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## SLOVENSKÝ NÁRODNÝ VÝBOR PRE Medzivládny hydrologický program UNESCO

## SLOVAK NATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE Intergovernmental Hydrological Programme of UNESCO

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### IHP UNESCO

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Dear colleagues,

The Slovak NC IHP UNESCO would like to congratulate the Secretariat, the Task force and all who contributed to the preparation of the 2nd Draft Strategy. The document is well prepared and gives a very good starting position for the next phase of IHP. Nevertheless, as other delegations did, we would like to notice some repetitions in wording of paragraphs in different parts of the document, which should be minimized in the next drafts.

In the proposed Priority Area 1 “Scientific research and innovations” we appreciate the links to and continuation of the phase VIII areas, and introduction of the new technologies and innovations. This is very well balanced in Priority Area 3 “Bridging the data knowledge gap”, where the idea of in-situ monitoring and revitalizing and support of experimental basins approach is included. Experimental basins with long data series, and specially the pristine basins, are the best tool for testing different hypotheses including the climate change impact.

The Priority Area 2 “Water education” cannot be omitted and is fully supported by our NC.

The Priority Area 4 “Inclusive water management” and Priority Area 5 “Water governance” are introducing a lot of new terms and approaches, which are shifting hydrological programme to new dimensions. We take English language as the language in which the Strategy is prepared, but we need to have clear and correct understanding of the terminology in national languages where we need to work. Therefore, in our opinion, it is necessary to define clearly and in comprehensive way (the shortest possible one) the basic terms like inclusive water management, water governance, difference between them, hydro-sociology, hydro-informatics or hydro-diplomacy. The topics of diplomacy and governance (if it is politics ?) go far beyond the mandate of IHP UNESCO.

The IHP Strategy will be based on two Strategic Objectives of UNESCO and the Strategy will produce one Outcome. This Outcome will be divided into 5 Priority Areas which are well defined and entitled. But the crucial elements of any programme are the minor parts (tasks, activities, Focal Areas in IHPVIII). They are called as Outputs in the Draft Strategy and they are presented in form of description of the outputs. In our opinion the 3rd Draft Strategy should re-formulate the Outputs description into Outputs titles, which will be much clearer for the stakeholders.

Yours sincerely,

Bratislava, 30 November 2020

Pavol Miklánek  
chairman