

**23rd SESSION OF THE INTERNATIONAL HYDROLOGICAL PROGRAMME
RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED**

Resolution XXIII-1

**REVISION OF THE STATUTES OF THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL COUNCIL OF THE
INTERNATIONAL HYDROLOGICAL PROGRAMME**

The Intergovernmental Council of the International Hydrological Programme of UNESCO,

- Recalling** the current Statutes and Rules of Procedure approved during the 18th Session of the General Conference and amended at its 20th, 21st, 23rd, 27th and 28th sessions
- Taking note** of IHP/IC Resolution XXII-1 and the result of the consultation process among Member States in order to update the Statutes of the IHP Intergovernmental Council;
- Emphasizing** that the IHP is the only intergovernmental programme of the UN System entirely devoted to water research, water resources management, education and capacity building, tailored to Member States' needs;
- Mindful of** the recommendations adopted in 39 C/Resolution 87 on governance, procedures and working methods of the governing bodies of UNESCO;
- Invites** the Secretariat to implement the relevant adopted Recommendations in 39 C/Resolution 87;
- Encourages** the Secretariat to apply, as appropriate, the adopted relevant best practices , annexed in 39 C/20 Appendix 3;
- Further invites** the Bureau to conduct its work in accordance with the adopted guiding principles and responsibilities of representatives of electoral groups in the Bureau annexed in 39 C/20 Appendix 2;
- Expresses appreciation to** the informal working group established at the 56th session of the IHP Bureau, composed by the Permanent Delegations of the Bureau Members, for aligning the results of the consultation on the revision of the statutes and rules of procedure of the IHP Intergovernmental Council with the decision of 39 C/Resolution 87 of the General Conference;
- Adopts** the revised Statutes of the IHP Intergovernmental Council taken into account the modifications undergone at the 23rd session of the IHP Intergovernmental Council;
- Requests** the IHP Secretariat to submit the revised Statutes of the IHP Intergovernmental Council to the 205th session of the Executive Board and subsequently to the 40th General Conference for their approval.

Resolution XXIII-2

WWAP TOOLKIT AND GENDER-SENSITIVE INDICATORS FOR THE COLLECTION AND ANALYSIS OF SEX-DISAGGREGATED WATER DATA

The Intergovernmental Council of the International Hydrological Programme of UNESCO,

Recalling that Gender Equality is a UNESCO global priority and that, in line with the UNESCO Gender Equality Action Plan for 2014-2021 (GEAP II), actions should be taken to ensure that the objectives set for this priority are met by the end of 2021;

Bearing in mind that the Agenda 2030 aims to achieve gender equality and empowerment of women and girls (SDG 5), as well as water and sanitation for all (SDG 6), and that impacts of the changing hydrological cycle are not gender neutral and there are evident interlinkages between targets of SDG 6 and SDG 5;

Recalling that the Agenda 2030 also pledges the need for high-quality data disaggregated by sex, as these are key to decision-making to ensure no one is left behind, and to measure progress in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals;

Noting with appreciation that the UNESCO World Water Assessment Programme (WWAP) developed a "Toolkit on Water and Gender" consisting of a pioneering methodological framework and a list of high-priority indicators to collect and analyze sex-disaggregated water data, which has been successfully tested in IHP projects and included in the Guidelines for Gender and Climate Change of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC);

Recognizing that the WWAP Toolkit can help Member States to build national sex-disaggregated water databases to inform decision-making and trigger transformative gender processes in the national and regional management and governance of water through effective water policies;

Endorses the WWAP Toolkit on Sex-Disaggregated Water Data as a tool to close the gender gap in national and regional water data, enable gender mainstreaming into water policies, foster gender-transformative actions in water strategies, and monitor progress towards SDGs 6 and 5 interlinkages;

Encourages IHP and WWAP Secretariats to facilitate the dissemination of the Toolkit among the Member States where possible through the development and implementation of joint extrabudgetary projects focused, among others, on capacity building, training workshops and field surveys;

Calls upon Member States to provide financial and in-kind support to IHP and WWAP to implement the necessary activities for the wide application of the WWAP Toolkit on Sex-Disaggregated Water Data at different levels.

