

## **International Hydrological Programme**

22<sup>nd</sup> session of the Intergovernmental Council  
(Paris, 13 – 17 June 2016)

# **PARTICIPATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL HYDROLOGICAL PROGRAMME IN THE IMPLEMENTATION AND MONITORING OF WATER RELATED SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS**

Item 7 of the provisional agenda

### **SUMMARY**

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development includes a dedicated goal on water and sanitation (SDG 6) and several other goals that are water related. Collected credible data and indicators monitoring will be critical to ensure the success of SDG 6. It is therefore necessary to identify and apply specific, measurable and action-oriented indicators. UNESCO is part of the UN-Water Working Group on SDG aiming at developing methodologies for the monitoring needs of the SDG 6.

UNESCO, through the execution of the IHP VIII, could support Member States efforts facilitating implementation and monitoring activities of water and sanitation related SDG targets.

The Council may wish to:

- (i) express its views and appreciation on the UNESCO IHP for its role in support of the IAEG-SDG and its active participation in the UN-Water SDG process
- (ii) recommend that UNESCO through IHP directly and through the UNESCO Water family takes action in support of Member States for the sound scientific based implementation and monitoring of SDG N.6 and other water related goals



## **PARTICIPATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL HYDROLOGICAL PROGRAMME IN THE IMPLEMENTATION AND MONITORING OF WATER RELATED SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS (agenda item 7)**

1. Water and sanitation are at the very core of sustainable development. Safe drinking water and adequate sanitation and hygiene are pillars of human health and well-being.
2. In September 2015, Heads of State and Government and High Representatives from the 193 Members of the United Nations General Assembly adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development comprised of 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and 169 targets (<https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/?menu=1300>).
3. The 2030 Agenda includes a dedicated goal on water and sanitation (SDG 6; <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/sdg6>) that sets out to 'Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all.'
4. The United Nations Statistical Commission created an Inter-agency and Expert Group on SDG Indicators (IAEG-SDGs), composed of Member States and including regional and international agencies as observers. The IAEG-SDGs has been tasked to develop an indicator framework for the goals and targets of the Post-2015 Development Agenda at the global level, and to support its implementation.
5. Credible data is needed to underpin sector advocacy, stimulate political commitment, inform decision making and trigger well-placed investments towards optimum health, environment and economic gains. Monitoring will be critical to ensure the success of the SDG 6. It is therefore necessary to identify and apply specific, measurable and action-oriented indicators.
6. The 47<sup>th</sup> United Nations Statistical Commission agreed in March 2016 on the global indicator framework for the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
7. The UN-Water established in 2014 an Inter-Agency Initiative 'Integrated Monitoring of Water and Sanitation Related SDG Targets (GEMI)' to respond to the monitoring needs of SDG 6. The UN-Water also established a Steering Committee, consisting of seven United Nations Agencies. UNESCO is one of the seven Steering Committee members along with FAO, UN-HABITAT, UNEP, UNICEF, WHO, and WMO. The initiative is financed by the Swiss Agency for Development Cooperation.
8. The objective of the UN-Water GEMI initiative is to develop coherent methodologies for monitoring water and sanitation related SDG targets, integrating and expanding existing efforts to ensure harmonized monitoring of the entire water cycle.
9. The first phase of this UN-Water GEMI initiative has focused on the development and testing of a Monitoring Guide for use by the countries, and for the establishment of a global baseline. However, before the methodologies are rolled-out globally, they will be pilot tested in a small number of countries, named the Proof Of Concept (POC) countries, that have volunteered to participate in the test and will be revised as necessary based on lessons learned.
10. The six selected countries to pilot-test in 2016 the monitoring methodologies for SDG 6 are Bangladesh, Jordan, the Netherlands, Peru, Senegal, and Uganda. Following a UN-Water mandate, UNESCO will facilitate the inception sessions of the POC for testing the SDG 6 targets and indicators methodologies in Jordan and in the Netherlands. The inception meeting in Jordan was conducted from 22<sup>nd</sup> to 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2016 in cooperation with UN-Habitat

and with the coordination of the UNESCO office in Amman. The inception meeting in the Netherlands will take place in September 2016.

11. From 11 to 20 July 2016, the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development that is the United Nations central platform for the follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals, will meet to provide political leadership, guidance and recommendations on the 2030 Agenda's implementation and follow-up.

