



International Hydrological Programme (IHP)

53rd session of the IHP Bureau
Paris, 19-20 April 2016

FINAL REPORT

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NOTE: Decisions by the Bureau and actions required are underlined in the text and reported in the table in Annex I.

1. OPENING OF THE SESSION

1. The 53rd session of the Bureau of the International Hydrological Programme (IHP) was held at United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) Headquarters in Paris from 19 to 20 April 2016. The Chairperson and the Vice-Chairpersons from all Electoral Groups attended the session. The Chairperson of the IHP Finance Committee and of the IHP Communication and Outreach Committee, 20 delegations from Member States, three (3) non-governmental organisations, and one (1) Category 1 and one (1) Category 2 water-related centres were represented. The list of participants is attached as Annex III.

2. The Chairperson of the IHP Council, Mr David Korenfeld Federman (Group III, Latin America and the Caribbean), welcomed the participants in the presence of Mr Johannes Cullmann, in a temporary capacity as Vice-Chairperson of Group I (Western Europe and North America), Mr Ian White, Vice-Chairperson of Group IV (Asia-Pacific Region), Mr Jean Patrice Roger Jourda, Vice-Chairperson of Group Va (Africa) and Mr Mahmoud Abou-Zeid, Vice-Chairperson of Group Vb (Arab States). Mr Mitja Brilly, Vice-Chairperson of Group II (Eastern Europe) took part in the Bureau meeting on 20 April.

3. The observer from the Permanent Delegation of Germany to UNESCO clarified that upon the appointment of Mr Cullmann to the post of Director of Climate and Water Department of the World Meteorological Organisation (WMO) in November 2015, he could no longer serve as IHP Vice-Chairperson of Group I with voting rights. It was noted that to allow Mr Cullmann's participation in the 53rd Bureau session with voting rights, WMO seconded him for the period of the Bureau session to the Delegation of Germany. The Bureau members approved this procedure and welcomed his participation in the meeting in a temporary capacity as the Vice-Chairperson of Group I with full voting rights.

4. The Chairperson underlined the important developments since the 52nd session of the Bureau (June 2015, Paris), starting with the adoption of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) in September 2015. He emphasised that all SDGs were linked to water and that there was a standalone Goal, Goal 6 dedicated to water. He suggested that IHP could foster institutional and cross-border cooperation in achieving them. He also noted that COP21 was another milestone of 2015 with implications for the water sector and for guiding the implementation of IHP-VIII. He furthermore referred to the High-Level Panel on Water (HLPW), initiated in January 2016 by the UN Secretary-General (SG) and the President of the World Bank (WB) Group, as a follow-up to the SDGs. He highlighted that these developments represented opportunities for IHP. He reminded the participants of the availability of simultaneous interpretation in English and French and thanked the Government of Mexico for their supporting of the Spanish interpretation during the meeting.

5. Mr Qunli Han, Director of the Division of Ecological and Earth Sciences, welcomed the Bureau members and observers on behalf of the Director-General. He recalled that Member States have identified water as a top priority for Natural Sciences and expressed appreciation for their support to IHP. He highlighted the current water challenges and the confidence expressed by Member States in IHP's capacity as the leading water programme within the UN system. He encouraged the active participation of all IHP National Committees and the strengthening of their link to the Secretariat and UNESCO Water Family (UNESCO Chairs and Category 2 Centres). Mr Han further recalled the two milestone anniversaries celebrated in 2015, namely the 70th anniversary of UNESCO and 50th anniversary of the Organisation's water programme. He highlighted the focus of UNESCO's Water Family activities on UNESCO's two priorities: gender equality and Africa. He further presented some key events and actions, through which UNESCO IHP, the World Water Assessment Programme (WWAP), UNESCO-IHE, Category 2 Centres, Chairs and UNTWIN networks contributed to the global water security in the context of climate change.

2. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

6. Ms Blanca Jiménez-Cisneros, Secretary of IHP, thanked the Chairperson and Mr Han for opening the IHP Bureau session and presented the meeting's agenda, requesting to bring forward discussion of sub-item 5.4 on the WWAP. The Bureau adopted the agenda with the recommended minor amendment.

3. INSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENTS AT UNESCO

3.1 Developments at the Natural Sciences Sector and the Division of Water Sciences following the 197th and 198th sessions of the Executive Board and the 38th session of the General Conference (GC), including the Programme and Budget for 2016-2017 (38 C/5)

7. The Bureau took note of the report on recent institutional developments. The Vice-Chairperson for Group I requested clarification on the announcement about the post of water governance and diplomacy, and the Secretariat replied that it is a new post in the Ecohydrology, Quality and Education (EQE) Section, including responsibilities for the Potential Conflict to Cooperation Potential (PCCP) Project, among other activities.

The Bureau requested that the Secretariat include at the next IHP Council meeting an item concerning the follow-up to the recommendations of the External Auditor's report contained in document 38 C/23, to improve IHP governance by concrete measures, and to report on the External Auditor's proposals to the Chairperson of the GC open-ended working group on governance.

3.2 Audit of the governance of IHP

8. The Bureau took note of the developments related to the audit of the governance of IHP.

The Bureau requested that the Secretariat pursue the overall recommendations made by the External Auditor to the governance of IHP as adequate and applicable to the Programme in the planning of the 22nd session of the IHP Council.

3.3 Report on the consultation for the update of the IHP Statutes and of the Rules of Procedure of the IHP Council

9. The Bureau took note of the recommendation of the Member States expressed in the survey conducted by the Secretariat in autumn 2015 to retain the current office term of Bureau and Council members, as well as to introduce the new elements proposed, namely the option to hold IHP statutory meetings outside of UNESCO's Headquarters in Paris. The Bureau highlighted, however, that this option remains conditional based on different considerations such as the economic costs and provided that there are no additional costs to the Organisation. The Bureau agreed that the appointment of alternates to the Vice-Chairpersons could ensure the continuity of the regional representation of Bureau members when needed. It was further agreed that the alternates could only replace the Vice-Chairperson of their respective Region and not the Chairperson of the Bureau.

10. The Vice-Chairperson of Region I requested to the Secretariat that in order to have clear guidance on the role of the alternates, Terms of Reference (ToR) should be prepared, including on how to ensure that the alternate is adequately prepared to participate in the process.

11. The Vice-Chairperson of Region Va agreed with the proposal for the election of alternates as long as appropriate ToR have been endorsed. He further mentioned the need for elected officials to have a certain profile to ensure that they could be operational in their new role within two months.

The Vice-Chairperson of Region IV expressed support for the revised proposal and indicated that in his region, past Vice-Chairpersons mentor the incoming ones in an informal manner. The Region Vb Vice-Chairperson asked about how expenses for an alternate's participation in meetings could be covered. The Chairperson explained that no additional expenses would be incurred since the alternate would attend meetings only in the case of the absence of the Vice-Chairperson of the region. It was requested that the Secretariat address all these concerns in the ToR that will be drafted for the alternates to the bureau members.

12. The Delegate of Turkey thanked the Secretariat for the recommendation of an alternate member. Regarding the identification of Vice-Chairpersons, she suggested that the IHP could consider the approach used by UNESCO's Management of Social Transformation (MOST) programme, in which the regions elect a country as a regional representative, and entrust the elected country with the selection of an appropriate candidate. The Region I Vice-Chair mentioned the peculiarity of a programme such as IHP where IHP National Committees or focal points meet regularly at the regional level and know each other.

13. The Vice Chairperson of Region I requested that the Secretariat convey to the members of Bureau and Council the proposal brought forward by Region I, in which Bureau members are elected one year prior to their term of office (Bureau members elect). They would participate in the Bureau prior to their official term at their own expense or possibly participate via a live stream video connection. This would help Bureau members prepare for their duties in office and encourage the selection of experts that are fully committed. According to this scenario, the IHP Bureau members' term of office would start with the meeting of the Bureau in the middle of the intersessional period of the IHP Intergovernmental Council and last for 2 years, preceded by a one-year term as Bureau member elect. This would ensure that the Bureau can prepare the following Council thoroughly and follow up on the Intergovernmental Council decisions as appropriate. It would also ensure that an incoming Chairperson is in full awareness of the rules and procedures of a Council meeting. Introducing this procedure would lead to discontinuing the ex-officio role of a past Chairperson of the Council, with continuity being secured through the overlap of Chairperson elect and Vice-Chairperson elect. Transition to the new scheme of office of the IHP Bureau could be reached through electing Bureau members for a three-year term of office at the 22nd IHP Intergovernmental Council in June 2016. The 23rd IHP Intergovernmental Council in 2018 would then elect the Bureau members elect who would serve a first voluntary year and take office in 2019 for a two year term.