Resolution XXIII-3

PROPOSAL FOR THE CONTINUATION OF THE WORLD'S LARGE RIVERS INITIATIVE AS PART OF IHP's WORKPLAN

The Intergovernmental Council of the International Hydrological Programme of UNESCO,

- Recalling** IHP/IC Resolution XXI-3 that established the World's Large Rivers Initiative;
- Also recalling** the importance of Sustainable Development Goal 6 of the 2030 Agenda on ensuring the availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all and its target to implement integrated water resources management at all levels;
- Emphasizing** the important contribution provided by IHP in the field of integrated water resources management and water cooperation over the past decades, including in the context of large rivers;
- Taking note** that the initiative, while excluding operational management, aims to establish a purely scientific global platform of researchers and institutions to develop, on a voluntary basis, the scientific foundation for an integrated river research by exchanging expertise and good practices;
- Confirms** the voluntary nature of the participation of Member States in the initiative, with a view to achieving full consensus and building trust among riparian countries in the application of the methodology in a given large transboundary river basin;
- Thanks** the UNESCO Chair on Integrated River Research and Management in Vienna, Austria, for its efforts with a view to effectively coordinate the World's Large River Initiative in cooperation of all parties concerned;
- Appreciates** the commitment of the UNESCO Chair on Integrated River Research and Management to continue to host the Secretariat of the World's Large Rivers Initiative at no cost to UNESCO;
- Having reviewed** the performance of the initiative as outlined in document IHP/IC-XXIII/Ref.9
- Greatly appreciates the work of** the working group of Member States of IHP, established by IHP/IC Resolution XXI/3 that upon request of the countries concerned, elaborated the scope, activities and desired outputs of this initiative, on the basis of consensus, hereby fulfilling its mandate;

- Commends** the World's Large Rivers Initiative for its effective coordination of three International Conferences on the status and future of the World's Large Rivers held in Vienna, Austria in 2011, in Manaus, Brazil in 2014 and in New Delhi, India in 2017, and its scientific output thereof, as well as numerous research and educational activities;
- Invites** the Director General to continue the World's Large Rivers Initiative as part of IHP's work plan, beyond its 23rd session;
- Requests** its alignment with the recommendations of the IHP Flagship Initiatives' evaluation;
- Invites** Member States, their IHP National Committees, as well as water-related Category 2 Centres, UNESCO Chairs, relevant funding agencies, regional development banks, and other initiatives to participate and to support the implementation of this major initiative;
- Further invites** the IHP Secretariat and the UNESCO Chair on Integrated River Research and Management in Vienna, Austria, to continue to collaborate with relevant institutions of Member States for the possible further development of the World's Large Rivers Initiative.

Resolution XXIII-4

PROPOSAL FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A WATER-RELATED CENTRE UNDER THE AUSPICES OF UNESCO (CATEGORY 2)

The Intergovernmental Council of the International Hydrological Programme of UNESCO,

- Noting** the critical importance of freshwater issues at the global, regional and national levels for sustainable development in face of mounting global changes;
- Considering** UNESCO's fundamental role in enhancing water security as defined by the strategic plan for IHP-VIII through: (1) mobilizing international cooperation to improve knowledge and innovation to address water security challenges; (2) strengthening the science-policy interface to reach water security at local, national, regional, and global levels; and (3) developing institutional and human capacities for water security and sustainability;
- Acknowledging** the role of the network of category 2 water-related centres and institutes in providing IHP with an increasing capability to implement its strategic priorities;
- Noting with appreciation** the willingness of the Government of Uruguay to undertake the establishment of a category 2 water-related centre significantly enhancing thematically the existing network of centres, as stated in documents IHP/IC XXIII/9 and IHP/IC XXIII/Ref. 8;
- Recognizing** the valuable services that the centre will render to Member States and stakeholders throughout the globe and the valuable contributions that they will provide to the implementation of IHP in particular on water and sanitation;
- Taking note** of the endorsement of the related proposal by the IHP Bureau;
- Endorses** after due consideration of the proposal, the establishment of the Regional Experimental Center for Sanitation Technologies (CERTS) in Uruguay, as a category 2 centre under the auspices of UNESCO;
- Requests** the assistance of the Secretariat to prepare the necessary documentation to be submitted to the governing bodies of UNESCO towards the creation of the centre in conformity with the IHP strategy for UNESCO category 2 water-related centres and the Integrated Comprehensive Strategy for Category 2 Institutes and Centres (document 37 C/18 Part I and Annexes), as approved by the 37th session of the General Conference (37 C/Resolution 93);
- Invites** the IHP National Committee of Uruguay to support the establishment and functioning of the centre;
- Also invites** Member States, the IHP National Committees and other partners, in particular the existing UNESCO Water Family, at the regional and international levels, to actively support the proposed centre and ensure

cooperation and collaboration in their common endeavours for the benefit of all.

