

International Hydrological Programme
23rd session of the IHP Council
(Paris, 11-15 June 2018)

**RELATIONS WITH UNITED NATIONS, INTERGOVERNMENTAL
ORGANIZATIONS AND NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS**

Item 9 of the provisional agenda

SUMMARY

This document presents a consolidated summary report on collaborative activities undertaken and results obtained with the UN system through UN-Water and on bilateral basis with UN specialized agencies and programmes, and with intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, for the period between June 2016 and March 2018.

COOPERATION WITH THE UN SYSTEM ON FRESHWATER ISSUES (Agenda sub-item 9.1)

UN-Water

1. UN-Water is the United Nations inter-agency **coordination** mechanism for all freshwater related matters, including sanitation. It is composed of thirty-one members and thirty-four partners¹ and it was set by the [UN System Chief Executives Board for Coordination in 2003](#). It is supported by a group of donors² consisting of mainly international development agencies and ministries and it is based in Switzerland, hosted at the World Meteorology Organization (WMO) premises. It has no legal representation and a total number of 5 UN staff members, serving as the Secretariat.

2. As agreed by the Senior Programme Manager at the 26th UN-Water meeting in February 2017, the current organisation of UN-Water tasks to implement activities performed by its members and partners, includes the following (coordinators indicated in square brackets):

Expert Groups

- Drinking-Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) [UNICEF, WHO]
- Transboundary Waters [UNECE, UNESCO]
- Water and Climate Change [WMO]
- Water Quality and Wastewater [UN Environment, UNESCO a member]
- Water Scarcity [FAO]

Task Forces

- 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development [UN-Water Vice-Chair]
- Decade Planning and Organization [UN-Water Secretary, UNU]
- Regional Level Coordination [UNESCWA, UNESCAP]
- SDG 6 Synthesis Report 2018 [UNESCO, WWAP]
- World Water Day 2017 and World Toilet Day 2017 [UNEP, UN-Habitat, UNU, WHO]
- World Water Day 2018 [CBD, UN Environment, UNESCO]

Projects/Initiatives

- Integrated Monitoring of Water and Sanitation Related SDG Targets (GEMI)
- UN-Water Global Analysis and Assessment of Sanitation and Drinking-Water (UN-Water GLAAS)
- WHO/UNICEF Joint Monitoring Programme for Water Supply and Sanitation (JMP).

3. UNESCO is one of the eight UN agencies (alongside UN Environment, UN-HABITAT, WHO, FAO, UNICEF, WMO and UNECE) participating at the “Integrated Monitoring of Water and Sanitation Related SDG Targets” (GEMI) under the UN-Water umbrella. GEMI’s goal is to establish a coherent framework for the SDG 6 monitoring and support Member States in

¹ UN agencies, programmes and funds with a water-related mandate are Members of UN-Water. Partners are international organizations, professional unions, associations or other civil-society groups that are actively involved in water and that have the capacity and willingness to contribute tangibly to the work of UN-Water.”

² France: Agence Française de Développement (AFD); Germany: Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development; Italy: Ministry of Foreign Affairs; The Netherlands: Ministry of Infrastructure and Water Management & the Ministry of Foreign Affairs; Sweden: Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency, Sida; Switzerland: Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation, SDC; The United Kingdom: Department for International Cooperation

SDG 6 monitoring. During the GEMI roll-out phase, GEMI agencies supported Member States in their efforts to develop a baseline for all SDG 6 indicators, by developing a SDG 6 data portal, providing seed grants to selected Member States to develop their monitoring capacities and organizing a global workshop on roll-out exercise lessons. Further details are reported in document IHP/IC-XXIII/Inf.4.

4. At the 25th UN-Water meeting (August 2016), UN-Water established the Task Force on the SDG 6 Synthesis Report 2018 on Water and Sanitation to provide SDG 6 related input to the UN High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) on Sustainable Development to be held from 9-18 July 2018. The Task Force, coordinated by UNESCO, WWAP includes several UN-Water members and partners. The report will provide an in-depth review of SDG 6.

