

Statutes of the Intergovernmental Council of the Intergovernmental Hydrological Programme (IHP)

Adopted at the 18th session of the General Conference in 1974, in accordance with 18 C/Resolution 2.232 and amended in 1978 by 20 C/Resolution 36.1, in 1978 by 23 C/Resolution 32.1, in 1993 by 27 C/Resolution 2.6 , in 1995 by 28 C/Resolution 22 and in 2019 by 40 C/Resolution 3.

Article I

An Intergovernmental Council of the Intergovernmental Hydrological Programme (IHP) is hereby established within the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization.

Article II

1. The Council shall be composed of 36 Member States of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization elected by the General Conference at its ordinary sessions, taking due account of the need to ensure equitable geographical distribution and appropriate rotation of these States in accordance with the significance of their involvement including through the provision of policy advice to Member States, in particular to decision and policy-makers, and other stakeholders
2. The term of office of the members of the Council shall be of four years. The term of office of the members of the Council shall begin at the close of the ordinary session of the General Conference at which they are elected and shall expire at the close of the second ordinary session of the Conference following it.
3. To promote diversity and inclusivity, voluntary terms limits of two consecutive mandates are recommended for Members of the Council.
4. The persons appointed by the Member States as their representatives on the Council shall preferably be experts in the field covered by the Programme, taking due account of gender balance and chosen among those persons who are playing a major part in the implementation of the activities related to the Programme in the said Member States, respecting the intergovernmental nature of the Programme.

Article III

The Council shall be responsible, within UNESCO's field of competence, for planning the Intergovernmental Hydrological Programme, defining its priorities and supervising its execution and in particular for:

- (a) guiding and supervising from the scientific and from the organizational point of view the implementation of the Programme, including the allocation of its budget as approved by the General Conference and relevant activities of the Field Offices as well as their coordination with headquarters; and ensuring contribution to the achievement of UNESCO's expected results and objectives.
 - (b) studying proposals concerning developments and modifications of the Programme and also plans for its implementation;
 - (c) recommending scientific projects of interest to Member States and assessing priorities among such projects;
 - (d) coordinating international co-operation of the Member States in the framework of the Programme;
 - (e) making any necessary proposals for coordinating the Programme with those conducted by all the international organizations concerned;
 - (f) assisting in the development of regional and national projects related to the Programme;
 - (g) taking any practical or scientific measures that may be required for the successful implementation of the Programme.
 - (h) Providing, in its areas of specialization, its formal input to the Draft Mid-Term Strategy C/4 and the Draft Programme and Budget C/5 documents of UNESCO.
2. In performing its functions, the Council shall rely as much as possible on the activities of the National Committees established by Member States in accordance with the recommendation contained in paragraph 6 of resolution 18 C/2.232 and foster by all means their active participation on the Programme.
 3. The Council shall make full use of facilities offered by the agreements or working arrangements between UNESCO, water-related Centres and Institutes under the auspices of UNESCO, UNESCO Chairs, the United Nations and other organizations of the United Nations system, Scientific Unions, Commissions and Associations, as decided by the Council.
 4. The Council may consult on scientific questions all appropriate international non-governmental organizations with which UNESCO maintains official relations.
The International Science Council, its unions and associations, may give advice to the Council on questions of a scientific or technical nature.
 5. The Council shall, whenever possible, attempt to co-ordinate the Intergovernmental Hydrological Programme with other international scientific programmes, in particular those of UNESCO.

Article IV

1. The Council shall meet in ordinary session once every two years. The Council may meet in extraordinary session at the request of the Director-General, or at the request of the simple majority of its members, or by the decision of its Bureau.
2. Each Council member shall have one vote, but it may send as many experts or advisers as it deems necessary to sessions of the Council.
3. The Council shall adopt its own Rules of Procedure.

Article V

1. The Council may establish, as appropriate, committees including at regional/subregional level to examine the implementation of certain major orientations of the Programme and to prepare appropriate recommendations to the Council.
2. The Council may establish working groups of specialists to examine specific projects. These working groups, whose members shall serve in a personal capacity, may include nationals of Member States of UNESCO, which are not represented on the Council.
3. The Council shall define the terms of reference and tenure of each committee and working group thus established.
4. In the composition of committees and working groups, appropriate geographical distribution, gender balance when relevant and adequate representation of regions where the problems occur might be sought.

Article VI

1. The election of the Bureau shall take place during an extraordinary session of the Council, to be convened by the Director-General as soon as possible after the ordinary session of the General Conference, at which the members of the Council are elected.
The Council shall elect from amongst its Members, a Chairperson, four Vice-Chairpersons and a Rapporteur, on the basis of equitable geographical representation and to the extent possible gender equality; these shall constitute the Council's Bureau.
2. The Bureau shall discharge the following duties:
 - (a) fix, in consultation with the Council and the Secretariat, the dates of the Sessions of the Council and of its committees and working groups, in accordance with the general guidelines of the Council;
 - (b) prepare the sessions of the Council, in consultation with the Secretariat;
 - (c) supervise the implementation of the resolutions of the Council, and report at each session of the Council, on the status of implementation of the prescribed phases of project execution and, in particular, follow the activities of the Council's committees and working groups;
 - (d) prepare for the Council all reports requested by the General Conference of UNESCO;
 - (e) discharge all other duties, which it may be assigned by the Council.
3. Meetings of the Bureau may be convened between meetings of the Council at the request of the majority of the Members of the Council itself, of the Director-General of UNESCO or of a majority of the members of the Bureau.
4. Bureau shall communicate documents and coordinate with the regional groups in UNESCO about the upcoming Bureau meetings through appropriate means in a timely manner.
5. Member States and Associate Members of UNESCO, which are not Members of the Council may attend, as observers, the Bureau meetings.
6. Working documents of each Bureau meeting shall, as a rule, be communicated to all Member States and Associate Members of UNESCO one month before the meeting and shall be made available online. The final report of each Bureau meeting shall be sent to all Member States and Associate Members of UNESCO and shall be made available online.