Resolution XXIII-5

GLOBAL NETWORK OF WATER MUSEUMS AND UNESCO IHP IN SUPPORT OF WATER SUSTAINABILITY EDUCATION AND WATER AWARENESS EFFORTS

The Intergovernmental Council of the International Hydrological Programme of UNESCO,

- Recalling** UNESCO's Recommendation concerning the Protection and Promotion of Museums and Collections, their Diversity and their Role in Society (2015) which promotes the use of museums for the benefit of society; the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and in particular SDG 6 which promotes sustainable water management; the IHP-VIII Strategic Programme which promotes international cooperation in favor of water security; and the Independent External Evaluation (185 EX/18 Add.), which promotes synergies between the different sectors of UNESCO to strengthen its impact;
- Recognizing** that the increasing number of water museums worldwide are unique repositories of different water civilizations and of humanity's multifaceted water heritage, both tangible and intangible, and also play a leading role in education and awareness raising on a variety of water related issues;
- Acknowledging** the existence of a successful and growing Global Network of Water Museums that was established in 2017, that focuses on water education and Sustainable Development Goals, that functions on financial contributions from its members, that is coordinated by a Secretariat located in Italy, that already organized two international conferences in Italy in 2017 and in the Netherlands in 2018 and that reaches yearly a potential audience of over 5 million visitors;
- Welcomes and appreciates** the generous offer of the Network to significantly contribute to the aims of IHP by disseminating water-related knowledge to a worldwide audience through exhibitions, art performances, educational and public awareness raising activities, web platforms, publications and other communication efforts;
- Decides** to establish the Global Network of Water Museums, for a period of four years renewable based on its performance, as an IHP initiative to create synergies within UNESCO with the aim of better using water museums to improve water management via communication and educational activities;
- Invites** the IHP Secretariat to (1) follow up with water museums at world scale in view of this aim and to present performance indicators to the next Bureau meeting, and to (2) report to the next Bureau meetings and Council meetings on outputs and impact of this activity on the basis of the aforementioned performance indicators;
- Requests** its alignment with the recommendations of the IHP Flagship Initiatives ongoing evaluation, and that the 25th session of the IHP Intergovernmental Council shall review the performance of this initiative and consider its integration in IHP's program;

Encourages

Member States and their IHP National Committees to participate in its implementation on a voluntary basis.

Resolution XXIII-6

PREPARATION OF IHP-IX

The Intergovernmental Council of the International Hydrological Programme of UNESCO,

Cognizant of the lead role UNESCO IHP has played over four decades in the development of hydrology as a science and its evolution from an internationally coordinated hydrological research programme into an encompassing, holistic programme to facilitate education and capacity building, and enhance water resources management and governance;

Having considered the documents IHP/IC-XXIII/7 and IHP/IC-XXIII/Inf.3 on the implementation of the Eight Phase of IHP (IHP-VIII, 2014-2021);

Taking note with satisfaction of the successful implementation of numerous projects and activities, within the framework of IHP-VIII, in supporting Member States achieve water security, as well as internationally agreed goals such as the Sustainable Development Goals, the Sendai Framework, the New Urban Agenda, and the Paris Agreement;

Emphasizing that UNESCO IHP should continue to exert such leadership in the future, and in particular in the 9th phase of the programme (2022-2029);

Having also considered document IHP/Bur-LVI/Ref. 5 on the Draft Terms of Reference of the IHP-IX Task Force, approved by the IHP Bureau at its 56th session and the proposal by the IHP Bureau to include young experts and document IHP/IGC-XXIII/Ref. 4 on the preparation for the ninth phase of IHP (IHP-IX);

Requests the IHP Bureau to decide on the timeframe for the production of the Strategic Plan for IHP-IX (2022-2029), to approve the Task Force members, and to regularly review and where necessary redirect the activity of the Task Force;

Invites the IHP Secretariat to carry out an all-inclusive consultative process;

Requests the IHP Secretariat to conduct an electronic consultation for the endorsement of the draft concept paper for the IHP-IX Strategic Plan by December 2018.

