution, in collaboration with IHP (PCCP), as an example. The observer from Turkey asked about the role of the members of the IHP Council regarding the Institute. Regarding the Council, the Rector noted that it plays a key role in identifying the most important issues humanity is facing with respect to water and assists with the mobilization of funds. The Vice-Chairperson of Group II noted that one of the major issues in inter-state discussions concerns transboundary water issues and UNESCO has an important role to play in this domain.

42. The IHP National Committees are encouraged, through the IHP Secretariat, to strengthen their involvement in the selection of prospective students to UNESCO-IHE, in order to ensure applications from the best potential candidates and to further ensure contributions from the Institute to IHP.

43. Upon the suggestion of the IHP Secretary, the Bureau decided to recommend to the IHP Council to request their representatives elected to the governing boards of UNESCO-IHE and the category 2 centres to report back to the IHP Council on the status of collaboration between those institutes and centres and IHP.

Revised strategy for category 2 institutes and centres

44. The Bureau reviewed the proposed revisions of the IHP strategy for water-related centres. The Bureau endorsed the revised strategy for introduction to the 21st session of the Council but requested, on the recommendation from the Chairperson, that the Secretariat include in the

strategy provisions to require category 2 centres to be responsible for specific activities from the implementation plan of IHP-VIII. The Chairperson requested the Secretariat to send them a revised version of the document by 15 April 2014.

REVIEW OF IHP-VII ACTIVITIES AND RELATED ACTIVITIES OF UNESCO

Major achievements of IHP-VII projects since the 20th session of the IHP Intergovernmental Council

45. The Bureau took note of the Secretariat's report on the implementation of IHP-VII and related activities of UNESCO, highlighting major achievements of projects since its 49th session. On Theme 1, the observer from Turkey asked how the new initiative on the World Large River Basins would be linked to current programmes. The Secretariat noted that collaboration is foreseen and an inception discussion will be held at the next World Large River Basins conference, in Manaus, Brazil in July 2014. Following a question by the Vice-Chairperson of Group IV regarding IHP programmes such as HELP and FRIEND, the Secretariat clarified that full reference to these programmes will be included in the documents for the 21st session of the IHP Intergovernmental Council. The Bureau agreed that the World Large River Basins initiative should be submitted to the 21st session of the Council for discussion and recommended its endorsement.

46. On Theme 2, the Bureau discussed the need to carefully provide information on IHP studies to the press, in particular when these studies are still in a preliminary stage. As example, a specific reference was made by the Bureau to the study undertaken by the private company RTI Exploration under a contract of the UNESCO Nairobi Office on the "Survey of Groundwater Resources of Northern and Central Turkana County, Kenya". The Bureau shared the concerns that the press was provided with too preliminary results that should have not been made public before the results were fully verified. The Secretary of IHP informed the Bureau that the Director-General requested the IHP Secretariat at Headquarters to take the lead in starting the evaluation of the study undertaken by RTI Exploration.

47. On Theme 4, the Vice-Chairperson of Group Va highlighted the importance of strengthening activities with a focus on the public health and water quality issues, especially on linkages between the public health and access to water and sanitation. The Vice-Chairperson of Group II expressed appreciation for the IHP Urban Water Series, which contain useful technical information and guidelines, and called upon the Secretariat to expand the Series with the publication of new books on summarizing or wrapping up the topics while addressing the practical aspects of the topic. He emphasized that the Urban Water Series books delivered in previous phases should be used as a basis for implementation and development under Theme 4 during the Eighth Phase.

Evaluation of the Seventh Phase of IHP (IHP-VII, 2008-2013)

48. The Secretariat reported on the status of the ongoing external evaluation of IHP-VII. It was noted that a draft report will be distributed among Bureau members by 11 April for their comments and inputs by 30 April. The Rector of UNESCO-IHE emphasized that the evaluation should address the entire IHP network, starting with IHP National Committees and also look at the most critical issues for IHP, in particular the governance of the programme. The Secretariat also commented that the report highlights the need to render results from IHP more accessible to delegations and the public.

Cooperation with other UNESCO programmes

49. The Bureau noted with satisfaction the number of cooperative activities undertaken by IHP with other programmes of the Natural Sciences Sector, in particular MAB, IOC and IGCP, as well as with other Sectors of UNESCO.

RELATIONS WITH UNITED NATIONS, INTERGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS AND NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

Cooperation with the United Nations system on freshwater issues

50. With reference to the cooperation with other United Nations agencies, the Bureau noted with satisfaction ongoing activities but emphasized that many organizations are involved in water-related topics and that closer collaboration is needed. The Bureau also suggested that visibility of IHP could be strengthened by benefitting from joint activities with available platforms, such as ISDR for hydro-hazards. The representative of WMO highlighted the recent establishment of a long-term cooperation between UNESCO and WMO in the field of hydrology and water resources.

