

## **International Hydrological Programme**

53rd session of the IHP Bureau  
(Paris, 19-21 April 2016)

# **UNESCO IHP WATER AND MEGACITIES TASK FORCE DRAFT OF TERMS OF REFERENCE**

Item 4.1 of the provisional agenda

### Summary

This document presents a draft with the terms of reference for the establishment of the Water and Megacities Task Force.

## **UNESCO IHP WATER AND MEGACITIES TASK FORCE DRAFT OF TERMS OF REFERENCE**

### **Preamble**

This note frames the scope, objectives, and expected contribution of the Water and Megacities Task Force, which is proposed to be set up in 2016 under the auspices of the International Hydrological Programme (UNESCO IHP), to facilitate the establishment in 2018 of a Water and Megacities International Cooperation Platform and to provide advice and support on the cooperation mechanism between UNESCO-IHP and the Members of the said platform.

### **Background**

In the framework of the implementation of IHP's Eighth Phase (2014-2021), and within its Thematic Area 4 "Water for Human Settlements", UNESCO IHP organized jointly with the Association of the Water Researchers, Operators and Local governments from the Parisian Region (ARCEAU-IdF) within the framework of the 21<sup>st</sup> Session of the Conference of the Parties (COP21) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), the International Conference "Water, Megacities and Global Change", from 1 to 4 December 2015, at UNESCO Headquarters in Paris.. 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. Twelve monographs of emblematic megacities of the world have been presented during the conference: Paris, London, Lagos, Istanbul, Mumbai, Manila, Beijing, Tokyo, Buenos Aires, Mexico, Chicago and New York.

The Megacities Conference presented also an opportunity to produce a Declaration for the attention of the COP21, insisting on the importance of Megacities' specific context for addressing the water issues within climate change adaptation strategies. Indeed, the size of the megacities makes them political, economic, educational, cultural, academic and industrial centres requiring high attention from their national governments. The Declaration included the establishment within 2016 of a Task Force under the auspices of UNESCO IHP to facilitate within two years, the creation of a Water and Megacities International Cooperation Platform.

The purpose of the Task Force is to help build the enabling conditions for establishing the Platform and to create the links with UNESCO's Water Family, National IHP Committees, and other UN Agencies, especially UN-Habitat.

This International Cooperation Platform will be at the heart of a network of megacities interested in the exchange of experience, research, best practices, and climate change adaptation strategies for water and sanitation services. The platform will define its own rules, governance system and financing mechanisms based on the decisions to be made by the core group of megacities that have already partnered in the publication of the monographs along with other megacities who will have joined by that time. It will benefit technically and politically from UNESCO's water family (IHP Secretariat, Regional and Cluster Offices, Water-related Chairs, UNESCO-IHE Institute for Water Education, Water-related Institutes and Centres and the World Water Assessment Programme), and from UNESCO's

Intergovernmental nature (Member States), as well as from ICLEI's network of Local Governments, and from the innovative model of ARCEAU connecting researchers, operators, NGOs and decision makers. It is envisioned that the Platform will be open to relevant International Institutions such as other UN agencies, cooperation financing institutions, NGOs, etc.

## **Objectives**

The Task Force shall have the status of an ad hoc working group (IHP Intergovernmental Council Statutes, articles III and IV).

The objectives of the Task Force will be:

- to help enlist megacities for joining the network;
- to define and promote the interactions between the future Platform and UNESCO, UN-organizations and their traditional partners;
- to identify and develop synergies with UNESCO-IHP activities;
- to propose a governance model for the Platform, to be endorsed by the megacities;
- to formulate, in consultation with the IHP Bureau and the IHP Intergovernmental Council, a Strategic Plan for the establishment and development of the future relations between UNESCO-IHP and the Water and Megacities International Cooperation Platform.

A mandate of two years is envisioned for the Task Force to fulfil the above mentioned targets. A draft Strategic Plan should be presented at the 54<sup>th</sup> and 55<sup>th</sup> sessions of the IHP Bureau in 2017 and 2018. The final draft will be prepared for presentation at the 23<sup>th</sup> Session of the IHP Council in June 2018.

## **Composition**

The Task Force shall be composed of 6 to 10 experts selected upon their international recognized professional experience on water issues in megacities.

The IHP Bureau, based on a short list to be prepared by the IHP Secretariat, shall select and appoint via electronic consultation the members of the Task Force, taking due account of cultural diversity, balanced geographical representation and gender equality.

Task Force members shall be independent and shall serve in their personal capacity. The members shall not receive any compensation from UNESCO and shall serve in voluntary capacity. The members do not represent UNESCO or IHP and cannot commit the Organization in any way. The Task Force shall not have more than one member of the same nationality.

At its first meeting, the Task Force shall designate from its own members a coordinator for duration of 2 years and define its working methods by simple majority. The designated coordinator will coordinate the Task Force's work with the IHP Secretariat.

## **Terms of office**

The Task Force members shall be designated for serving a period of 2 years. In the event of the resignation or death of a Task Force member, IHP Secretariat in consultation with the IHP Bureau shall appoint a replacement for the remainder of the current term.

### **Sessions**

The Task Force shall use alternative means to conduct meetings and consultations in order to reduce its costs (email and teleconference).

In the case of face to face meetings, the Task Force shall normally meet at the Headquarters of UNESCO. However, a session of the Task Force may be organized at the initiative of a Member State, who will then bear the expenses of convening that session of the Task Force.

As a general rule, meetings of the Task Force shall be private. However, by invitation of the Task Force, IHP Intergovernmental Council Member States, UN agencies, and NGOs may send observers to attend these meetings.

### **Language**

English shall be the working languages of the Task Force. Working documents will be produced only in English version.

### **Financial implications**

The Task Force will be operating without financial implications for the regular budget of UNESCO.

Donors may support the activities of the Task Force. In this case, agreements will have to be signed between UNESCO IHP and the donor.