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**PROPOSAL FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF  
A REGIONAL CENTRE FOR TRAINING AND WATER STUDIES  
OF ARID AND SEMI-ARID ZONES UNDER THE AUSPICES OF UNESCO**

**SUMMARY**

By its letter of July 2001 to the Chairperson of the Executive Board, the Permanent Delegation of the Arab Republic of Egypt to UNESCO requested, on behalf of the Government of Egypt, the inclusion of this item on the agenda of the 162nd session of the Executive Board.

This request follows a long process of consultation initiated during the 8th regional meeting of the Arab IHP National Committees (Beirut, Lebanon in October 1999) at which a recommendation was issued for a proposal for the establishment of a regional centre for training and water studies of arid and semi-arid zones under the auspices of UNESCO. Subsequently, the Intergovernmental Council of IHP, at its 14th session (June 2000), recommended to the Executive Board and the General Conference, the creation of a regional centre for training and water studies of arid and semi-arid zones to be located in Egypt under the auspices of UNESCO (Resolution XIV-4).

The present document contains the report of the Director-General, based on an evaluation mission carried out by the Secretariat, a draft agreement established through negotiations between the two parties, and the Egyptian proposal.

Decision required: paragraph 22.

## INTRODUCTION

1. The Arab Republic of Egypt has proposed the establishment of a regional centre for training and water studies of arid and semi-arid zones in Egypt under the auspices of UNESCO. This document outlines the background, nature of the proposal and the foreseen consequences of the creation of this centre, especially with regard to the benefits to the countries of the region and its relevance to UNESCO's programmes. In accordance with the relevant recommendations of the 21st Session of the General Conference (21 C/Resolution 40), the views of, and a decision from, the Executive Board are sought that would allow the continuation of the process for the establishment of the centre under the auspices of UNESCO.

2. The Executive Board at its 160th session decided that the principal priority of the Sector of Natural Sciences for the period 2002-2003 will be water resources and supporting ecosystems, the reason being the challenge of ensuring water security in the twenty-first century. For many, water scarcity or unequal access to water is at the very core of underdevelopment and poverty. Increasing populations continue to reduce the per capita availability of freshwater. Deterioration of water quality and disputes among users of shared water resources aggravate the situation. These directions were confirmed by the Board at its 161st session, where, in addition, it explicitly recommended that document 31 C/4 should give special emphasis to water resources management in arid and semi-arid zones.

3. Moreover, the proposed plan for the sixth phase of the International Hydrological Programme for 2002-2007 (IHP-VI) that is to be submitted for approval by the 31st session of the General Conference has five major themes divided into 21 focal areas. Issues related to arid and semi-arid zones are relevant in most themes, but Theme 3, *Land habitat hydrology*, includes a specific focal area on dry lands, where sustainable management of water resources in arid and semi-arid zones is a main objective.

4. In a recent expert meeting organized by the IHP Secretariat (Paris, 21-22 June 2001) the participants identified 45 activities on arid and semi-arid zones that fit within the framework of the five themes of the IHP-VI approved plan. This confirms the appropriateness of the decision taken by the 161st session of the Executive Board.

## BACKGROUND

5. UNESCO's involvement at the forefront of freshwater science, education and training for the benefit of the Member States represents a long-term commitment that started with the launching of the International Hydrological Decade – IHD (1965-1974). Finding that the objectives of IHD are still prevailing, UNESCO has provided since 1975 the secretariat of its successor, the International Hydrological Programme (IHP).

6. In recent years, freshwater issues have gained increased attention on the international political agenda. Following a decision of the United Nations General Assembly, World Water Day has been celebrated on 22 March each year since 1994. Through its recent resolution GA55/196 declaring 2003 the "International Year of Freshwater", the United Nations General Assembly underlined once again the growing importance of water.

7. In his keynote speech on the closing day of the Second World Forum (World Water Day, 22 March 2000), the Director-General of UNESCO referred to the nineteenth special

session of the United Nations General Assembly which had recognized the “urgent need to strengthen the capability of governments and international institutions to facilitate the integrated assessment of water resources”. The United Nations system as a whole had agreed on the need for the project on the integrated freshwater resources assessment leading to a biennial world water development report. He announced that steps had been taken to ensure that the United Nations World Water Assessment Programme (WWAP) would soon be launched with its secretariat housed at UNESCO, following intensive consultations with United Nations system partners.

8. In the intervening months this initiative, led by UNESCO, has received official endorsement by the 23 agencies comprising the ACC Subcommittee on Water Resources. Thus, there is now in place a United Nations system-wide programme wherein education, knowledge dissemination and capacity-building form a substantial component.

9. While two dozen United Nations specialized agencies and programmes are associated with water or have some form of water-related engagement, UNESCO’s IHP is the only water-related scientific and educational programme within the United Nations system. UNESCO’s leadership in these areas is acknowledged by the ACC Subcommittee on Water Resources. The importance of education and studies in environment-related areas was also stressed in the *Science Agenda – Framework for Action*, paragraphs 29 and 33, adopted by the World Conference on Science in Budapest in June 1999.

10. The eighth regional meeting of the Arab IHP National Committees has issued a recommendation for the establishment of a regional centre for training and water studies of arid and semi-arid zones.

11. In June 2000, the delegation of the Arab Republic of Egypt briefed the 14th session of the Intergovernmental Council of the IHP on the recommendations of the eighth regional meeting and proposed the establishment of a regional centre in Egypt. After due consideration, the Council adopted Resolution XIV-4 (Annex I), in which it recommended to the Executive Board and the General Conference that the Centre be placed under the auspices of UNESCO. It also invited Member States, IGOs, NGOs, donor communities and the private sector to support the Centre.