5. UNESCO contributed to UN-Water Taskforces for World Water Day 2017 and 2018 campaigns. In particular:

- UNESCO contributed to the UN-Water Task Force for World Water Day 2017 “Wastewater – the Untapped Resource”, coordinated by UN Environment, UN-Habitat, UNU, WHO and included UNESCO, FAO, ILO, and UNDP as members.
- UNESCO co-led the UN-Water Task Force for World Water Day 2018 “Nature for Water”, with the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and UN Environment.
- At the 26th UN-Water meeting (February 2017), the themes of World Water Day 2019 and 2020 were decided as “Leaving No One Behind” and “Water and Climate Change”.

2018 World Water Day “Nature for Water”

6. The 21st UN-Water meeting (August 2014) agreed on the theme “Nature for Water” for World Water Day 2018 and agreed that UNESCO and CBD co-lead the campaign. At the 25th UN-Water meeting (August 2016), UN Environment was added as the third co-Lead. UN-Water, together with UNESCO and UN Environment, launched the World Water Day 2018 theme “Nature for Water” at the 2017 World Water Week in Stockholm (August 2017).

7. As the UN-Water official celebration of World Water Day 2018, UNESCO, CBD and UN Environment, in collaboration with the World Water Council (WWC), co-organized a Special Session “The World Water Day: Nature for Water” on 22 March during the 8th World Water Forum in Brazil, with the participation of high-level government officials and other stakeholders, including indigenous and youth representatives. The World Water Day 2018 was celebrated on 22 March throughout the world.

8. In the framework of the World Water Day 2018 campaign, UNESCO hosted a Photo Exhibition by “*Clean Water Here*” Foundation at HQ in Paris in April 2018. The exhibition was displayed at the UN in New York on 22 March 2018 on the launching of the new International Decade for Action: Water for Sustainable Development (2018-2028).

Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)

9. IHP collaborated with FAO to promote the principles and guidelines of the Framework for Action prepared by the Groundwater Governance Project, by organizing regional meetings in Latin America and the Caribbean (Uruguay) and the Arab Region (Bahrein) in 2017 to identify potential cases to apply these guidelines.

10. UNESCO, along with the World Bank and WHO, contributed to the FAO Expert Panel Discussion on “How wastewater can contribute to food security” at the Global Forum on Food and Agriculture 2017 “Agriculture and Water – The Key to Feeding the World” (Berlin, January 2017) and shared IHP’s work and perspectives on safe reuse of wastewater.

Global Environment Facility (GEF)

11. IHP is addressing the theme of groundwater governance and conjunctive surface and groundwater management through the GEF project “International Waters Learning Exchange and Resource Network” (IW:LEARN), which aims to raise awareness on the threats and opportunities linked to groundwater and subsurface management.

International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)

12. The IAEA is IHP’s main partner for the preparatory phase (carried out in 2017) of a 4-year GEF-UNDP project on the equitable management of the Nubian Sandstone Aquifer System³.

United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE)

13. IHP and UNECE are collaborating as co-custodian agencies of SDG Indicator 6.5.2 on transboundary water management (more details are reported in IHP/IC-XXIII/Inf.4).

14. UNESCO and UNECE cooperates on transboundary groundwater resources. UNESCO contributed to the first Expert Group meeting on Transboundary Assessment (Geneva, May 2017) and the Regional Training on “Hydro-diplomacy and Negotiation Skills for IGAD Water Resources Protocol Negotiation Members” (Addis Ababa, February 2017), in the framework of the UNECE Project on transboundary water cooperation in the IGAD Region”. UNESCO Office in Montevideo, in collaboration with ECLAC and UNECE, organized a training workshop on the general principles of transboundary water cooperation in Campeche, Mexico, in October 2016. The workshop trained 25 directors of Water Agencies from 11 Ibero-American countries.

United Nations Environment Programme (UN Environment)

15. IHP’s International Initiative on Water Quality (IIWQ) collaborated with the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activity (GPA), hosted by UN Environment, on a joint case study on “Emerging pollutants in Lake Victoria Basin of Kenya”. The results of the case study will be published in the UNESCO Emerging Pollutants in Water Series.

