

International Hydrological Programme

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PARTICIPATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL HYDROLOGICAL PROGRAMME IN THE IMPLEMENTATION AND MONITORING OF WATER RELATED SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

Item 7 of the provisional agenda

SUMMARY

This document provides a brief account of the actions of UNESCO through IHP to support Member States' efforts facilitating implementation and monitoring activities of water and sanitation related SDG targets.

THE 2030 AGENDA FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT- SDG 6

WATER IN THE 2030 AGENDA FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

1. 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', with 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs; <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/?menu=1300>) and 169 targets. Building on the UN Millennium Declaration and its eight Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) (2000-2015), the 2030 Agenda expands the MDG focus on poverty reduction to now cover all aspects of sustainable development in all countries of the world, calling for peace and partnership, and the need to leave no one behind.
2. The SDGs include a dedicated goal on water and sanitation (SDG 6; <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/sdg6>) that sets out to 'ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all'. SDG 6 expands the MDG focus on drinking water and basic sanitation to now cover the entire water cycle, including the management of water, wastewater and ecosystem resources. With water at the very core of sustainable development, SDG 6 does not only have strong linkages to all of the other SDGs, but also the ability to underpin them: achieving SDG 6 would in fact path the way towards achieving much of the 2030 Agenda.
3. SDG 6 contains six targets on outcomes across the entire water cycle, and two targets on the means of implementing the outcome targets:
 - Targets 6.1 and 6.2 build on the MDG targets on drinking water and basic sanitation (known as WASH), providing continuity while expanding their scope and refining definitions.
 - Targets 6.3 to 6.6 address the broader water context that was not explicitly included in the MDG framework, but whose importance was acknowledged at the Rio+20 Conference, such as water quality and wastewater management, water scarcity and water use efficiency, integrated water resources management, and the protection and restoration of water-related ecosystems.
 - Targets 6.a and 6.b acknowledge the importance of an enabling environment, addressing the means of implementation and aiming for international cooperation, capacity-building and the participation of local communities in water and sanitation management.
4. The Member State-led Inter-agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators (IAEG-SDGs) is responsible for developing an indicator framework for SDG monitoring at the global level and to support its implementation. UNESCO under the umbrella of the UN-Water Task Force on Agenda 2030 has been highly involved throughout the SDG process, and supports the IAEG-SDGs in regard to SDG 6 by contributing to the identification and development of methodologies and data flows for the calculation of indicators. The ambition of the IAEG-SDGs is to produce a final recommendation of an SDG indicator framework and reporting mechanism to be adopted by the UN General Assembly in 2016.
5. The 47th United Nations Statistical Commission agreed in March 2016 on the global indicator framework for the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

THE UN-WATER 'INTEGRATED MONITORING OF WATER AND SANITATION RELATED SDG TARGETS' GEMI INITIATIVE

6. In order to face the challenge posed by the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development with a dedicated goal on water and sanitation, UN-Water recognized the need to establish a coherent global mechanism to integrate and expand existing monitoring efforts on wastewater treatment and water quality, water use and use-efficiency, integrated water resources management and water-related ecosystems.

7. Therefore, the 'Integrated monitoring of water and sanitation related SDG targets – GEMI initiative' was established in 2014 to integrate and expand existing efforts and ensure harmonised monitoring of the entire water cycle. GEMI is an UN inter-agency initiative composed of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat), the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the World Health Organization (WHO) and the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), operating in a coordinated manner under the UN-Water umbrella.

8. GEMI is complementing the Global Analysis and Assessment of Sanitation and Drinking-Water report (GLAAS) produced by the World Health Organization (WHO) on behalf of UN-Water and published every two years and the WHO/UNICEF Joint Monitoring Programme (JMP) for Water supply and sanitation that was the official mechanism of the UN system mandated to monitor global progress towards MDG Target 7.C: Halve, by 2015, the proportion of the population without sustainable access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation that is now addressing the monitoring of targets 6.1 and 6.2.

9. GEMI's long term goal is to (i) establish and manage, by 2030, a coherent monitoring framework for water and sanitation to inform the post-2015 period, and (ii) contribute to country progress through well-informed decision-making on water, based on harmonized, comprehensive, timely and accurate information. The specific objectives are to:

- Integrate and expand existing monitoring efforts to ensure harmonized monitoring of the entire water cycle
- Provide Member States with a monitoring methodological guide for SDG targets 6.3 to 6.6
- Engage Member States and enhance their capacity in water sector monitoring
- Report on global progress towards SDG targets 6.3-6.6

10. UN-Water considers that together, JMP, GLAAS and GEMI will be able to monitor global progress towards the entirety of SDG 6. Within the GEMI framework Member States combine traditional and innovative data collection to pursue national monitoring interests with flexibility, and address national and regional issues while maintaining compatibility with global monitoring efforts.

