

International Hydrological Programme

23rd session of the Intergovernmental Council
(Paris, 11-15 June 2018)

COMMITTEE REPORT OF THE IHP ON ITS CONTRIBUTION TO THE 8TH WORLD WATER FORUM BRASILIA, BRAZIL, 16-23 MARCH 2018

Sub-item 9.3 of the provisional agenda

Summary

This document reports on overview and examples of the contribution of the International Hydrological Programme to the 8th World Water Forum.

Report of the IHP on its contribution to the 8th World Water Forum Brasilia, Brazil, 16-23 March 2018

The World Water Forum is organized every three years, since 1997. Serving as a stepping-stone towards global cooperation on water challenges, it constitutes a multi-stakeholder platform that draws a large public of several ten thousand people, including water practitioners, civil society, private sector, academia, international organizations and policy and decision makers from all world regions. It is the largest international event seeking to advance the cause of water.

The International Hydrological Programme of UNESCO (IHP) has played a historic role since the first World Water Forum (WWForum) in 1997 and has been recognized as one of the key players in the thematic, political and regional processes of the Forum, leading and organizing themes, topics and sessions on a regular basis. The World Water Assessment Programme (WWAP) has presented several of its World Water Development Reports (WWDR) at the Forum.

At the 8th World Water Forum in Brasilia, UNESCO's Water Family participated in or contributed to the organization of 117 sessions and side events out of a total of 354 events of different types. UNESCO was thus present in one third of all Forum events and in 7 of 9 of the Forum's Themes, and throughout 14 out of 30 sub-themes. The events organized by or with the active participation of IHP as panellist drew well over 1000 participants. The Forum's closing ceremony highlighted UNESCO's role in supporting the Youth Forum, part of the Forum's Citizens Process, and the successful leadership in the Regional Process for Latin America.

The Ministerial Declaration of the Forum highlighted UNESCO's expertise and network, including IHP (Art. 22 of the Ministerial Declaration; Annex I).

UNESCO AND IHP AT THE 8TH WORLD WATER FORUM

Overview

The 8th World Water Forum in Brasilia, Brazil (18-23 March 2018) was no exception, but marked visibly and in a particular successful way the continued partnership of UNESCO and IHP with Brazil, the World Water Council and many partners of the UNESCO Water Family worldwide, including academia, civil society, private sector and intergovernmental, non-governmental and UN Organizations. Overall, the 8th World Water Forum had a participating audience of over 100,000 visitors, including around 10,000 participants of the Thematic and Regional Process.

The 8th World Water Forum was articulated around the following processes:

- 1- Political Process, preparation of a ministerial declaration**
- 2- Thematic Process**
- 3- Regional Process**
- 4- Sustainability Focus Group**
- 5- Citizen's Forum**

IHP's and UNESCO's key contributions to these processes are reported hereafter:

In keeping with UNESCO's involvement in the previous, 7th edition of the World Water Forum, organized by the Republic of Korea, the Organization contributed substantially to the 8th World Water Forum. The Korean government awarded its recognition to IHP that led the Forum process via Implementation Roadmaps (IR) from Korea to Brazil, in three out of 16 key themes: Water Supply and Sanitation for Water Security for All; Integrated Water Resources Management; and Water Cultures, Justice and Equity. In a dedicated session on the IR at the 8th WWForum, IHP received three medals for this task.

The UNESCO Water Family exhibition booth was very visible at the 8th World Water Forum (WWForum8). IHP coordinated the exhibition stand and setup in close collaboration with the UNESCO Brasilia Office (UBO), the World Water Assessment Programme (WWAP), the

Category 2 Centres (C2C) IHE Delft and the International Groundwater Resources Assessment Centre (IGRAC), and with the contribution of the UNESCO Chair on Integrated River Research and Management (Vienna, Austria). The booth also allowed UN Environment to showcase materials, especially related to World Water Day 2018 on Nature-based Solutions, co-coordinated by UNEP and UNESCO. Approximately 500 people visited the booth per day.

IHP, UNESCO's Press service and UNESCO Brasilia Office Communication Unit contributed to the visibility given to UNESCO's WWForum related events in the media, focusing on the DG's visit and on IHP and WWDR2018 activities, producing and disseminating press releases, and providing extensive media coverage and advisory services, which enabled important media exposure for UNESCO. Media coverage included: an Op-ed by the DG published by the O Globo newspaper on 20 March. Also, more than 700 articles were published online in Brazil; and a number of press inquiries made and interviews were conducted by the main TV channels and radio stations, especially about the WWDR 2018. The global outreach, also via IHP's (@unescoWater) and staff twitter accounts led to a very large public exposure, multiplied through the networks of partners.