Resolution XXIII-7

EVALUATION OF IHP-VIII

The Intergovernmental Council of the International Hydrological Programme of UNESCO,

- Having considered** the documents IHP/IC-XXIII/7 and IHP/IC-XXIII/Inf.3 on the implementation of the Eighth Phase of IHP (IHP-VIII, 2014-2021);
- Takes note** with satisfaction of the successful implementation of IHP-VIII and of achievements resulted from numerous projects and activities carried out thus far, addressing a broad range of water-related topics and contributing to water security, as well as to the internationally agreed goals such as the Sustainable Development Goals, the Sendai Framework and the New Urban Agenda, and other agreements, such as the Paris Agreement;
- Commends** the IHP National Committees and the IHP Secretariat for its efforts and substantial work in coordinating and implementing the IHP-VIII projects and activities, and for its work towards the strengthening of the implementation capability during the period 2014-2018 through the notable expansion of the network of UNESCO water-related centres and chairs;
- Thanks** the members of the UNESCO Water Family and IHP partner institutions and experts for their cooperation in the implementation of IHP-VIII;
- Requests** the IHP Secretariat and other UNESCO entities to provide the necessary information to the external evaluation team with a view of supporting the preparation of IHP-IX;
- Further requests** the IHP Secretariat to publish a comprehensive report on the IHP-VIII implementation, to carry out an external evaluation of IHP-VIII, taking also into account the discussions at the 23rd session of the Council, and to submit it directly to the IHP Council upon its completion using it as an input to the preparation of IHP-IX;
- Invites** Member States to make voluntary financial and in-kind contributions to the evaluation of IHP-VIII and the publication of the comprehensive report on its implementation.

Resolution XXIII-8

IHP SUPPORT TO MEMBER STATES TOWARDS THE PROPOSAL FOR A NEW SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOAL INDICATOR 6.a.2 ON WATER EDUCATION

The Intergovernmental Council of the International Hydrological Programme of UNESCO,

Acknowledging UNESCO's contribution to the implementation of 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

Highlighting once more that the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development includes a dedicated Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 6 on ensuring availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all, as well as targets of other goals related to water;

Recalling IHP-IC/Resolutions XXI-7 and XXII-8 highlighting extensive and significant contributions of the UNESCO Water Family to promote the key role of water in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

Highlighting that Member States representatives at the 56th Session of the IHP Bureau have noted that in many countries the critical mass of adequately trained human resources able to study, sustainably manage, and develop freshwater systems is lacking, and considered that in order to achieve the goals of the 2030 Agenda and successfully conduct the International Decade for Action - Water for Sustainable Development (2018-2028), more funding sources and programmes on Water Education are needed;

Noting that the SDG Target 6.a calls to by 2030, expand international cooperation and capacity-building support to developing countries in water- and sanitation-related activities and programmes. The only related indicator (indicator 6.a.1) is about the monitoring of the Official Development Assistance (ODA) spending plan;

Considering that SDG Target 6.a would not be fully monitored without the addition of a specific indicator on Water Education, which contribute to better assess countries capacity to evaluate and manage water resources at the national level;

Emphasizing that Inter-Agency Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goals (IAEG-SDGs) clarified that additional indicators could also be developed by UN Agencies as simple contributions to the 2030 Agenda, without having to undergo IAEG-SDGs approval for new SDG indicators;

Recognizing the needs of Member States to monitor and reinforce their water education capacities, in particular in developing countries, least developing countries and small island developing states;

Keeping in mind that the IHP is an intergovernmental programme devoted to fostering water research, water resources management, education and capacity building tailored to Member State's needs;

Emphasizing that the UNESCO Water Family operates as a global network to implement the Organization's strategic goals and its potential for developing sound science-based tools for the implementation and monitoring of SDG 6 targets and those of other water related goals;

Requests the IHP Secretariat to start developing a methodology, in cooperation with OECD, WHO, and UNEP, for an effective indicator on water education, within IHP-VIII Theme 6 "Water Education, Key for Water Security", in coordination with the UNESCO Water Family, in view of potential submission to the IAEG-SDGs as a new SDG indicator, or as a substantial contribution to the 2030 Agenda.