11. The first phase of GEMI implementation (2015-2018) focuses on the development and testing of monitoring methodologies, to be integrated into a Monitoring Guide for use by countries, and the establishment of a global baseline. Before the methodologies are rolled-out globally, they will be pilot tested in a small number of countries - named the Proof Of Concept (POC) countries- and, revised as necessary based on lessons learned. Six countries have offered to act as pilots to test the POC: Bangladesh, Jordan, Netherlands, Peru, Senegal, and Uganda. UNESCO has been charged to organize the inception sessions of the POC for testing the SDG 6 targets and indicators methodologies in Jordan (together with UN-Habitat) and in the Netherlands.

12. Inception meetings have been held in Senegal (25-26 April), Jordan 22-23 May and Peru 30-31 May, while the one in Uganda will take place during the week of the IGC (15-16 June). The date for the meeting in Bangladesh will be confirmed at a later stage and the one in the Netherlands is scheduled for September.

13. In 2017, the reviewed methodologies will be implemented on a global scale, to enable the establishment of a global baseline for 2018. To realise both the pilot testing and global implementation, the first step is to sensitize countries and to build a national interest for water sector monitoring. To prepare for global implementation, a number of regional workshops will be organised in late 2016 to bring together Member States and international monitoring partners, with the aim of facilitating cooperation and sharing knowledge and experience. Such peer-to-peer interaction will be an important component of capacity development in a resource-constrained environment.

14. Member States will own the monitoring and reporting of the SDGs and also be the main beneficiaries of improved access to better-quality data. Any monitoring initiative must therefore be sensitive to national needs. To ensure the sustainability of monitoring systems and processes at this level, a greater focus on capacity development is necessary.

15. Regional and global monitoring should build on, and reinforce, national monitoring. To allow for comparison of data between countries and over time and to track progress at the regional and global levels, it is necessary to promote harmonised monitoring approaches and the use of similar standards and definitions across countries.

GLOBAL WATER PANEL FOR RAISING AWARENESS ON SDG 6

16. There are currently two 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 participation is via UN-Water, which is invited only as an observer. The 'High-Level Panel On Water' (HLPW) is co-convened by the Secretary General of the United Nations and the President of the World Bank Group and it aims to mobilize effective action to accelerate the implementation of SDG 6 and its related targets. Its members are 10 Heads of State and is co-chaired by the Mauritius and Mexico. The Panel welcomes open and growing "Friends of the water panel" network that encourages a voice for all and seeks to learn from the knowledge that already exists. The panel will provide the leadership required to tackle these challenges and champion a comprehensive, inclusive and collaborative way of developing and managing water resources, and providing improved access to clean water and sanitation. The Secretariat participated as a Friend of the Panel at the second Sherpas / Advisers meeting in Rotterdam on 22-23 May 2016 and has volunteered to coordinate a Framing Note on the topic of Water Quality, Sanitation and Health to help inform their deliberations. The IHP secretariat will be also contributing to the framing notes on Resilient Economies, Water infrastructure, Governance and Water for Settlements.

HUMAN AND INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITY BUILDING IN SDG 6

17. The issue of capacity building in SDG 6 is briefly addressed by indicator 6.a: “By 2030, expand international cooperation and capacity-building support to developing countries in water- and sanitation-related activities and programmes, including water harvesting, desalination, water efficiency, wastewater treatment, recycling and reuse technologies”. No holistic approach to address the issue of monitoring human resources capacity in the countries as well as regional and global levels has been mentioned nor planned for. Human resources capacity building is approached in a very fragmented manner, which results on not having awareness on the needs and thus not being able to plan for it and address it. The issue of institutional capacity is not addressed either. Moreover, the indicator developed so far only targets the funding provided through international cooperation to water agendas nor to institutional or capacity building.

18. UNESCO has a mandate in following up all Education related items in the SGGs and UNESCO IHP is preparing a conceptual framework to monitor human resources capacity and its development containing methodologies and indicators used, covering both formal and informal education systems at all levels (e.g. primary, secondary, tertiary for formal education; on the job (in service) training, other training initiatives and raising awareness for informal education), certifiable or not, and scales (national, regional and global) and Management Information Systems available for their implementation. Similar efforts are envisioned for the Institutional aspect