12. In fulfilment of the actions called for by the resolution, a UNESCO mission was undertaken to Egypt in July 2001, concluding in a draft agreement (Annex II). The main findings were as follows:

- (a) There was ample access to high level authorities and institutions of Egypt, including meetings with the Minister of Water Resources and Irrigation and with the director of the well-equipped National Training Centre in the 6th of October City, related research centres in the Delta Barrage area, and interviews with other concerned authorities and academic institutions. In all cases support for the creation of the Regional Centre for Training and Water Studies of Arid and Semi-arid Zones under the auspices of UNESCO was evident.
- (b) The commitment on the part of the Egyptian Government was reflected in actions already carried out and would represent good support for the start-up period of the Centre. It had:
  - (i) established a regional annual training course under IHP, which has been sustained since 1980;

- (ii) hosted since 1996 the coordination secretariat of the UNESCO regional network on groundwater protection;
  - (iii) developed for the last four years a regional training course on alluvial hydraulics for the Nile Basin countries, in close coordination with IHE of the Netherlands and IHP. This course has now developed into a regional network for the ten countries of the Nile, in partnership with the IHE and in close coordination with IHP;
  - (iv) hosted since 1999 the overall coordination of the FRIEND/Nile project (an IHP project with participation from eight Nile Basin countries). This project has recently received Flanders FIT resources (US \$900,000);
  - (v) the recent donor meeting of the Nile Basin initiative has pledged US \$25 million for Egypt to undertake capacity-building and training activities on behalf of the Nile Basin countries.
- (c) The discussions with the Egyptian authorities resulted in a schedule of actions describing the manner and timing for the establishment of a regional centre under the auspices of UNESCO, culminating with submission to the 31st session of the General Conference of UNESCO in October/November 2001, with the formal opening of the Centre expected in January 2002.

13. The Government of the Arab Republic of Egypt formally submitted to UNESCO a detailed proposal (Annex III) for the establishment of the Regional Centre for Training and Water Studies of Arid and Semi-arid Zones in Egypt under the auspices of UNESCO, specifically within the category defined in document 21 C/36, Section B(iii), “International and regional centres set up by a State without UNESCO’s participation but subsequently receiving assistance from it”.

### **CONSIDERATIONS ON THE FEASIBILITY OF THE PROPOSED CENTRE**

14. Overview of the proposal: The proposal has endeavoured to address in detail the requirements specified in document 21 C/36, “Principles and Guidelines for the Establishment of International and Regional Centres under UNESCO’s Auspices”. Among the most salient aspects are the following:

- (a) Objectives and functions: These emphasize the pursuit of sustainable and integrated water management in arid and semi-arid regions through appropriate policies and practices, scientific regional cooperation, capacity-building and awareness-raising at all levels, and knowledge and information transfer. The linkage to the UNESCO/IHP network is specifically mentioned.
- (b) Structure and legal status: The Centre is defined as “a coordinating and consulting entity using the capabilities of universities, research centres and other governmental and non-governmental organizations in order to implement its activities”. Its structure would involve:
  - (i) Governing Board: a body with membership comprised of representatives of the host country, UNESCO and of other participating countries of the region, and of international organizations. Its set-up and attributes follow the

guidelines in document 21 C/36. The Board will be chaired by the Minister of Water Resources and Irrigation emphasizing a high level of commitment on the part of the Government.

- (ii) Secretariat: a body in charge of executing the activities of the Centre under the authority of a director appointed by the chair of the Governing Board, in agreement with the Director-General.
  - (iii) The Centre shall enjoy, on the territory of the Arab Republic of Egypt, the personality and legal capacity necessary for the exercise of its function.
- (c) Financial matters: the Government of the Arab Republic of Egypt will take charge of the costs of the facilities, including equipment, plus utilities, communications, secretariat staff, organizational costs of sessions of the Governing Board, etc. Regarding research, training and publications, the Arab Republic of Egypt stressed that it will not require a financial contribution from UNESCO. However, it may require the support of UNESCO in securing additional resources from UNESCO Member States and other regional and international organizations.
- (d) Areas of cooperation with UNESCO: the proposal indicates the types of assistance required:
- (i) support for the implementation of relevant regional activities foreseen in document 31 C/5;
  - (ii) facilitating the linkage to applicable regional and international organizations, NGOs and UNESCO Member States.
- (e) Participation of other States: there are ongoing programmes with full participation of the countries and organizations of the region and many others, that would contribute to the scope of cooperation with the Centre. These include: the annual IHP International Course on Hydrology organized since 1980 by the Egyptian IHP National Committee; the training and study activities on alluvial hydraulics of the Egyptian Hydraulic Research Institute in collaboration with IHE; training and research activities on groundwater coordinated by the Research Institute on Groundwater within the framework of UNESCO/ALECSO/ACSAD regional network on groundwater protection; and research and training activities of the FRIEND/Nile project coordinated by the Egyptian Water Resources Research Centre.

15. Relationship between the activities of the Centre and UNESCO's objectives and programmes:

- (a) UNESCO's involvement at the forefront of freshwater science, education and training for the benefit of the Member States represents a long-term commitment. UNESCO has provided since 1975 the secretariat of the IHP, which is the only water-related scientific and educational programme within the United Nations system.
- (b) The Executive Board at its 160th session adopted three main thrusts for the Medium-Term Strategy for 2002-2007. One thrust is particularly pertinent to the Egyptian proposal, namely the promotion of participation in the knowledge

society through capacity-building and the sharing of knowledge. The strategic objectives adopted for the sciences stipulate “improving human security by better management of the environment and social change” and emphasize “enhancing scientific, technical and human capacities”. Furthermore, the Executive Board endorsed as principal priority of the natural sciences programme for 2001-2003 “water resources and their associated ecosystems”, which, among other objectives, pursues promoting capacity-building and scientifically sound policy decisions for sustainable use of freshwater and supporting ecosystems. Moreover, the Executive Board at its 161st session stressed the necessity to pay special attention to water resources management in arid and semi-arid zones.

- (c) As described in paragraphs 2 and 3, draft documents 31 C/4 and 31 C/5 and the draft plan of IHP-VI (2002-2007) include actions that explicitly address water issues in arid and semi-arid zones.

The creation of a regional training centre focusing on water issues of arid and semi-arid zones in the Arab Republic of Egypt complies with the objectives set and with the foreseen programmes of UNESCO in freshwater for the coming biennium and the medium-term.

#### 16. Regional or international impact of the Centre:

- (a) Coverage: Geographically, the Centre is ready to welcome Arab and African countries sharing concerns on water resources management in arid and semi-arid zones and willing to contribute and benefit from the Centre. In fact, this is already done by the Ministry of Water Resources and Irrigation through ad hoc and regular programmes carried out by the Egyptian IHP National Committee, as well as the research institutes of the National Water Research Centre. Thus, the regional centre will start with consolidation and coordination of these programmes in addition to an enhanced work plan.
- (b) Potential impact on the region: The increase of population and lack of resources is creating acute problems in many of the countries of the region. At present, there is no regional training and scientific organization on water management in arid zones issues that takes into account the climatic and other specificities of the region. The potential impact of the Centre on international scientific and technical cooperation in the region is thus significant.
- (c) Technical cooperation: The technical cooperation with other proposed UNESCO-sponsored centres such as IHE and the future regional water centres in the Islamic Republic of Iran and in Chile in arid and semi-arid zones, can bring applicable knowledge into the region. Other international and regional agencies and scientific NGOs can be linked through UNESCO. In fact, the Arab League Educational, Cultural and Scientific Organization (ALECSO) has already attended part of the discussion with the Government and indicated its support to the Centre.