12. There are currently two established 'Water Panels' to promote SDG 6 and its targets. The 'Global High Level Panel on Water and Peace' proposes global architecture to transform water from a source of potential crisis to identify economic and financial mechanisms to incentivize multi-sectoral and transboundary water cooperation. It comprises 15 countries from all parts of the world at a ministerial level. UN participation is via UN-Water, which is invited as an observer. The 'High-Level Panel On Water' (HLPW) is co-convened by the Secretary General of the United Nation and the President of the World Bank Group and it aims to mobilize effective action to accelerate the implementation of SDG 6 and its related targets. Its members are 10 Heads of State and Government and it is co-chaired by the Mauritius and Mexico. The Panel welcomes "an open and growing 'Friends of the water panel' network that encourages a voice for all and seeks to learn from the knowledge that already exists". UNESCO IHP participated in the last meeting (May 2016) of the HLPW as a "Friend of the HLPW".

13. The 21<sup>st</sup> session of the IHP Intergovernmental Council (Paris, June 2014) recommended through resolutions XXI-6 and XXI-7 that 'the IHP Secretariat continues close cooperation with UN-Water members and partners with the view to actively develop suitable components of a robust monitoring and assessment framework supporting the post 2015 Agenda; and requested the Secretariat to identify and develop scientifically sound indicators, and information systems that will support the implementation and monitoring of water-related goals and targets in the SDG framework'.

14. The 53<sup>rd</sup> session of the IHP Bureau (Paris, April 2016) expressed its appreciation on the UNESCO and IHP role in the development of methodologies for the implementation and monitoring of SDG 6 under the umbrella of UN-Water and requested to the IHP Secretariat to prepare a background document on the SDG-IHP related activities and present it at the upcoming 22<sup>nd</sup> Session of the IHP Council with the aim of receiving inputs from Member States on how best to support and build capacity in countries for the sound scientific based monitoring for the SDG 6 indicators.

15. More information is available in the information document IHP/IC-XXII/Inf.4

**Actions expected by the Council:**

**The Council may wish to recommend that UNESCO through its IHP takes action in support of Member States for the sound scientific based implementation and monitoring of SDG 6 and other water related goals and considers the draft resolution contained in Annex I.**

## ANNEX I

### Draft Resolution

#### IHP SUPPORT TO MEMBER STATES FOR A SOUND SCIENCE BASED IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOAL 6 AND OF THE WATER RELATED GOALS

The Intergovernmental Council of the International Hydrological Programme of UNESCO,

- Having examined** The document (working document IHP/IC-XXII/8)
- Recalling** IHP Intergovernmental Council Resolutions XXI-6 and XXI-7 adopted at its 21<sup>st</sup> session highlighting UNESCO-IHP's extensive and significant contributions to promote the key role of water in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development
- Noting that** water resources, water supply and sanitation are at the very core of sustainable development
- Noting with appreciation that** water is identified as one of UNESCO's priorities by its Member States
- Highlighting that** the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development includes a dedicated goal on water and sanitation (SDG N° 6) that sets out to 'ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all' as well as targets of other goals related to water
- Welcomes** The decision of the 47<sup>th</sup> United Nations Statistical Commission to include the target 6.5 'By 2030, implement integrated water resources management at all levels, including through transboundary cooperation as appropriate'
- Emphasizing** the importance placed within SDG 6 on international cooperation and capacity development and thus the need to foster capacity at national level to develop activities with the aim of ensuring the success of the SDG 6
- Recognizing** the need of the Member States and particularly developing countries to monitor and reinforce their capacities towards a sound science based implementation and monitoring of SDG 6 and water related targets
- Keeping in mind** that UNESCO IHP is an intergovernmental programme devoted to water research, water resources management, and education and capacity building tailored to Member States needs

- Considering** the role played by UNESCO IHP within the umbrella of UN-WATER in preparing methodologies for the monitoring of targets and indicators related to SDG 6 and other water related goals
- Also considering** that the UNESCO's Water Family operates as a global network (UNESCO Chairs, Category 1 and 2 Centres and WWAP ) that works together to implement the Organization strategic goals and the role that it could play in developing sound science based tools for the implementation and monitoring of SDG 6 and other water related goals
- Asks** the Chair of the IHP Council to bring to the attention of the 200<sup>th</sup> Session of the UNESCO Executive Board the need of establishing an ad hoc working group with the purpose to facilitate a debate amongst Member States and identify and prioritize the activities UNESCO IHP should undertake in the coming years to support Member States in their implementation of the SDG 6 and water related goals
- Requests** the IHP secretariat to provide support to Member States to build their human resources and a sound basis in science capacity for the monitoring and implementation of SDG 6 and other water related goals
- Demands** UNESCO to open a special account to receive financial support to take actions at the request of the Member States for capacity building activities in support of Member States for the implementation of the SDG 6 and water related goals
- Invites** The IHP Secretariat to mobilize the UNESCO Water Family to contribute proactively to the implementation and reporting process on SDG 6 and water related goals in coordination with the UN-Water
- Requests** the IHP Secretariat to assure the full implementation of this decision and to report on the progress to the 55<sup>th</sup> session of IHP Bureau and the 23<sup>rd</sup> session of the IHP Intergovernmental Council.