16. IHP contributed to the UN Environment /GPA session on wastewater at the 6th Africa Water Week (Dar Es Salaam, 2016), which was attended by over 60 participants (18 women and 42 men).

17. The UNESCO Office in Abuja organized an expert meeting on “Water Quality in the SDG era” (Kaduna, Nigeria, December 2016), jointly with the Regional Centre on Integrated River Basin Management (category 2) and the UN Environment Global Environmental Monitoring System (GEMS/Water). 50 participants (18 women and 32 men) from West African countries⁴ attended.

18. IHP and UN Environment released a report on the current status and future trends of 199 transboundary aquifers of the world and 42 groundwater systems of Small Island Developing States (SIDS) (<http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0025/002592/259254e.pdf>) and a summary report (<http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0024/002449/244912e.pdf>) for policy-makers. UNESCO, with UN Environment and other partners, is contributing to the preparation of a new project on Mediterranean Sea on coastal aquifers and groundwater-related ecosystems.

19. UNESCO Office in Nairobi is working with UN Environment Regional Office for Africa

³ Chad, Egypt, Libya and Sudan.

⁴ Nigeria, Benin Togo, Ghana, Sierra Leone, Guinea, Ivory Coast, and Liberia.

to develop an application for smart phones and online portal on rainwater harvesting.

United Nations University (UNU)

20. UNU-Institute for Water Environment and Health (UNU-INWEH) contributed to IHP-led chapters of the WWDR 2017: Chapter 16 on “Water reuse and resource recovery” and Chapter 17 on “Knowledge, innovation research and capacity development”. UNESCO Offices in Doha and Addis Ababa published, jointly with UNU, the book “The Water, Energy, and Food Security Nexus in the Arab Region” (Springer Nature, India). Furthermore, UNU-INWEH and IHP’s Theme 4 on Water for Human Settlements, contributed to the UN-Water Synthesis Report making the link of SDG 6 and SDG 11.

World Bank

21. UNESCO and the World Bank organized a workshop on “Lake Chad Basin Groundwater Modeling” (Paris, May 2017) and agreed on a Plan of Action for the Lake Chad Basin to update the basin’s groundwater model. IHP is participating in a new GEF/World Bank project on “Water Security and Groundwater Governance in the Sahel”, which will start in mid-2018.

World Health Organization (WHO)

22. In cooperation with WHO and Asian Development Bank (ADB), UNESCO Office in Jakarta conducted a national dialogue “Implementing Water Goals in Timor-Leste” (October 2017). The meeting was financially supported by the Government of Malaysia and focused on five areas: groundwater mapping, integrated catchment management, water education, wastewater, and water quality monitoring. The event was attended by 64 participants.

World Meteorological Organization (WMO)

23. IHP participated in the 15th session of the WMO Hydrology Commission (CHy) meeting (Rome, December 2016) and in the CHy Advisory working group meeting (Geneva, February 2017).

24. The UNESCO-WMO liaison meeting was held in March 2017, during which a joint project proposal on droughts and floods in the Intergovernmental Authority for Development (IGAD) region was agreed upon. IHP and WMO co-organized a side event on “Climate services for sustainable water resources management” at the UN HLPF on Sustainable Development (New York, July 2016). The event brought together 25 experts (11 women and 16 men).

25. In the framework of IFI, IHP and WMO organized the implementation planning workshop for the Asia-Pacific Region and the session on “Global Earth Observation System of Systems (GEOSS) Asian Water Cycle Initiative” during the 9th GEOSS Asia-Pacific Symposium (Tokyo, January 2017). The event was attended by more than 65 participants.

26. UNESCO is represented by IHP in the Global Framework for Climate Services (GFCS) Partners Advisory Committee, hosted by WMO. UNESCO contributed to GFCS side events on climate services for Africa, SIDS and Least Developed Countries at COP 22 and COP 23.

27. UNESCO is co-organising the Hydrological Services conference that will take place on 7-9 May 2018 in Geneva (Switzerland) involving among others FRIEND, IFI, IDI, G-WADI and WINS.

