



Intergovernmental Hydrological Programme (IHP)

1st Extraordinary session of the
Intergovernmental Council
Paris, 28 November 2019

FINAL REPORT

UNESCO, Paris 2019

Contents

1. OPENING OF THE SESSION	2
1.1 Welcome by the Director of the Division of Water Sciences and Secretary of IHP, Mr Youssef Filali-Meknassi.....	2
1.2. Address by the outgoing IHP's Intergovernmental Council's Chairperson, Mr Thierno Hamet Baba Ly.....	2
1.3 Election of the incoming Chairperson, Vice-Chairpersons and Rapporteur of the 24 th Intergovernmental Council.....	2
2. DECISION ON THE DATES OF THE 24TH SESSION OF IHP'S INTERGOVERNMENTAL COUNCIL.....	3
3. DECISION ON THE RENEWAL OF THE WORK OF THE OPEN-ENDED GROUP FOR THE UPDATE OF THE RULES OF PROCEDURE OF IHP'S INTERGOVERNMENTAL COUNCIL.	3
4. DECISION ON UPDATING THE TIMELINE FOR THE FORMULATION OF THE NINTH PHASE OF IHP (IHP-IX, 2022-2029).....	4
5. OTHER MATTERS	5
6. CLOSING OF THE SESSION.....	5

1. OPENING OF THE SESSION

1. The first Extraordinary Session of the IHP Intergovernmental Council was held at UNESCO's Headquarters in Paris on 28 November, 2019. 82 participants, 40 women and 42 men attended the session. 52 Member States, including the 36 Members of the Council, were represented. The list of participants is provided in Annex II.

1.1 Welcome by the Director of the Division of Water Sciences and Secretary of IHP, Mr Youssef Filali-Meknassi

2. The Director of the Division of Water Sciences and Secretary of IHP, Mr Youssef Filali-Meknassi welcomed the members of the IHP Intergovernmental Council. He highlighted the importance of the change in the name of the Programme to the *Intergovernmental* Hydrological Programme and welcomed the new members of the Council. He pointed out that the Council will henceforth elect its Bureau after the General Conference, in line with the changes in the IHP Council's statutes. He furthermore underlined the importance of the UNESCO Water Family in supporting the Programme.

1.2. Address by the outgoing IHP's Intergovernmental Council's Chairperson, Mr Thierno Hamet Baba Ly

3. The outgoing Chairperson, Mr Thierno Hamet Baba Ly thanked and congratulated the Bureau and Secretariat for their professionalism and wished the incoming Bureau members success in their endeavours. He mentioned the on-going work to design the IHP phase IX and the role that the two evaluations (IHP-VIII mid-term evaluation and Evaluation of the IHP Flagship Initiatives), which took place during his term, played in strengthening IHP's strategy and programme. He stated that the evaluations were shedding light on the added value of the Programme and that the recommendations had been published by the Secretariat.

1.3 Election of the incoming Chairperson, Vice-Chairpersons and Rapporteur of the 24th Intergovernmental Council

4. The IHP Secretary introduced the item and reminded the Council of paragraph 6.1 of the revised Statutes of the IHP Council concerning the election of Chairperson, Vice-Chairpersons and Rapporteur. Mr Thierno Hamet Baba Ly called for the nomination of the Chairperson and Vice-Chairpersons of the Council. The delegate from Egypt nominated Mr Fadi Comair, Lebanon (Group Vb) as Chairperson for the IHP Council. His nomination was seconded by Morocco, Libya, Iraq and Sudan. There were no objections. The outgoing Chairperson declared Mr Comair as new Chairperson of the Council of IHP.

5. Following his election, Mr Comair thanked the members of Group Vb for his nomination and congratulated the former Chairperson and the Secretariat for their work. He highlighted water scarcity issues demonstrated by the Aral Sea and the shrinking of Dead Sea and encouraged ambitious action to address it. He also underlined issues such as global climate change and migration due to lack of water and pointed out that hydrological databases must be created to overcome these obstacles. He explained the importance of hydro-diplomacy within the framework of SDGs and the importance of the effective management of water resources and cooperation for peace and development.

