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CATEGORY 2 INSTITUTES AND CENTRES

RENEWALS OF CATEGORY 2 INSTITUTES AND CENTRES

INTERNATIONAL GROUNDWATER RESOURCES ASSESSMENT CENTRE (IGRAC)

SUMMARY

In conformity with the revised Integrated Comprehensive Strategy for Category 2 Institutes and Centres (Ref. 37 C/Resolution 93), UNESCO carried out, in 2016, an evaluation of the International Groundwater Resources Assessment Centre (IGRAC) in Delft, the Netherlands, which was established under UNESCO's auspices in accordance with 34 C/Resolution 26. This document summarizes the evaluation of the activities of IGRAC and its contribution to the relevant programme objectives of UNESCO.

The evaluation specifically reviewed whether the Centre makes important contributions to the strategic goals of UNESCO and whether the activities pursued in the Centre are in conformity with the agreement. The key results of the evaluation are contained in the present document.

Action expected of the Executive Board: Proposed decision in paragraph 11.



I. INTRODUCTION

1. The General Conference, at its 34th session, in its 34 C/Resolution 26, approved the establishment of the International Groundwater Resources Assessment Centre (IGRAC) in Delft, the Netherlands. Subsequent to the approval by the General Conference, an agreement concerning the establishment of the Centre was signed between the Government of the Netherlands and UNESCO on 15 November 2011 for a period of four years (the “current Agreement”). The current Agreement entered into force on 22 August 2012 upon meeting the formalities required to that effect by the domestic law of the of Kingdom of the Netherlands and by UNESCO’s internal regulations.

2. The Agreement has been extended by decision of the 199th session of the UNESCO Executive Board (199 EX/SR.7 Item 10.III) for a period of one year from 22 August 2016 until 21 August 2017.

II. EVALUATION

3. By 37 C/Resolution 93, the General Conference approved the revised Integrated Comprehensive Strategy for Category 2 Institutes and Centres, which applies to all renewals of agreements concerning category 2 institutes and centres. In conformity with this strategy, an independent evaluation of IGRAC, financed by the Government of the Netherlands, was carried out in January and February 2016. The main objectives of this review were to examine IGRAC’s performance with respect to its objectives and functions, as specified in the current Agreement, and its contribution to UNESCO’s strategic programme objectives and sectoral or inter-sectoral programme priorities and themes. The evaluation consisted of a detailed review of relevant documents provided by the Centre and UNESCO, in-depth interviews, an on-site mission and discussions with relevant stakeholders.

4. The Centre is specialized on groundwater information and knowledge in the widest sense, on a world-wide scale and on a non-commercial basis. The evaluation found that IGRAC’s overall mandate remains highly relevant to UNESCO’s strategy and objectives. The Centre addresses the tasks assigned, especially with regard to facilitation and promotion of sharing groundwater information and knowledge, focusing since its establishment on aquifer assessment and groundwater monitoring.

5. The evaluation recommended that IGRAC’s status as a UNESCO category 2 centre should be renewed for six years from 2016, in recognition of the strategic importance of groundwater monitoring and assessment globally.

6. The evaluation considered that the relevance of IGRAC’s core objectives had increased in importance, given the role which groundwater resources will have to play in climate change adaptation and (although not yet explicitly recognised) in underpinning the achievement by 2030 of a number of the new United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.

7. The evaluation report can be consulted on the Natural Sciences Sector website.

III. ALIGNMENT OF THE AGREEMENT

8. The Kingdom of the Netherlands has already confirmed to make available to the Centre an annual subsidy of €400,000 (four hundred thousand euros) per year for a period of five years. Therefore, a new Agreement aligned to the Integrated Comprehensive Strategy for Category 2 Institutes and Centres has been drawn up also taking into account the recommendations of the evaluation, in consultation with the Government of the Netherlands.

9. The draft Agreement is available for consultation on the Natural Sciences Sector website.

10. In conformity with the Integrated Comprehensive Strategy for Category 2 Institutes and Centres, and based upon the outcome of the evaluation and the consultation with authorities of the Netherlands, the Director-General recommends that the Executive Board renew the designation of IGRAC as a category 2 centre under the auspices of UNESCO.

Proposed decision

11. In light of the above, the Executive Board may wish to adopt the following decision:

The Executive Board,

1. Recalling 34 C/Resolution 26 and 37 C/Resolution 93,
2. Taking into account document 37 C/18 Part I, its Annex and the attachments thereto,
3. Having examined document 200 EX/12,
4. Considering the recommendation that the designation of IGRAC, in the Netherlands, as a centre under the auspices of UNESCO (category 2) be renewed,
5. Confirms that IGRAC has performed its activities satisfactorily, in contributing to the strategic programme objectives of the Organization;
6. Welcomes the strong commitment of the Government of the Netherlands to ensure the financial sustainability of the activities of IGRAC;
7. Notes that it is invited to approve the renewal of the category 2 status of IGRAC at its 200th session;
8. Also notes the Director-General's recommendation regarding IGRAC in order to enable the signature of the renewal agreement and its entry into force;
9. Decides to renew the designation of IGRAC as a category 2 centre under the auspices of UNESCO until 31 December 2021; and
10. Authorizes the Director-General to sign the corresponding agreement.