The coordinated presence of a large team from UNESCO HQ and Field Offices allowed strengthening the cooperation of the team dedicated to UNESCO Water, in particular in Latin America and the Caribbean.

Organization

The IHP Secretariat at HQ and in the Field closely cooperated with the Forum organizers in the preparation of the Thematic and Regional process and the Citizens Forum, and also participated in the Sustainability Focus Group. All along, UNESCO Brasilia Office supported this process, and contributed substantially to the technical and logistical preparations for the 8th WWForum, as well as to the planning and organization of a number of events held during the Forum. Support was provided mainly through three on-going extrabudgetary projects in partnership with the Brazilian National Water Agency (ANA) and the Water, Energy and Basic Sanitation Regulatory Agency of Brazil's Federal District (ADASA). It furthermore strongly supported arranging and managing the UNESCO booth and distributing the UNESCO Water Family's publications and outreach materials.

High-Level and Special Events

Opening ceremony

The Government of Brazil invited Ms Audrey Azoulay, the Director-General of UNESCO to address the High-Level opening ceremony of the World Water Forum on 19 March as the only UN representative among ten Heads of State and Governments, including the President of Brazil. UNESCO Brasilia Office supported UNESCO HQ in organizing the visit of the Director-General.

Launch event of the World Water Development Report 2018

In a special session on the opening day, organized by the UNESCO World Water Assessment Programme (WWAP), the Director-General launched the UN World Water Development Report 2018 (WWDR 2018) on *Nature-based Solutions for Water*, jointly with Mr Joakim Harlin, Vice-Chairperson of UN-Water and Mr Erik Solheim, Executive Director of UN Environment. The 2018 edition of the Report, demonstrates how nature-based solutions (NBS) offer a vital means of moving beyond business-as-usual to address many of the world's water challenges while simultaneously delivering additional benefits vital to all aspects of sustainable development. The UNESCO Brasilia Office produced and printed 5.000 copies of the Portuguese version of the "Executive Summary" and "Facts and Figures", of the 2018 edition of WWDR 2018, which were distributed at the launch of the report on 19 March.

The World Water Day 2018: Nature for Water

UNESCO, jointly with the Convention on Biological Diversity and UN Environment, as Lead Agencies of the UN-Water Official Campaign on World Water Day 2018, and in collaboration with the World Water Council, co-organized a Special Session “The World Water Day 2018: Nature for Water” on 22 March during the 8th World Water Forum in Brazil. The session brought together high-level government officials, representatives of UN and international organizations and other stakeholders, including representatives of indigenous people and the youth. As a part of the World Water Day celebrations on 22 March, UBO presented WWDR 2018 materials at an associated event of the 8th World Water Forum (Planet SDG), co-organized with the UN-Brazil System and the government of Brazil’s Federal District. A number of heads of UN agencies in Brazil and representatives of the Brazilian government attended the event.

High-Level Seminar

The UNESCO Brasilia Office organized the “High-Level Seminar on Hydrological Planning and Integrated Water Resources Management”. This high-level seminar was held in Brasilia on 19 March, within the framework of the 3rd Iberoamerican Conference of Water Directors (CODIA) and in partnership with the UNESCO Montevideo Office. The event was attended by 31 government representatives of the region, who also participated in many 8WWF sessions and side events coordinated by UNESCO, especially within the Regional Process.

1. Political Process

UNESCO hosted the two preparatory meetings of the Ministerial Declaration emanating from the Political Process. Adopted at the Forum, the Ministerial Declaration *An Urgent Call for Decisive Action* highlighted *the crucial role that UNESCO’s expertise and network including IHP, are playing in promoting the potential of the young generation as agents for change and innovation in the search for solutions for water and sanitation challenges and in implementing and sharing water education policies and best practices on water and sanitation.* (Art. 22 of the Ministerial Declaration; Annex I).

2. Thematic Process

The Forum’s Thematic Process covered nine Themes:

1. CLIMATE – Water security and climate change
2. PEOPLE - Water, sanitation and health
3. DEVELOPMENT - Water for sustainable development
4. URBAN – Integrated urban water and waste management
5. ECOSYSTEMS - Water quality, ecosystem livelihoods and biodiversity
6. FINANCE – Financing for water security
7. SHARING – Sustainability through stakeholder involvement
8. CAPACITY - Education, capacity building and technology Exchange
9. GOVERNANCE - Water governance for the 2030 Development Agenda

IHP concentrated its contribution on the Themes 1. Climate, 7. Sharing (Theme Coordination), and 8 Capacity Development.

