

International Hydrological Programme

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

PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION

Sub-items 6.1, 6.3, 6.5, 6.6, 6.7, 6.8 and 6.9 of the provisional agenda

This document provides:

- A summary of the implementation of the Programme related to Theme's 4 focal areas 4.3 on Institution and leadership for beneficitation and integration, and 4.4 on Opportunities in emerging cities, and in particular of the concept of a UNESCO project for "Certification on tap water management and quality";
- A report on the progress made on the implementation of IHP Water Information Network System (WINS) and description of main components;
- Actions taken by the Secretariat on the Evaluation of IHP-VIII;
- A report on the progress made to the monitoring and review of IHP programmes and major initiatives according to the Resolution XXII-6;
- A proposal of the Roadmap to prepare the 9th Phase of IHP (IHP-IX, 2022-2029);
- A World Network of Water Museums Initiative proposal;
- A Landslide Subsidence Initiative (LaSII) proposal;
- A summary of actions taken in the implementation of the Resolutions XXI-I adopted during 21st IGC regarding the establishment of the World Large Rivers Initiative (WLRI) as an IHP Initiative.

Decisions proposed:

The Council may wish to:

- Request the Secretariat to set up a Working Group to advice the "UNESCO Certification on tap water management and quality" project, and to report on the progress achieved at its 57th Bureau and 24th Council session;
- Call upon Member States, C2C, Chairs and WWAP to use IHP-WINS as a tool, and to promote its use by institutions working, to any extent, in the water sector;
- Request to the Secretariat to commence the IHP-VIII evaluation with the technical guidance of the IOS, to present the results of the evaluation at the 58th IHP Bureau session and to prepare recommendations for their approval at the 24th Council session;
- Request the Secretariat to present the results of the evaluation of the IHP initiatives at the 58th IHP Bureau session and to prepare recommendations for their approval at the 24th Council session;
- Comment and eventually approve the Draft Roadmap (Working Group, timeline, questionnaires, etc.) for the preparation of IHP-IX;
- Consider establishing the Global Network of Water Museums under the

auspices of IHP and encourage Members States to contribute and be involved in this network;

- Consider establishing an IHP LaSII initiative under the auspices of IHP and encourage Members States to contribute to it;
- Review the performance of the WLRI Initiative, and consider the Draft Resolution further below to decide WRLI's integration in IHP's workplan as an IHP Initiative and to request its alignment with the recommendations of the IHP Flagship Initiatives' evaluation.

IMPLEMENTATION OF IHP-VIII (agenda sub-item 6.1)

1. **Theme 4 of IHP-VIII: Water and human settlements of the future**, aims at supporting cities and rural settlements facing climate change, population growth, deterioration of urban infrastructure systems and other global challenges in understanding the issues and in adopting an approach based on the interdependence of the different water systems. The theme is organized in five focal areas: (1) game changing approaches and technologies; (2) system wide changes for integrated management approaches; (3) institution and leadership for extracting the maximum benefits from water (beneficiation) and integration; (4) opportunities in emerging cities of developing countries, and (5) integrated development in rural human settlement.

2. Within the framework of activities related to **Focal area 4.3 (Institution and leadership for beneficiation and integration) and Focal area 4.4 (Opportunities in emerging cities)**, a concept note for the "**UNESCO Certification on tap water management and quality**" was prepared in cooperation with a Korean public utility (K-water) for the past one year. The discussion has been mostly about methodology and evaluation tools, and about K-water's participation as a technical advisor, including a one-year pilot project to identify and rectify challenges before launching officially the project.

3. The project aims to **evaluate the tap water quality, and the operation and maintenance of facilities** of a city to be certified. A committee shall be organized to make the final decision on certification, advised by technical advisor(s). Meeting the criteria, IHP is certifying that the tap water quality of the city has satisfied the World Health Organization (WHO) guidelines during a certain period of time with specific frequency, and that the operation and maintenance are successfully managed enough to produce the high-quality tap water.

4. Applicant cities shall perform the water quality analysis as requested by the committee at selected sampling points. The analysis shall be implemented at internationally certified laboratories on their own budget. Equal amount of application fee and population-based membership fee shall be payable by the cities. The accumulated **funds shall be used to maintain a secretariat for the initiative and develop and provide a platform** that member cities can use to communicate with each other and/or with non-member cities in developing Member States.