#### 17. Results expected from UNESCO’s contribution:

- (a) Role of the Centre in executing the Organization’s programme: As pointed out in paragraphs 3 and 15 of this document, the Centre fits very well with UNESCO’s objectives in general and the freshwater programme in particular. It can be an effective means of carrying out a great number of water activities specified in the IHP-VI plan, particularly for arid and semi-arid climates with applicability to

developing countries. The current technical and scientific expertise in the field in the Arab Republic of Egypt, as assessed by the July 2001 UNESCO mission, and the commitment shown by the Government provide a solid base for the launching of a centre in Egypt and an expectation that the activities assigned to it will be completed successfully. The Centre would be a complement to the existing UNESCO/IHP regional centres such as: the humid tropic centres (CATHALAC in Panama for Latin America and the Caribbean, and the Kuala Lumpur Centre for South-East Asia and the Pacific) and the centre on urban management proposed by the Islamic Republic of Iran. It can also link in training matters with the UNESCO/IHE Institute for Water Education proposed by the Netherlands.

- (b) Potential impact of UNESCO's contribution on the Centre's activities: the presence of UNESCO is necessary to the Centre from a double standpoint:
  - (i) UNESCO needs to fulfil its catalytic function during the nascent period of the Centre by lending its technical and organizational expertise;
  - (ii) UNESCO's role as a bridge to other countries, international organizations and relevant NGOs sharing water issues for arid and semi-arid zones is essential for a successful exposure of the Centre. It is unlikely that another international organization could be able to provide the range of support needed in order to maximize its viability: an international freshwater scientific programme with a wide-existing network, norms and practical experience of the establishment of regional centres and the necessary moral authority and convening power to make a difference in the international scene. Likewise, there would be net gain in visibility for UNESCO in the region with respect to water management in arid and semi-arid regions.

18. Summary evaluation of the proposal submitted:

- (a) From the previous paragraphs it is clear that the establishment of the Centre is fully in line with UNESCO's objectives and programmes and that the Centre would contribute to the execution of the freshwater programme of UNESCO, while UNESCO's aegis is necessary for the Centre's regional standing and development.
- (b) The strong support shown by the Egyptian Government for the creation of the Centre is a favourable precondition, as is the commitment by the Government to meet the running and staffing needs of the Centre.
- (c) Water resources management in arid and semi-arid zones was a special priority of IHP-V and has been recommended by the 161st session of the Executive Board as a special feature of the principal priority of the Science Sector specified in document 31 C/4 as "water resources and ecosystems". Moreover, the Intergovernmental Council of IHP has voiced its support for the initiative. Regional support has been shown at the 14th session of the IHP Intergovernmental Council, and the 8th Regional Meeting of the National IHP Committees of the Arab countries (Lebanon, October 1999).
- (d) The proposed institutional structure of the Centre is compatible with the guidelines of document 21 C/36, particularly on the composition and functions of the Governing Board and the Secretariat. Its character as advisory and

coordinating body will allow it to use the scientific and technical resources available in the Arab Republic of Egypt and elsewhere.

- (e) UNESCO/IHP is confident that it would be able to delegate to the Centre some of the activities of its programme for the biennium 2002-2003, achieving a double effect: supporting the start-up period of the Centre while having the Centre contribute to the execution of IHP's biennial programme.
- (f) The risks that UNESCO would incur in the establishment of the Centre would be low, first of all because of the strong Egyptian support it is receiving and the competent initial installed capacity. As is the case for other regional water centres under the auspices of UNESCO (such as the CATHALAC and Kuala Lumpur Centres), a biennial review by the General Conference would determine whether the Centre is developing in conformity with the objectives of UNESCO and whether the pledged Egyptian and regional support is taking place as planned.

The points cited above indicate that the viability of the likely to be proposed Regional Centre for Training and Water Studies of Arid and Semi-arid Zones in Egypt under the auspices of UNESCO is high and that UNESCO's governing bodies should give it due consideration.

19. With regard to all legal, managerial and administrative aspects of the proposed Centre, and how an existing government facility will be transferred to support it, the Arab Republic of Egypt has submitted to the Executive Board a draft agreement that addresses these issues. This draft agreement on the proposed Regional Centre for Training and Water Studies of Arid and Semi-arid Zones has been elaborated through a process of consultation between the Egyptian authorities and the UNESCO Secretariat.

20. The Director-General welcomes the proposed establishment of the Regional Centre for Training and Water Studies of Arid and Semi-arid Zones. He recognizes that the transfer of a reputed institute to become a regional centre under the auspices of UNESCO could only be of benefit to the Member States, UNESCO and the Arab Republic of Egypt. He acknowledged that forging closer ties of this type could even set an example for the future. He fully recognizes the benefits this proposal entails to the Member States.

21. The Director-General invites the Executive Board to examine the proposal and attached documents with a view to devising an innovative partnership in the field of water training and studies for the benefit of the Member States.

22. In the light of the above report, the Executive Board may wish to consider the following decision:

The Executive Board,

1. Recalling paragraphs 29 and 33 of the *Science Agenda – Framework for Action* adopted by the World Conference on Science in Budapest in June 1999,
2. Taking note of Resolution XIV-4 adopted by the Intergovernmental Council of the International Hydrological Programme (IHP) in June 2000,
3. Having examined document 162 EX/10, which contains the report of the Director-General, the draft agreement and the proposal submitted by the Egyptian authorities,



4. Welcoming the proposal of the Government of the Arab Republic of Egypt, and appreciating the results of the discussions held so far between the Secretariat and the Egyptian authorities,
5. Recommends to the 31st session of the General Conference to approve the establishment of the Regional Centre for Training and Water Studies of Arid and Semi-arid Zones in Cairo, Egypt, under the auspices of UNESCO.