The Bureau requested that the Secretariat:

- (a) Circulate, prior to the 22nd IHP Council Meeting and prior to the election of new members, scenarios for improving rules of procedure of the IHP Intergovernmental Council,
- (b) Present a draft of the IHP Statutes and of the Rules of Procedure of the IHP Council considering the proposals that include the option to hold Bureau and / or Council meetings in locations other than UNESCO's HQ in Paris

3.4 Report on the consultation regarding the establishment of an Intergovernmental Panel on Water

14. The Chairperson informed the participants about the High Level Panel on Water (HLPW), which was recently established by the United Nations (UN) and the WB. The Panel is composed of Heads of State or Government and is co-chaired by Mauritius and Mexico. Current members include Australia, Bangladesh, Hungary, Jordan, the Netherlands, Senegal, South Africa, and Tajikistan. In addition to the country representation it includes two special advisors. The Panel is to be supported through a joint UN and WB Secretariat set up at the United Nations Department for Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA) and is to receive technical advice by a group of institutions called the "Friends of the Panel". The first meeting of the panel was to be held on 21 April 2016. The primary role of the Panel would be to provide Member States with a coherent approach to implementing SDG

6, identifying a single mechanism with clear language to be used. Many international organisations have expressed the wish to join as “Friends of the Panel”.

15. The Chairperson complemented his intervention on the HLPW by mentioning that the concept of establishing an Intergovernmental Panel on Water discussed in the previous IHP Bureau session was no longer relevant, given that the HLPW was formulated at the highest possible political level (Heads of State or Government).

16. The Vice-Chairperson of Region Va underlined that IHP should have an institutional link with the HLPW. The Region IV Vice-Chairperson suggested that it could be more appropriate for UN-Water, including IHP, to be a member of the Panel. The Region I Vice-Chairperson informed the Bureau of a recent meeting in New York during which it was proposed that UN-Water be a member of the Secretariat of the Panel. However, this would entail secretariat support functions, but not designation as one of the “Friends of the Panel”. Since the “Friends of the Panel” will be advising and influencing its technical aspects, the Vice-Chairpersons of both Region I and Region Va agreed that IHP should become part of this group.

17. The Chairperson suggested that the Bureau could consider this for IHP. To become a “Friend of the Panel” the IHP Secretariat would need to address an official request to HLPW Secretariat, underlining that the official procedures were still forthcoming.

18. The Delegate of Turkey requested clarification on a possible institutional link between the IHP and HLPW, e.g. whether the IHP Secretariat would be an observer to the Panel, and, consequently, if this required a decision and resolution by the IHP Council. She further inquired about the foreseen outcomes of the Panel and to whom they would be addressed. The Chairperson clarified that there was no institutional link between the HLPW and IHP. The Panel was established by UN and WB and is governed like other High-Level panels, meaning decisions can be adopted at the will of Member States. It is not necessary to adopt a resolution, but IHP can provide advice on a case-by-case basis when consulted by the Panel within the framework of IHP’s competence.

The Bureau members decided that IHP should seek to become a "Friend of the HLPW" using the appropriate mechanisms when established.

3.5 IHP-related extrabudgetary activities

19. The Bureau took note of IHP-related extrabudgetary activities and thanked the major donors to IHP (excluding institutes and centres), including, among others, Belgium – Government of Flanders, Brazil, the European Union (EU), Global Environment Facility (GEF), Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Malaysia, Spain, Sweden and Switzerland,.

The Bureau requested the Finance Committee to support the Secretariat’s efforts in fundraising.

3.6 Report of the IHP Finance Committee

20. The Chairperson of the IHP Finance Committee presented the Committee’s preliminary report, thanking the IHP Secretariat for the work done in providing the requested information. The Chairperson also mentioned the importance of Strategic Financing Dialogues to allow Member States and the UNESCO Secretariat to discuss both extrabudgetary and regular programme funding resources. He circulated a summary document and highlighted that a strategic analysis of extrabudgetary and regular programme funds would help the IHP Secretariat to decide additional funds necessary for its identified priority activities. He also proposed to hire a fundraiser.

21. The Chairperson of the Finance Committee stressed that fundraising is a major issue and highlighted the low level of funds raised for activities in Africa, one of the two priorities of the Organisation, in comparison to other regions. He also questioned if a fundraiser should be hired for IHP when the Natural Sciences Sector is already working on a fundraising strategy and invited the Bureau to comment on this matter. He recommended that extrabudgetary funds allocated to IHP should be increased. To do so, the results and costs of the “flagship programmes” need to be clearly identified and used to mobilise funds for these activities. He expressed that due to the current reporting system it might be difficult to present the information in this manner.

22. The Finance Committee Chairperson then posed the following four questions: a) whether the IHP Council should decide on allocation of funds; b) whether the Bureau should have an overview of the extrabudgetary funds that need to be raised for each IHP theme and whether it should be discussed; c) whether to hire a fundraiser and d) whether to have a complete overview of outputs and costs of IHP flagship programmes to help fundraising.

23. The Vice-Chairperson of Group IV (Asia-Pacific Region) stated that it is clear that having a full-time or part-time fundraiser would be a great advantage to the Organisation. However, he pointed out that this approach would be more dependent on responding to opportunities available instead of having priorities to focus on and pursue.

24. The Vice-Chairperson of Group Va (Africa) highlighted the comparatively low level of funds raised for activities in Africa, one of the two priorities of the Organisation. He also commented on the importance of the visibility of IHP in the field. He pointed to the need to distinguish between the work of IHP and other programmes or UN organisations and to the fact that currently it is not easy to identify the concrete contribution of IHP. He furthermore noted the decrease in the allocation of extrabudgetary funds for groundwater activities in the UNESCO field offices. He also asked which funds would be used to support the fundraiser if hired and if these funds would be taken from those allocated to the field offices.

25. The Secretariat responded to the question of the Chairperson of the IHP Finance Committee and the Vice-Chairperson of Group Va (Africa) and pointed out that the extrabudgetary funds in groundwater decreased because a substantial project funded by the European Union in Iraq for the amount of US \$6.7 million ended in 2015. It was also pointed out that almost US \$3 million in new extrabudgetary funding will be added between May and June 2016 and it may provide a more accurate view of the actual distribution of funds in comparison to the data presented during the Bureau and in the Bureau documents.

26. The Secretary of the IHP also highlighted that it is sometimes difficult to strike a balance between the requirements of IHP’s Member States and the priorities of donors. She also explained that IHP proposals had to be reviewed at the sectoral level to ensure that they are aligned with the objectives of the UNESCO Medium-term Strategy (C4), with the UNESCO Programme and Budget (C5) and with the requirements of the donors. The Secretary of IHP agreed on the need for additional staff for fundraising.

27. The Vice-Chairperson of Group I underlined that successful fundraising does not rest on hiring one person. He pointed out that since 2006, there have been discussions about fundraising and that if a strategy is developed it should be coherent with the IHP-VIII implementation matrix agreed upon in Nairobi (2013), which set forth priority objectives (“Specific Objectives”) for IHP. The Chairperson of the Finance Committee noted that it is important for the Secretariat to present the distribution of regular programme and extrabudgetary funds for the Council to monitor the process of funds’ allocation. It was stated that after monitoring the process, the Council should point out if there are not enough activities in a given area. It was recommended that a framework on extrabudgetary funds should be created in collaboration with the Secretariat. The Vice-Chairperson of Group I also called for better coordination and organisation of fundraising efforts.

28. The German Delegation highlighted that IHP has been doing a good job in fundraising in comparison to other programmes, however the Statutes of the IHP Council indicate that it is the task of the IHP Council to supervise the scientific and organisational aspects of IHP. It was suggested that a reminder of the responsibilities of Council Members should be sent prior to their meetings. He also suggested that the IHP-VIII implementation matrix developed in Nairobi should also be circulated to the Council Members so that each member will know their roles and responsibilities within the framework of the priorities of the Member States and the overarching goals of the UNESCO medium-term strategy.

