

**UNITED NATIONS EDUCATIONAL,
SCIENTIFIC AND CULTURAL ORGANIZATION**

**STATUTES OF THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL COUNCIL
OF THE INTERNATIONAL HYDROLOGICAL PROGRAMME¹**

Article I

An Intergovernmental Council of the International Hydrological Programme is hereby established within the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization.

Article II

1. The Council shall be composed of 36 Member States of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization elected by the General Conference at its ordinary sessions, taking due account of the need to ensure equitable geographical distribution and appropriate rotation of the representatives of these States from the hydrological viewpoint in the various continents and of the importance of their scientific contribution to the Programme.
2. The term of office of the members of the Council shall begin at the close of the ordinary session of the General Conference at which they are elected and shall expire at the close of the second ordinary session of the Conference following it.
3. Notwithstanding the provisions of paragraph 2 above, the term of office of one half of the members designated at the first election shall expire at the close of the first ordinary session of the General Conference following the session at which they were elected. The names of these members shall be drawn by lot after the first election by the President of the General Conference, it being understood that the outgoing members shall be replaced by members belonging to the same regional group.
4. Members of the Council shall be immediately eligible for re-election.
5. The Council may make recommendations concerning its own membership to the General Conference.
6. The persons appointed by the Member States as their representatives on the Council shall preferably be experts in the field covered by the Programme and chosen among those persons who are playing a major part in the implementation of the activities related to the Programme in the said Member States.

Article III

1. The Council shall be responsible, within UNESCO's field of competence, for planning the International Hydrological Programme, defining its priorities and supervising its execution and in particular for:

¹ Approved by the General Conference of UNESCO at its eighteenth session and amended at its twentieth, twenty-first, twenty-third, twenty-seventh and twenty-eighth sessions.

- (a) guiding and supervising from the scientific and from the organizational point of view the implementation of the programme, including the relevant activities of the Regional Offices;
 - (b) studying proposals concerning developments and modifications of the Programme and also plans for its implementation;
 - (c) recommending scientific projects of interest to Member States and assessing priorities among such projects;
 - (d) co-ordinating international co-operation of the Member States in the framework of the programme;
 - (e) making any necessary proposals for co-ordinating the Programme with those conducted by all the international organizations concerned;
 - (f) assisting in the development of regional and national projects related to the Programme;
 - (g) taking any practical or scientific measures that may be required for the successful implementation of the programme.
2. In performing its functions the Council shall rely as much as possible on the activities of the National Committees established by Member States in accordance with the recommendation contained in paragraph 6 of resolution 18 C/2.232 and foster by all means their active participation on the Programme.
 3. The Council shall make full use of facilities offered by the agreements or working arrangements between UNESCO and other inter-governmental organizations mentioned in Article VIII, paragraph 2 below.
 4. The Council may consult on scientific questions all appropriate international non-governmental organizations with which UNESCO maintains official relations.

The International Council of Scientific Unions, its unions and associations, may give advice to the Council on questions of a scientific or technical nature.

5. The Council shall, whenever possible, attempt to co-ordinate the International Hydrological Programme with other international scientific programmes, in particular those of UNESCO.

Article IV

1. The Council shall normally meet in plenary session once every two years. Extraordinary sessions may be convened under the conditions specified in the Rules of Procedure.
2. Each Council member shall have one vote, but it may send as many experts or advisers as it deems necessary to sessions of the Council.
3. The Council shall adopt its own Rules of Procedure.

Article V

1. The Council may establish committees to examine the implementation of certain major orientations of the Programme and to prepare appropriate recommendations to the Council. Such committees may include Member States of UNESCO which are not represented in the Council.
2. The Council shall define the terms of reference and tenure of each committee thus established.
3. The Council may establish working groups of specialists to examine specific projects, These working groups, whose members shall serve in a personal capacity, may include nationals of Member States of UNESCO which are not represented on the Council.
4. In the composition of committees and working groups appropriate geographical distribution and adequate representation of regions where the problems occur might be sought.

Article VI

1. Regional committees may be established on the initiative of and by mutual agreement among Member States of the same region sharing a common hydrological interest.
2. The Council shall extend all possible assistance and help to regional committees thus established.