Resolution XXIII-9

ENHANCING IHP's VISIBILITY

The Intergovernmental Council of the International Hydrological Programme of UNESCO,

- Cognizant** of the lead role UNESCO-IHP has played over four decades in the development of hydrology as a science and its evolution from an internationally coordinated hydrological research programme into an intergovernmental, holistic programme that facilitates education and capacity building, and enhances water resources management and governance;
- Having considered** the documents IHP/IC-XXIII/6 and IHP/IC-XXIII/Inf.1 on the Institutional Developments at UNESCO;
- Emphasizing** that UNESCO IHP is an Intergovernmental Programme that provides an interface where Science and Policy come together;
- Congratulates** the Secretariat and the UNESCO Water Family members for the successful implementation of numerous projects and activities, within the framework of IHP-VIII, in supporting Member States achieve water security, as well as internationally agreed goals such as the Sustainable Development Goals, the Sendai Framework and the New Urban Agenda, as well as other agreements such as the Paris Agreement;
- Requests** the Secretariat to raise IHP's profile in New York UN Headquarters by developing and distributing an information note on UNESCO's contributions to Members States' permanent delegations and by organizing sessions during high-level events with the support of permanent delegations and the participation of UNESCO Category 2 Centres and Chairs;
- Encourages** Member States of UNESCO to keep their missions to UN Headquarters regularly informed on the activities and achievements of the UNESCO Water Family at the global, regional and local levels;
- Requests further** the IHP Secretariat to continue organizing within the framework of its sessions a Science Policy Interface Colloquium on Water.

Resolution XXIII-10

ESTABLISHMENT OF THE LAND SUBSIDENCE INTERNATIONAL INITIATIVE

The Intergovernmental Council of the International Hydrological Programme of UNESCO,

- Expressing** concern on land subsidence (loss of land elevation) occurrence, that threatens viability and sustainable economic development for many millions of people throughout the world, especially, but not restricted to coastal and highly urbanized areas;
- Reminding** that there has been a UNESCO Working Group on Land Subsidence, which has been carrying out activities since 1969;
- Welcoming** the proposal of Mexico for IHP to establish a Land Subsidence International Initiative as presented in document IHP/IC-XXIII/Ref. 5, including the feasibility study for its creation, which outlines the contribution of the initiative to the work of IHP and its budgetary implications;
- Taking note** that the initiative is of a purely scientific nature and contributes to IHP-VIII Themes 1, 2, 4 and 5 (aligned implicitly with groundwater withdrawal and aspects related with hydro-hazards, groundwater in a changing environment, water scarcity and, engineering harmony to face increasing climate instability and demographic growth).
- Also noting** that this initiative presents no financial implications for the IHP Secretariat, as it relies entirely on extra budgetary and in-kind contributions for its coordination and implementation;
- Launches** the Land Subsidence International Initiative as a global IHP platform for scientific researchers and institutions, aimed at voluntarily creating the knowledge base to build, facilitate and foster cooperation concerning planning, hydrogeological sciences and water security in urban and coastal areas, by exchanging expertise and good practices for a better transfer of knowledge to public policies;
- Requests** the IHP Secretariat to assist in the establishment and implementation of the initiative and to report to its 24th session on the progress achieved in this regard;
- Further requests** its alignment with the recommendations of the IHP Flagship Initiatives' evaluation;
- Invites** Member States and their IHP National Committees to actively support and participate in the implementation of this initiative on a voluntary basis.

Resolution XXIII-11

PRESENTATION OF DECISIONS AND DRAFT RESOLUTIONS

The Intergovernmental Council of the International Hydrological Programme of UNESCO,

Having examined item 5 of the agenda of the 23rd Session of the IHP Intergovernmental Council, including document IHP/IC-XXIII/Inf.2;

Underlining the need to harmonize practices in UNESCO's intergovernmental bodies and to be as clear and transparent as possible regarding actions decided by the IHP Intergovernmental Council;

Also underlining the confusion caused by publishing two different documents that require actions: "Draft Resolutions" in some documents and "Decisions" in others;

Decides that, as is the practice of other UNESCO's intergovernmental bodies, the IHP Intergovernmental Council Draft Resolutions and their explanations shall be integrated within the relevant working documents;

Requests the IHP Secretariat to distribute the working documents for the IHP Intergovernmental Council, including their Draft Resolutions, in the six working languages, at least six weeks before the first day of the Intergovernmental Council.

Encourages Member States to carry out informal consultations on draft decisions before the sessions of the IHP Intergovernmental Council, without prejudice to the decision-making prerogatives of the Council at its session;

Further encourages Member States to submit the draft resolutions at least two weeks before the session of the IHP Intergovernmental Council with a view towards their distribution by the IHP Secretariat ten days prior to the session.