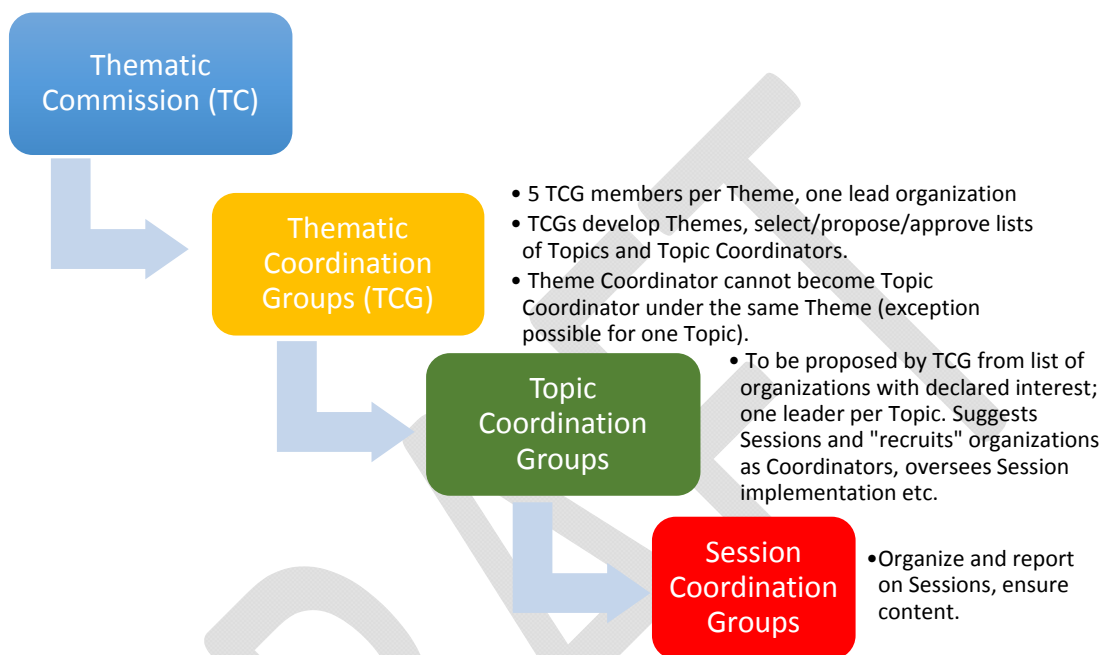
2.1 Thematic Coordination

As one of the nine Thematic Coordination Group (TCG) leaders, of the Forum, IHP led during two years the group preparing the Theme *Sharing*, composed of national and international stakeholders from private and public sectors (Fundação Banco do Brasil, International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis, global Water Youth Network, Chilean Federación Nacional de

Cooperativas de Servicios Sanitarios Ltda.). IHP further contributed to coordinating several topics, as included further below.

Figure 1 shows the role of Theme and Topic coordination groups. They directly contributed to the shaping of the Forum's Thematic subsets, including at session level. Next to the directly organized sessions and events, IHP thus contributed to shaping 117 sessions and side events overall.

Figure 1: Overview Thematic Process



2.2 Examples of IHP Contributions to Topics and Sessions

2.2.1 Theme 1 CLIMATE - Water security and climate change

As lead topic Coordinator for, 'Climate Science and Water Management: the communication between science and decision/policy making', IHP co-convened following sessions:

Session 1.d.1 - Science and Policy: Influence of Science on Policy and Decision Making;

Session 1.d.2 - Citizen science approach in hydro-climate services for achieving the SDGs and global goals;

Session 1.d.3 - Uncertainty and limitation of science and science communication

IHP also provided a key talk on 'Supporting Policy by providing Water Resources Management Solutions' during the thematic session 1.d.1 on 'Influence of Science on Policy and Decision Making'. IHP contributed to the event on Sharing Water in Africa, Developing Cooperation and Sharing Benefits and made a presentation on, 'International Science Cooperation on drought Early Warning Systems and Management'

UNESCO co-organized the **Thematic session** on, "How climate change affects different water users: The need for cross-sectoral approaches for adaptation". The session highlighted the ways in which climate change affects water users and the different types of cross-sectoral approaches to climate change adaptation. It explored a summary of the challenges and opportunities water users face in adapting to climate variability and helped to identify the key elements of successful

cross-sectoral adaptation strategies. More than 80 experts attended the session of which 32 were women.

2.2.2. Theme 7 SHARING - Sustainability through stakeholder involvement

IHP was involved in coordinating the three Topics of the Theme *Sharing*, each grouping three sessions: “Sharing solutions and good practices”, “Involving all in bottom up and top down approaches” and “Water, cultural diversity, justice and equity”.

