

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

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.

Actions expected by the IHP Council:

The Council may wish to

- Recommend that UNESCO Member States coordinate with their representatives at the UN Inter-agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators (IAEG/SDGs) to consider the addition of a new indicator on water education in the SDG 6, target 6.a.
- Take note of the UNESCO IHP efforts in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the SDG process
- Request the Secretariat to organize regional and thematic meetings to discuss the template and the methodology to be used and the process for gathering information for indicator 6.5.2, followed by a global meeting at UNESCO HQ

THE 2030 AGENDA FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT - SDG 6

Proposal for an additional Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) indicator on water education

1. **SDG Target 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, desalinization, water efficiency, wastewater treatment, recycling and reuse of technologies” is currently monitored by **indicator 6.a.1**, which is defined as the “Amount of water- and sanitation-related Official Development Assistance (ODA) for water- and sanitation-related activities and programmes that is part of a government coordinated spending plan”.

2. ODA for water and sanitation focuses on infrastructure and technical support and does not disaggregate funds dedicated for education and capacity-building on water related issues. Moreover, “international cooperation” is viewed under the restrictive lens of financial flows. Thus, the indicator does not provide all the necessary information to measure the value of the component of the target on capacity building but rather covers it partially. It further gives no information on Member States’ current human resources capacity on water education, and does not provide the countries with tools to improve on their baseline for this particular water-related target, nor does it inform organizations that could assist in developing capacity according to actual requirements. It needs to be underlined that the impact and sustainability of the ODA will be diminished if there are not sufficient numbers of trained and skilled human resources (HR) to conduct the necessary national water resources studies and assessment of surface water and groundwater resources, as well as of sanitation services coverage.

3. The Inter-agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators (IAEG-SDGs), composed of the experts of the National Statistical offices of 28 Member States, was established by the UN Statistical Commission at its 46th session in March 2015. It is the body that takes the decision to set up a new indicator.

4. The reports of the IAEG on SDG indicators (March 2017 and March 2018) proposed a plan for future reviews of the indicator framework. The report stated that two comprehensive reviews of the indicator framework are planned, and their results are to be submitted for consideration and decision by the Statistical Commission at its 2020 and 2025 sessions. At the 7th meeting of the IAEG-SDGs in Vienna (10-12 April 2018), the representatives of the Statistic offices informed that they will review indicators and carry out an open consultation by mid-2019. It was clearly stated that only Member States have the decision-making power in this matter.

5. The future reviews of the indicator framework will be more substantive in nature, and will focus on issues such as:

- a. Indicators that do not map well the target;
- b. Additional indicator(s) needed to cover all aspects of the target;
- c. New data sources becoming available;
- d. Methodological development of Tier III indicator which has stalled or has not produced expected results; or
- e. Indicators not measuring progress towards meeting the target

6. The results of these reviews could be the refinement, addition, or deletion of indicators. An additional indicator could then be proposed because it is needed to cover all aspects of and adequately monitor target 6.a

7. The IHP Secretariat considers that to achieve the SDG6 goal and the target 6.a, a new indicator on “water education” is needed as 6.a.2.

Actions expected by the Council:

The Council may wish to recommend that UNESCO Member States coordinate with their representatives at the UN IAEG/SDGs to consider the addition of a new indicator on water education in the SDG 6, target 6.a.

IHP actions in the implementation and monitoring of the SDG indicator 6.5.2

8. SDG 6 Target 6.5 calls for countries to implement integrated water resources management at all levels, including through transboundary cooperation, as appropriate. To measure progress on transboundary cooperation in accordance with target 6.5, indicator 6.5.2 was adopted. The indicator is defined as the “percentage of transboundary basin area with an operational arrangement for transboundary cooperation”.

9. As co-custodian agency, UNESCO IHP has led the development of the step-by-step methodology to calculate indicator 6.5.2. (<http://ihp-wins.unesco.org/documents/332>), together with the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE). During the first quarter 2017, UNESCO IHP and UNECE invited all countries having transboundary basins in their territory to track the progress on transboundary cooperation and to report on their national value of SDG indicator 6.5.2.

10. Of the 153 countries that share transboundary water systems, 106 countries responded to the invitation sent by UNESCO IHP and UNECE. The agencies are reviewing and analyzing the data contained in the national reports and are continuously exchanging with Member States in order to support them in the calculation of the indicator.

11. The United Nations Secretary-General will report every 3 years until 2030 on the monitoring of the SDG 6. The results of the first monitoring process will be presented to the United Nations High-Level Political Forum “Transformation towards sustainable and resilient societies”, in July 2018.

12. UNESCO and UNECE were requested to report to the United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD) by 23 February 2018 country values of the indicator 6.5.2. These data will be recorded in the database of the UNSD.

13. To better support countries, the 56th IHP Bureau “acknowledged the plan of actions for 2018-2019 presented by the IHP Secretariat to improve cooperation with and amongst Member States, and requested the organization of regional and thematic meetings to discuss the template and the methodology to be used and the process for gathering information, followed by a global meeting at UNESCO HQ.

Actions expected by the Council:

The Council may wish to:

- **Take note of the UNESCO IHP efforts in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the SDG process.**
- **Request the organization of regional and thematic meetings to discuss the template and the methodology to be used and the process for gathering information for indicator 6.5.2, followed by a global meeting at UNESCO HQ**