Article VII

1. At the beginning of its first session following a session of the General Conference at which elections to the Council have been held, the Council shall elect a chairperson and four vice-chairpersons. These, with the chairperson of the previous Bureau, who shall be an *ex-officio* member, shall constitute the Council's Bureau. The composition of the Bureau so formed shall reflect an equitable geographical distribution. The members of the Bureau who are representatives of Member States of UNESCO shall remain in office until a new Bureau has been elected.
2. The Bureau shall discharge the following duties:
 - (a) fix, in consultation with the Secretariat, the dates of the Sessions of the Council and of its committees and working groups, in accordance with the general guidelines of the Council;
 - (b) prepare the sessions of the Council, in consultation with the Secretariat;
 - (c) supervise the implementation of the resolutions of the Council, and report at each session of the Council, on the status of implementation of the prescribed phases of project execution and, in particular, follow the activities of the Council's committees and working groups;
 - (d) prepare for the Council all reports requested by the General Conference of UNESCO;
 - (e) discharge all other duties which it may be assigned by the Council.

3. Meetings of the Bureau may be convened between meetings of the Council at the request of the Council itself, of the Director-General of UNESCO or of a Bureau member.

Article VIII

1. Representatives of Member States and Associate Members of UNESCO which are not members of the Council, may attend, as observers, without the right to vote, all meetings of the Council, of its committees and of its working groups.
2. Representatives of the United Nations, United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations, the World Health Organization, the World Meteorological Organization and the International Atomic Energy Agency may take part, without the right to vote, in all meetings of the Council, of its committees and of its working groups.
3. Representatives of the International Council of Scientific Unions, of its Committee on Water Research and of its affiliated International Association of the Hydrological Sciences and International Association of Hydrologists, of the International Association for Hydraulic Research, of the International Commission on Irrigation and Drainage, the International Commission of Large Dams and of the International Water Resources Association may take part, without the right to vote, in all meetings of the Council, of its committees and of its working groups.
4. The Council shall determine the conditions under which other international governmental or non-governmental organizations may be invited to attend its meetings, without the right to vote, whenever questions of common interest are discussed.

Article IX

1. The Secretariat of the Council shall be provided by the Director-General of United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, who shall place at the Council's disposal the staff and other means required for its operation.
2. The Secretariat shall provide the necessary services for all sessions of the Council and meetings of its Bureau, committees and working groups.
3. The Secretariat shall take any measures required in order to co-ordinate the execution of the international programmes recommended by the Council, it shall take all steps required to convene the sessions of the Council.
4. The Secretariat shall assemble all proposals sent in by members of the Council, other Member States of UNESCO and the international organizations concerned, with regard to the formulation of international projects under the Programme, and shall prepare them for examination by the Council. It shall maintain liaison with the National Committees referred to in Article III, paragraph 2 above, and inform them of the Council's recommendations.
5. In addition to the services which it renders to the Council, the Secretariat shall co-operate closely with the respective secretariats of the international governmental and non-governmental organizations mentioned in Article VIII, paragraphs 2 and 3, above; it shall for this purpose take part in inter-secretariat co-ordination meetings as necessary.

Article X

1. The international programmes of hydrological investigations recommended by the Council to Member States for concerted action on their part shall be financed by the participating Member States according to the commitments which each state is willing to make. The Council may, however make recommendations to the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and to the other organizations mentioned in Article VIII, paragraph 2, above, concerning assistance to Member States for the development of hydrological research or the implementation of some particular aspects of the Programme. If UNESCO and the said organizations accept such activities and if the Member States concerned signify their agreement, these organizations shall undertake to finance the related activities in accordance with the provisions of their respective constitutions and regulations.
2. Member States shall bear the expense of participation of their representatives in sessions of the Council and its committees. The running expenses of the Council and its subsidiary organs shall be financed from funds appropriated for this purpose by the General Conference of UNESCO.
3. Voluntary contributions may be accepted and established as trust funds in accordance with the Financial Regulations of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and administered by the Director-General of that Organization. The Council shall make recommendations to the Director-General on the allocation of such contributions for international projects within the Programme.

Article XI

1. The Council shall submit reports on its activities to the General Conference of UNESCO at each of its ordinary sessions. These reports shall also be communicated to the other international organizations mentioned in Article VIII, paragraphs 2 and 3, above, and to all National Committees for the International Hydrological Programme.
2. The Council may receive from other international organizations reports concerning the Programme.