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RENEWAL OF CATEGORY 2 INSTITUTES AND CENTRES

ADDENDUM

ESTABLISHMENT OF AN INTERNATIONAL CENTRE FOR WATER SECURITY AND SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT AT THE K-WATER INSTITUTE IN DAEJEON, REPUBLIC OF KOREA

SUMMARY

The present document informs the Executive Board on the deviation in the draft agreement regarding the establishment in the Republic of Korea of the International Centre for Water Security and Sustainable Management as a category 2 centre under the auspices of UNESCO, from the model agreement contained in the Integrated Comprehensive Strategy for Category 2 Institutes and Centres under the auspices of UNESCO (37 C/18 Part I and attachments) approved by the General Conference in 37 C/Resolution 93.

Action expected by the Executive Board: Proposed decision in paragraph 9.



BACKGROUND

1. Following a proposal by the Government of the Republic of Korea to establish an International Centre for Water Security and Sustainable Management as a category 2 centre under the auspices of UNESCO at the K-Water Institute in Daejeon, Republic of Korea, the 47th session of the Bureau of the UNESCO International Hydrological Programme (IHP) (1 June 2012) endorsed the proposal. The 20th session of the IHP Council (4-7 June 2012) adopted Resolution (IHP/IC-XX-6) endorsing the centre.
2. In conformity with the former Integrated Comprehensive Strategy for the establishment of institutes and centres under the auspices of UNESCO (category 2) contained in document 35 C/22 and approved by the General Conference in 35 C/Resolution 103, a draft agreement between UNESCO and the Government of the Republic of Korea had been prepared through a process of consultations between the Government of the Republic of Korea and the UNESCO Secretariat.
3. The Executive Board, at its 191st session (191 EX/Decision 14 (IX)), and the General Conference, at its 37th session (37 C/Resolution 29), respectively recommended and approved the establishment of the International Centre for Water Security and Sustainable Management as a category 2 centre under the auspices of UNESCO and authorized the Director-General to sign the corresponding draft agreement.
4. For several reasons, related to the legitimate choice of the Government of the Republic of Korea, the approved draft agreement was not signed over the course of past years.
5. The draft agreement regarding the establishment of the International Centre for Water Security and Sustainable Management at the K-Water Institute as a category 2 centre under the auspices of UNESCO was revised and aligned with the current standard model agreement indicated in document 37 C/18 Part I, as approved by the General Conference in 37 C/Resolution 93.

PROVISION DEVIATING FROM THE STRATEGY

6. The draft agreement presents one deviation from the model agreement provided in the current strategy for category 2 institutes and centres (37 C/18 Part I, Attachment 2), below addressed for the consideration of the Executive Board:
 - (a) Article 18 of the draft agreement (“settlement of disputes”) includes an additional wording to the clause proposed in the model agreement, stating that:

*“Any dispute between the Parties concerning the interpretation or application of this Agreement, if not settled by negotiation or any other appropriate method agreed to by the Parties, shall be **referred upon consent of both Parties** for final decision to an arbitration tribunal composed of three members, one of whom shall be appointed by a representative of the Government, another by the Director-General of UNESCO, and a third, who shall preside over the tribunal, shall be chosen by the first two.”*
7. The full version of the draft agreement regarding the establishment of the International Centre for Water Security and Sustainable Management at the K-Water Institute as a category 2 centre under the auspices of UNESCO is available for consultation on the dedicated webpage of the Natural Sciences Sector.
8. The Executive Board is invited to take a decision on the signature of the corresponding draft agreement, including its deviation from the model agreement for category 2 institutes and centres (37 C/18 Part I, Attachment 2).

Proposed decision

9. In the light of the above, the Executive Board may wish to consider a decision along the following lines:

The Executive Board,

1. Recalling 35 C/Resolution 103, 191 EX/Decision 14 (IX), and 37 C/Resolution 29, also recalling Resolution XX-6 adopted at the 20th session of the Intergovernmental Council of the UNESCO International Hydrological Programme (IHP) in June 2012,
2. Further recalling 37 C/Resolution 93 and corresponding document 37 C/18 Part I and the attachments thereto,
3. Having examined document 200 EX/12 Add.,
4. Takes note that UNESCO is seeking to promote international cooperation through the designation of the International Centre for Water Security and Sustainable Management at the K-Water Institute (IWSSM) in Daejeon, Republic of Korea, under the auspices of UNESCO (category 2);
5. Further takes note that the Government of the Republic of Korea, as well as the K-Water Institute, fully supports the designation of IWSSM as a category 2 centre under the auspices of UNESCO;
6. Encourages the Government of the Republic of Korea, as well as the K-Water Institute to ensure the enhanced contribution of IWSSM to the implementation of the strategic programme objectives and priorities of UNESCO and to the pursuit of the international agenda for sustainable development, as well as to the promotion of South-South, North-South and triangular cooperation;
7. Further notes the deviation of the draft agreement between UNESCO and the Government of the Republic of Korea, from the model agreement contained in the Integrated Comprehensive Strategy for Category 2 Institutes and Centres under the auspices of UNESCO (37 C/18 Part I and attachments), as approved by the General Conference in 37 C/Resolution 93;
8. Authorizes the Director-General to sign the above-mentioned agreement concerning the establishment of IWSSM at the K-Water Institute under the auspices of UNESCO (category 2).