

International Hydrological Programme

22nd Session of the IHP Council
(Paris, 13-17 June 2016)

PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION

Items 6.1 and 6.3 of the provisional agenda

This document provides a summary of the implementation of the Programme related to Theme's 4, focal area on Opportunities in emerging cities in developing countries and a Follow-up to the external evaluation of IHP-VII, including the report on the IHP National Committees survey

Decisions proposed: The Council may wish to

- Request to the Secretariat to set up the Task Force and the International Cooperation Platform under the auspices of UNESCO and report on the progress achieved at its 55th and 56th Bureau sessions and 23rd Council session.
- Discuss further improvement of the communication and cooperation of the National Committees' network and with the UNESCO Water Family in the light of the presentation by the Secretariat.

IMPLEMENTATION OF IHP-VIII (Agenda item 6.1)

1. **Theme 4 of IHP-VIII: Water and human settlements of the future**, aims at supporting cities and rural settlements facing climate change, population growth, deterioration of urban infrastructure systems and other global challenges in understanding the issues and in adopting an approach based on the interdependence of the different water systems. The theme is organized in five focal areas: game changing approaches and technologies; system wide changes for integrated management approaches; institution and leadership for extracting the maximum benefits from water (beneficiation) and integration; opportunities in emerging cities of developing countries, and integrated development in rural human settlement.

2. Within the framework of activities that **Focal area 4.4 Opportunities in emerging cities in developing countries** sets, an International Conference “Water, Megacities and Global Change”, was organized by UNESCO-IHP jointly with the Association of the Water Researchers, Operators and Local governments from the Parisian Region (ARCEAU-IdF), in Paris (2015), during the first week of the COP21. The conference brought together 388 scientists, public and private operators, elected officials, and representatives of international institutions and NGOs from 20 countries who had the opportunity to exchange knowledge on a variety of issues challenging the development of Megacities (www.eaume.org).

3. An output of the conference was a **Declaration** (Reference Document IHP/Bur-LII(I/Ref5) committing to **setting up a cooperation platform**, within two years, to facilitate the dialogue on adapting to or mitigating the effects of climate change related to water in Megacities. In particular, the platform will seek to support Megacities in learning from each other’s experience, exchange best practices, partner with appropriate technical, academic, and financial institutions, and design and implement their individual responses to the challenge. **It was further proposed that a Task Force under the auspices of IHP** would be set up in 2016 to provide the preliminary conditions for the establishment of this platform (Reference Document IHP/Bur-LIII/Ref4).

4. The purpose of the **Task Force** is to help build the enabling conditions for the creation of the platform, and to create the links and interactions with UNESCO water family, national IHP committees, and other UN agencies, especially UN-Water and UN-Habitat.

5. This **International Cooperation Platform** will be at the heart of a network of megacities interested in the exchange of experience, researches, best practices, and climate change adaptation strategies for water and sanitation services.

Actions expected by the Council:

The Council may wish to request to the Secretariat to set up the Task Force and the International Cooperation Platform under the auspices of UNESCO and report on the progress achieved at its 55th and 56th Bureau sessions and 23rd Council session.

FOLLOW UP TO THE EXTERNAL EVALUATION OF IHP-VII, INCLUDING THE REPORT ON THE IHP NATIONAL COMMITTEES SURVEY (Agenda item 6.3)

1. The IHP Secretariat pursued follow-up to the recommendations of the evaluation, inter alia through improving communication, outreach and visibility of IHP and the coordination of the UNESCO Water Family (cf. IHP/IC-XXII/Inf.1, sub-item 4.9 and IHP/IC-XXII/Inf.5). As part of this endeavour, the Secretariat conducted the IHP National Committees Survey in 2015, to which by 15 October 65 Member States had replied. Subsequently, the Secretariat shared the report of the survey with the Bureau members.

Actions expected by the Council:

The Council may wish to discuss further improvement of the communication and cooperation of the National Committees' network and with the UNESCO Water Family in the light of the presentation by the Secretariat.