29. The Chairperson of the IHP Finance Committee asked if it was possible to include an item on the agenda of the next meeting of the Council on the implementation matrix and how it relates to the funding.

30. The Secretary of IHP pointed out that the information, set by the Member States, on the subthemes/focal areas to be implemented during the first four years of IHP-VIII (2014-2017) as a matter of priority ("Specific Objectives" in the so-called "Nairobi matrix") is available on the IHP website (<http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0022/002259/225993E.pdf>, Annex IV). She also stated that definitions for the next four years of implementation of IHP-VIII are required, making it desirable to organise a meeting similar to the one held in Nairobi in September 2013 (UNESCO Strategic and High-Level Meeting on Water Security and Cooperation and meeting of the Working Group on IHP-VIII Implementation). She also recalled that financial support for the 2013 Nairobi meeting was received from Member States (hosted by Kenya, the meeting was supported by Belgium – Government of Flanders, Japan, Germany, the Netherlands and Sweden). The Secretariat will be contacting these Member States and others to request support for a follow-up meeting. The Secretary mentioned that the matrix would be added to the list of reference documents for the next meeting of the Council and suggested reinforcing the work of the implementation working group on the implementation of the matrix in line with IHP-VIII (Resolution IC XXI-8).

31. The Bureau requested that the Secretariat:

- a) Present to the 22nd IHP Council for discussion an agenda item regarding fund raising containing:
 - i. a catalogue of IHP's successful flagship projects as a fundraising tool: a succinct overview of what IHP flagship projects produce in terms of successful outputs and how much funding they require (both from regular and voluntary sources) in achieving IHP priorities
 - ii. The "Nairobi Matrix" including, possibly, a draft comprehensive financing plan;
- b) Present to the 22nd IHP Council for discussion a draft methodology to assess IHP Initiatives, Flagship Programmes etc.

3.7 Report of the IHP Communication and Outreach Committee

32. The Chairperson of the IHP Outreach and Communication Committee presented the report of its activities. She stated that while communication and outreach were key enablers for all activities, she considered that the visibility of IHP in Group IV had decreased. She noted that support for the Committee from members and the Secretariat had been lower than anticipated at the Committee's inception at the 21st IHP Council session. She attributed the observation about the Secretariat's support to lack of staff at the UNESCO Headquarters. Finally, she expressed her hope that Resolution IC XXI-2 would be implemented and would contribute to further communication and outreach activities, and closed by requesting that the Bureau decide whether this Committee should be maintained.

33. The Bureau took note of the report of the IHP Outreach and Communication Committee. The Vice-Chairperson of Group IV stated that IHP needed to increase its visibility as a programme, rather than for its projects. The Vice-Chairperson of Group Va mentioned that the new webpages of IHP could be further improved, but the Bureau recognised the limitations of the UNESCO-wide template for webpages which IHP is required to use. The Delegate of Turkey highlighted the need to increase the communication of the Secretariat with the Permanent Delegations through meetings and

informative emails. The German Category 2 Centre Observer underlined that the IHP National Committees should play a more active role in enhancing IHP's visibility at the national and regional levels, while the Secretariat should help to define an adequate mechanism for this.

a) The Bureau encourages the Secretariat to implement the Communication and Outreach Strategy jointly developed by the Committee and the Secretariat.

b) The Bureau requested that the Secretariat strengthen direct communication with the Delegations by updating them on IHP activities, reinforce the communication by and with the IHP National Committees in the context of the upcoming 22nd IHP Council, and increase the visibility of the scope of service of the Secretariat.

c) The Bureau further decided to maintain the Communication and Outreach Committee, making it more operational, and for the Committee to support the Secretariat in the aforementioned process.

3.8 Report on the celebration of the 50th anniversary of the UNESCO water programmes

34. The Bureau took note with appreciation of the activities implemented by the Secretariat on the celebration of the 50th anniversary of the UNESCO water programmes.

35. The Vice-Chairperson of Group IV congratulated IHP on the success of the celebrations in his region. He mentioned that a book was produced, which presented IHP activities in the region and that 10 distinguished scientists were recognised for their work in hydrology in the region, including representatives from China, Japan, Republic of Korea and Australia.

4. PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION

4.1 Implementation of the eighth phase of IHP (IHP-VIII)

36. The Bureau noted and expressed its appreciation to the Secretariat for its efforts in the implementation of IHP-VIII.

37. The representative of ARCEAU (France) highlighted their collaboration with UNESCO on the organisation of the conference on "Water, Megacities and Global Change", which contributed to the activities of COP21, expressing his hope to continue the contribution to COP22, to be held in Marrakech, Morocco.

38. The Vice-Chairperson of Region Va informed the Bureau that Côte d'Ivoire will be organising in Abidjan a regional meeting for the revision of the Hydrological standards of West and Central Africa. The meeting is expected to contribute to addressing Theme 1 of IHP and shall be held in May 2016.

The Bureau requested that the Secretariat prepare the Terms of Reference for the Water and Megacities Task Force, which will be set up in 2016 under the auspices of UNESCO-IHP, to provide the preliminary conditions for the establishment of the Water and Megacities International Cooperation Platform and present them at the 22nd IHP Council session for approval.

4.2 Report on the implementation of the resolutions and decisions adopted at the 21st session of the IHP Intergovernmental Council and the 52nd IHP Bureau

39. On Resolution XXI-3 regarding the establishment of the World's Large Rivers Initiative (WLRI), the Bureau took note of the update provided by the Austrian Delegation, including the 1st Working Group meeting, and of progress in defining the initiative's strategy, phases and activities. It was further noted that the concept note of the WLRI strategy would be presented to the next Working Group meeting in Vienna in June 2016. The Delegation also announced Austria's intention to propose the establishment of a new Category 2 Centre to be hosted by the River Modelling Centre.

The Delegation of Turkey requested that information about the initiative such as results of the Working Group meeting be provided to the IHP Council well in advance.

40. The Bureau noted that the proposal for the establishment of a Category 2 Centre needs to comply with the procedures set out in UNESCO rules and regulations in order to be accepted.

41. Concerning Resolution XXI-8 on reviewing and monitoring of IHP's Programmes, the Bureau sought an update on progress in the development of a framework (methodology) for the evaluation of IHP programmes and their actual evaluation, in view of its submission for consideration by the 22nd session of the IHP Council. The Secretariat noted that the evaluation and its framework would not be ready for consideration at the next IHP Council session due to lack of human resources to undertake such a task; however, the Secretariat will commence the process to develop the methodology.

The Bureau decided to reactivate the Working Group that had been tasked with the development of the evaluation framework, as communicated in Resolution XXI-8 (established by the 21st IHP Council session) and requested that the IHP Secretariat facilitate this process and report at the 22nd IHP Council.

4.3 Follow-up to the external evaluation of IHP-VII, including the report on the IHP National Committees survey

42. The Bureau took note of the Secretariat's work to follow up on the recommendations of the external evaluation of IHP-VII, inter alia, through improving communication, outreach and visibility of IHP and the coordination of the UNESCO Water Family (cf. IHP/Bur-LIII/6, sub-items 3.7 and 3.8; IHP/Bur-LIII/7, IHP/Bur-LIII/8 5.1 and 5.2).

The Bureau requested that the Secretariat propose an agenda item for consideration at the 22nd IHP Council session to present the results of the IHP National Committees' Survey in 2015 and if necessary provide recommendations there to be approved.

4.4 Report on the follow-up to the audit of the Natural Sciences Sector

43. The Bureau took note of the developments related to the audit of the Natural Sciences Sector and expressed appreciation for the work of the Water Science Division and IHP Secretariat.

4.5 Cooperation with other UNESCO programmes

42. Mr Han Qunli, Secretary of the Man and the Biosphere (MAB) Programme, reported on the strong cooperation between IHP and MAB, highlighting several examples of joint activities notably performed within the framework of COP 20 and 21.

43. Mr Patrick McKeever, Secretary of the International Geoscience Programme (IGCP), provided concrete examples of the cooperation between IHP and IGCP via the implementation of joint activities related to groundwater, climate change, land subsidence and glaciers.

44. Ms Dafna Feinholz, representing the World Commission on the Ethics of Scientific Knowledge and Technology (COMEST) of UNESCO, reported on the collaborative work with IHP on water ethics, including the ethical considerations of new technologies, water pollution and climate change. She informed the Bureau that the IHP Chairperson will be invited as an ex-officio member of the Commission to attend the extraordinary Session of the COMEST to be organised in September 2016 in Paris.

