

International Hydrological Programme

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

Item 7 of the provisional agenda.

Summary

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development includes a dedicated goal on water and sanitation (SDG 6). Collected credible data and indicators monitoring will be critical to ensure the success of this SDG. It is therefore necessary to identify and apply specific, measurable and action-oriented indicators. UNESCO is part of the UN-Water Working Group on SDG and is one of the seven Steering Committee members of the Integrated Monitoring of Water and Sanitation Related SDG Targets (GEMI) established in 2014 under the UN-Water umbrella to respond to the monitoring needs of the SDG 6.

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

The Bureau may wish to: (i) express its views and appreciation on the UNESCO and IHP role in the implementation and monitoring of SDG 6, (ii) ask to Secretariat to continue an active participation in the framework of GEMI, and (iii) recommend to inscribe in the agenda of the 22nd IHP Intergovernmental Council an item related to IHP's participation in the implementation and monitoring of SDG 6 and its possible participation on future "Water Panels" for further consideration and decision.

1. Water and sanitation are at the very core of sustainable development. Safe drinking water and adequate sanitation and hygiene are pillars of human health and well-being.

2. In September 2015, heads of state from all around the world gathered in New York to adopt the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, an ambitious “plan of action for people, planet and prosperity,” comprised of 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and 169 targets.

3. The 2030 Agenda includes a dedicated goal on water and sanitation (SDG 6) that sets out to “ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all.”

4. Credible data is needed to underpin sector advocacy, stimulate political commitment, inform decision making and trigger well-placed investments towards optimum health, environment and economic gains. Monitoring will be critical to ensure the success of the SDG 6. It is therefore necessary to identify and apply specific, measurable and action-oriented indicators.

5. To respond to the monitoring needs of SDG 6, an Inter-Agency Initiative called “Integrated Monitoring of Water and Sanitation Related SDG Targets” (GEMI) was established in 2014 under the UN-Water “umbrella”. A GEMI Steering Committee was also established, consisting of seven United Nations Agencies working under the coordination of UN-Water. UNESCO is one of the seven Steering Committee members along with UNEP, UN-HABITAT, WHO, FAO, UNICEF and WMO. The initiative is financed by the Swiss Agency for Development Cooperation.

6. At present, there are several global initiatives monitoring different aspects of the water sector, however a coherent framework is missing. The objective of the GEMI initiative is to develop coherent methodologies for monitoring in an integrated manner water and sanitation related SDG targets. GEMI, is currently being developed, integrating and expanding existing efforts to ensure harmonised monitoring of the entire water cycle.

7. The first phase of this Initiative will focus on the development of a Monitoring Guide for use in countries by countries, and for the establishment of a global baseline. However, before the methodologies are rolled-out globally, they will be pilot tested in a small number of countries and revised as necessary based on lessons learned.

8. The six selected countries to pilot-test in 2016 the monitoring methodologies for SDG 6 are Uganda, Senegal, Peru, Bangladesh, Jordan, and The Netherlands. Following a UN-Water mandate, UNESCO will facilitate the implementation of the pilot test monitoring activities in The Netherlands and Jordan. The pilot test in Jordan will be conducted in cooperation with UN-Habitat and coordinated by the UNESCO office in Amman.

9. The 47th United Nations Statistical Commission decided in March 2016 to include a new indicator, indicator 6.5.2, on transboundary cooperation: “Percentage of transboundary basin area with an operational arrangement for water cooperation” within the target 6.5 “By 2030, implement integrated water resources management at all levels, including through transboundary cooperation as appropriate”. In this framework UNESCO received a mandate from UN-Water as a responsible agency for the definition of the methodology for this indicator. UNESCO will define this methodology in close cooperation with the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE).

10. The 21st session of the IHP Intergovernmental Council (Paris, June 2014) recommended that “the IHP Secretariat continues close cooperation with UN-Water members and partners with the view to actively develop suitable components of a robust

monitoring and assessment framework supporting the post 2015 Agenda; and requests it to identify and develop scientifically sound indicators, and information systems that will support the implementation and monitoring of water-related goals and targets in the SDG framework”.

11. There are currently two (2) established “Water Panels” to promote SDG 6 and its targets. The “Global High Level Panel on Water and Peace” proposes global architecture to transform water from a source of potential crisis to- identify economic and financial mechanisms to incentivize multi-sectoral and transboundary water cooperation. It comprises 15 countries from all parts of the world at a ministerial level. UN Membership is via UN-Water, which is invited as an observer. The “High-Level Panel On Water” is co-convened by the Secretary General of the United Nation and the President of the World Bank Group. Its purpose is to place water politically high in Climate and SDG agendas and to amplify the message of SDG6 and its targets, with a view to motivate action and advocate on financing. Its members are Heads of State.

In this respect, The Bureau may wish to:

- (i) express its views and appreciation on the UNESCO and IHP role in the implementation and monitoring of SDG 6;
- (ii) ask to Secretariat to continue an active participation in the framework of GEMI; and
- (iii) recommend to inscribe in the agenda of the 22nd IHP Intergovernmental Council an item related to IHP’s participation in the implementation and monitoring of SDG 6 and its possible participation on future “Water Panels” for further consideration and decision.