**ANNEX I**

**RESOLUTION XIV-4**

**ESTABLISHMENT OF A REGIONAL CENTRE FOR  
WATER STUDIES OF ARID AND SEMI-ARID ZONES**

The Intergovernmental Council of the International Hydrological Programme of UNESCO

- Noting** the results of the Long Term Vision for Water, Life and the Environment and the deliberations of the Second World Water Forum identifying arid and semi-arid zones facing particularly severe water stress and scarcity in the coming years,
- Considering** that integrated water resources management in arid zones is a priority of IHP-V and VI,
- Recognizing** the need to enhance human capacity development to successfully face the expected water crisis of arid zones,
- Noting with appreciation** the willingness of the Arab Republic of Egypt to establish and to maintain a Regional Centre for Studies of Arid and Semi-arid Zones in Egypt at the Training Centre of the Ministry of Water Resources and Irrigation,
- Recognizing** that the said Training Centre has all facilities required for training and accommodation,
- Also recognizing** the benefits for professionals working in arid zones, particularly in Africa and the Middle East,
- Recommends** to the Executive Board and the General Conference of UNESCO to place this Centre under the auspices of UNESCO, on the understanding that the Centre will closely collaborate with other UNESCO water-related educational initiatives,
- Invites** Member States, IGOs, NGOs, the donor community and the private sector to support the initiative and the future Centre through partnership projects and networking.

## ANNEX II

**DRAFT AGREEMENT BETWEEN  
THE GOVERNMENT OF THE ARAB REPUBLIC OF EGYPT AND  
THE UNITED NATIONS EDUCATIONAL, SCIENTIFIC  
AND CULTURAL ORGANIZATION (UNESCO)  
CONCERNING THE ESTABLISHMENT AND OPERATION OF  
THE REGIONAL CENTRE FOR TRAINING AND WATER STUDIES  
OF ARID AND SEMI-ARID ZONES  
(RCTWS-Egypt)**

**Whereas** the General Conference, at its 31st session, decided that the Regional Centre for Training and Water Studies of Arid and Semi-arid Zones (RCTWS-Egypt), hereinafter called “the Centre”, would be established in the Arab Republic of Egypt under UNESCO auspices,

**Whereas** the Government of the Arab Republic of Egypt has contributed and stands ready to contribute further to the establishment and operation of the Centre in its territory,

**Bearing in mind** that the Government of the Arab Republic of Egypt has already taken a number of effective measures and steps to ensure the necessary infrastructure and facilities for the Centre,

**Desirous** of concluding an agreement with a view to ensuring the establishment and operation of the said Centre and to defining the terms and conditions governing the support that it shall be granted,

The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, hereinafter called “the Organization”, and the Government of the Arab Republic of Egypt, hereinafter called “the Government”,

### **HAVE AGREED AS FOLLOWS:**

#### **Article I Establishment**

The Government agrees to take any measures that may be required for the setting up of the Regional Centre for Training and Water Studies of Arid and Semi-arid Zones (RCTWS-Egypt), hereinafter called “the Centre”, in Egypt as provided for under this Agreement.

#### **Article II Participation**

1. The Centre shall be an autonomous institution at the service of Member States of the Organization, that by their geographical proximity to the Centre and nature of their arid and semi-arid water problems desire to cooperate with the Centre through their National Committees for the International Hydrological Programme.

2. Member States of the Organization wishing to participate in the Centre’s activities, as provided for under this Agreement, shall send the Director-General of the Organization

notification to this effect as well as a designation of the national water-related body which shall be competent to represent the Member State. The Director-General shall inform the Centre and the Member States mentioned in Article II, paragraph 1 above, of the receipt of such notifications.

### **Article III** **Objectives and Functions**

1. The objectives of the Centre are:
  - (a) to generate and provide scientific and technical information on training and water studies of arid and semi-arid issues in the region that will allow the formulation of sound policies leading to sustainable and integrated water resources management at the local, national and regional level;
  - (b) to promote studies on water management issues of arid and semi-arid zones through regional cooperative arrangements using and strengthening local capabilities and involving international institutions and networks, in particular those under UNESCO/IHP auspices;
  - (c) to undertake within the region effective training and capacity-building activities at institutional and professional levels, and awareness-raising activities targeted at various audiences, including the general public;
  - (d) to enhance cooperation with international institutions in order to advance knowledge in the field of water management of arid and semi-arid zones.
  
2. The functions of the Centre shall be:
  - (a) to promote scientific studies of the arid and semi-arid issues and problems related to water management of the region;
  - (b) to create and reinforce networks for the exchange of scientific, technical and policy information on arid and semi-arid water issues among the institutions and individuals in the region and in other countries;
  - (c) to develop and coordinate cooperative research and study activities on water management issues of arid and semi-arid zones, taking advantage particularly of the installed scientific and professional capacity of the region and of the relevant IHP networks and non-governmental organizations;
  - (d) to organize knowledge and information transfer activities on the subject, including international training courses, symposia or workshops, and to engage in appropriate awareness-raising activities;
  - (e) to develop a strong programme of information and communication technology to further the Centre's objectives;
  - (f) to provide technical consulting and advisory services in the region and beyond as required;

- (g) to produce technical publications and other media items related to the activities of the Centre.
3. The Centre shall pursue the above objectives and functions in close coordination with the water-related programmes of the Organization.
4. The Centre's capability to carry out the above functions will depend upon the extent to which international and regional support can be mobilized.

#### **Article IV Governing Board**

1. The Centre shall be administered by a Governing Board composed of:
- (a) a representative of the Government;
  - (b) a representative of each of the other Member States that: (1) have sent the Director-General of the Organization notification, as provided for under Article II, paragraph 2, above and that (2) make a substantial contribution to the annual operating budget or running of the Centre, and are thus accorded a seat by a decision of the Governing Board;
  - (c) a representative of the Director-General of the Organization;
  - (d) a representative of any other intergovernmental organization or international non-governmental organization making a substantial contribution to the annual operating budget or running of the Centre and accorded a seat by a decision of the Governing Board.
2. The representative of the Government shall be appointed by, or shall be, the Minister of Water Resources and Irrigation of the Arab Republic of Egypt, and shall be the *ex-officio* Chairperson of the Governing Board.
3. The Governing Board shall have all the powers required for the running and administration of the Centre. It shall:
- (a) approve the annual plan and budget of the Centre;
  - (b) examine the annual reports submitted by the Director of the Centre as provided under Article VI below;
  - (c) study and approve the intra-Centre procedures, including financial regulations and staff rules;
  - (d) approve the Centre chart and number of staff; and
  - (e) convene special consultative sessions to which it shall invite, in addition to its own members, the Director of the Centre, representatives of other interested countries and international organizations in order to obtain proposals for strengthening the scope of services of the Centre and for carrying out projects and activities relevant to the Centre, and to expand the Centre's fund-raising strategy and capabilities.

4. The Governing Board shall meet in ordinary session once a year; it shall meet in an extraordinary session if summoned by the Chairperson, either on his own initiative or on that of the Director-General of the Organization, or at the request of at least half of its members.