6. The Council noted that, in conformity with its revised Statutes, the IHP Bureau is composed of the elected Chairperson, a Rapporteur and four newly elected Vice-Chairpersons. The session proceeded to the election of the Vice-Chairpersons and Rapporteur.

7. The Council elected the following Vice-Chairpersons: Mr Manuel Menéndez Prieto (Spain, Group I – Western Europe and North America), Mr Mitja Brilly (Slovenia, Group II, Eastern Europe), Mr Zhongbo Yu (China, Group IV – Asia and the Pacific), Mr Imasiku Nyambe (Zambia, Group Va – Africa); and Mexico for the Vice-Chairpersonship of Group III (Latin America and the

Caribbean), whose representative to the Bureau, Ms Silvia Pilar Chavez Cereceda, was later designated by said Member State.

8. The Chairperson proposed to the plenary that the election of the Rapporteur, follows the process used for the Chairperson of the Bureau, which rotates from one Regional Group to another to ensure inclusivity and diversity. He proposed that the first Rapporteur comes from the Regional Group Va, as the Regional Group that held the Presidency last. The delegate from Egypt nominated Group Va as the Rapporteur, which was seconded by the delegate from Ethiopia. There were no objections.

9. The delegate of the Islamic Republic of Iran asked if it was a rule to select the region of the former Chairperson of the Council as Rapporteur of the Bureau. The Chairperson explained that it was not a rule of the Bureau but could be considered a code of practice. The Chairperson congratulated the delegate from Zambia for being elected the first Rapporteur of the Bureau.

2. DECISION ON THE DATES OF THE 24TH SESSION OF IHP'S INTERGOVERNMENTAL COUNCIL

10. The Secretary of IHP proposed the dates, 18-22 May 2020 for the 24th Session of the IHP Intergovernmental Council, to avoid coinciding with Eid al-Fitr and to allow for sufficient time prior to the Conference on the implementation of the International Decade for Action, "Water for Sustainable Development", 2018-2028, which takes place in Dushanbe, Tajikistan, in June 2020. The IHP Secretary further mentioned that the 24th Session of the IHP Intergovernmental Council shall begin with the 2nd Science Policy Interface Colloquium on Water (SPIC Water II), dedicated to Digital Water.

11. The Delegations of Morocco and Egypt both supported these proposed dates and thanked the Secretariat for being accommodative of the desire to shift the dates so as not to interfere with their celebrations.

12. The Delegation of Turkey also supported the proposed dates in May instead of June to ensure that there would be sufficient time to prepare for the Dushanbe Conference after the Council.

13. In absence of objections, the Chairperson thanked the speakers for their interventions and announced that the Council agreed to the proposed date of the 24th Session of IHP's Intergovernmental Council as 18 to 22 May 2020.

3. DECISION ON THE RENEWAL OF THE WORK OF THE OPEN-ENDED GROUP FOR THE UPDATE OF THE RULES OF PROCEDURE OF IHP'S INTERGOVERNMENTAL COUNCIL

14. The Secretariat summarized and updated the Council on the work that was done by the Open-Ended Group for the Update of the Rules of Procedure of IHP's Intergovernmental Council.

15. The Delegations of Egypt, Senegal, Turkey, congratulated the Secretariat on its work on the revision of IHP's Statutes and Rules of Procedure and expressed their interest to continue to work with the Secretariat on the matter.

16. The Delegation of Panama thanked the Secretariat for its work. It inquired whether documents could be made available to the Delegations giving some background to the work of the Open-ended Group. The Secretary confirmed that background documents were available and would be distributed to the Council members as a reference document.

17. The Delegation of Libya also supported the Secretariat's proposal and endorsed the proposal that the former IHP Bureau members can take part in the group. The representative

however stressed the importance of the “Open-ended” nature of the group. He also endorsed Panama’s proposal to prepare a document that would integrate the institutional memory of the Group. He expressed appreciation to the Secretariat for transmitting the background document on the work of the Group, as promised.

18. The Delegation of Mexico commented that the Open-ended Group is very important to integrate new Council members into the discussion and suggested an introductory meeting on the topic to provide some background. The suggestion was supported by the Delegations of Chile and France, who stressed the need for new Member States and new diplomats on the Council to absorb all the information, once it is available.