IHP co-organized the session “Fostering new cultures of participation” and contributed a keynote speech to the Session “From Water Heritage to Water Consciousness”, highlighting UNESCO’s work on water ethics. Several of the Theme’s sessions included representatives of Indigenous Peoples, took on board participants from the Citizens Process and Youth representatives. Overall, the Theme’s sessions involved over 40 organizations and at least 500 participants (approximately 230 women and 270 men).

IHP also contributed to the session “Implementation of inclusive policies with the participation of all stakeholders”. This session was meant to highlight the most promising inclusive policies in the water sector. The need for more government data available online was highlighted. The presentation focused on IHP-WINS (70 participants).

As one *Thematic outcome*, the Theme’s contributors recommended for inclusion in the Forum’s report to:

- Overcome blanket policies and investments not recognizing cultural diversity, political, economic and social contexts, and disseminate and roll out context-sensitive solutions.
- Foster and implement effective and efficient methods to involve all in decision-making, including Indigenous Peoples, women, Youth and vulnerable groups.
- Attribute rights to nature, including water bodies.
- Consider that innovation at its core is about benefit-sharing partnerships that can translate research results and inventions into tools that are fit-for-purpose for end-users in many contexts and geographical regions.
- Increase institutional efforts by international bodies to share vernacular knowledge and information, which diverse culture in the world have accumulated in the past, and then synthesize it into wisdom for a sustainable water future.
- Tailor communication and information to empower different target groups to participate and enable free, prior and informed consensus.

2.2.3. Theme 8 CAPACITY - Education, capacity building and technology exchange

IHP provided a panelist for the Thematic session 8.a.1. on “Information and training for decision makers”. The session explored the link between training for decision makers and improved water management and looked at the role of all water users, such as citizens, youth and communities. The meeting was well attended with more than 90 experts of which 38 women.

IHP further contributed to the session “Empowering people, developing capacities and sharing information”. This session focused on ways to empower people, develop capacities and share information across the different sectors and segments in society. The presentation focused on the HOPE-Initiative and FREEWat (90 participants).

By contributing to the session “Open source and big data for water use efficiency and sustainable management”, IHP encouraged organizations from outside the water sector to give their reflections and future suggestions/predictions for capacity building. The presentation focused on IHP-WINS and presented a set of combination of images provided by NASA related to flooding and of some shapefiles of MAB biospheres and Cultural heritage sites to show case that combination of data could bring new information related to water (80 participants).

2.2.4. Thematic Side Events and Special Sessions

IHP organized a side event entitled, ***Fostering Transboundary Water Cooperation in the 2030 Agenda*** aimed at presenting how on-going efforts for the establishment of joint arrangements for the governance of transboundary surface waters and aquifers contribute to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) target 6.5. The event provided an opportunity to showcase UNESCO-IHP's key role in the assessment of transboundary aquifers and the process for the institutionalization of cooperation for these resources. UNESCO-IHP presented the process that led to the establishment of the Stampriet Aquifer Multi-Country Cooperation Mechanism (MCCM) in Southern Africa (Botswana, Namibia and South Africa). It is the first arrangement for the governance of a transboundary aquifer in Southern Africa and directly contributing to the implementation of SDG Target 6.5 both at national and transboundary level. This event was also the opportunity to showcase UNESCO-IHP's on-going efforts to institutionalize cooperation over the Ocotepeque-Citala Aquifer in Central America (Honduras and El Salvador). The side event was attended by 35 experts out of which 7 women.

IHP also contributed to a side event organized by the Observatory of the Sahara and the Sahel (OSS), highlighting the role of OSS and UNESCO-IHP in promoting South-South cooperation through the organization of study visits. The most recent visit was organized in September 2017 in Tunisia, facilitating exchange among experts from the Sahel region and Southern Africa on institutionalizing cooperation on transboundary aquifers

UNESCO supported the side event on *Which Solutions for Sustainable Access to Water in Africa?* IHP made a presentation on technologies for water management and on the value of water. This presentation illustrated the use of Science and Technology in providing safe and sustainable water and sanitation services that will contribute to the achievement of SDG targets 6.1 and 6.2 in water scarce countries.

IHP also organized a side event on *UNESCO Human Capacity Development with African Union's NEPAD Networks of Water Centers of Excellence*. IHP coordinated, moderated and organized the side event on, 'Addressing Water Security and Climate Change Impacts on Mountains and Vulnerable Drylands and contributed to the side event on 'Understanding the Water, Energy, Food Security and Ecosystem Nexus for Development Cooperation" and delivered talk on 'Tools for Water Security Contributing to Water, Energy, Food Security and Ecosystem Nexus (WEFE) organized by EC commission.