45. The Secretariat highlighted the strong cooperation with the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) through the Global Environment Facility (GEF) International Waters focal area and reported on the cooperation with all sectors within the Intersectoral Climate Change Task Force of UNESCO and particularly during COP21.

46. The Bureau took note and expressed appreciation of the IHP's cooperation with other UNESCO programmes and sectors.

5. UNESCO'S WATER FAMILY

5.1 Status and operation of the UNESCO Water Family

47. The Bureau noted and expressed appreciation to the Secretariat for the report on the status and operation of the UNESCO Water Family.

48. The Vice-Chairperson of Group IV stated that the network of water-related Category 2 Centres constituted a substantial workload for the Secretariat and inquired about whether cost recovery calculations had been made in this regard. In the ensuing discussion, the Bureau Members, the Secretariat and observers discussed the cost entailed by the network of Category 2 Centres and the Category 1 Institute UNESCO-IHE for the IHP Secretariat, highlighted the network's added value and underlined the need to guide the process of selecting, designating and assessing the Centres.

The Bureau decided to recommend that the Council establish a committee dedicated to the network of Category 2 Centres in view of supporting the Member States in evaluating new proposed Centres against a strategic and global view of where new Centres are needed and assessing the contributions of existing centres to IHP priorities. It was requested that the committee would report its findings to the IHP Bureau and Council, as well as to the Executive Board to inform the Member States.

5.2 UNESCO-IHE Institute for Water Education (category 1)

49. Mr Fritz Holzwarth, Rector *ad interim* of the UNESCO-IHE Institute for Water Education (UNESCO-IHE), outlined the Institute's activities and the ongoing consultation process between UNESCO, the Government of the Netherlands, and the IHE Foundation on the renewal of the agreement of UNESCO-IHE as Category 1 Institute of UNESCO. He underlined that this process should permit UNESCO-IHE to successfully continue its activities in education, training, capacity development, research and innovation, and according to some Member States' interventions at the 199th session of the Executive Board of UNESCO, should take into account the required flexibility in the design of the Institute's future governance.

50. The Rector a.i. furthermore described the transdisciplinary nature of the UNESCO-IHE Strategy 2015-2020, which included the close cooperation with IHP, but also provided connections to other intergovernmental programmes of UNESCO, such as MAB and MOST, and positioned the Institute to contribute to more SDGs than just SDG 6, such as SDG 2, 3, 11, 13 and 15. In this context, he informed the Bureau of projects on emergency relief assistance for refugees in Indonesia within the Sendai process and a recent agreement with FAO on water accounting. He highlighted that UNESCO-IHE was well placed to cooperate with all members of the UNESCO Water Family. Finally, he reported that 140 students from 35 countries were granted Masters degrees by UNESCO-IHE in 2016.

51. The Vice-Chairperson of Group I proposed that the Bureau help in the aforementioned negotiation process. He recalled the coordination efforts between UNESCO-IHE and IHP in 2014 and suggested that this effort be revived. The Rector a.i. of UNESCO-IHE and the IHP Secretariat agreed that closer cooperation was desired by both institutions and reported that joint activities were

being intensified since the renewal process of the agreement had started in 2015. The Secretariat reported that joint projects were being implemented and a first coordination meeting on communication had taken place.

5.3 Proposed centres under the auspices of UNESCO

52. The Bureau noted the report on the proposed centres under the auspices of UNESCO (Brazil and Austria)

The Bureau decided that in order to be able to review the proposals in an out-of-session meeting, completed files should be sent to the IHP Secretariat by 3 May 2016. The Bureau will then decide if the proposals will or will not be presented at the 22nd IHP Council session in June 2016.

5.4 World Water Assessment Programme (WWAP)

53. The Bureau congratulated WWAP on the successful launch of the World Water Development Report (WWDR) 2016 and expressed its support of WWAP's forthcoming work programme.

54. Region I Vice Chairperson commented that a Programme such as WWAP should not be reporting but rather focusing on assessments of particular things: one is the synthesis of other sources of information especially in the context of COP, SDGs, the Sendai etc. and the other in relation to organising the data process in order to obtain such assessment. In response to the comment, the WWAP Coordinator informed the Bureau Members that WWAP's data and indicator-related activities have been reduced due to financial constraints, but that efforts are underway to upscale activities by seeking funding from potential donors. He then stated that on the synthesis work, WWAP's aim is not to copy paste extensive reports on SGD 6 targets but to synthesise and add value to them, and prepare policy recommendations emphasising the differences at various socioeconomic contexts of different countries. The assessment will go beyond the interlinkages between the various SDG 6 targets, it will draw on the water dimension of other SDGs such as health, poverty reduction etc. resulting in a useful report. He ended his reply by welcoming the strengthening of the collaboration with WMO and other UN agencies on the data assessment part.

6. RELATION WITH UNITED NATIONS, INTERGOVERNMENTAL ORGANISATIONS AND NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANISATIONS

6.1 Cooperation with UN System on freshwater issues

55. The Secretariat reported on IHP's cooperation with the UN System on freshwater issues, including collaboration through UN-Water and with other UN agencies and programmes (such as FAO, UNEP, UNECE, UNICEF and WMO) as well as its contributions to UN Joint Programmes at the country level.

The Bureau recommended that IHP further strengthen the cooperation with the UN System on freshwater issues in areas of common interest.

6.2 Cooperation with intergovernmental and non-governmental organisations

56. The Bureau noted the Secretariat's report on IHP's cooperation with intergovernmental organisations, notably the African Union, the African Ministers' Council on Water (AMCOW) and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), and on collaborative efforts with non-governmental organisations, including the International Union for Conservation of Nature

(IUCN), the International Association of Hydrogeologists (IAH), the International Association of Hydrological Sciences (IAHS), basin commissions, etc.

The Bureau noted with appreciation the collaboration with other programmes and recommended that IHP develop further cooperation and synergies with intergovernmental and non-governmental organisations in areas of common interest.

6.3 IHP's contribution to UN World Water Development Report (WWDR)

57. The Bureau welcomed IHP's contributions to the UN WWDR, as well as those of other members of the UNESCO Water Family.

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

58. The Bureau took note of IHP's role in the International Decade for Action – Water for Life (2005-2015) and expressed its appreciation to the Secretariat.

6.5 IHP's role in key international events

59. The Bureau expressed its appreciation to the Secretariat for the IHP's role in key international events.

6.6 IHP's role in relevant international agendas

60. The Bureau noted IHP's active involvement and role in the increasing number of major international agendas, including contributions to: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and SDGs through the organisation of International workshops on 'Sustainability Science' and UNESCO-IHP International Initiative on Water Quality (IIWQ) Symposium on Water Quality Monitoring in the SDGs Framework; and to the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction through a session on Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) and the signing of the ISDR-ICL Sendai Partnership for reducing landslide disaster risk.

The Bureau recommended to the Secretariat the prioritisation of IHP's contribution to the most relevant international agenda items.

7. IHP ACTIONS IN THE IMPLEMENTATION AND MONITORING OF THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOAL 6 RELATING TO WATER AND SANITATION

61. The Bureau expressed its appreciation of the role of UNESCO and of IHP in the implementation of SDG 6 and asked the Secretariat to continue its active participation in the Global Expanded Water Monitoring Initiative (GEMI) under the framework of UN-Water.

62. It was concluded that the 22nd Session of the IHP Council presents an opportunity for Member States to discuss how IHP can best contribute to the SDG. One of the observers – the Director of the UNESCO Category 2 Centre for Water Resources and Global Change in Koblenz, Germany – also shared his experience with the development of the methodology for measurement of SDG Indicator 6.3.2. The Bureau welcomed this discussion and noted that the water related SDG process is guided by UN-Water and the decisions on the process and further activities are taken by Member States.

The Bureau requested that the Secretariat prepare a background document on the SDG-related IHP activities and present it at the upcoming 22nd 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 data collection and monitoring for the SDG 6 indicators.

8. PREPARATORY ACTIONS FOR THE 22ND SESSION OF THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL COUNCIL OF IHP

8.1 Endorsement of IGC-22 provisional agenda

63. The Bureau took note of the presented provisional agenda of the upcoming 22nd session of the IHP Council (IHP/IC-XXII/1 Prov.).