5. The purpose of initiative is to **eliminate the vague distrust** of citizens and tourists alike on tap water by certifying through appropriate tools and via a process of evaluation, and to **provide a platform for balanced improvement** among member cities by sharing best practices and trouble-shooting cases. It is envisaged that the initiative will contribute to Member States' efforts in achieving their target of SDG6.

Actions expected by the Council:

The Council may wish to request to the Secretariat to set up a Working Group and its terms of reference, that will report on the progress achieved by the pilot at the 57th IHP Bureau session, and upon receiving the positive decision of the Bureau, provide the Secretariat its approval in an out of session consultation or during the 24th Council session.

IHP-WINS (agenda sub-item 6.3)

6. Launched in January 2017, IHP's Water Information Network System (IHP-WINS, available at: <http://ihp-wins.unesco.org/>) is open-access, knowledge-sharing platform on water-related issues at all levels, which is freely made available by the International Hydrological Programme of UNESCO. It provides Member States with a tool for capacity building and sound, science-based water resources management through knowledge-sharing, and contributes to implementing and monitoring the eighth phase of the IHP (IHP-VIII).

7. IHP-WINS provides a platform for sharing any type of information related to water. Although data hosted on IHP-WINS is mostly in the form of GIS (Geographic Information System) layers that can be overlaid for users to visualize clear and understandable information and create maps tailored to their own needs, contributors can share information in various other formats (i.e. images, videos, PDF, webinars, etc.). Data can be of various scales (global, regional, national and local), and can relate to any aspects of water resources (quality, quantity, governance, risk, use, supply, groundwater, gender, SDG6 targets and indicators, etc.). Both quantitative data and qualitative data are welcomed on IHP-WINS. Furthermore, documents of various formats (PDF, word file, excel file, images, videos, etc.) can also be shared on the platform. This contributes to building the institutional memory of IHP, and allows Member States to share their experiences in water policy and management.

8. Additionally, all data shared on IHP-WINS benefit from metadata in a standardized format, allowing for an accurate identification and crediting of any elements, and easy later sharing. In addition, a DOI (Digital Object Identifier) is attributed to layers, maps, documents in order to provide a stable base for referencing data and to reference track the electronic resources published on IHP-WINS. Unless otherwise specified by the contributors, all information is shared in an open-access manner, thus made available for free download.

9. IHP-WINS also aims at encouraging inter-disciplinary collaboration and knowledge sharing among water-related stakeholders. Contributors are encouraged to gather in working groups, in order to facilitate exchange and give feedbacks on their current work, as well as reinforced professional networking and mentoring among water-related stakeholders.

10. The Terms of Use and the User Guide of IHP-WINS are consultable online: <http://ihp-wins-dev.geo-solutions.it/terms-of-use> and <http://ihp-wins-dev.geo-solutions.it/get-started/1/>.

11. As of March 2018, 35 Member States, 2 C2C and 2 Chairs have joined the platform and appointed IHP-WINS focal points, while 160 contributors have registered. More than 200 information elements (layers, maps or documents) have been shared and published on IHP-WINS. The platform has been presented at more than 30 events in 15+ countries.

12. The Members States having appointed focal points for sharing information on WINS are: Afghanistan, Andorra, Armenia, Botswana, Brazil, Burkina Faso, Cameroun, China, Djibouti, Dominica, Ecuador, Egypt, Equatorial Guinea, Honduras, Hungary, Ireland, Japan, Kenya, Kuwait, Latvia, Libya, Lithuania, Malaysia, Mali, Montenegro, Namibia, Norway, Panama, Poland, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Togo, The Netherlands, Turkey, and Uzbekistan.

13. The two Category 2 Centres having appointed focal points to this end are the Regional Centre on Urban Water Management, in Tehran, Iran, and the Centre for Arid and Semi-arid Zones of Latin America and the Caribbean, in La Serena, Chile; while the two water-related Chairs having done so are the UNESCO Chair in Water Management, in Bangui, Central African Republic, and the UNESCO Chair/International Network of Water-Environment Centers for the Balkans on Sustainable Management on Water and Conflict

Resolution, in Thessaloniki, Greece. The International Groundwater Resources Assessment Centre (IGRAC) also joined the platform.

Actions expected by the Council:

The Council may wish to call upon Member States to use IHP-WINS and to promote its use by institutions working, to any extent, in the water sector, as a tool that:

- a. contributes to worldwide efforts towards sound, science-based management of water resources;**
- b. connects various water practitioners together to circulate and produce knowledge;**
- c. feeds decision-making and policy recommendations.**

EVALUATION OF IHP-VIII (agenda sub-item 6.5)

14. The IHP Bureau recommended at its 56th session to start the planning process of the 9th Phase of IHP (IHP-IX, 2022-2029).