IHP organized, in cooperation with the UNESCO Chair in Ecohydrology: Water for ecosystems and Societies, University of Algarve (Faro, Portugal), a side event on *Building bridges between UNESCO-IHP's Ecohydrology approach and the relevant programmes of the Community of Portuguese Speaking Countries and the Organization of Ibero-American States*. Thirty participants attended the event (15 women). Mr Manuel Clarote Lapao Cooperation Director of CPLP (Comunidade dos Países de Língua Portuguesa), was one of the speakers at the event. The aim of the meeting was to finalise the organisation of a CPLP forum on Ecohydrology with particular emphasis on education and science, possibly in Member States such as Sao Tome Principe and/or Cabo Verde. The development of new Ecohydrology demosites is also foreseen.

In the the Special Session "Data and tools for water management and decision-making", IHP presented the "Handbook on water information systems administration, processing and exploitation of water-related data" which was published under the auspices of UNESCO. (300 participants)

At the side event at the French Pavilion, "Défis scientifique et techniques de la gestion intégrée de la ressource en eau dans un contexte de changement climatique" IHP presented a focus on IHP-WINS and the SDG 6.5.2 monitoring survey results. This presentation got a lot of interest from the French IHP National Committee (30 participants).

The IHP-organized side event “Presentación gestión de los recursos hídricos en el Perú 8° foro mundial del agua: compartiendo agua” was opened by a presentation of the Ministry of water of Peru on the water governance policy, jointly prepared by Peru and the OECD, followed by a panel of discussion that included OECD and UNESCO (25 participants).

3. Regional Process

UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science in Latin America and the Caribbean

The UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science in Latin America and the Caribbean coordinated South America’s activities under the Regional Process. The office organized a number of events and facilitated debate among the South American stakeholders. The Office’s participation in this process culminated at the WWForum in Brasilia with the organization of 2 Special Sessions, 2 Ordinary Sessions and 3 Side Events, plus the co-organization of 1 other session and participation in another 7 events.

Approximately 2000 attendees and 61 panelists (19 women, 42 men) participated in the 8 sessions organized by the UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science in Latin America and the Caribbean. The sessions on Water Cultures of the Indigenous Peoples of Latin America, and the UNESCO IHP for Water Security in LAC were well supported during the forum. The session on Water Cultures of the Indigenous Peoples of Latin America mobilized a number of indigenous peoples, substantially improving their participation at the Forum. The session on UNESCO IHP for Water Security in LAC mobilized the IHP LAC Water Family, and facilitated a discussion on initiatives undertaken by the water family. In this session, the representative from Uruguay presented a new Experimental Regional Centre on Sanitation Technologies, the UNESCO Chair in Water and Education for Sustainable Development presented the second version of a regional Photobook on the Nature for Water, and the representative of Chile presented on the Iberoamerican Congress on Ecology and Sediments.

UNESCO Office, Jakarta - Regional Bureau for Sciences in Asia and the Pacific

Under the title *Mobilizing science for the SDGs through enhanced freshwater ecosystem management in Asia and the Pacific*, the UNESCO Office in Jakarta convened and moderated the Asia and the Pacific regional session, under the Ecosystems theme of the forum. The event was organized on 20 March 2018. The session explored how science can help to enhance the water-related benefits of healthy ecosystems by drawing on tools and approaches such as integrated water resources management (IWRM), UNESCO’s ecohydrology principles and other innovative and transdisciplinary methodologies.

The session also looked at water and ecosystems education needs and priorities, and provided practical examples of the linkages between water and ecosystems-related sciences, planning, policy and implementation. Discussions during the session focused on the identification of pathways towards optimizing the mobilization of science, technology and innovation for cost effective and timely implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the SDG 6 targets.

The three key recommendations of the session were:

- Innovative, integrated, inter- and transdisciplinary science – as exemplified by approaches such as ecohydrology – provide an essential contribution towards attaining SDG 6 by providing the information needed for sound water management and decision-making.
- Water education as outlined in UNESCO’s IHP Phase VIII requires that educational systems are willing and able to apply new approaches with greater flexibility. Therefore approaches in water education should promote and enable modular education programmes, flexible course structures, increased emphasis on applied and field-based learning, and combinations of online and face-to-face interaction.

- International organizations and networks must take a leading role in supporting sustainable management of freshwater ecosystems and the promotion of the new and innovative research approaches that underpin management.