64. The Bureau requested that the Secretariat:

- (a) Consider sub-item 4.3 “Report on the consultation for the update of the IHP Statutes and of the Rules of Procedure of the IHP Council” at the beginning of the Council session and prior to the election of the incoming Chairperson and the Vice-Chairpersons¹
- (b) Remove from the agenda sub-item 4.4 “Report on the consultation regarding the establishment of an Intergovernmental Panel on Water”.
- (c) Circulate a provisional agenda reflecting the above modifications.

8.2 12th Kovacs Colloquium

65. The Bureau noted the Secretariat’s report on the preparations for the upcoming 12th Kovacs Colloquium on “*Hydrological Inputs for Water-Related SDGs Implementation: Knowledge, Data, Indicators, Tools & Innovation*”.

66. Mr Christophe Cudennec, Secretary-General of IAHS, highlighted the collaboration with IHP on the series of Kovacs Colloquia, and informed the Bureau that an online e-book of the 12th Kovacs Colloquium will be produced including contributions from all keynote speakers and selected posters.

9. Other matters

67. Mr Pierre-Alain Roche, Governor of the World Water Council and President of the French Association of Professionals for Water and the Environment (ASTEE), informed the Bureau that the IHP National Committee of France will be reactivated under the French Water Partnership, comprising stakeholders involved in international water activities including Ministries, operators, academia, private companies, grassroots organisations, etc. A meeting between French stakeholders is scheduled on 26 April 2016 to prepare the reactivation of the new IHP National Committee of France.

68. The Chairperson of the Bureau expressed his satisfaction with this reinvigoration of the French IHP National committee. He also welcomed the positive developments for the meeting and expressed his appreciation to all Bureau Members, observers and the IHP Secretariat.

69. The Chairperson of Region Va informed the participants that the Government of Côte d'Ivoire in partnership with UNESCO is organizing the first meeting of ECOWAS experts on the revision of hydrological standards in West and Central Africa. This meeting is part of the implementation of the IHP VIII Theme 1 and will be held in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire, from 2 to 3 June 2016.

¹ As the rules of procedures of governing bodies have to be approved by the Executive Board and General Conference, even if the process is approved at the 22nd IHP Council it will not be effective prior to the 23rd IHP Council.

10. ADOPTION OF THE REPORT

70. The Bureau and observers reviewed and commented on the draft report. The Bureau subsequently adopted the revised report, which addressed the comments made by its members.

11. CLOSURE OF THE SESSION

71. On behalf of the Chairperson, the Vice-Chairperson of Region IV thanked the Bureau, the observers and the Secretariat for the productive session. He closed the 53rd session of the IHP Bureau at 17.30 on 20 April 2016.

ANNEX I
DECISIONS

Sub-item and paragraph number	Decision taken / Actions required
Sub-item 3.1 (para. 7)	<u>The Bureau requested that the Secretariat include at the next IHP Council meeting an item concerning the follow-up to the recommendations of the External Auditor's report contained in document 38 C/23, to improve IHP governance by concrete measures, and to report on the External Auditor's proposals to the Chairperson of the GC open-ended working group on governance.</u>
Sub-item 3.2 (para. 8)	<u>The Bureau requested that the Secretariat pursue the overall recommendations made by the External Auditor to the governance of IHP as adequate and applicable to the Programme in the planning of the 22nd session of the IHP Council.</u>
Sub-item 3.3 (para. 13)	<p><u>The Bureau requested that the Secretariat:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) <u>Circulate, prior to the 22nd IHP Council Meeting and prior to the election of new members, scenarios for improving rules of procedure of the IHP Intergovernmental Council,</u> (b) <u>Present a draft of the IHP Statutes and of the Rules of Procedure of the IHP Council considering the proposals that include the option to hold Bureau and / or Council meetings in locations other than UNESCO's HQ in Paris</u>
Sub-item 3.4 (para. 15)	<u>The Bureau members decided that IHP should seek to become a "Friend of the HLPW" using the appropriate mechanisms when established. The Bureau requested the Secretariat to present a proposal to the 22nd IHP Council for discussion regarding the option of IHP becoming a "Friend of the HLPW".</u>
Sub-item 3.5 (para. 18)	<u>The Bureau requested the Finance Committee to support the Secretariat's efforts in fundraising.</u>
Sub-item 3.6 (para. 30)	<p><u>The Bureau requested that the Secretariat:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) <u>Present to the 22nd IHP Council for discussion an agenda item regarding fund raising containing:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. <u>a catalogue of IHP's successful flagship projects as a fundraising tool: a succinct overview of what IHP flagship projects produce in terms of successful outputs and how much funding they require (both from regular and voluntary sources) in achieving IHP priorities</u> ii. <u>The "Nairobi Matrix" including, possibly, a draft comprehensive financing plan;</u> b) <u>Present to the 22nd IHP Council for discussion a draft methodology to assess IHP Initiatives, Flagship Programmes etc.</u>
Sub-item 3.7 (para. 32)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) <u>The Bureau encourages the Secretariat to implement the Communication and Outreach Strategy jointly developed by the Committee and the Secretariat.</u> b) <u>The Bureau requested that the Secretariat strengthen direct communication with the Delegations by updating them on IHP activities, reinforce the communication by and with the IHP National Committees in the context of the upcoming 22nd IHP Council, and increase the visibility of the scope of service of the Secretariat.</u>

	<u>c) The Bureau further decided to maintain the Communication and Outreach Committee, making it more operational, and for the Committee to support the Secretariat in the aforementioned process.</u>
Sub-item 4.1 (para. 37)	<u>The Bureau requested that the Secretariat prepare the Terms of Reference for the Water and Megacities Task Force, which will be set up in 2016 under the auspices of UNESCO-IHP, to provide the preliminary conditions for the establishment of the Water and Megacities International Cooperation Platform and present them at the 22nd IHP Council session for approval</u>
Sub-item 4.2 (para. 40)	<u>The Bureau decided to reactivate the Working Group that had been tasked with the development of the evaluation framework, as communicated in Resolution XXI-8 (established by the 21st IHP Council session) and requested that the IHP Secretariat facilitate this process and report at the 22nd IHP Council.</u>
Sub-item 4.3 (para. 41)	<u>The Bureau requested that the Secretariat propose an agenda item for consideration at the 22nd IHP Council session to present the results of the IHP National Committees' Survey in 2015 and if necessary provide recommendations there to be approved.</u>
Sub-item 5.1 (para. 48)	<u>The Bureau decided to recommend that the Council establish a committee dedicated to the network of Category 2 Centres in view of supporting the Member States in evaluating new proposed Centres against a strategic and global view of where new Centres are needed and assessing the contributions of existing centres to IHP priorities. It was requested that the committee would report its findings to the IHP Bureau and Council, as well as to the Executive Board to inform the Member States.</u>
Sub-item 5.3 (para. 52)	<u>The Bureau decided that in order to be able to review the proposals in an out-of-session meeting, completed files should be sent to the IHP Secretariat by 3 May 2016. The Bureau will then decide if the proposals will or will not be presented at the 22nd IHP Council session in June 2016.</u>
Sub-item 6.1 (para. 55)	<u>The Bureau recommended that IHP further strengthen the cooperation with the UN System on freshwater issues in areas of common interest.</u>
Sub-item 6.2 (para. 56)	<u>The Bureau noted with appreciation the collaboration with other programmes and recommended that IHP develop further cooperation and synergies with intergovernmental and non-governmental organisations in areas of common interest.</u>
Sub-item 6.6 (para. 60)	<u>The Bureau recommended to the Secretariat the prioritisation of IHP's contribution to the most relevant international agenda items.</u>
Item 7 (para. 62)	<u>The Bureau requested that the Secretariat prepare a background document on the SDG-related IHP activities and present it at the upcoming 22nd 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 data collection and monitoring for the SDG 6 indicators.</u>
Item 8 (para. 63)	72. <u>The Bureau requested that the Secretariat:</u> (d) <u>Consider sub-item 4.3 "Report on the consultation for the update of the IHP Statutes and of the Rules of Procedure of the IHP Council"</u>

	<p><u>at the beginning of the Council session and prior to the election of the incoming Chairperson and the Vice-Chairpersons²</u></p> <p>(e) <u>Remove from the agenda sub-item 4.4 “Report on the consultation regarding the establishment of an Intergovernmental Panel on Water”.</u></p> <p>(f) <u>Circulate a provisional agenda reflecting the above modifications.</u></p>
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² As the rules of procedures of governing bodies have to be approved by the Executive Board and General Conference even if the process is approved at the 22nd IHP Council it will not be effective prior to the 23rd IHP Council.