Cooperation with intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations

51. IAH recalled that the intellectual capital of the IHP is also provided by science NGOs and it could further benefit from closer cooperation with them. For instance, the forthcoming IAH Commission on the Governance of Transboundary Aquifers could help in the implementation of Resolution XX-3 (cf. agenda item 4).

IHP contribution to the UN World Water Assessment Programme (WWAP)

52. The Secretariat reported on the status of the United Nations World Water Assessment Programme (WWAP) and IHP's contribution to it. The first annual World Water Development Report (WWDR) was published in March 2014 and is addressing the theme "Water and Energy". The Bureau noted with satisfaction the successful launch events that were organized by UNESCO at Headquarters and field offices in various cities around the world.

53. In connection to WWDR, the observer from Turkey expressed satisfaction with the 2014 edition of the Report. The Bureau noted the disadvantages of the new format of the annual thematic WWDR as compared to the previous comprehensive versions. The Secretariat responded by informing the Bureau members that a global stakeholder survey is scheduled to be conducted by UN-Water in 2015 for re-assessment of the effectiveness of the new format of the Report and invited Bureau members to actively participate to raise UNESCO's voice.

54. With reference to the cooperation with UN-Water, in particular on the WWDR, the Bureau recalled that in 1998, after the presentation of the 1997 United Nations Secretary-General's "Comprehensive Assessment of the Freshwater Resources of the World", the Administrative Committee on Coordination, Subcommittee on Water Resources (ACC-SWR, precursor of UN-Water) endorsed a proposal of UNESCO to conduct a periodic and comprehensive assessment on the global status of water resources. In 2000, UNESCO established the WWAP Secretariat to produce the WWDR, funded initially by the Japanese Government and subsequently by the Italian Government. While considering recent changes and proposals regarding WWDR, and given the IHP interest in WWAP, the IHP Bureau decided to recommend to the IHP Council that it adopt a resolution requesting that UNESCO's logo remains a permanent part of the cover of the WWDR series.

IHP's role in the post-2015 development agenda

55. The Secretariat reported on the process for the post-2015 development agenda and for potential Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), highlighting IHP's active and crucial contributions to raise the profile of water in the SDGs context, including the global Thematic Consultation on Water, national consultations and proposals for a water-related SDG. It was emphasized that thanks to the important role of UNESCO, especially through its contributions to relevant discussions at major events of the International Year of Water Cooperation 2013, such as the Budapest Water Summit, significant progress has been achieved in recognizing the importance of a dedicated SDG goal on water.

56. The Bureau commended IHP's active involvement in different processes on the post-2015 Development Agenda and encouraged it to reinforce its contributions, especially to provide technical advice on the next steps in the formulation of water-related SDGs. The Bureau discussed the important role that IHP National Committees should play in raising the priority of water on the agenda of national consultations, prior to formal negotiations by Member States at the United Nations General Assembly, which is expected to start in September 2014.

57. The observer from Brazil recalled that United Nations interagency coordinating mechanisms, such as UN-Water and its technical advice on post-2015 global goal on water, are not entitled to detract from the instructions and guidelines set by the respective agencies' Member States.

58. The Chairperson of the Bureau stressed that there is a lack of appropriate indicators to monitor SDG goals and targets on water. The only indicators currently available are focused on water supply and sanitation and are available through the WHO/UNICEF Joint Monitoring Programme. Supported by the Bureau members, he recommended that IHP, through its International Initiative on Water Quality and jointly with WMO and UNEP GEMS/Water, should take the lead in the development and monitoring of indicators for monitoring post-2015 SDG goals and targets on water, especially those related to water quality and quantity and wastewater management. The Bureau suggested that such an effort should aim to develop simple, reliable indicators on water quality and wastewater and a supporting information gathering system/mechanism for monitoring both water quality and quantity.

59. Recognizing the key role of water in sustainable development, the Bureau decided to propose a decision prior to the upcoming session of the IHP Intergovernmental Council, requesting IHP to work, jointly with WMO and UNEP, on indicators to monitor water-related SDG and targets and encouraging IHP National Committees to actively contribute to national consultations on SDGs. The representative of WMO supported this action.

IHP's role in the World Water Day and the International Year of Water Cooperation 2013

60. The Bureau expressed its satisfaction at the activities and outcomes developed within the scope of the World Water Day and International Year of Water Cooperation 2013, which comprised a series of high-level meetings and over 1,000 events organized globally by different institutions and that gave a high visibility to UNESCO.