The UNESCO Office Jakarta participated in the regional Asia and the Pacific panel “Climate change, disasters and water related adaptation in the Asia Pacific Region” which was convened by ICIMOD. UNESCO contributed to the discussion on the importance of ensuring community engagement and integration of local and indigenous knowledge in planning for and adapting to climate change and evolving disaster risk scenarios. The UNESCO Office Jakarta was the moderator and rapporteur of the thematic session “Enhanced capacity building to align policy with up-to-date Science and Technology” which was organized by the Secretariat of the Asia Water Council. The session focused on improving the connection between capacity building and policy when using new technological and institutional innovation.

Additionally, the representative of the UNESCO Office in Jakarta participated in a number of bilateral discussions with counterparts and partners from Asia and the Pacific

4. Sustainability Focus Group

IHP actively contributed to the drafting of the 8th World Water Forum’s Sustainability Declaration of the Sustainability Focus Group. The group was constituted by prominent actors of the public and private sector. The Declaration can be found online: http://www.worldwaterforum8.org/pt-br/file/3212/download?token=_ljm6lEp.

5. Citizens Forum/Youth Forum

From the Forum’s inception phase on, IHP was actively involved in integrating the voices of civil society representatives and NGOs in all its sessions and to be particularly inclusive with regard to Youth and gender.

As part of the 8th World Water Forum’s Citizens Forum, the first Youth Forum took place 17-18 March 2018 in Brasilia. The UNESCO International Hydrological Programme at HQ and at the UNESCO Offices in Montevideo and Brasilia supported the organization of the First Youth Forum organized as a part of the Citizen’s Process of the World Water Forum. UNESCO supported the Youth Forum by engaging with the World Water Forum (WWF) organizers for the inclusion of the Youth forum in the WWF’s agenda. IHP also facilitated their participation in preparatory processes, supported the youth groups with the organization of the youth forum, including the establishment of youth and water networks. Approximately of 100 young people, participated in the two day event and about 60% of them were women.

UNESCO IHP LAC supported the participation of five young people from the Latin American and Caribbean Youth Parliament for Water (PLACJA) network in the youth forum These 5 young people of the South American sub-region (2 women of which 1 indigenous, 3 men), also participated in the world water forum. Additionally, IHP HQ supported the participation of two young women in the Youth Forum. Through its cooperation with ANA, the UNESCO Office in Brasilia financed the participation of several youth participants.

During the Youth Forum UNESCO connected the youth with experts for the intergenerational dialogues of the Youth Forum. IHP also connected the youth with governments and donors for follow-up actions. The main outcome of the Youth Forum is a statement that is accompanied by a Call For Action for youth groups (Annex II). The youth statement includes key messages from the youth and the call for action identifies commitments to be implemented by them. These outcomes were presented at youth related events such as side events at the UNESCO Booth, the IHP LAC session and the special session organized on World Water Day.

Other sessions organized by the office included a side event on South American Youth, which mobilized a number of organizations wishing to strengthen the youth component of their work, and the Ministerial Session, which gathered experts to speak about three different water resources managing models in the Region (Argentina, Ecuador and Uruguay). The organizers, partners and participants of the Forum appreciated the presence and activities of the UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science in Latin America and the Caribbean particularly as key-partners during the preparatory process for the regional consultations that took place in 2017.

6. Follow-up

Further to the proposal of Brazil, the 204th session of the Executive Board (EX) adopted Resolution XX (will add proper reference), requesting the Director-General to report to the 205th session of the EX on the role of IHP in the World Water Forum.

As a follow up of the 8th World Water Forum's Ministerial Declaration "Urgent call for decisive action on water" discerning the value of promoting and implementing education policies and best practices in water and sanitation through the International Hydrological Programme (IHP), the Ministry of Integration (Brazil) has issued a Declaration of Intent to formalize technical cooperation with UNESCO-IHP and the UNESCO Office in Brasilia to develop water education modules to be tested in pilot schools in Brazil's Northeastern semi-arid region.

ANNEX I

Ministerial Declaration of the 8th World Water Forum, Brasilia, Brazil, 18-23 March 2018

**MINISTERIAL DECLARATION****AN URGENT CALL FOR DECISIVE ACTION ON WATER**

We, the Ministers and Heads of Delegation assembled in Brasilia, Brazil, on 19th and 20th March 2018, during the Ministerial Conference of the 8th World Water Forum - "Sharing Water",

Recognizing that:

The Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, adopted in 1992; the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development entitled "The Future We Want", adopted in 2012; the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), adopted in 2015; the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030, adopted in 2015; the Paris Agreement adopted under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change in 2015; and the "New Urban Agenda" (Habitat III), adopted in 2016, all represent major milestones for addressing global sustainable development challenges;