19. The Delegation of Ethiopia agreed with the three proposals: 1) that the Working Group be open-ended as this helps to build consensus and understanding among Members; 2) that an introductory meeting be held on the background to the Working Group; and 3) that a background document compiling the main work and output of the Working Group be disseminated to Members.

20. The Delegation of UK also agreed with these three proposals itemized by Ethiopia. The representative also suggested to Council Members to refer to the guidebook produced by the UNESCO Secretariat, “Working with UNESCO: guidebook for members of UNESCO’s international and intergovernmental bodies” which was prepared by the Bureau of Strategic Planning, as a good source of information on how the intergovernmental programmes work within UNESCO.

21. The Chairperson summarized the Council’s decision to reconstitute an Open-ended Group for the Update of the Rules of Procedure of IHP’s Intergovernmental Council and called on the Group to continue its work. He also requested the Secretariat to communicate to Council Members further information on the following:

- The date of the introductory information meeting for the Members of the Open-ended Group; and
- Related documents.

4. DECISION ON UPDATING THE TIMELINE FOR THE FORMULATION OF THE NINTH PHASE OF IHP (IHP-IX, 2022-2029)

22. The IHP Secretariat introduced the item. During the presentation, it was proposed that the deadline for Member States to submit feedback on the strategy for phase IX of IHP be extended to 20 December 2019. It was also proposed that a technical meeting of the IHP Bureau be organized after the meeting of the Task Force for IHP IX at the end of February or beginning of March 2020 to review its progress. Furthermore, an additional consultation be conducted with Member States between July and September 2020 to facilitate more input from them.

23. The Secretary re-emphasized that IHP was a programme from, for and by the Member States, thus the proposal for an even more extensive consultation with them. However, a very small number of responses had been received to date by the Secretariat, probably due to the timeline coinciding with UNESCO’s Executive Board and General Conference meetings.

24. The Delegate of Turkey proposed that the current deadline to receive comments on the 1st Order Draft should be extended to the end of December 2019.

25. The Delegation of Panama raised concern on the poor response by the Member States and invited her colleagues to get in contact with their IHP focal points. This approach would ensure that the Council reflects their needs and wishes.

26. The Delegation of Slovenia raised a concern about the communication of the Secretariat in the preparation of the documents. The representative mentioned that when comments are requested from Member States, the Member States rarely receive the Secretariat’s feedback on how these comments were treated. He suggested that after comments are given, more

communication from the Secretariat on their integration would be needed. He also highlighted Slovenia's work on the Danube and requested the issues arising from this work be reflected in IHP-IX.

27. The IHP Secretary explained that the drafting of IHP-IX is purely an intergovernmental process and that the Secretariat is only facilitating the work of the two designated bodies, Task Force and Experts of Member States, responsible for the work. Thus, the Task Force, not the Secretariat, integrates the comments received.

28. The Delegation of Russia expressed its support to Panama. It indicated that IHP-IX strategy must reflect the views of Member States for it to be meaningful. For these views to be reflected, there should be a reasonable timeline. They therefore supported the proposal of the Secretariat to extend the timeline to enable Member States to contribute to the document.

29. The IHP Secretary, responding to a question from the Delegation of Spain, clarified that in late February / early March 2020, a meeting of Task Force will take place, followed by a Technical Meeting of Members of the Bureau, which will examine the draft prepared by Task Force.

30. The Chairperson emphasized the importance of Member States to maintain communication with their IHP focal points to ensure that the Task Force can gather all the comments. The Delegation of Mexico also re-emphasized the importance of the Secretariat communicating with the delegations.

31. The Chairperson summarized the Council decision to accept the revised timeline for the formulation of IHP-IX.

5. OTHER MATTERS

32. The Delegation of Egypt raised their concern on the capacity of the Secretariat to proceed with the work ahead and made a call to the Assistant Director-General for Natural Sciences (ADG/SC), to ensure that the technical capacity of the IHP Secretariat is maintained, ensuring the expertise of its members. Furthermore, the Delegation called for enhanced financial support to the IHP. The proposal was supported by all Council members present.