IHP's role in the International Decade for Action – Water for Life (2005-2015)

61. The Bureau took note with satisfaction of IHP's role in the International Decade for Action – Water for Life.

IHP's role in UNFCCC COP20 and IPCC processes

62. The Bureau took note with satisfaction of the information provided by the Secretariat on IHP's role in UNFCCC COP20 and COP21 and IPCC processes, noting that specific activities are under preparation for these events.

IHP's role in the 7th World Water Forum

63. The Bureau took note of IHP's active involvement in the preparatory processes of the 7th World Water Forum. The Vice-Chairperson of Group IV, who also serves as co-chair of the 7th World Water Forum international steering committee, encouraged IHP to take on an important role in different themes within the framework of the upcoming World Water Forum, and offered support to include the Water Security theme on the agenda to be developed with the support of IHP. The Bureau underlined the importance and supported the idea of IHP's involvement, including in supporting the formulation of the political declarations of the Forum, by hosting preparatory events as in the past.

PREPARATIONS FOR THE 21st SESSION OF THE IHP INTERGOVERNMENTAL COUNCIL

Endorsement of the provisional agenda of the Council session

64. The Bureau reaffirmed the endorsement of the provisional agenda of the 21st session of the IHP Intergovernmental Council, as previously adopted in an out-of-session consultation. The Chairperson, summarizing the Bureau discussions, suggested that the Council also consider the in-depth discussion of items and related issues on: the IHP contribution to the post-2015 development agenda and the SDG process and more explicit documentation thereon to inform the Executive Board as appropriate; the status and activity of IHP's National Committees; the use of social media to improve IHP outreach to various audiences; and the use of meetings to inform and the strengthen the involvement of Member States. The observer from the Netherlands also requested that the Council consider taking necessary action on 37 C/Resolution 96 regarding the self-assessment of UNESCO's intergovernmental programmes.

Preparations for the 11th Kovacs Colloquium

65. The Bureau noted with satisfaction that the Kovacs Colloquium will take place prior to the 21st session of the IHP Council. It was noted that invitations to the Colloquium formed part of the invitation letters to the Council session that were sent to the Member States, with information copies to the respective National Commissions, Permanent Delegations and IHP National Committees. These invitations were likewise sent to concerned United Nations agencies, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations as well as category 2 centres, and will be also sent to the water-related UNESCO Chairs.

Other Council-related matters

66. Due to the reduced duration of the Council session and considering the provisions of the Admissibility Criteria, Guidelines and Rules of Procedure for the Preparation and Consideration of Draft Resolutions (DRs) at the Intergovernmental Council of IHP (revised version, 5 June 2009, cf. IHP/Bur-XLIII/3 Annex IV), the Bureau agreed that draft resolutions submitted during the Council should be received by the Secretariat before noon on the second day of the session.

67. The Chairperson informed the Bureau that, with regard to the election of the Chairperson of the next session of the Council, according to the rotation practice, Group III will propose candidates and added that at this stage one candidate has been put forward by Mexico. The observer from Mexico informed the Bureau that the Permanent Delegation of Mexico has sent a letter to the Permanent Delegations of the Member States, members of the IHP Intergovernmental Council, to formalize the proposed candidature.

OTHER MATTERS

68. The Chairperson suggested to the Bureau to consider proposing to the relevant bodies of UNESCO the change of the mandate of the IHP chairperson from two to four years. The members of the Bureau agreed to consult with their respective regions and respond to the Chairperson within two months. Based on their feedback, the Chairperson will decide whether or not to present this suggestion to the IHP Council.

APPROVAL OF THE FINAL REPORT AND CLOSURE OF THE SESSION

69. The Bureau reviewed and commented the draft report, requesting additional elements to be included. The Bureau subsequently approved the revised report, which addressed the comments by its members.

70. The Chairperson closed the 50th session of the IHP Bureau at 19.30 on 1 April 2014 and this report was approved out-of-session on 23 April 2014.