Countries have reaffirmed, in the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, Rio+20, their commitments regarding the human rights to safe drinking water and sanitation, to be progressively realized for their populations with full respect for national sovereignty;

Water is a cross-cutting element of sustainable development, and in the challenge of eradicating poverty;

Water resources are indispensable for all living beings and for living in harmony and in balance with the planet and its ecosystems, recognized by some cultures as "Mother Earth";

All countries need to take urgent actions to tackle water and sanitation-related challenges;

Cooperation at all levels and across all sectors and stakeholders including the sharing of knowledge, experiences, innovation and, where appropriate, solutions is key to promote sustainable water management and to explore synergies with the several water related aspects of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

The key role of the United Nations in promoting international water cooperation at the global level. Several of the principles of the relevant global Conventions on water can be useful in this regard;

Efforts and initiatives taken at all levels should promote the adequate and inclusive participation of all relevant stakeholders, particularly the most vulnerable and including local communities and indigenous peoples, youth, girls and women and those affected by water scarcity;

The global hydrological cycle, geological processes, climate, oceans and ecosystems are highly interdependent

and all of them must be taken into consideration in the adoption of interdisciplinary, integrated and sustainable approaches for water management;

The Global High-Level Panel on Water and Peace has issued its report;

The World Water Forum, since its first convening in Marrakesh, in 1997, has contributed to the development of common understanding and to international dialogue on water, and has promoted local, regional and national action on integrated and sustainable water resources management worldwide.

We welcome:

1. The momentum provided by the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, in particular SDG 6, to the 8th World Water Forum to foster action on initiatives related to water and sanitation;
2. The establishment of the High Level Panel on Water, co-convened by the Secretary General of the United Nations and the President of the World Bank and its contribution, and note the issuance of its report inspiring and promoting an integrated approach across governments and a new agenda for water action;
3. The adoption on 23rd December 2016 of UN General Assembly Resolution on International Decade for Action, Water for Sustainable Development, 2018-2028 and note the convening, pursuant to its paragraph 12, of two working-level dialogues to discuss improving the integration and coordination of the work of the United Nations on the water-related goal and targets;
4. The significant contributions of the 7th World Water Forum in the Republic of Korea, the Budapest Water Summit and the Stockholm Water Week to the preparation of the 8th World Water Forum;

5. The adoption in 2017 of UN Environment Assembly of the United Nations Environment Programme Resolution "Addressing water pollution to protect and restore water-related ecosystems";

6. The contribution made by all relevant stakeholders, including governments, civil society, academia, indigenous people and local communities and private sector, towards the development and implementation of positive and proactive policies and cooperation on water issues, as well as of solutions that can be shared among countries and across stakeholders, with the source to sea perspective and using water as a connector;

7. The work of the National Governments; Local and Regional Authorities; Parliamentarian; and Judges and Prosecutors Subprocesses of the 8th World Water Forum and their contribution to the dialogue on water issues;

8. The development of potential strategies to improve means of implementation, such as finance, capacity building, education and voluntary technology transfer on mutually agreed terms, to support the development of sustainable water uses, including non-conventional water resources;

9. The engagement of the private sector and public owned companies to continue or improve the adoption of efficient water and sanitation related sustainability measures including through concrete commitments and in accordance with national water laws;

10. The formal participation of judges and prosecutors, for the first time, in the World Water Forum, enriching discussions that have benefitted from participation of national governments; local and regional authorities as applicable; and parliamentarians;

11. The results and the follow up of voluntary actions of the "Implementation Roadmap" adopted during the 7th World Water Forum;

12. The convening of the 8th World Water Forum Ministerial roundtables, and we note the moderators' reports, prepared under their own responsibility.

We present an urgent call for decisive action on water and declare that now is time to:

13. Renew and reinforce the political commitment to ensure implementation of immediate and effective action towards overcoming water and sanitation-related challenges in particular water scarcity in the context of climate change adaptation and achieving related Sustainable Development Goals and targets;

14. Invite the High Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF) to note, in its review of Sustainable Development Goals, including SDG 6, the outcomes of the political, thematic, regional, sustainability and citizens processes of the 8th World Water Forum;

15. Invite the UN system to strengthen its support to countries in water matters and to improve the integration and coordination of the work of the United Nations on the water related goals and targets under its sustainable development pillar;

16. Encourage Governments to establish or strengthen national integrated water resources management policies and plans, including strategies for adaptation to climate change, with a view to achieving universal and equitable access to safe and affordable drinking water, to adequate and equitable sanitation and to reducing water pollution,

and to protect and restore water related ecosystems, in line with SDG 6;

