

International Hydrological Programme

22nd session of the Intergovernmental Council
(Paris, 13-17 June 2016)

PROPOSED CATEGORY 2 WATER-RELATED CENTRES

Item 8.4 of the provisional agenda

SUMMARY

This document briefly describes proposals from Member States for the establishment of category 2 centres under the auspices of UNESCO. These proposals have already been endorsed by the IHP Bureau for consideration by the Intergovernmental Council of IHP.

The Council may wish to discuss and endorse the two proposals described in this document after considering the information provided in the reference documents IHP/IC-XII/Ref. 1 and IHP/IC-XII/Ref. 2 and the requirements set forth in the revised comprehensive strategy for category 2 institutes and centres under the auspices of UNESCO (document 37 C/18 Part 1 and Annexes), which was adopted by the 37th session of the General Conference (37 C/Resolution 93). The endorsed centres will be processed further by the governing bodies of UNESCO.

Decision required: The Council may wish to adopt the draft resolution shown in Annex I for those proposed centres.

BACKGROUND

1. At its 37th session the General Conference of UNESCO adopted 37 C/Resolution 93, which approved a revised strategy (37 C/18 Part 1 and Attachments) for category 2 institutes and centres. This strategy (IHP website reference document <http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0022/002217/221715e.pdf>) stipulates that “where a UNESCO intergovernmental or subsidiary body exists, such body shall be invited to review the proposal, as appropriate, in order to determine if it fits within the relevant framework and sectoral strategy and provide a recommendation to the Director-General as to whether a feasibility study should be conducted” (Attachment 1, article ii.c). In doing so, the Council may also take note of article B.2 of the revised strategy, which states that “each category 2 entity shall contribute to the achievement of UNESCO’s strategic programme objectives and global priorities of the Organization, as well as sectoral or intersectoral programme priorities and themes, defined in the C/5 document”. This applies to the proposed water-related centres in terms of their envisaged contribution to the implementation of IHP-VIII themes and focal areas. The Council should also give consideration to the guidelines for the establishment of category 2 centres set forth in the strategy, including that “the designation as a category 2 institute and centre may be granted to an existing entity or to an institution in the process of being created” (article A.1.3). Based on these considerations, the Council would decide whether: (1) it endorses the proposal for each centre and recommends that a detailed proposal incorporating its own comments, if any, and a feasibility study be submitted to the governing organs of UNESCO for the approval of the establishment of the proposed category 2 centre; or (2) it deems the proposal lacking in form or substance, and thus the proposal should not be processed further.

2. The two new centres proposed to be established or designated as category 2 centres under the auspices of UNESCO and which were endorsed by the IHP Bureau for consideration by the Council, are listed below. The full proposals are available online at the IHP website as reference documents IHP/IC-XII/Ref. 1 and IHP/IC-XII/Ref. 2.

PROPOSALS FOR CONSIDERATION BY THE IHP COUNCIL

Proposed Centre on Water Security, in Mexico

4. On 28 October 2014, the government of Mexico through its Permanent Delegation to UNESCO submitted a proposal to the Director-General and the Secretary of IHP for the establishment of a “Centre on Water Security” as a category 2 centre hosted by the Institute of Engineering of the National Autonomous University of Mexico (II-UNAM) and the Mexican Institute of Water Technology (IMTA).

5. The aim of the proposed Centre is to enhance scientific cooperation at regional level and to improve the understanding on water research, with focus on water security as a framework to cross the common divides of water services and resources (see reference document IHP/IC-XXII/Ref.1).

6. The proposal was discussed in detail at the technical meeting of the members of the IHP Bureau (November 2014) and endorsed by the 52nd session of the IHP Bureau (June 2015).

Proposed International Centre on Water and Transdisciplinary, in the Federative Republic of Brazil

7. On 12 April and 3 May 2016, the government of the Federative Republic of Brazil through its Permanent Delegation to UNESCO submitted a proposal to the Secretary of IHP

for the establishment of an “International Centre on Water and Transdisciplinary” (CIRAT) as a category 2 centre hosted by the Botanical Garden in Brasília.

8. CIRAT has been operating since 2009 as a venue to advance transdisciplinary water-related knowledge. It has been working to promote state-of-the-art water-related projects and research. Additionally, it connects researchers from different parts of Brazil and the world, seeking integration of knowledge that is often scattered (see reference document IHP/IC-XXII/Ref.2).

9. Following the 53rd IHP Bureau decision (April 2016), the Secretariat organized an out-of-session consultation of the Bureau members to decide if the proposal be presented at the 22nd IHP Council. On 30 May 2016, on the basis of the recommendations of the Bureau the Federative Republic of Brazil through its Permanent Delegation to UNESCO, re-submitted a revised version of the proposal. The majority of the members of the IHP Bureau agreed to present it to the consideration of IHP Council.

Actions expected by the Council:

The Council may wish to decide to endorse the proposals from the Governments of Mexico and the Federative Republic of Brazil for the consideration by the governing bodies of UNESCO and it may wish to adopt the draft resolution provided in Annex to this document for the two proposed category 2 centres.

ANNEX

Draft Resolution

PROPOSAL FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF WATER-RELATED CENTRES UNDER THE AUSPICES OF UNESCO (CATEGORY 2)

The Intergovernmental Council of the International Hydrological Programme of UNESCO,

- Noting** the critical importance of freshwater issues at the global, regional and national levels for sustainable development in face of mounting global changes;
- Considering** UNESCO's fundamental role in enhancing water security as defined by the strategic plan for IHP-VIII through: (1) mobilizing international cooperation to improve knowledge and innovation to address water security challenges; (2) strengthening the science-policy interface to reach water security at local, national, regional, and global levels, and (3) developing institutional and human capacities for water security and sustainability;
- Acknowledging** the role of the growing network of category 1 and category 2 water-related centres and institutes in providing UNESCO with an increasing capability to implement its strategic priorities;
- Noting with appreciation** the willingness of the Governments of Mexico and the Federative Republic of Brazil, to undertake the establishment of category 2 water-related centres significantly enhancing thematically the existing network of centres;
- Recognizing** the valuable services that the centres will render to Member States and stakeholders throughout the globe and the valuable contributions that they will provide to the implementation of IHP in particular on water security and transdisciplinary water-related knowledge;
- Noting** the endorsement of the related proposals by the IHP Bureau,
- After due consideration of the individual proposals, endorses** the individual proposals for the establishment of:
- the Centre for Water Security at the Institute of Engineering of the National Autonomous University of Mexico (II-UNAM) and the Mexican Institute of Water Technology (IMTA); and
 - the International Centre on Water and Transdisciplinary (CIRAT) at the Botanical Garden in Brasília, Brazil,
- as category 2 centres under the auspices of UNESCO;
- Requests** the assistance of the Secretariat to prepare the necessary documentation to be submitted to the governing bodies of UNESCO toward the creation of the centres in conformity with the IHP strategy for UNESCO category 2 water-related centres and the Integrated

Comprehensive Strategy for Category 2 Institutes and Centres (document 37 C/18 Part I and Annexes), as approved by the 37th session of the General Conference (37 C/Resolution 93);

Invites

the IHP National Committees of the concerned countries to support the establishment and functioning of the centres;

Also Invites

Member States, the IHP National Committees and other partners, in particular the existing UNESCO network of water-related centres and institute, at the regional and international levels, to actively support the proposed centres and ensure cooperation and collaboration in the common endeavours for the benefit of all.