UN Joint Programmes

28. In the framework of UN Joint Programme on Kyzylorda region (Aral Sea region), UNESCO Office in Almaty, in cooperation with UNDP in Kazakhstan, enhances capacities of water managers by organizing trainings on Integrated Water Resource Management (IWRM).

24 persons participated to the training (6 women and 18 men).

29. UNESCO Office in Almaty, jointly with the UN Regional Centre for Preventive Diplomacy for Central Asia (UNRCCA), organized the International Seminar on “The Impact of Glaciers Melting on Water Resources in Central Asia in the context of Climate Change” (Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan, November 2016). The seminar, attended by 58 participants⁵ (14 women and 44 men), discussed the coordination of projects on glacier and climate change in the region.

COOPERATION WITH INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS (Agenda sub-item 9.2)

The Baltic Marine Environment Protection Commission

30. IHP’s International Initiative on Water Quality (IIWQ) collaborated with the Baltic Marine Environment Protection Commission (HELCOM) on the UNESCO case study on “Pharmaceuticals in the aquatic environment of the Baltic Sea region” under the IIWQ project “Emerging Pollutants in Wastewater Reuse in Developing Countries”. A status report, containing the case study results, was published jointly by UNESCO and HELCOM in the new UNESCO Emerging Pollutants in Water Series (volume 1), together with a summary brochures with key recommendations and data for policy-makers and awareness raising in four languages (English, French, Spanish and Russian). It was presented at the 2017 Stockholm World Water Week (August 2017) (<http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0024/002478/247889e.pdf>).

East African Community (EAC)

31. UNESCO Office in Nairobi participated in the EAC Regional Learning and Investors Forum, where EAC expressed interest in collaborating with IHP on mapping transboundary groundwater resources in EAC Region. A planning workshop will be organized mid-2018.

Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD)

32. OECD contributed to two technical events organized by IHP’s International Initiative on Water Quality at the 2016 Stockholm World Water Week on: “Addressing emerging pollutants to achieve the SDG” and “Climate change and water quality”. The events were attended by 60 (32 women and 28 men) and 110 (57 women and 53 men) participants, respectively.

Southern Africa Development Community (SADC)

33. IHP and the SADC Groundwater Management Institute organized a workshop on international water law and transboundary water cooperation in Johannesburg, South Africa, in November 2016. The workshop was attended by 80 participants⁶ (28 women and 52 men).

34. IHP in collaboration with Princeton University, Southampton University and SADC WaterNet regional network, organized a training workshop on African Drought Monitor (Harare, Zimbabwe, November 2016). 35 experts (9 women and 23 men) from SADC countries were trained on the African Drought and Flood Monitoring System.

IberoAmerican Conference of Water Directors (CODIA)

35. IHP, in collaboration with CODIA, organized two training courses: one on water quality

⁵ From Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan and Afghanistan, as well as representatives donors and partners.

⁶ From 12 SADC countries: Angola, South Africa, Botswana, Namibia, Democratic Republic of Congo, Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Mozambique, Swaziland, Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

(Cartagena, Colombia, June 2017), attended by 21 participants (7 women and 14 men), and a second on water-related economic instruments (Montevideo, Uruguay, October 2017), attended by 52 participants (19 women and 33 men). A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on cooperation with CODIA was drafted.

Inter-American Network of Academies of Sciences (IANAS-IAP)

36. IHP, jointly with IANAS-IAP and the Caribbean Academies of Sciences, organized a preparatory meeting (Nassau in September 2017) for a study on water quality in Latin America and the Caribbean and a publication on “Water Challenges and Solutions for the Caribbean”.

International Association of Hydrogeologists (IAH)

37. Under the World-wide Hydrogeological Mapping and Assessment Programme (WHYMAP), IHP and IAH published the World Map of Karst Aquifer⁷ in September 2017.

38. IHP contributed to the 44th and 45th IAH Congresses (Montpellier, France, September 2016, and Dubrovnik, Croatia, September 2017), by organizing a workshop on groundwater and climate change (32 participants, 11 women and 21 men), launching the new WHYMAP (World-wide Hydrogeological Mapping and Assessment Programme), facilitating the experience sharing by the countries of the Dinaric Karst Transboundary Aquifer System (DIKTAS) project and supporting the participation of eight young participants (four women).