6. CLOSING OF THE SESSION

33. The Chairperson thanked all Member States for their trust and his election as Chairperson, for their contribution to the Council, and for finding consensus on many issues.

34. The Council session closed on 28 November 2019 at 13:10.

**ANNEX I
AGENDA**

Intergovernmental Hydrological Programme (IHP)
1st Extraordinary Session of the IHP Intergovernmental Council
(Room X, 10 a.m. – 1 p.m., 28 November 2019, Paris)

1. Opening of the session

- 1.1. Welcome by the Director of the Division of Water Sciences and Secretary of IHP, Mr Youssef Filali-Meknassi
- 1.2. Address by the outgoing IHP's Intergovernmental Council's Chairperson, Mr Thierno Hamet Baba Ly
- 1.3. Election of the incoming Chairperson, Vice-Chairpersons and Rapporteur of the 24th Intergovernmental Council

2. Decision on the dates of 24th session of IHP's Intergovernmental Council

3. Decision on the renewal of the work of the open-ended group for the update of the Rules of Procedure of IHP's Intergovernmental Council

4. Decision on updating the Timeline for the formulation of the ninth phase of IHP (IHP-IX, 2022-2029)

5. Other matters

6. Closing of the session

**ANNEX II
LIST OF PARTICIPANTS**

Intergovernmental Hydrological Programme 1st Extraordinary Session of the IHP Intergovernmental Council 28 November 2019 UNESCO Headquarters, Paris				
MEMBERS OF THE IHP COUNCIL				
N°	Country	Given Name	Last Name	Function / Position
REGION I (Western Europe and North America)				
1	Austria	Claudia	Reinprecht	Ambassador, Permanent Delegate
		Anna-Maria	Baumgartner	Attachée, Permanent Delegation
2	France	Luciano	Rispoli	Counsellor, Permanent Delegation
3	Germany	Katharina	Bonnenfant	Deputy Permanent Delegate
4	Netherlands	Hans Carel	Wesseling	Ambassador, Permanent Delegate
5	Spain	Manuel	Menendez	IHP Vice-Chairperson
		Inigo	Ramirez de Haro	Deputy Permanent Delegate
		Lara	Alrors	Permanent Delegation

6	Turkey	Eylem	Tandogan Özkan	Counsellor, Deputy Permanent Delegate
		Alara	Aydil	Counsellor, Permanent Delegation
7	UK	Maxim	Polya-Vitry	Deputy Permanent Delegate
REGION II (Eastern Europe)				
1	Republic of Moldova	Vladimir	Chirinciuc	Chargé d'Affaires a.i., Permanent Delegation
2	Russian Federation	Anna	Chirkova	Third Secretary, Permanent Delegation
3	Slovakia			
4	Slovenia	Mitja	Brilly	IHP Vice-Chairperson
REGION III (Latin America and the Caribbean)				
1	Argentina	Juan Pablo	Paniego	First Secretary of Embassy - Permanent Delegation
2	Chile	Alex	Wetzig	Deputy Permanent Delegate
3	El Salvador	Rosa Ester	Moreira de Lemoine	Ambassador, Permanent Delegate

		Nicole	Dürler Escobar	Counsellor
4	Mexico	Emma	Maria José Rodríguez Sifuentes	Deputy Permanent Delegate
5	Panama	Elia Del Carmen	Guerra Jurado	Ambassador, Permanent Delegate
6	Paraguay	Luz Marina	Moreno Saavedra	Deputy Permanent Delegate
REGION IV (Asia and the Pacific)				
1	Afghanistan	Abdel-Ellah	Sediqi	Ambassador, Permanent Delegate
		Parwana	Paikan	Counsellor, Permanent Delegation
2	China	Zhongbo	Yu	IHP Vice-Chairperson
		Chen	Ling	Third Secretary, Permanent Delegation
3	Iran	Morteza	Hamissi	Deputy Permanent Delegate
4	Japan	Keiji	Inoue	Deputy Permanent Delegate
		Yusuke	Umeda	Counsellor, Permanent Delegation