ANNEX I

AGENDA

1. Opening of the session
2. Adoption of the agenda
3. Institutional developments at UNESCO
 - 3.1 Developments at the Natural Sciences Sector and the Division of Water Sciences following the 37th session of the General Conference and the 190th to the 193rd sessions of the Executive Board, including the Medium-Term Strategy for 2014-2021 (37 C/4) and the Programme and Budget for 2014-2015 (37 C/5): Issues, Challenges and Opportunities
 - 3.2 IHP-related extrabudgetary activities
 - 3.3 Report of the IHP Finance Committee
 - 3.4 Report of the IHP Publication and Communication Committee
 - 3.5 Celebration of the 40th anniversary of IHP in UNESCO
 - 3.6 Status of IHP National Committees
4. Report on the implementation of the resolutions and decisions adopted at the 20th session of the IHP Intergovernmental Council
5. Implementation of the Eighth Phase of IHP (IHP-VIII, 2014 – 2021)
 - 5.1 Report of the Working Group for supporting the implementation of the Strategic Plan for IHP-VIII
 - 5.2 Focus for 2014-2015
6. UNESCO's water-related institute and centres (category 1 and category 2)
 - 6.1 Proposed water-related centres
 - 6.2 Recent developments on category 2 water-related centres
 - 6.3 UNESCO-IHE Institute for Water Education (category 1)
7. Review of IHP-VII activities and related activities of UNESCO
 - 7.1 Major Achievements of IHP-VII projects since the 20th session of the IHP Intergovernmental Council
 - 7.2 Evaluation of the Seventh Phase of IHP (IHP-VII, 2008 – 2013)
 - 7.3 Cooperation with other UNESCO programmes
8. Relations with United Nations, intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations

- 8.1 Cooperation with the United Nations System on freshwater issues
- 8.2 Cooperation with intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations
- 8.3 IHP contribution to the United Nations World Water Assessment Programme (WWAP)
- 8.4 IHP's role in the post-2015 development agenda
- 8.5 IHP's role in the World Water Day 2013 and the International Year of Water Cooperation 2013
- 8.6 IHP's role in the International Decade for Action – Water for Life (2005-2015)
- 8.7 IHP's role in UNFCCC COP20 and IPCC processes
- 8.8 IHP's role in the 7th World Water Forum
9. Preparations for the 21st session of the IHP Intergovernmental Council (Paris, 18-20 June 2014)
 - 9.1 Endorsement of the provisional agenda of the Council session
 - 9.2 Preparations for the 11th Kovacs Colloquium
 - 9.3 Other Council-related matters
10. Other matters
11. Adoption of the report
12. Closure of the session

ANNEX II

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ANNEX III**LIST OF DOCUMENTS**

(all documents in English only)

WORKING DOCUMENTS

Document Code (IHP/Bur-L/...)	Title	Agenda item
1	Agenda	2
2	Timetable	2
3	Final report	1 – 12
4	List of documents	2
5	List of participants	2
6	Institutional developments at UNESCO	3
7	Implementation of resolutions and other recommendations adopted by the 20th session of the Intergovernmental Council of IHP	4
8	Implementation of IHP-VIII	5
9	UNESCO's water-related institutes and centres (category 1 and category 2)	6
10	Review of IHP-VII and related activities of UNESCO	7
11	Relations with United Nations, intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations	8

REFERENCE DOCUMENTS

(online consultation only)

Document Code	Title	Agenda item
IHP/Bur-XLIX/3	Final report of the 49th session of the IHP Bureau (Paris, 25-26 June 2013)	-
IHP/IC-XX/3	Final report of the 20th session of the Intergovernmental Council of IHP (Paris, 4-7 June 2012)	-
37 C/4 Draft	Draft Medium-term Strategy, 2014-2021	3
37 C/5 Draft	Draft Programme and Budget, 2014-2017	4
37 C/18 Part I	Revision of the integrated comprehensive strategy for category 2 institutes and centres under the auspices of UNESCO	6.2
IHP/Bur-L/Ref.1	(Withdrawn)	-

Document Code	Title	Agenda item
IHP/Bur-L/Ref.2	Draft revised IHP Strategy for water-related category 2 institutes and centres under the auspices of UNESCO	6.2
IHP/Bur-L/Ref.3	Proposal for the establishment of an African Regional Centre for Ecohydrology (ARCE) in Ethiopia as a category 2 centre under the auspices of UNESCO	6.1
IHP/Bur-L/Ref.4	Proposal for the designation of the Central Laboratory for Environmental Monitoring (CLEQM) at El-Qanater, Egypt, as a category 2 centre under the auspices of UNESCO	6.1
IHP/Bur-L/Ref.5	Proposal for the designation of the Integrated and Multi-Disciplinary Water Resources Management Centre at the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki (AUTH), Greece, as a category 2 centre under the auspices of UNESCO	6.1
IHP/Bur-L/Ref.6	Proposal for the designation of the Water Research Centre at the Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research (KISR), as a category 2 centre under the auspices of UNESCO	6.1
IHP/Bur-L/Ref.7	Proposal for the establishment of an International Centre for the Integrated Management of Watershed and Bio-Resources in Arid and Semi-Arid Regions in the Islamic Republic of Iran as a category 2 centre under the auspices of UNESCO	6.1
IHP/Bur-L/Ref.8	Letter of intent to submit a proposal for the establishment of a Water Research Centre at the COMSATS Institute of Information Technology in Abbottabad, Pakistan as a category 2 centre under the auspices of UNESCO	6.1
IHP/Bur-L/Ref.9	Revised proposal for the launching of a “World's Large Rivers Initiative (WLRI)”	7
IHP/IC-XX1/1 Prov.	Provisional agenda of the 21st session of the Intergovernmental Council of the IHP	9
IHP/Bur-XLIII/3 Annex IV	Admissibility criteria, guidelines and rules of procedure for the preparation and consideration of Draft Resolutions (DRs) at the Intergovernmental Council of IHP (revised version, 5 June 2009)	9