International Association of Hydrological Sciences (IAHS)

39. UNESCO convened a session on “Facilitating scientific contributions in water diplomacy and cooperation processes” and co-convened four other sessions at the IAHS Scientific Assembly (Port Elizabeth, South Africa, July 2017).

International Sava River Basin Commission

40. UNESCO continued with its cooperation with the International Sava River Basin Commission (ISRBC)⁸. In June 2017, Slovenia hosted the meeting on “Improvement of joint Actions in Flood Management in the Sava River”, during which UNESCO, the *Istituto Superiore Mario Boella* from Italy (I-REACT project leader) and ISRBC discussed collaboration opportunities on the new Early Warning system for floods, funded by the World Bank.

41. A joint Transboundary Training Workshop on “Governance and Technology for Flood Risk Reduction: Linking early warning to emergency management in the Sava River Basin” was held in Zagreb, Croatia, in December 2017, with the participation of 40 experts (10 women and 30 men). It aimed at developing early warning alerts triggered by national hydro-meteorological services and/or water agencies as flood forecasting operators, through the Sava Flood Forecasting and Warning System (FFWS).

International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)

42. IUCN collaborates with IHP on the Phase 2 of the Groundwater Governance in Transboundary Aquifers (GGRETA) - Ocotepaque-Citalá Aquifer⁹ project, supported by the Swiss Agency of Development and Cooperation (SDC), as the local implementing partner.

International Water Management Institute (IWMI)

43. IWMI contributed to IHP-led Chapters 16 on “Water reuse and resource recovery”, and Chapter 17 on “Knowledge, innovation, research and capacity development” of the 2017 UN World Water Development Report.

⁷ Consultable on https://www.whymap.org/whymap/EN/Maps_Data/Wokam/wokam_node_en.html.

⁸ Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Montenegro, Serbia and Slovenia.

⁹ Shared by El Salvador and Honduras.

Plastic Soup Foundation

44. IHP's International Initiative on Water Quality collaborated with the Plastic Soup Foundation (a NGO based in the Netherlands) on the IIWQ case study on "Microplastics in Freshwater Environments". The case study presents a preliminary assessment of microplastics in wastewater and freshwater in 17 countries, based on available research and literature data. The case study results were presented at the 2017 Stockholm World Water Week and are published in the UNESCO Emerging Pollutants in Water Series (volume 2).

Water Watch Penang

45. UNESCO Office in Jakarta organized a workshop "Building Resilience to Climate Change Risk and Vulnerability to Meet Water Security Challenges" in Malaysia in July 2017. The meeting, attended by 34 participants (16 women and 18 men) from 12 countries in Asia and Africa, focused on the climate change impact on water resources and water-related disasters. The Government of Malaysia and the UNESCO/Flanders Funds-in-Trust supported the activity.

Other partnerships

46. UNESCO Office in Almaty works with the Public Fund Center "Cooperation for Sustainable Development" (CSD-Center) on water education in Central Asia. In 2016, the adaptation of IWRM course materials (in Russian) to universities of Kyrgyzstan was finalized, with a training on IWRM for university teachers. The module on Climate Risk Management course was mainstreamed in Kyzylorda State University as an elective course starting from 2016-2017 academic year, with a 3-day training on IWRM for university teachers attended by 48 participants (30 women and 18 men).

47. In cooperation with the International Fund for Saving the Aral Sea (IFAS) and Central Asia Regional Environmental Center (CAREC) and with the support of UNESCO Office in Almaty, four expert meetings were organized on water education standards in Kazakhstan between June and December 2016. These meetings were attended in total by 60 participants (22 women and 38 men). Recommendations on improving water education were submitted to the Ministry of Education and Science of Kazakhstan in a meeting held in Astana, March 2017, which was attended by 35 participants (7 women and 28 men).

IHP CONTRIBUTION TO THE UN WORLD WATER DEVELOPMENT REPORT (Agenda sub-item 9.3)

48. IHP is an active contributor to the annual United Nations World Water Development Reports and supports their dissemination through UNESCO Field Offices.