ANNEX II

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 197th and 198th sessions of the Executive Board and the 38th session of the General Conference, including the Programme and Budget for 2016-2017 (38 C/5)
 - 3.2 Audit of the governance of IHP
 - 3.3 Report on the consultation for the update of the IHP Statutes and of the Rules of Procedure of the IHP Council
 - 3.4 Report on the consultation regarding the establishment of an Intergovernmental Panel on Water
 - 3.5 IHP-related extrabudgetary activities
 - 3.6 Report of the IHP Finance Committee
 - 3.7 Report of the IHP Communication and Outreach Committee
 - 3.8 Report on the celebration of the 50th anniversary of the UNESCO water programmes
4. Programme implementation
 - 4.1 Implementation of the eighth phase of IHP (IHP-VIII)
 - 4.2 Report on the implementation of the resolutions and decisions adopted at the 21st session of the IHP Intergovernmental Council
 - 4.3 Follow-up to the external evaluation of IHP-VII, including the report on the IHP National Committees survey
 - 4.4 Report on the follow-up to the audit of the Natural Sciences Sector
 - 4.5 Cooperation with other UNESCO programmes
5. UNESCO's Water Family
 - 5.1 Status and operation of the UNESCO Water Family
 - 5.2 UNESCO-IHE Institute for Water Education (category 1)

- 5.3 Proposed centres under the auspices of UNESCO
- 5.4 World Water Assessment Programme
- 6. Relations with United Nations, intergovernmental organisations and non-governmental organisations.
 - 6.1 Cooperation with UN System on freshwater issues
 - 6.2 Cooperation with intergovernmental and non-governmental organisations
 - 6.3 IHP's contribution to the UN World Water Development Report
 - 6.4 IHP's role in the International Decade for Action – Water for Life (2005-2015)
 - 6.5 IHP's role in key international events
 - 6.6 IHP's role in relevant international agendas
- 7. IHP actions in the implementation and monitoring of the Sustainable Development Goal 6 relating to water and sanitation
- 8. Preparatory actions for the 22nd Session of the Intergovernmental Council of IHP
 - 8.1 Endorsement of IGC-22 provisional agenda
 - 8.2 12th Kovacs Colloquium
 - 8.3 Other Council-related matters
- 9. Other matters
- 10. Adoption of the report
- 11. Closure of the session

ANNEX III

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

I. MEMBERS OF THE BUREAU

Chairperson

Mr David Korenfeld Federman (Group III - Latin America and the Caribbean)
Chairperson, IHP National Committee of Mexico (CONAMEXPHI)
Email: IHP.Chairperson@unesco.org;
drkorenfeld@prodigy.net.mx

Vice-Chairpersons

Mr Johannes Cullmann (Group I - Europe and North America)
Director of German National Commission's Secretariat for UNESCO IHP
IHP/HWRP – Secretariat
Federal Institute of Hydrology (BfG)
Am Mainzer Tor 1
56068 Koblenz
Germany
Tel.: + 41 22 73 08 355
Cell: + 41 79 54 70 615
Email: jcullmann@wmo.int

Mr Mitja Brilly (Group II - Eastern and Central Europe)
Chair, IHP National Committee
Professor, University of Ljubljana
Faculty of Civil Engineering and Geodesy
Jamova 2
1000 Ljubljana
Slovenia
Tel.: +38614253324
Fax: +386 1 2519897
Email: mbrilly@fgg.uni-lj.si

Mr Ian White (Group IV - Asia and the Pacific)
Emeritus Professor, Water Resources
Australian National University
Canberra, ACT
Australia
Tel.: +61 416 249 809
Email: ian.white@anu.edu.au

Mr Jean Patrice Roger Jourda (Group Va - Africa)
Professor, Université Félix Houphouët-Boigny
UFR-STRM
22 BP 582
Abidjan 22
Côte d'Ivoire
Tel.: +225 07 37 17 59 / +337 62 21 16 44
Email: jourda_patrice@yahoo.fr

Mr Mahmoud Abu-Zeid (Group Vb - Arab States)

President, Arab World Council
9 Al-Mokhayam Al-Da'em St.
AlHay AlSadas Nasr City
11471 Cairo
Egypt
Tel.: +202 2404 3115
Email: president@arabwatercouncil.org;
info@mahmoudabuzeid.info

II. OBSERVERS

Ms Anna Walch
Attaché, Permanent Delegation of Austria to UNESCO
Tel.: +33 1 45 68 34 57
Email: Anna.walch@bmeia.gv.at

Mr Stefan Krawielicki
Deputy Permanent Delegate
Permanent Delegation of Germany to UNESCO
9 rue Maspère
75116 Paris
Tel.: +33 1 55 74 57 31
Cell: +33 6 13 40 74 92
Email: v-unes@pari.diplo.de

Ms Ina Severin
Permanent Delegation of Germany to UNESCO
9 rue Maspère
75116 Paris
Tel.: +33 1 55 74 57 34
Email : wiss-ext-unes@pari.diplo.de

Ms Amina Alfeine
Cousellor, Permanent Delegation of Comoros to UNESCO
20, rue Marbeau
75016 Paris
Tel +33 6 51 82 80 05
Email: amina_djamila@yahoo.com

Mr Stein van Oosteren
Chair, IHP Finance Committee
Attaché, Permanent Delegation of the Kingdom of the Netherlands to UNESCO
7 rue Eblé, 75007 Paris
Tel.: +33 1 40 62 33 36
Email: stein-van.oosteren@minbuza.nl

Permanent Delegation of the Republic of Panama to UNESCO
UNESCO House
Tel: +33 1 45 68 31 90
Fax: +33 1 45 68 31 93
E-mail: dl.panama@unesco-delegations.org

Ms Gabriella Palos
Second Secretary, Permanent Delegation of
Hungary to UNESCO
140, avenue Victor Hugo
75116 Paris
Cell: +33 6 73 32 85 69
Email: gpalos@mfa.gov.hu

Ms Alara Istemil Aydil
Counsellor for Science, Permanent Delegation of
Turkey to UNESCO
UNESCO House
Tel.: +33 1 45 68 27 34 Email:
alara.aydil@mfa.gov.tr

Mr Imoh Sunday Egbo
Deputy Permanent Delegate, Permanent
Delegation of Nigeria to UNESCO
UNESCO House
Cell: +33 7 55 94 49 92
Email: idoreyinegbo@gmail.com

Mr Ricardo Enriquez
Third Secretary, Permanent Delegation of
Guatemala to UNESCO
UNESCO House
Tel.: +33 1 42 27 78 63
Email: dl.guatemala@unesco-delegations.org

Mr Zhijun Yi
Counsellor, Permanent Delegation of China to
UNESCO
UNESCO House
Cell: +33 7 81 14 99 88

Mr Geraldo Cordeiro Tupynamba
Counsellor, Permanent Delegation of Brazil to
UNESCO
UNESCO House
Cell: +33 6 46 70 90 75
Email: gc.tupynambo@unesco-delegations.org

Ms Elena Kirilova
Intern, Permanent Delegation of Bulgaria to
UNESCO
UNESCO House
Cell: +33 7 82 24 37 65
Email: elena@kirilova.fr

Ms Reem Alhelban
Intern, Permanent Delegation of Kuwait to
UNESCO
UNESCO House
Email: reem_alh.an@hotmail.com

Mr Suheil Shaheen
Permanent Delegation of Jordan to UNESCO
UNESCO House
Cell: +33 7 55 07 79 54
Email: suheil.shaheen@yahoo.com

Mr Yahya Al-Matarr Jobe
Counsellor, Permanent Delegation of The Gambia
to UNESCO
UNESCO House
Cell: +33 6 69 93 81 49
Email: jobeyahya@yahoo.com

Ms Angelica Christin Mulokozi
Permanent Delegation of Tanzania to UNESCO
7ter, rue Léonard de Vinci
75116 Paris
Tel.: +33 1 53 70 63 66
Email: a.mulokozi.tz@unesco-delegations.org

Ms Eun-Young Kim
Attaché, Permanent Delegation of the People's
Democratic Republic of Korea to UNESCO
UNESCO House
Tel.: +33 1 45 68 31 51
Email: Heidi@unesco.org.kr