5. The Governing Board shall adopt its own rules of procedure. For the first meeting the procedures shall be established by the representative of the Government and the Organization.

#### **Article V Secretariat**

1. The Centre's Secretariat shall consist of a Director and such staff as is necessary for the proper functioning of the Centre.

2. The Director shall be appointed by the Chairperson of the Governing Board in agreement with the Director-General of the Organization.

3. The other members of the Secretariat may comprise:

- (a) members of the Organization's staff who would be made available to the Centre, as provided for by the Organization's regulations;
- (b) any person appointed by the Director, in accordance with the procedures laid down by the Governing Board;

Government officials who would be made available to the Centre, as provided by the Government's regulations.

#### **Article VI Duties of the Director**

The Director shall discharge the following duties:

- (a) direct the work of the Centre in conformity with the programmes and directives established by the Governing Board;
- (b) propose the draft plan and budget to be submitted to the Governing Board for approval;
- (c) prepare the provisional agenda for the sessions of the Governing Board and submit to it any proposals that he may deem useful for the administration of the Centre;
- (d) prepare reports on the Centre's activities to be submitted to the Governing Board;
- (e) represent the Centre in law and in all civil acts.

#### **Article VII Financial arrangements**

1. The Centre's resources shall derive from sums allotted by the Government, from other Member States of the Organization, from the intergovernmental organizations or international non-governmental organizations mentioned in Article IV of this agreement, and from payments for services rendered.

2. The Centre may, with the approval of the Governing Board, receive gifts and legacies.

### **Article VIII**

#### **Contribution of the Government**

1. The Government shall cover the salaries and compensations of the Secretariat staff, including the Director, and make available to the Centre the necessary staff.
2. The Government shall provide the Centre with appropriate office space, equipment and facilities.
3. The Government shall cover the communication, utilities and maintenance costs of the Centre, plus the expenses of holding the sessions of the Governing Board and the meetings of the Consultative Group.
4. The Government shall contribute funds towards the implementation of studies, training and publication activities, complementing the contributions from other sources.

### **Article IX**

#### **Technical Contribution of the Organization**

1. It will provide technical advice in the formulation of the short-term, middle-term, and long-term programmes of the Centre.
2. In conformity with the relevant policies of the Intergovernmental Council of the IHP, it may assign to the Centre the execution of agreed-upon water activities of relevance to the region within the framework of its regular biennial budgets and programmes, particularly those appropriate to reinforce its start-up period.
3. It will encourage the international governmental and non-governmental financial entities, as well as Member States of the Organization to provide financial and technical assistance and to propose applicable projects to the Centre and will facilitate the contacts with other international organizations relevant to the functions of the Centre.
4. It will provide the Centre with IHP publications and other pertinent material and will disseminate information on the activities of the Centre via the IHP website, newsletters and other mechanisms at its disposal.
5. It will participate, when appropriate, in the scientific, technical and training meetings held by the Centre.

### **Article X**

#### **Final clauses**

1. The present Agreement shall come into force upon its signature by the two parties. It shall remain in force until the end of 2007 and may be renewed for a similar period as agreed upon between the Government and the Organization.
2. The present Agreement may be revised by consent between the Government and the Organization.

3. Either party shall have the right to terminate this Agreement by giving six months prior written notice to the other Party.

**IN FAITH WHEREOF**, the undersigned representatives, duly authorized, have signed the present Agreement in two copies in the English language.



**ANNEX III**

***Proposal for Establishment of a Regional Centre  
for Training and Water Studies  
of Arid and Semi-arid Zones  
RCTWS-EGYPT***

***Submitted to UNESCO  
by the  
Ministry of Water Resources and Irrigation,  
Government of the Arab Republic of Egypt***

***Proposal for  
Establishment of a Regional Centre for Training  
and Water Studies of Arid and Semi-arid Zones***

Water resources play the fundamental role in the social, economic and environmental development and in ensuring national security. By all means, the region suffers from scarcity of its water resources. Mainly, water scarcity is due to its location in an arid or semi-arid part of the globe. There are other factors such as population growth, finite freshwater resources and/or its uneven distribution and lack of water management awareness. All these have severe consequences on food security and desertification in many parts of the region.

There are calls from all over the world and concerned organizations for the better development of national and regional training programmes and studies on water management in arid and semi-arid zones. Creating an integrated framework of cooperation among regional countries in this field is considered one of the main challenges at the national and regional levels.

**I. THE EXISTING TRAINING CENTRE OF THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES AND IRRIGATION – TC-MWRI:**

**I.1 TC-MWRI background:**

Egypt is one of the unique countries among the world known for its extraordinary dependence upon a single water source – the River Nile. The Ministry of Water Resources and Irrigation carry out the planning, operation, management, monitoring and maintenance of all irrigation and drainage systems in Egypt.

In the last decades, the rapid increase of water demand indicated the critical importance of developing a plan for an integrated strong training programme and awareness campaigns of water management in arid and semi-arid zones. This plan had to be executed on all levels: planning, studying, implementing, etc.

For such crucial issues, the Training and Manpower Development Unit (TMDU), the organizational predecessor of the Training Centre of the Ministry of Water Resources and Irrigation, was established in 1982. In 1985, the TMDU expanded its scope of services with assistance provided by the Professional Development Component of the USAID-funded Irrigation Management Systems Project.

Since 11 December 1994 a new development policy and a new facility for the Training Centre have been established; it is in operation. The Training Centre is responsible for developing the skills of the Ministry's staff members in accordance with the national policies. TC-MWRI provides specialized training to help some 6,000 professionals and 80,000 non-professional staff members working in the fields of irrigation, drainage and other public works activities to upgrade their skills and knowledge, hence leading to improved on-the-job performance. The TC-MWRI also organizes training courses, seminars and conferences for other countries on the regional and international levels. The figure indicates the number of training courses implemented by the Centre within the last 19 years.

The existing Training Centre with its classrooms, modern laboratories, accommodation buildings, library, computer lab, language lab, and other facilities, while serving the

manpower development needs of the MWRI, serves as well other governmental and private sectors. The Training Centre has three other, smaller branches located in Middle Delta, Middle Upper Egypt and Upper Egypt.

## **I.2 TC-MWRI location:**

The TC-MWRI premises extend over an area of 24,000 m<sup>2</sup> and is located in the 6th of October City. This city, with its lovely dry weather, is one of the distinguished new cities in Egypt (30 km west of Cairo) with several entertainment locations which applicants can visit during their leisure time. It is close to the great historical Egyptian monuments, the Pyramids and the Sphinx.