The 2017 World Water Development Report (WWDR 2017): Wastewater: The Untapped Resource

49. WWDR 2017 was dedicated to Theme "Wastewater: The Untapped Resource". IHP, through its IIWQ, contributed to the WWDR 2017 with the roles of Lead, Co-Lead and Contributing Agency of five chapters. IHP led and coordinated Chapter 16 on "Water reuse and resource recovery" and co-led with IHE Chapter 17 on "Knowledge, innovation, research and capacity development". IHP contributed also to Chapter 4 on "Technical aspects of wastewater" (led by WWAP), Chapter 7 on "Agriculture" (led by FAO) and Chapter 18 on "Creating an enabling environment" (led by WWAP). The Centre for Water Law Policy and Science (category 2) contributed to two chapters. The UNESCO Office in Abuja coordinated the regional Chapter on Africa. UNESCO Offices in Montevideo and Jakarta contributed to the regional chapters on Latin America and the Caribbean and on Asia and the Pacific.¹⁰

¹⁰ http://publishing.unesco.org/details.aspx?=&Code_Livre=5175.

50. UNESCO Montevideo Office, with financial support of the UNESCO Brasilia Office, translated the WWDR 2017 into Spanish. UNESCO Offices in Almaty, Cairo and New Delhi translated the WWDR 2017 Executive Summary in Russian, Arabic and Hindi, whereas the German Commission for UNESCO supported its translation into German.

51. The Launch of the WWDR 2017 took place on 22 March 2017 at the UN-Water official event for World Water Day 2017 under Theme “Wastewater”, hosted by the Department of Water and Sanitation of South Africa in Durban. On WWDR 2017 launch, IHP’s IIWQ organized a session on “Water reuse and resource recovery: Best practices, innovation and capacity development”. On World Water Day 2017 and throughout 2017 approximately 30 national/regional events¹¹ were organized by WWAP, UNESCO Field Offices¹² and IHP National Committees¹³.

The 2018 United Nations World Water Development Report: Nature-based solutions for Water

52. WWDR 2018 was dedicated to Theme “Nature-based solutions for water”. IHP, through its IIWQ and Ecohydrology Programme, co-led, with UN Environment, Chapter 3 on “Nature based solutions for managing water quality” and contributed to chapters on “Nature-based solutions (NBS) and water” and “NBS for managing water-related risks, variability and change”. The UNESCO Office in Abuja, IHE and the Centre for Water Law, Policy and Science (Category 2 Centres) contributed to Chapter 5 “National and Regional Experiences with Implementation”.

53. The WWDR 2018 was launched at the 8th World Water Forum in Brasilia, Brazil. In parallel to the main launch event, WWAP collaborated with many UNESCO Field Offices and international partners and institutes for organization of approximately 20 complementary events on and shortly after the World Water Day to present the WWDR2018 in different regions of the world. The Report will be presented in additional national/regional events throughout 2018¹⁴.

54. For the first time, IHP’s contribution was acknowledged on the cover page of the WWDR2018, as requested by the IHP Bureau at its 55th session.

The 2019 United Nations World Water Development Report (WWDR 2019): Leaving no one behind.

55. IHP is leading Chapter 3 on “Social dimensions - Challenges and opportunities for improvement” of the WWDR2019. IHP will also contribute to other chapters, as relevant.

¹¹ The complete list of events can be consulted on: <http://www.unesco.org/new/en/natural-sciences/environment/water/wwap/wwdr/2017-wastewater-the-untapped-resource/regional-launches/>

¹² Abuja, Addis Ababa, Almaty, Bangkok, Beijing, Bishkek, Brasilia, Brussels, Cairo, Dushanbe, Montevideo, New Delhi, New York, Quito, San José and Tashkent.

¹³ Among them, Barbados, Belize, Morocco, Nigeria, Norway, Kenya.

¹⁴ The complete list of events can be consulted on: <http://www.unesco.org/new/en/natural-sciences/environment/water/wwap/wwdr/2018-nature-based-solutions/regional-launches/>