Ms Helen Gjaerde
Permanent Delegation of Norway to UNESCO
UNESCO House
Email: h.gjaerde.no@unesco-delegations.org

Ms Josefine Vilby
Permanent Delegation of Denmark to UNESCO
UNESCO House
Cell: +33 7 68 47 82 67

Ms Yohana Maharlika
Permanent Delegation of Greece to UNESCO
UNESCO House
Cell: +33 7 55 11 92 39
Email: y.maharlika@gmail.com

Ms Yan Huang
Chair, Communication and Outreach Committee
of IHP
Deputy Secretary, IHP National Committee of
China
Deputy Chief Engineer
Changjiang Institute of Survey, Planning, Design
and Research
Changjiang Water Resources Commission
1863 Jiefang Avenue
Wuhan, 430010
China
Tel.: +86 27 82926230 (office)
Cell: +86 13886055811
Email: yhuang@cjwsjy.com.cn /
y.huang.ctw@gmail.com

Mr Francisco José Muñoz Pereyra

Deputy Director General for Drainage, Drinking Water and Sanitation, CONAGUA
Vice-President of the IHP National Committee of Mexico (CONAMEXPHI)
Insurgentes Sur 2416, Col. Copilco el Bajo, Coyoacan, Distrito Federal, México
Email: Francisco.muniz@conagua.gob.mx

Ms Pamela Alejandra Rejos Hernandez
CONAGUA
Mexico
Tel.: +55 51 74 40 00 Ext. 29 92
Email: pamelorejos@conagua.gob.mx

Ms Ana Karin Fonseca Nemando
CONAGUA Multilateral Affairs
Insurgentes xxx, N° 2617 Cayocan
Ciudad de Mexico
Mexico
Tel. : +55 51 74 40 00
Email : ana.fonseca@conagua.gob.mx

Ms Claudia E. Coria-Bustos Pérez
International Affairs Manager, CONAGUA
Secretary of International Affairs of the IHP National Committee of Mexico (CONAMEXPHI)
Insurgentes Sur 2416, Col. Copilco el Bajo, Coyoacan, Distrito Federal, México
Email: Claudia.coria@conagua.gob.mx

Mr Roberto Olivares Director-General, ANEAS
Vice-President of the IHP National Committee of Mexico (CONAMEXPHI) Palenque #287, Col. Narvarte C.P. 03020. Ciudad de México Email: roberto.olivares@aneas.com.mx

Ms. Simla Yasemin Özkaya
Counsellor, Water and Environmental Affairs
Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Turkey

Mr Pierre-Alain Roche
Conseil général de l'environnement et du développement durable
Ministère de l'environnement, de l'énergie et de la mer
Tour Sequoia - Bureau 30-23 92055 LA
DEFENSE CEDEX
Tel.: +33 1 408 16810
Email: pierre-alain.roche@developpement-durable.gouv.fr

Mr Christophe Cudennec
Secretary General
International Association of Hydrological Sciences (IAHS)
Liaison Officer
International Union of Geodesy and Geophysics (IUGG)

Agrocampus Ouest, CS 84215
35042 Rennes Cedex, France
Tel.: +33 2 23 48 55 58
Email: cudennec@agrocampus-ouest.fr

Mr Bruno Tassin
Secretary
ARCEAU IdF
16 rue Claude Bernard
75005 Paris
France
Email: bruno.tassin@enpc.fr

Ms Irina Severin
Director
ARCEAU IdF
16 rue Claude Bernard
75005 Paris
France
Cell : +33 6 08 04 79 47
Email : irina.severin@arceau-idf.fr

Ms Geraldine Izambart
ARCEAU IdF
16 rue Claude Bernard
75005 Paris
France

Ms Joy Penroz
Director
Raki Films
Cell: +33 6 52 81 43 98
Email: joypenroz@gmail.com

Mr Sylvain GRAIN
Producer (Cinema/TV)
Raki Films
Cell:+33 6 73 82 23 22
Email: sylvain.grain@gmail.com

III. UNESCO WATER INSTITUTES

Category 1 Water Institute

UNESCO-IHE Institute for Water Education
Mr Fritz Holzwarth
Rector a.i.
UNESCO-IHE Institute for Water Education
Westvest 7
2601 DA Delft, The Netherlands
Tel.: +31 1521 51843
Email: f.holzwarth@unesco-ihe.org

Category 2 Water Centres

Mr Siegfried Demuth
Director
International Centre for Water Resources and
Global Change
Secretariat German IHP/HWRP National
Committee Federal Institute of Hydrology
P.O. Box 200253
56002 Koblenz Germany
Tel.: +49 261 1306 5313
Fax: +49 261 1306 5422
Email: demuth@bafg.de

Ms Barbara Avila
Consultant
Tel.: +33 1 45 68 40 26
Email: b.avila@unesco.org

Mr Yo Nishimura
Programme Assistant
Tel.: +33 1 45 68 17 75
Email: y.nishimura@unesco.org

Intern(s)

Ms Hyejin Eun
Email: h.eun@unesco.org

IV. UNESCO SECRETARIAT

Secretariat of the International Hydrological Programme (IHP) of UNESCO

Division of Water Sciences (SC/HYD)
7, place de Fontenoy, 75352 Paris 07 SP, France
Email: ihp@unesco.org

Ms Blanca Jiménez-Cisneros
Director, Division of Water Sciences
Secretary of the IHP
Tel.: +33 1 45 68 40 02
Email: b.jimenez-cisneros@unesco.org

Ms Anna Movsisyan
Assistant to Director and the Secretary of IHP
Tel.: +33 1 45 68 40 01
Email: a.movsisyan@unesco.org

Section on Hydrological Systems and Water Scarcity (SC/HYD/HSS)

Mr Abou Amani
Chief
Tel.: +33 1 45 68 39 96
Email: a.amani@unesco.org

Mr Anil Mishra
Programme Specialist
Tel.: +33 1 45 68 39 47
Email: a.mishra@unesco.org

Mr Takahiro Konami
Programme Specialist
Tel.: +33 1 45 68 40 20
Email: t.konami@unesco.org

Ms Barbara Kavuma Lwanga
Assistant to Chief
Tel.: +33 1 45 68 39 97
Email: b.lwanga@unesco.org

Temporary Staff/Consultants

Section on Groundwater Systems and Settlements (SC/HYD/GSS)

Ms Alice Aureli
Chief
Tel.: +33 1 45 68 39 95
Email: a.aureli@unesco.org

Mr Alexandros K. Makarigakis
Programme Specialist
Tel.: + 33 1 45 68 41 78
Email: a.makarigakis@unesco.org

Mr Yonghyo Park
Programme Specialist
Tel.: +33 1 45 68 09 27
Email: yo.park@unesco.org

Mr Matthew Lagod
Project Officer
Tel.: +33 1 45 68 39 51
Email: m.lagod@unesco.org

Ms Sima Taheri
Assistant to Chief
Tel.: +33 1 45 68 41 75
Email: s.taheri@unesco.org

Temporary Staff/Consultants

Mr Tales Carvalho Resende
Consultant
Tel.: +33 1 45 68 39 65
Email: t.carvalho-resende@unesco.org

Mr Suren Gevinian
Consultant
Tel.: +33 1 45 68 39 61
Email: s.gevinian@unesco.org

Mr Ismael Madrigal
Consultant
Tel.: +33 1 45 68 39 62

Email: i.madrigal@unesco.org

Mr Vefa Moustafaev
Consultant
Tel.: +33 1 45 68 41 54
Email: v.moustafaev@unesco.org

Mr Aurélien Dumont
Consultant
Tel.: +33 1 45 68 39 15
Email: au.dumont@unesco.org

Mr Bruno Nguyen
Senior Consultant
Tel.: +33 1 45 68 42 64
Email: b.nguyen@unesco.org

Interns

Ms Chloe Meyer
Email: c.meyer@unesco.org

Volunteer

Ms Malinali Dominguez-Mares
Email : m.dominguez-mares@unesco.org

Section for Ecohydrology, Water Quality and Water Education (SC/HYD/EQE)

Mr Giuseppe Arduino
Programme Specialist
Tel.: +33 1 45 68 39 99
Email: g.arduino@unesco.org

Ms Sarantuyaa Zandaryaa
Programme Specialist
Tel.: +33 1 45 68 40 54
Email: s.zandaryaa@unesco.org