Regarding accommodation and logistics, the TC-MWRI offers in the same location appropriate quality services for resident participants. The TC-MWRI hotel comprises 250 units, single and double room facilities with private lavatories. There is a large restaurant in the hotel building and a cafeteria in the administration building.

In addition, several sport facilities are provided to the trainees in the same Centre. There are three special courts for basketball, football, tennis, ping pong and also a lovely swimming pool.

## **I.3 TC-MWRI programmes:**

The TC-MWRI offers specialized training programmes in the field of hydrology and water resources focusing on irrigation, drainage, environmental issues and many other related subjects, which concern water professionals. The courses consist of lectures, case studies, practical work and field trips. These programmes are classified mainly into:

- scientific and technical programmes for engineers and technicians;
- management and administrative courses;
- computer and English language courses;
- field studies and foreign training programmes;
- workshops, conferences and any other scientific meetings.

Five main departments are allocated for these programmes: Department of Planning and Programme Design, Department of Programme Implementation, Department of Laboratories and Experimental Fields, Department of Evaluation and Follow-up, and Department of Administrative and Financial Affairs plus a Technical Office of Publishing and Information.

## **I.4 Legal status of the TC-MWRI:**

Since 1982 the Training Centre is affiliated to the Ministry of Water Resources and Irrigation. It is a governmental organization, and therefore abides by national and governmental working rules. The TC-MWRI is managed directly under the supervision of the Minister of MWRI. Its policies and future plans are reviewed and approved by the Supreme Committee for Training headed by the Minister. The members of this Committee are the senior undersecretaries of all of the MWRI authorities and sectors, plus the Executive Director of the Training Centre.

### **I.5 Financial status of the TC-MWRI:**

The State of the Arab Republic of Egypt is responsible for providing necessary funds required for personnel, as well as for operation and maintenance costs of the Centre.

An annual budget is allocated to the TC-MWRI from the Egyptian Government through the MWRI. This budget is sufficient to cover the salaries of the TC-MWRI staff and the essential required costs for operation and maintenance (e.g. allocated budget for 2000-2001 = £E 3,000,000).

More over, the Minister of MWRI issued a ministerial decree in 1995, which allocates 0.5% of the budget of the contractual works implemented by the Ministry to support the activities of the TC-MWRI (e.g. allocated budget for 2000-2001 = £E 2,000,000).

The budget received from contribution of international and national donor agencies requesting specific courses (e.g. budget for 2000-2001 = £E 500,000).

### **6. Investment and achievements:**

The following figures indicate the main achievements of the TC-MWRI since its establishment in 1982:

Number of organized training courses for Egyptians:	1,110
Number of Egyptian trainees (engineers, technicians, administrators):	25,000
Number of organized training courses for non-Egyptians:	83
Number of non-Egyptian trainees:	500

Funds allocated for the Centre since its inception in 1982 are as follows:

Foreign funds (USAID):	US \$14,000,000
Local funds:	£E 54,000,000 (about US \$17,000,000)

## **II. THE PROPOSAL OF A REGIONAL CENTRE FOR TRAINING AND WATER STUDIES, RCTWS-EGYPT:**

The future mission of the proposed Regional Centre for Training and Water Studies of Arid and Semi-arid Regions (RCTWS) is to offer specialized training programmes and applied studies focused on integrated water resources management by increasing the scope and capacity of the existing Training Centre. These different studies will concern interested managers, professionals, engineers, technicians and administrative staff in Egypt as well as Arab, African and regional countries.

### **II.1 Objectives of RCTWS-EGYPT:**

The main objectives of the RCTWS-EGYPT are:

- Generating and providing scientific and technical information on training and water studies of arid and semi-arid issues in the region that will allow the formulation of sound policies leading to sustainable and integrated water resources management at the local, national and regional level;

- Undertaking within the region effective training and capacity-building activities at institutional and professional levels, and awareness-raising activities targeted at various audiences, including the general public;
- Promoting applied skills on water studies, water management, socio-economic and environmental issues through regional cooperative arrangements, strengthening local capabilities and involving regional and international institutions in one integrated network;
- Integrating learning and quality network experience for training engineers and professional staff on present responsibilities and future targets;
- Providing management and training resources for self-education of engineers and graduate staff;
- Upgrading the practical, operational skills and attitudes of individuals and groups of technicians by developing implemented and technical field training programmes;
- Focusing on increasing cooperation among the region and other countries, as well as capacity-building at institutional and professional levels. Raising environmental awareness activities at various audiences, including the general public in order to enhance knowledge and consequently the sustainable management of water resources.

## **II.2 Functions of RCTWS-EGYPT:**

The main functions of the RCTWS are aimed at coordination, cooperation, collaboration and communication among water studies stakeholders in the region. These functions can be summarized as follows:

- Organizing and reinforcing a regional water studies network for exchange of scientific and technical capabilities in interactive and creative learning methods;
- Developing a strong programme for advisory services, information transfer activities, using applied research findings for the regional countries in the field of water problems;
- Creating a regional library and media unit for water studies, training programmes, professional and technical publications;
- Updating the technical and computer laboratories to modern ones, equipped with high-quality devices, which enable the participants to practically apply what they have learned, hence, promoting and expanding their understanding capabilities in an ideal way;
- Promoting annual fruitful and high-quality training programmes (scientific, technical, practical) for increasing the know-how and capabilities of manpower of all targeted countries;

- Promoting scientific studies of the arid and semi-arid issues and problems related to water management of the region;
- Developing and coordinating cooperative research and study activities on water management issues of arid and semi-arid zones, taking advantage particularly of the installed scientific and professional capacity of the region and of the relevant IHP networks and non-governmental organizations;
- Organizing knowledge and information transfer activities on the subject, including international training courses, symposia or workshops, and to engage in appropriate awareness-raising activities.

### **II.3 Structure of RCTWS–EGYPT**

Strong support will be provided by the Egyptian Government for the establishment of the Regional Centre for Training and Water Studies of Arid and Semi-arid Zones. The proposed RCTWS is a coordinating and consulting entity employing the capabilities of universities (e.g. Cairo University, Ain Shams University, Zagazig University, Assuit University, etc.), research centres (e.g. National Water Research Centre with all its 12 related research institutes, Academy of Science, etc.) and the other governmental and non-governmental organizations (e.g. ICID, IHP, IHE, NGC, etc.) in order to implement its activities and programmes. RCTWS will be responsible for water studies and annual plans for training and other regional scientific meetings.