15. In view of the upcoming planning for the next Phase, it is recommended to receive feedback from the gaps and challenges that have been identified during the implementation of IHP-VIII. The results of such activity can then be used as an input to the formulation of the new strategy.

16. The Secretariat would propose to the Council to pursue an evaluation of IHP-VIII under the leadership of the Internal Oversight Service (IOS) of UNESCO.

Actions expected by the Council:

The Council may wish to request to the Secretariat to commence an evaluation of IHP-VIII with the technical guidance of the IOS, to present the results of the evaluation at the 58th IHP Bureau session and to prepare recommendations for their approval at the 24th Council session.

REPORT ON THE MONITORING AND REVIEW OF IHP PROGRAMMES AND MAJOR INITIATIVES (agenda sub-item 6.6)

17. In accordance with the Resolution XXII-6 “The monitoring and review of IHP programmes and major initiatives” of the 22nd IHP Intergovernmental Council, the IHP Secretariat is undertaking an evaluation of the 15 IHP flagship initiatives.

18. The purpose of the evaluation is to identify which of the IHP Flagship initiatives should be modified, receive additional support from Member States, be terminated or handed over to other entities, considering the current needs from Member States and IHP-VIII. Moreover, the main purpose of the evaluation is to assess the performance (activities, outputs, outcomes) of the IHP Flagships during their full period of activity (from establishment until present) and to provide recommendations for the future.

19. The findings and recommendations of the evaluation will:
- a. Provide guidance to UNESCO on the organizational structure and purpose of the Flagships and their configuration within IHP;
 - b. Provide guidance on the strategic focus of the Flagships and the mechanisms for effective programme delivery;
 - c. Provide evidence (to the donors) about the key achievements and added value of each Flagship.
20. The main users of the evaluation will be the IHP Secretariat, the main donors to the Flagships and the wider policy and academic community in the field of water.
21. Following the drafting of Terms of Reference (ToRs) in collaboration with the Internal Oversight Service (see IHP/IC-XXIII/Ref.3), an international call for tenders (SC/HYD/17/181) for the evaluation was launched. The IHP Secretariat received two offers (November 2017). The evaluation team agreed to grant the Hydroconseil consultancy company the task to carry out the evaluation of the project “Flagships Initiatives under the UNESCO International Hydrological Programme”.
22. Due to the contingency plan during the implementation of 38 C/5 and the freezing of an estimated 80% of the available funds for the Hydrology Division as of June 2017, it was decided to initiate the contractual agreement with the chosen consulting firm in 2018.
23. A contract with the consultant was signed on 1 February 2018 and the consultancy is scheduled to end by 30 September 2018. Preliminary findings will be presented during the 23rd session of the Council.

Actions expected by the Council:

The Council may wish to request to the Secretariat to present the results of the evaluation at the 58th IHP Bureau session and to prepare recommendations for their approval at the 24th Council session.

**STRATEGIC PLANNING OF THE 9TH PHASE OF IHP (IHP-IX, 2022-2029)
(agenda sub-item 6.7)**

24. The IHP Bureau recommended at its 56th session that the planning process of the 9th Phase of IHP (IHP-IX, 2022-2029) be initiated and approved the draft Terms of Reference of a Task Force (IHP/Bur-LVI/Ref.5)
25. The Secretariat received the nominations of young experts from the six Electoral Groups that comprised part of the IHP-IX Task Force and prepared a first draft of elements that could formulate the basis of the discussions on IHP-IX and a draft outline of the planning process (IHP/IC-XXIII/Ref.4).
26. It is to be noted that the latter document includes a call for an extraordinary session of the Council focusing only on the approval of IHP-IX. The session could take place following the 61st session of the IHP Bureau, in June 2021.