Mr Youssef Filali-Meknassi
Programme Specialist
Tel.: +33 1 45 68 12 21
Email: y.filali-meknassi@unesco.org

Ms Nicole Webley
Assistant Programme Specialist
Tel.: +33 1 45 68 40 31
Email: n.webley@unesco.org

Ms Natasha Lazic
General Assistant
Tel.: +33 1 45 68 40 36
Email: n.lazic@unesco.org

Temporary Staff/Consultants

Ms Anais Chagankerian
Programme Assistant

Tel.: +33 1 45 68 40 70
Email: a.chagankerian@unesco.org

Mr Ignacio Deregibus
Consultant
Tel.: +33 1 45 68 24 15
Email: i.deregibus@unesco.org

Ms Laicia Gagnier
Consultant
Tel.: +33 1 45 68 39 37
Email: l.gagnier@unesco.org

Ms Amandine Ladrille
Programme Assistant
Tel.: +33 1 45 68 39 21
Email: a.ladrille@unesco.org

Mr Alexander Otte
Programme Officer
Tel.: +33 1 45 68 40 05
Email: a.otte@unesco.org

Interns

Mr Fernando Avakian
Tel.: +33 1 45 68 41 39
Email: f.avakian@unesco.org

Mr Jingfu Chen
Tel.: +33 1 45 68 39 43
Email: j.chen@unesco.org

Ms Geunhwa Lee
Tel.: +33 1 45 68 11 46
Email: ge.lee@unesco.org

Mr Daniel Woodburn
Email: d.woodburn@unesco.org

World Water Assessment Programme (WWAP)

Mr Stefan Uhlenbrook
Coordinator
Villa La Colombella – Località di Colombella Alta
06134 Colombella, Perugia, Italy
Tel.: + 39 75 591 1030
Email: s.uhlenbrook@unesco.org

Mr Engin Koncagul
Programme Specialist and Case Studies Project Officer
Tel.: +33 1 45 68 38 81
Email: e.koncagul@unesco.org

Natural Sciences Sector

Mr Qunli Han

Director, Division of Ecological and Earth
Sciences and MAB Secretary
Tel.: +33 1 45 68 40 67
Email: q.han@unesco.org

Mr Patrick J. Mc Keever
Chief of Section, Earth Sciences and Geo-
Hazards Risk Reduction
Tel.: +33 1 45 68 41 17
Email: pj.mckeever@unesco.org

**Intergovernmental Oceanographic
Commission**

Mr Vladimir Ryabinin
Assistant Director-General and Executive
Secretary of the IOC
Tel.: +33 1 45 68 39 83
Email: v.ryabinin@unesco.org

Social and Human Sciences Sector

Ms Dafna Feinholz
Chief of Section, Bioethics and Ethics of Science
Tel.: +33 1 46 68 49 94
Email: d.feinholz@unesco.org

ANNEX IV

LIST OF DOCUMENTS

WORKING DOCUMENTS

Document Code (IHP/Bur-LIII/...)	Title	Agenda item
1 Prov.	Provisional agenda	2
2 Prov.	Provisional timetable	2
3 Prov.	Provisional final report	1 – 10
4 Prov.	<i>Provisional list of documents (this document)</i>	2
5 Prov.	Provisional list of participants	2
6	Institutional developments at UNESCO	3
7	Programme implementation	4
8	UNESCO's Water Family	5
9	Relations with United Nations, intergovernmental organisations and non-governmental organisations	6
10	IHP actions in the implementation and monitoring of the Sustainable Development Goal 6 relating to water and sanitation	7

REFERENCE DOCUMENTS

(online consultation only)

Document Code	Title	Agenda item
IHP/IC-XXI/3	Final report of the 21 st session of the Intergovernmental Council of IHP (Paris, 18 – 20 June 2014)	-
IHP/Bur-LI/3	Final report of the 51 st session of the IHP Bureau (Paris, 20 June 2014)	-
IHP/Bur/Technical-Meeting/2014/3	Final report of the technical meeting of the members of the IHP Bureau (Mérida, Mexico, 13 – 14 November 2014)	-
IHP/Bur-LII/3	Final report of the 52 nd session of the IHP Bureau (Paris, 1-2 June 2015)	-
37 C/4	Medium-term Strategy, 2014 – 2021	3
37 C/5	Approved Programme and Budget, 2014-2017	3
38 C/5	Programme and Budget for 2016-2017 (38 C/5)	3
IHP/Statutes/1996	Statutes of the Intergovernmental Council of IHP	3
IHP/Rules of Procedure/2000	Rules of Procedure of the Intergovernmental Council of IHP	3

Document Code	Title	Agenda item
IHP/Bur-LII/Ref 1	Draft proposed IHP Communication and Outreach Strategy	3
IHP/Bur-LII/Ref 2	Proposed IHP Panel for Water Future and Sustainability – Proposal submitted by the Chairperson of the IHP Intergovernmental Council (Mexico), English and Spanish	3
IHP/Bur-LIII/Ref 1	Consultation regarding the update of the IHP Statutes and Rules of procedure of the IHP Council – Outcome of the 52 nd IHP Bureau session (1-2 June 2015)	3
IHP/Bur-LIII/Ref 2	Consultation regarding the update of the IHP Statutes and Rules of procedure of the IHP Council - Results of the consultation regarding the extension of terms of the IHP Chair and Vice Chairs	3
IHP/Bur-LIII/Ref 3	Results of the consultation regarding the establishment of an Intergovernmental Panel on Water	3
IHP/Bur-LIII/Ref 4	UNESCO-IHP Water and Megacities Task Force – draft terms of reference	4
IHP/Bur-LIII/Ref 5	Declaration of the International Conference “Water, Megacities and Global Change	4
IOS/EVS/PI/140.REV.3	Evaluation of Phase VII (2008-2013) of the International Hydrological Programme	4
IOS/AUD/2015/06	Audit of the Natural Sciences Sector	4
37 C/18 Part I	Revision of the integrated comprehensive strategy for category 2 institutes and centres under the auspices of UNESCO	5
IHP/IC-XXII/1 Prov.	Provisional agenda of the 22 nd session of the Intergovernmental Council of the IHP	7
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)	7

Note: All documents are available online here: <http://en.unesco.org/themes/water-security/hydrology/about-us/governing-bodies/documents-53rd-session-ihp-bureau>

ANNEX V

LIST OF ACRONYMS AND SPECIAL TERMS USED IN THIS REPORT

ARCEAU	Association Recherche Collectivités dans le domaine de l'EAU
AMCOW	African Ministers' Council on Water
ASTEE	Association Scientifique et Technique pour l'Eau et l'Environnement (Association of Professionals for Water and the Environment)
ANEAS	Asociación Nacional de Empresas de Agua y Saneamiento de México (National Association of Water and Sanitation Utilities of Mexico)
COMEST	World Commission on the Ethics of Scientific Knowledge and Technology
EQE	Ecohydrology, Quality and Education
EU	European Union
CONAGUA	Comisión Nacional del Agua (National Water Commission of Mexico)
COP	Conference of the Parties
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations
GC	General Conference
GEF	Global Environment Facility
GEMI	Global Environment Monitoring Initiative
HLPW	High-Level Panel on Water
HQ	Headquarters
IAH	International Association of Hydrogeologists
IAHS	International Association of Hydrological Sciences
ICL	International Consortium on Landslides
IGC	Intergovernmental Council
IGCP	International Geoscience Programme
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)
IIWQ	International Initiative on Water Quality
IOC	Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission
ISDR	International Strategy for Disaster Reduction
IUCN	International Union for Conservation of Nature
IWRM	Integrated Water Resources Management
MAB	Man and the Biosphere Programme
MOST	Management of Social Transformation

OECD	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
PCCP	From Potential Conflict to Cooperation Potential programme
SDG	Sustainable Development Goal
SG	Secretary General
ToR	Terms of reference
UN	United Nations
UNDESA	United Nations Department for Economic and Social Affairs
UNECE	United Nations Economic Commission for Europe
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation
UNESCO-IHE	UNESCO-IHE Institute for Water Education
UNGA	United Nations General Assembly
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UNTWIN	University Twinning and networking
WB	World Bank
WLRI	World's Large Rivers Initiative
WMO	World Meteorological Organisation
WWAP	UN World Water Assessment Programme
WWDR	World Water Development Report