The Egyptian Government had established a regional annual training course under IHP which has been sustained since 1980 and hosting since 1996 the coordination secretariat of the UNESCO regional network on groundwater protection. The Government also developed for the last four years a regional training courses on alluvial hydraulics for the ten Nile Basin countries in close coordination with the IHE of the Netherlands and the IHP. This course has now developed into a regional network for the ten countries of the Nile in partnership with the IHE and close coordination with IHP. Egypt also hosts since 1990 the overall coordination of the FRIEND/Nile project (an IHP project with participation from eight Nile Basin countries).

During the joint meeting between the Nile Basin Ministers of Water Resources with donor countries and agencies held in Geneva, June 2001, Egypt was selected to host the Nile Basin Training and Capacity shared vision programme for the basin countries. The first trench of the programme is US \$25 million and this fund was already committed during that meeting. The proposed regional centre with its facilities and experience will execute and overlook this challenging programme.

The proposed structure of the Centre, considering the past experiences and present regulations in Egypt will be as follows:

#### **II.3.1 RCTWS Governing Board:**

This Board will be chaired by the Minister of Water Resources and Irrigation. The members of the Board are the representative of UNESCO, directors and representatives of relevant organizations. Their work will be focused on supervising, advising and assisting in the overall programmes and activities of the Centre. The Governing Board shall have all powers required for the running and administration of the Centre, with the following main duties:

- Review and approve the short- and long-term policies of the Centre;
- Oversight of the development of the overall programme and different activities of the Centre;
- Support financial requirements for the implementation of the activities and water training programmes of the Centre;
- Evaluating and approving the annual reports and budget submitted by the Director of the Centre;
- Studying and approving the intra-centre procedures, including financial regulations and staff rules;
- Approving the Centre organization chart and number of staff; and
- Convening special consultative sessions to which it shall invite, in addition to its own members, the Director of the Centre, representatives of other interested countries and international organizations in order to obtain proposals for strengthening the scope of services of the Centre, for carrying out projects and activities relevant to the Centre, and expand the Centre's fund-raising strategy and capabilities. This Board should meet at least once per year.

### **II.3.2 RCTWS Secretariat:**

The Secretariat is composed of the Director of the Centre, technical staff, administrative staff and financial staff. The main role of the Secretariat is to formulate and draw all the details of the executive programmes of the Centre and its implementation.

### **II.3.3 Director (Director, RCTWS)**

The main duties of the Executive Director of the Centre are the following:

- Executing the implementation plan of work of the Centre in conformity with the programmes and directives established by the Governing Board;
- Proposing the plan and budget of the Centre to be approved by the Governing Board;
- Preparing reports on the activities of the Centre to be submitted to the Governing Board;
- Submitting to the Governing Board any proposals that the Director may deem useful for the administration of the Centre;
- Supervising technical and administrative daily work;
- Approving financial and administrative documents.

### **III. PROPOSED AREA OF COOPERATION BETWEEN UNESCO AND RCTWS-EGYPT**

The proposed RCTWS will conduct regional training and study programmes for arid and semi-arid regions within the framework of the International Hydrological Programme (IHP) of UNESCO. At present, the TC-MWRI is running activities related to Theme 8 of IHP-V. In future, it is expected that the RCTWS will be more active in administering and organizing more regional courses within the framework of IHP-VI, starting January 2002 until the end of year 2007.

The RCTWS will render its facilities at the disposal of any of UNESCO's activities. These include, but are not limited to, organizing conferences, seminars, workshops, etc.

UNESCO will be expected to:

- encourage the international governmental and non-governmental financial entities, as well as the UNESCO Member States, to raise financial and technical assistance and to propose proper projects to the Centre;
- provide the Centre with IHP publications and other pertinent material to be filed in the Centre technical library;
- facilitate the relationship between the Centre and the international governmental and non-governmental organizations relevant to water management in arid and semi arid regions;
- utilize the Centre for the implementation of its relevant technical and training activities whenever possible.

### **IV. RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN RCTWS-EGYPT ACTIVITIES AND UNESCO STRATEGIES**

The UNESCO strategy for the year 2002-2007 places the freshwater issues at the top of its priority list in the Science Sector. One of the UNESCO special water programmes is the International Hydrological Programme (IHP). The RCTWS can play an active role in conducting training courses, workshops, scientific programmes and meetings within the framework of the IHP and water management.

### **V. REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL IMPACTS OF RCTWS**

The interactive plan of the proposed RCTWS will help in improving and upgrading the skills of human resources in the water sector on the regional and international scales. Through the Regional Centre for Training and Water Studies of Arid and Semi-arid Zones the collaborative partnerships with other international organizations can be further strengthened. Extending the present scope of the existing Training Centre will help tackle the freshwater scarcity problems, which is one of the challenging tasks facing the globe.



## **VI. IMPACT OF UNESCO PATRONAGE ON PROMOTION OF THE TRAINING ACTIVITIES**

The expected benefits from having the RCTWS under the patronage of UNESCO are:

- Provide RCTWS with a truly international environment to render its services for the regional community;
- Improvement of the training programmes offered through UNESCO expertise and networks;
- Achieving the training standards required by UNESCO;
- Affiliation of the RCTWS with UNESCO will enhance the feasibility of the Centre and could consequently promote the availability of scholarships for trainees from developing countries. Thus international and regional agencies will be more encouraged to sponsor trainees from different countries in the region;
- Strengthen the collaboration and the cooperation of the RCTWS with other international and regional similar centres to keep abreast of the state of modern technology of various areas related to water issues;
- Broaden the scope and extend the Training Centre's activities to cover the whole region and other countries.