Actions expected by the Council:

The Council may wish to request to the Secretariat to:

- a) Approve in principle the draft outline of the planning process;
- b) Prepare a timetable of the Task Force's work and facilitate its work; and,
- c) Prepare guidelines for compiling the proposals of National Committees

WORLD NETWORK OF WATER MUSEUMS INITIATIVE (agenda sub-item 5.8a)

27. Following the organization of the International Workshop "Towards a Global Network of Water Museums" which was held in Venice, Italy, on 2-4 May 2017 (see more information and report available at <http://www.unesco.org/new/en/venice/natural-sciences/water/water-museums/>) and considering the high expectations raised on that occasion as well as the endorsement of the initiative by the Bureau at its 55th session, a second International Conference of Water Museums has been organized from 14-18 May 2018 in s'Hertogenbosch, the Netherlands, in close coordination with the Dutch IHP National Committee. In the course of preparation of this event, 25 new water museums (in addition to the 29 water museums which have joined already the network in 2017) have requested to join this initiative, and the following actions have been undertaken by the participating museums and institutions:

- a. A web platform for the Global Network of Water Museums has been developed by the Italian NGO "Centro Civiltà dell'Acqua", the present coordinator of the network, and the Venice University. It is operational from May 2018 at: <http://www.watermuseums.net>. Links with WINS will be assured.
- b. The same partners (University of Venice and Centro Civiltà dell'Acqua) have elaborated the proposal of establishing a UNESCO Chair at the Cà Foscari University of Venice with the purpose of guaranteeing a coordination mechanism for the network (at least until 2020) and supporting the fund raising activities for concrete project implementations. The proposal includes the creation of a Secretariat to support single museums worldwide to develop specific projects related to SER (SDGs, Education, and Research), to be carried out by partnering museums.
- c. The proposal of creating such a coordination mechanism will be discussed and adopted by all founding partners at the 2nd Conference (May 2018) to be officially submitted for approval to the Italian UNESCO National Commission.
- d. Many partnering museums have contacted and involved their respective IHP National Committees (Mexico, Romania, The Netherlands, UK, Egypt, Italy, Spain, and others) in order to coordinate their efforts at both the national level (to stimulate additional water museums to join the network) and within the IHP (preparing the ground for the adoption of a Resolution on the establishment under the auspices of IHP of the Global Network of Water Museums).
- e. Future activities of the Network will focus mainly on projects related to water and SER (1. SDGs, 2. Education, and 3. Research). During the 2nd Conference, future common projects have been discussed during specific thematic sessions (inter alia, on water civilizations, water related technological evolution, water and art, water and health, water chemistry). A coordinator and a working group was established for each thematic area, to facilitate the implementation of projects related to the Network itself (coordinated by the UNESCO Chair), or by single museums, or by specific bi-lateral cooperation (common publications, educational toolkits, etc). Also, the 2nd Report of

the Global Network details the location of the 3rd International Conference of Water Museums (to be held in Spain, or China).

Actions expected by the Council:

The Council may wish to consider a resolution on the establishment of the Global Network of Water Museums under the auspices of the International Hydrological Programme and encourage Members States to contribute and be involved in this network.

LAND SUBSIDENCE INITIATIVE (agenda sub-item 6.8b)

28. The UNESCO Working Group on Land Subsidence (WGSL) is one of the oldest working groups within the International Hydrological Programme (IHP), it initiated its activities in the 1970s and continued to improve and disseminate knowledge on land subsidence, mainly in developed and newly developed countries and regions. Due to global changes, the need to disseminate this knowledge more broadly and to intensify applications is urgent.

29. The IHP Land Subsidence Initiative (LaSII) initiative main goals are to improve access to knowledge by scientists and engineers from developing countries, enhance knowledge transfer and better planning for the sustainable use of the groundwater resources LS-affected regions also in view of the expected climate changes. The proposed Initiative would better serve the purpose of the IHP Member states providing a wider platform to support developing countries with limited access to research studies and monitoring.

30. The LaSII aims at facilitating the participation of IHP Focal Points and National Committees in the development of case studies and the dissemination of LS mitigation guidelines and at developing linkages with the UNESCO Water Family and with international institutions. The LaSII's activities would be aligned with the goals of the IHP VIII's Focal Areas 1.1, 1.2 and 1.3 of Theme 1, the Focal Areas 2.1, 2.2 and 2.3 of Theme 2, and different Focal Areas of Themes 4 and Theme 5.

31. Mr Pietro Teatini, Vice-Chairperson of UNESCO's Working Group on Land Subsidence (WGSL), presented a proposal for a Land Subsidence initiative aligned with the priorities of IHP-VIII at the 56th Session of the IHP Bureau. The Bureau requested that the Working Group on Land Subsidence prepare a feasibility study exploring the implications of the proposed Initiative on the Secretariat to be presented along with the proposal.