Note: All documents are available online at:

<http://www.unesco.org/new/en/natural-sciences/environment/water/ihp/council-and-bureau/documents-of-the-50th-session-of-the-ihp-bureau/>

ANNEX IV

**REVISED BUDGET OF MLA6 ON WATER SECURITY
AS ENDORSED BY THE 37th SESSION OF THE GENERAL CONFERENCE
(37 C/Resolution 81)**

Main Line of Action/Expected result (ER)	Budgetary priority	Draft 37 C/5 adjusted (\$653M)			Funding % vis-à-vis Draft 37 C/5 adjusted	2014-2015 Expenditure plan (\$507M)			TOTAL	Extrabudgetary Resources
		Operational budget	Staff budget	Total		Operational budget	% of total	Staff budget		
MLA6 Strengthening freshwater security		5,603,200	9,485,200	15,088,400	85%	4,133,200	32%	8,661,100	12,794,300	12,187,600
ER10 Responses to local, regional and global water security challenges strengthened	A	4,032,500	7,355,000	11,387,500	85%	3,060,300	32%	6,598,300	9,658,600	7,077,600
ER11 Knowledge, innovation, policies and human and institutional capacities for water security strengthened through improved international cooperation	A	1,570,700	2,130,200	3,700,900	85%	1,072,900	34%	2,062,800	3,135,700	5,110,000

Source: document 192 EX/16 Part I, Annex II

ANNEX V

LIST OF ACRONYMS AND SPECIAL TERMS USED IN THIS REPORT

ACC-SWR	Administrative Committee on Coordination - Subcommittee on Water Resources
ANEAS	Asociación Nacional de Empresas de Agua y Saneamiento de México (National Association of Water and Sanitation Utilities of Mexico)
ARCE	African Regional Centre for Ecohydrology
CLEQM	Central Laboratory For Environmental Monitoring (of Egypt)
CONAGUA	Comisión Nacional del Agua (National Water Commission of Mexico)
COP	Conference of the Parties
FRIEND	Flow Regimes from International Experimental and Network Data Sets
GEF	Global Environment Facility
GEMS	Global Environment Monitoring System
GGMN	Global Groundwater Monitoring Network
HELP	Hydrology for the Environment, Life and Policy
HidroEX	HidroEX International Centre for Education, Capacity Building and Applied Research in Water
HQ	Headquarters
IAH	International Association of Hydrogeologists
IAHR	International Association for Hydro-Environmental Engineering and Research
IAHS	International Association of Hydrological Sciences
ICIWaRM	International Centre for Integrated Water Resources Management
IGC	Intergovernmental Council
IGCP	International Geoscience Programme
IHD	International Hydrological Decade
IHP	International Hydrological Programme
IHP-VII	Seventh Phase of the International Hydrological Programme (2008-2013)
IHP-VIII	Eighth Phase of the International Hydrological Programme (2014-2019)
IMTA	Instituto Mexicano de Tecnología del Agua (Mexican Institute of Water Technology)
IOC	Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission
IPCC	Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
ISARM	International Shared Aquifer Resource Management Initiative
ISDR	International Strategy for Disaster Reduction
IYWC	International Year of Water Cooperation 2013
KISR	Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research

K-Water	Korean Water Resources Corporation
LAC	Latin America and the Caribbean
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MAB	Man and the Biosphere Programme
MLA	Main line of action
NGO	Non-governmental organization
PCCP	From Potential Conflict to Cooperation Potential programme
RTI	Radar Technologies International
SDG	Sustainable Development Goal
SISTER	System of Information on Strategies, Tasks and the Evaluation of Results
TOR	Terms of reference
UN	United Nations
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNESCO-IHE	UNESCO-IHE Institute for Water Education
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
WMO	World Meteorological Organization
WWAP	UN World Water Assessment Programme
WWDR	World Water Development Report