17. Support the strengthening of transparent, effective, inclusive and accountable national and, where appropriate, subnational water institutional arrangements, with participation of all relevant stakeholders and consideration of local circumstances in the policy-making process, while fostering necessary partnerships, confidence building, exchange and sharing of information and experiences among public, private and civil society actors;

18. Mobilize and allocate sufficient financial resources from multiple sources for the promotion of and investment in integrated and sustainable water management, especially oriented towards developing countries and addressing their specific challenges, vulnerabilities and risks, including disaster risk reduction;

19. Develop and share solutions including Integrated Water Resources Management and nature-based solutions, where applicable, to address the most pressing water and sanitation challenges, through research and innovation, upscaling cooperation on capacity building and technology transfer and other means of implementation and considering the impact of climate change;

20. Encourage transboundary cooperation based on win-win solutions, in accordance with applicable international law, namely relevant bilateral, regional and international instruments countries are party to;

21. Reinforce the urgent need to respect the right of every human being, irrespective of their situation and location, to safe drinking water and sanitation as fundamental human rights, provided for by the international human rights law,

the international humanitarian law and the relevant international conventions as applicable.

22. Promote the potential of the young generation as agents for change and innovation in the search for solutions for water and sanitation challenges and implement and share water education policies and best practices on water and sanitation, benefiting from existing international centers as well as from UNESCO's expertise and network, including the International Hydrological Programme;

23. Take advantage of the networks and partnerships formed during the 8th World Water Forum, under its various processes, to promote the implementation of this declaration.

We thank the people and the Government of Brazil, the Government of the Federal District and the World Water Council for the hosting of the 8th World Water Forum and its participants.

ANNEX I

Youth Statement and Call for Action

Statement
Youth Forum
8th World Water Forum
17-18 March 2018
Brasilia, Brazil

For the first time in the history of the World Water Forum, a youth forum was organized as part of the citizen's process to mobilize and coordinate the collective proposals and efforts of youth. The forum allowed them to identify their priorities and formulate a shared vision.

We, the youth, therefore recommend;

1. Youth and SDG 6

Redefining the value of water beyond its economic commodification to recognize its cultural heritage, medicinal, traditional and social value. This can be done by training and leadership programs for youth and finding mechanisms to integrate them in the formal education system in order to reach the youngest and most vulnerable in all regions.

2. Youth, Water and Innovation

Increasing seed funding opportunities to support youth-led initiatives for scientific and technologically-driven projects. These projects include the expansion of existing open online platforms in order to facilitate more interdisciplinary research, social innovation, networking and citizen reporting.

3. The importance of intergenerational cooperation

Creating legitimate spaces for the representation, inclusion and participation of young people and youth groups in the high level political, decision-making and organizational processes of the World Water Forums. This includes the institutionalization of the Youth Forum as part of all future World Water Forums by ensuring the necessary funding to support youth leadership, participation and equal representation of all regions for the preparatory, implementation and follow up processes of the Youth Forum. This approach will ensure continuity and smooth transition of youth leadership for all future Forums and provide new leadership experiences for youth by participating in the forum.

Additionally, it is equally important to ensure the representation of youth and incorporation of the statement in the World Water Forum processes and outcomes by including youth in all sessions to share the key youth priorities.

We acknowledge and are grateful for the support we received from the World Water Forum and partner organisations to successfully organize the youth forum. We know we can count on you for your continued support for future World Water Forums and the implementation of our Call for Action.

The Call for Action Youth Forum of the World Water Forum

We the participants of the first Youth Forum of the World Water Forum agree and commit to support each other in the implementation of the following actions:

1. The World Youth Parliament for Water commits to provide young people with the opportunities to access international platforms on water and to provide space for discussion amongst youth and between youth and other stakeholders to encourage youth engagement in the water sector.
2. The World Water Council Youth Delegates Program commits to work for the institutionalization of the Youth Satellite Events to be a part of the strategy of the World Water Forum to mobilize and involve youth in water governance and decision- making processes of the forum.
3. Water Youth Network commits to connecting young people and organizations to the high-level decision-making processes through meaningful interventions towards knowledge and data sharing, incubating ideas, identifying financial resources, developing partnerships within the water sector, across disciplines, and generations.
4. Central American Youth Network for Water commits to promote the involvement of youth in decision-making spaces in the water sector to strengthen the development of the Central American countries from a more holistic and innovative point of view without tarnishing our messages and efforts with our political and personal interests.
5. The Ame o Tucunduba commits to promote three youth water-related events in the Amazon region over the next three years.

We commit to report on our progress on these actions in the next 9th World Water Forum in Senegal.