32. As a follow up, the Working Group on Land Subsidence prepared a feasibility study that provides details about the Initiative contribution to the IHP, its proposed activities and functioning (IHP/IC-XXIII/Ref.5).

33. There will be no financial implications for the IHP Secretariat with this new initiative, as it relies entirely on extrabudgetary and in-kind contributions.

Actions expected by the Council:

The Council may wish to consider a resolution on the establishment of IHP LaSII initiative under the auspices of the International Hydrological Programme and encourage Members States to contribute and be involved in this initiative. In doing so,

the Council might want to advise the initiative to abide by the upcoming recommendations from the initiatives' evaluation.

WORLD LARGE RIVERS INITIATIVE (agenda sub-item 6.9)

34. The World's Large Rivers Initiative (WLRI) is a scientific initiative, which aims to create the knowledge base required for a holistic scientific assessment of the status and possible future of the world's large rivers. The WLRI also aims to identify and test adaptation and mitigation strategies, as well as to develop innovative strategies based on best practices for their sustainable management. Further, the WLRI serves as a scientific platform for peer learning that will ultimately compile global data in a comprehensive format, as accessible reference for innovation and development. The WLRI is hosted by the UNESCO Chair on Integrated River Research and Management based at the University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences of Vienna, Austria, who will continue to function as a secretariat of the WLRI at no cost to UNESCO.

35. The 21st session of the IHP Intergovernmental Council passed Resolution XXI-3, establishing the WLRI and requested the 23rd IGC to review the performance of the Initiative and consider its integration in IHP's workplan beyond the previously mentioned session as an IHP initiative. The WLRI directly contributes to MLA 3, Expected Result 7 of 39 C/5 by supporting Member States, upon their request, through supporting strategies for sustainable river management regarding technical, economic, and ecological needs. In compliance with XXI-3, an open Working Group of Member States of the IHP was established and met three times (June 2015, June 2016 and May 2018) to elaborate the scope, activities and desired outputs of the initiative. All delegations and experts from over 30 Member States and all regions were invited and participated in the Working Group meetings. Fulfilling its mandate, the Working Group resulted in an international consensus on the definition of large rivers, the clarification of the scientific scope of the initiative as well as a common methodology, activities and desired outputs. In Phase I of the WLRI the common methodology is being tested on the rivers Danube, Mekong and Niger. Results are available in [IHP/IC-XXIII/Ref. 9](#).

36. Main activities of the WLRI included the coordination of three international conferences on the status and future of the World's Large Rivers in Vienna/Austria (2011), Manaus/Brazil (2014) and New Delhi/India (2017). Details of the main activities and outcomes of the WLRI are outlined in reference document [IHP/IC-XXIII/Ref. 9](#).

37. It directly contributes to MLA 3, Expected Result 7 of 39 C/5 by supporting Member States, upon their request, through supporting strategies for sustainable river management regarding technical, economic, and ecological needs.

Actions expected by the Council:

The Council may wish to review the performance of the WLRI Initiative, and consider the Draft Resolution further below to decide WRLI's integration in IHP's workplan as an IHP Initiative and to request its alignment with the recommendations of the IHP Flagship Initiatives' evaluation.

Draft Resolution
PROPOSAL FOR THE CONTINUATION OF THE WORLD'S LARGE RIVERS INITIATIVE
(WLRI) AS PART OF IHP's WORKPLAN

Submitted by the IHP Secretariat and supported by Austria, Germany, Morocco, Nigeria,
Panama, Switzerland and Tunisia

The Intergovernmental Council of the International Hydrological Programme of UNESCO,

- Recalling** Resolution XXI-3 adopted during the 21st session of the IHP Intergovernmental Council that established the World's Large Rivers Initiative (WLRI);
- Also recalling** 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;
- Recognizing** the important contribution provided by IHP in the field of integrated water resources management and water cooperation, 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;
- Welcomes** 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 Reference Doc. [IHP/IC-XXIII/Ref. 9](#),
- Congratulates** the working group of Member States of IHP, established by Resolution XXI-3, adopted during the 21st session of the IHP Intergovernmental Council 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 WLRI for its coordination of three international conferences on the status and future of the World's Large Rivers 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;
- Decides** to continue the WLRI as part of IHP's workplan, beyond the 23rd session of the IHP Intergovernmental Council;
- Requests** its alignment with the recommendations of the IHP Flagship Initiatives' evaluation;

Invites

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