Resolution XXIII-12

DRAFT RESOLUTION ON THE FUTURE GOVERNANCE OF ALL IHP PROGRAMMES AND MAJOR INITIATIVES

The Intergovernmental Council of the International Hydrological Programme (IHP) of UNESCO

- Noting** IHP/IC Resolution XXI-8 to synchronize all IHP programmes and activities with the IHP programme phases and to base the continuation, reorientation, reinforcement, exit strategies or termination of programmes and activities upon periodic reviews during and at the end point of each phase;
- Recalling** its request in IHP/IC Resolution XXII-6 that the IHP Secretariat prepare and commission a review of IHP's programmes and major initiatives and to report the findings to the 23rd session of the IHP Council;
- Mindful of** its request in IHP/IC Resolution XXII-6 that the IHP Secretariat enhance and standardise the information requested based on UNESCO's management systems, so it can be utilised in the monitoring of the Programme's implementation;
- Acknowledging** that the progress made by the Secretariat in commissioning an evaluation of the IHP initiatives, outlined in IHP/IC-XXIII/7, meant that the anticipated review of the evaluations findings in order to consider how best to strengthen the high impact IHP programmes and major initiatives with strategic plans and how to reorientate or terminate others, was not possible at its 23rd session but remains critical to implementation of effective results-based management within the IHP;
- Requests** the IHP Secretariat to present the results of the evaluation of the fifteen IHP programmes and major initiatives at the 58th IHP Bureau session and to prepare recommendations regarding future continuation for approval at the 24th IHP Intergovernmental Council session;
- Invites** the IHP Intergovernmental Council at its 24th session to, in accordance with IHP/IC Resolution XXI-8, consider which IHP programmes and major initiatives should be continued into IHP-IX;
- Also requests** the IHP Secretariat to present to the 58th IHP Bureau details of the proposed new mechanism, requested in IHP/IC Resolution XXII-6, for the ongoing, routine collection and reporting of monitoring information on the outputs, impacts and governance for all IHP Programmes and major initiatives and a defined set of criteria for periodically assessing their progress and potential future road maps;
- Decides** to consider, with a view to approve them, the details of the proposed review mechanism;
- Decides** that all future proposals to establish new IHP programmes or major initiatives will only be considered where they include information on the specific contributions they will make to IHP Phases, provide estimates of

the cost which will be incurred by the Secretariat in coordination and, request its regular performance review.

Resolution XXIII-13

PROPOSAL FOR THE UNITED NATIONS INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF SNOW AND ICE IN 2020

The Intergovernmental Council of the International Hydrological Programme of UNESCO,

- Recalling** Sustainable Development Goal 6 on ensuring availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all as well as Sustainable Development Goal 13 on taking urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts;
- Recalling** the General Assembly Resolution A/RES/71/222, proclaiming the period from 2018 to 2028 the International Decade for Action: Water for Sustainable Development, and the General Assembly Resolution A/RES/72/73, proclaiming the period from 2021-2030 the International Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development;
- Noting** that rising global temperatures are causing unprecedented changes in the Earth's cryosphere including changes in ice and snow in the polar and high mountain regions of the globe with ramifications that extend well beyond the areas where snow and ice are present;
- Considering** the decline of Arctic sea-ice cover, retreat of land-based ice in nearly all glaciated regions and the resulting eustatic sea-level rise, permafrost warming and degradation and seasonal snow-cover decline;
- Recognizing** that the impacts of these changes are felt at high and low latitudes, affecting both the developed world and developing nations;
- Acknowledging** that changes in the Earth's cryosphere pose serious threats to water resources and ecosystems, in many cases changing the appropriate design and operating assumptions of societal infrastructure.;
- Recognizing** the important scientific, educational and capacity building contribution provided by different phases of IHP in the field of snow, glacier and ice water resources and the potential synergies with the initiative;
- Affirming** the urgent need of raising awareness and the understanding of the importance of snow and ice in the climate system and the implications of the impending changes in the Earth's cryosphere for human societies;
- Decides** to support the initiative of Iceland for the United Nations to designate the year 2020 as a United Nations International Year of Snow and Ice;
- Requests** the assistance of the IHP Secretariat to initiate consultations and formalities for establishing a United Nations International Year of Snow and Ice in 2020;
- Requests** the IHP Secretariat to transmit this resolution to the 205th session of the Executive Board of UNESCO with a view to having the General Assembly of the United Nations consider declaring the year 2020 as the International Year of Snow and Ice.

Invites

Member States and other partners, in particular the UNESCO Water Family, to support the initiative.