Article VII

1. Representatives of Member States and Associate Members of UNESCO which are not members of the Council, may participate, as observers, without the right to vote, at all sessions of the Council, and meetings of the Bureau, of its committees and of its working groups.
2. Water-related Centres and Institutes under the auspices of UNESCO and of UNESCO Chairs, the United Nations and other organizations of the United Nations system, Scientific Unions, and entities with which UNESCO has concluded mutual representation agreements, may send observers to the Council sessions, its committees and working groups subject to the provisions of the Rules of Procedure
3. The Council shall determine the conditions under which other international governmental or non-governmental organizations may be invited to attend its meetings, without the right to vote, whenever questions of common interest are discussed.

Article VIII

1. The Secretariat of the Council shall be provided by the Director-General of United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, who shall place at the Council's disposal the staff and other means required for its operation.

2. The Secretariat shall provide the necessary services for all sessions of the Council and meetings of its Bureau, committees and working groups and, resources permitting, for the regional/sub-regional committees.
3. The Secretariat shall take any measures required in order to co-ordinate the execution of the international programmes recommended by the Council and shall take all steps required to convene the sessions of the Council.
4. The Secretariat shall assemble all proposals sent in by members of the Council, other Member States of UNESCO and relevant international organizations concerned, with regard to the formulation of the strategic plans for the implementation of the IHP and of other international initiatives, flagships and projects under the Programme, and in alignment with the approved C/4 and C/5 documents, and shall prepare them for examination by the Council. It shall maintain liaison with the National Committees referred to in Article III, paragraph 2 above, and inform them of the Council's recommendations.
5. In addition to the services which it renders to the Council, the Secretariat shall co-operate closely with the respective secretariats of the international governmental and non-governmental organizations mentioned in Article VII, paragraph 2 above; it shall for this purpose take part in inter-secretariat co-ordination meetings as necessary.
6. The Secretariat shall report, or coordinate the report of all UNESCO activities on water, to the IHP Council.

Article IX

1. The international programmes of hydrological investigations recommended by the Council to Member States for concerted action on their part shall be financed by the participating Member States according to the commitments which each state is willing to make. The Council may, however make recommendations to the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and to the other organizations mentioned in Article VII, paragraph 2, above, concerning assistance to Member States for the development of hydrological research or the implementation of some particular aspects of the Programme. If UNESCO and the said organizations accept such activities and if the Member States concerned signify their agreement, these organizations shall undertake to finance the related activities in accordance with the provisions of their respective constitutions and regulations.
2. Member States shall bear the expense of participation of their representatives in sessions of the Council, its committees and of its working groups. The running expenses of the Council and its subsidiary organs and travel expenses of the representatives of Least Developed Countries and Small Island Developing States members of the IHP Council to meetings of the Council and its Bureau shall be financed from funds appropriated for this purpose by the General Conference of UNESCO.
3. Voluntary contributions may be accepted and established as trust funds and special accounts in accordance with the Financial Regulations of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and administered by the Director-General of that Organization. The Council shall make recommendations to the Director-General on the allocation of such contributions for international projects within the Programme.

Article X

1. The Council shall submit reports on its activities to the General Conference of UNESCO at each of its ordinary sessions, which shall be made available online. These reports shall also be communicated to the other international organizations mentioned designated in Article VII, paragraph 2, to all National Committees, Members and non-Members of the Council for the Intergovernmental Hydrological Programme, water-related Centres under the auspices of UNESCO.
2. The Council may receive from other international organizations reports concerning the Programme.
3. The Council shall receive reports from the UNESCO Water Family¹ members regarding their activities concerning the Programme.

¹ The UNESCO Water Family is a network aimed at supporting the implementation of UNESCO's water programmes and the Organization's strategic goals by providing resources and expertise. It is composed of category 1 and 2 centres and institutes, UNESCO Chairs, the World Water Assessment Programme (WWAP), the IHP Secretariat and specialists from UNESCO Field Units, as well as IHP National Committees. Centres also strengthen the Programme by hosting secretariats of different IHP initiatives. The functioning of Category 2 Centres is regulated by the "Integrated Comprehensive Strategy for Category 2 Institutes and Centres under the Auspices of UNESCO" approved by the General Conference at its 37th session (Document 37 C/Resolution 93, consultable on https://ich.unesco.org/doc/src/37-C-Resolution_93_EN.pdf). In the light of this strategy, IHP has also provided itself with its "IHP Strategy for UNESCO's Category 2 Water-related Centres" (<http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0022/002218/221850E.pdf>).