## **VII. FINANCIAL REQUIREMENTS**

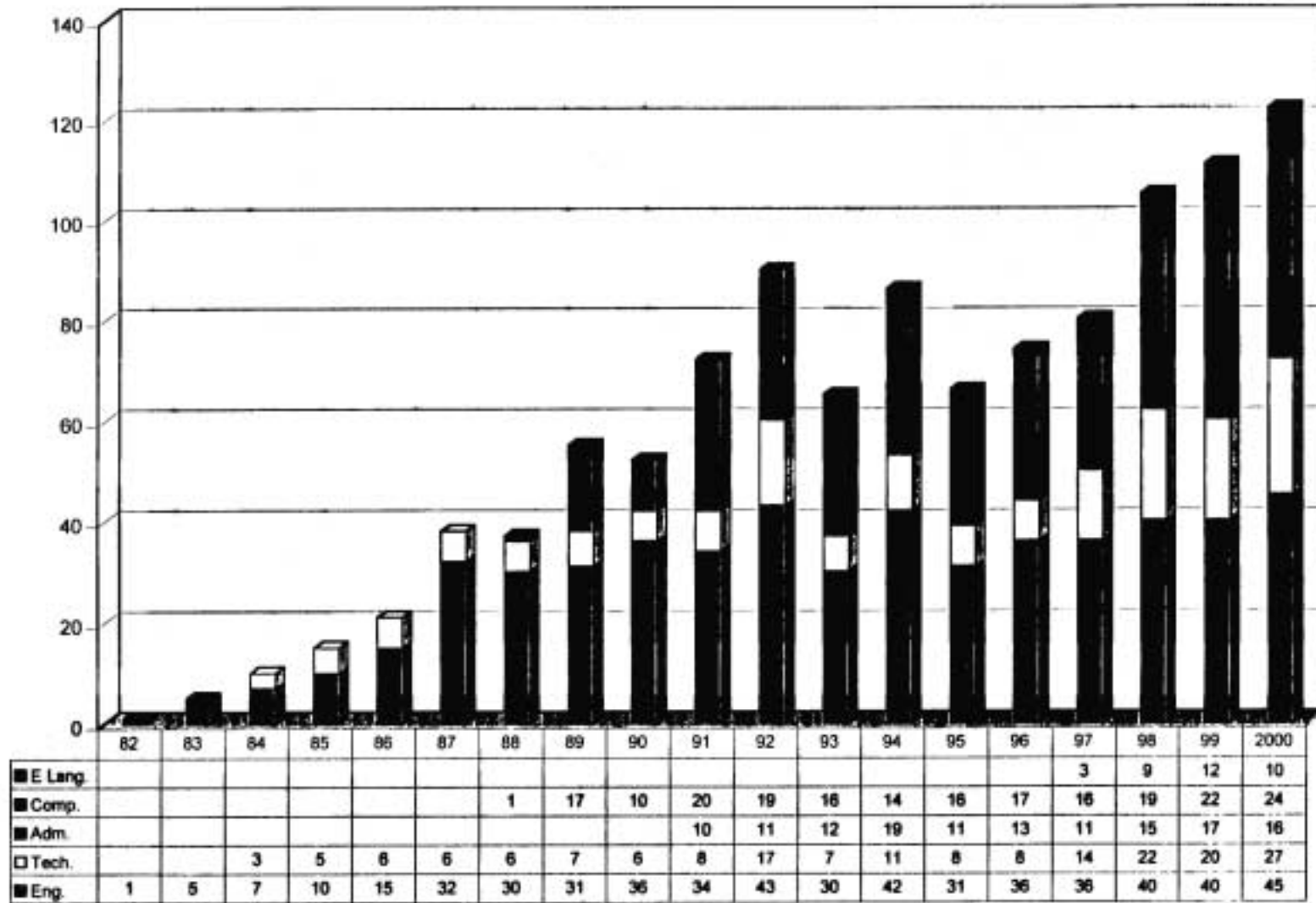
The Government of Egypt will continue to support and secure the financial requirements to implement its national training programme including the cost of the Secretariat staff.

Any regional and/or international activities under the regular budget of UNESCO, participation programmes and/or extrabudgetary programmes could be organized at the RCTWS in the framework of the budget allocated to their activities.

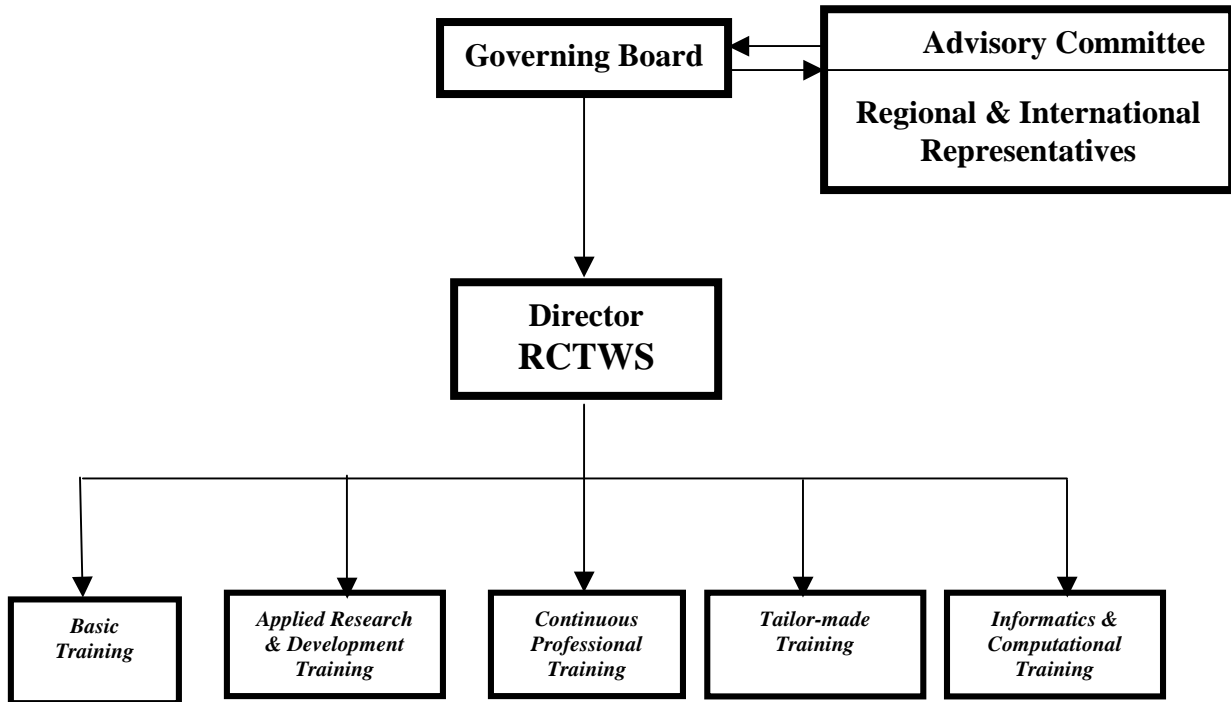
Additional cost related to tailored regional or international programmes requested by other countries and institutions are expected to be financed by such entities. UNESCO may consider assisting the RCTWS to secure some scholarships from donor countries and agencies.

Figure 1

No. of Training Courses from 82 to 2000



The proposed organization chart of the RCTWS–Egypt is illustrated in Figure 2.



**THE ORGANIZATION CHART OF RCTWS- EGYPT**

**Figure 2**