5	Pakistan	Neelofer	Shahzad	Deputy Permanent Delegate
	6	Republic of Korea	Eunju	Ahn
Yujin			Park	Second Secretary, Permanent Delegation
Hongjun			Chai	Counsellor, Permanent Delegation
7	Sri Lanka			
REGION Va (Africa)				
1	Congo	Annette Regine	Ikouebe-Niabandza	Second Secretary, Permanent Delegation
2	Ethiopia	Henok Teferra	Shawl	Ambassador, Permanent Delegate
3	Nigeria	Edith Kanayo	Okoro	Counsellor, Permanent Delegation
4	Senegal	Thierno	Baba Ly	Outgoing IHP Chairperson
		Souleymane Jules	Diop	Ambassador, Permanent Delegate

5	Uganda	Mouhamadou	Sarr	First Counsellor, Permanent Delegation
		Muthahi Johnny	Muhindo	Deputy Permanent Delegate
		Jeffrey Franklin	Baiga	Third Secretary, Permanent Delegation
6	Zambia	Hendrix	Kapaipi	First Secretary, Permanent Delegation
REGION Vb (Arab States)				
1	Egypt	Amr	Morsy	First Secretary, Permanent Delegation
		Hania	Abouelmakarem	Intern, Permanent Delegation
2	Iraq	Ayad	Thakir	Diplomat, Embassy
3	Lebanon	Fadi	Comair	IHP Chairperson
		Sahar	Baassiri	Ambassador, Permanent Delegate
		Nadim	Souraty	Counsellor, Permanent Delegation

		Christelle	Comair	Student
4	Libya	Iyad	Aflak	Counsellor, Permanent Delegation
5	Morocco	Yassine	Dalal	Counsellor, Permanent Delegation
		Najat	Rhandi	Deputy Permanent Delegate
6	Sudan	Suad	Ali Mirghani	Deputy Permanent Delegate
OBSERVERS				
N°	Country	Given Name	Last Name	Function / Position
1	Azerbaijan	Nigar	Gurbanova	Third Secretary, Permanent Delegation
2	Brazil	Mayra	Saito	Second Secretary, Permanent Delegation
3	Denmark	Muyssa	Dbokan	Intern, Permanent Delegation
4	Guatemala	Sherry	Ordonez	Counsellor, Permanent Delegation
5	Hungary	Szaboles	Nemes	Deputy Permanent Delegate
6	Kenya	John Paul	Oluoch	Senior Programme Officer, Permanent Delegation

7	Liberia	Jenny	Marday	Counsellor, Permanent Delegation
8	Myanmar	Grace Mee	Phe	Second Secretary, Permanent Delegation
9	Switzerland	Sibylle	Obrist	Counsellor, Deputy Permanent Delegate
10	Switzerland	Sibylle	Vermont	Delegate
11	Tanzania	Seleman	Mabala	Intern
12	Tunisia	Ghazi	Gherairi	Ambassador, Permanent Delegate
13	Tunisia	Anis	Saadaoui	Deputy Permanent Delegate
14	CCIC (NGO)	Marc	Toillier	Hydrology Training for Africa Centre Catholique de Coopération avec l'UNESCO (CCIC)

ANNEX III

LIST OF ACRONYMS AND SPECIAL TERMS USED IN THIS REPORT

COP	Conference of the Parties
ER	Expected Result
FRIEND	Flow Regimes from International Experimental and Network Data Sets
G-WADI	Global Network on Water and Development Information for Arid Lands
HQ	Headquarters
IHE	IHE Institute for Water Education
IHP	Intergovernmental Hydrological Programme
IHP-VIII	Eighth Phase of the Intergovernmental Hydrological Programme (2014-2021)
IHP-IX	Ninth Phase of the Intergovernmental Hydrological Programme (2022-2029)
IOS	Internal Oversight Service
IPCC	Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
MAB	Programme on Man and the Biosphere
MLA	Main Line of Action
MP	Main Programme
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
UN-Habitat	United Nations Human Settlements Programme
WMO	World Meteorological Organization
WWAP	UNESCO World Water Assessment Programme
WWDR	World Water Development Report