

Intergovernmental Hydrological Programme

25th session of the Intergovernmental Council
(Paris, 26-29 April 2022)

The involvement of the Intergovernmental Hydrological Programme in the 9th World Water Forum, Dakar, Senegal 21-26 March 2022

Summary

The document presents a summary report of IHP's participation in and contribution to the 9th World Water Forum (cf. also Agenda sub-item 5.1)

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A. Background on the involvement of the Division of Water Sciences in the World Water Forums

1. Represented by the Division of Water Sciences, UNESCO has played a historic role since the first World Water Forum (WWForum) in Morocco 1993. The Intergovernmental Hydrological Programme (IHP) has been recognized as one of the key players in the thematic, political and regional processes of the Forum's editions since then, leading and organizing themes, topics and sessions on a regular basis. The World Water Assessment Programme (WWAP) has presented several of its World Water Development Reports (WWDR) at the Forum. The 9th Forum in Dakar, Senegal, was no exception, but marked a successful, continued partnership.

2. The World Water Forum is organized every three years, since 1997, jointly by the World Water Council (WWC) and the organizing country. Serving as a stepping-stone towards global collaboration on water challenges, the Forum is a multi-stakeholder platform (large public of several ten thousand people, water practitioners, Civil Society, private sector, academia, among others) where the water community and policy- and decision-makers from all regions of the world meet. It is the largest international event which seeks to advance the cause of water.

B. Involvement of the Division of Water Sciences in the 9th World Water Forum's preparatory process

3. The 1st Preparatory Workshop for the Dakar World Water Forum 2021 took place 1-2 February 2018, in Dakar, Senegal. Through the Division of Water Sciences, UNESCO has been advising the local organizers and the World Water Council since then.

4. At the 23rd session of the IHP intergovernmental Council (June 2018) and the 56th (March 2018) and 58th (September 2019) sessions of the IHP Bureau, the IHP member states supported IHP's actions towards the preparation of the 9th WWForum. The decision 205EX 5.1.B. (October 2018) requests UNESCO to contribute to the organization of and debates at the Forum.

5. UNESCO entered into a formal relationship with the World Water Council and the Executive Secretariat for the preparation of the 9th WWForum, through a tripartite letter of intent. Furthermore, UNESCO concluded a framework agreement with the government of Senegal towards the organization of the Forum, including the mobilization of the UNESCO Water Family. Both documents were signed on 13 May 2019.

6. The Division of Water Sciences represented UNESCO **as a member of the International Steering Committee (ISC) of the 9th World Water Forum**. UNESCO took part in the Kick-off meeting of the World Water Forum 9, held 17 June 2019 and participated in various meetings of ISC. The Kick-off provided an opportunity to discuss and exchange on the vital questions and challenges to identify, promote and implement concrete actions for water and sanitation. Besides, these discussions helped to position the preparatory process and its focus on "Water Security for Peace and Development".

The Forum organizers decided on structure the event around 4 priority areas:

- Water Security
- Water and rural development
- Cooperation
- Tools and Means

Detailed of the priority areas and action groups would be found at the following link (<https://www.worldwaterforum.org/en/9th-forum/9th-world-water-forum-framework-for-action-with-related-sdg-targets>)

7. Based on the Forum's priority areas, four Pilot Groups were created by the organizers, each subdivided in several Action Groups. The IHP co-coordinated the 9th World Water Forum (WWForum 9) Action Group 4.E. "Increase water efficiency and sustainable management through science, technology, innovation and education" (with the National Research Agency of France/BRGM) and contributed to Action Group 3B. "Implement transboundary cooperation to foster peace and prevent conflicts" (coordinated by the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe UNECE).

8. Overall, UNESCO coordinated and/or participated in 33 events, of which the special celebration of the World Water Day (WWD) and the high-level panel on Groundwater on 22 March (cf. Agenda sub-item 5.2., below), 12 ordinary thematic sessions and special sessions, and 19 sessions at the UNESCO Water Family Pavilion. The sessions attracted an estimated cumulated in-situ audience of over 2500 persons, approximately 40% women and 60% men.

9. The Director-General of UNESCO officially launched the World Water Development Report 2022 (WWDR 2022) during the opening ceremony of WWForum 9, in the presence of five Heads of States and Governments. Published by UNESCO on behalf of the UN agencies and partners and coordinated by the UNESCO World Water Assessment Programme (WWAP), the theme of WWDR2022 is *Groundwater: making visible the invisible*. Approximately 5000 persons attended the opening ceremony that was live broadcasted on national TV in Senegal and on the video platform Youtube. WWAP and IHP joined forces on the extensive coverage of the WWDR2022 launch, the WWD celebration, media and social media coverage of the UNESCO's presence at WWForum9.

10. The large UNESCO Water Family Pavilion at the Forum exhibition hosted an exhibition on the Organization's work on water, including on the WWDR2022, on this year's groundwater campaign for World Water Day (with UN-Water) and beyond. The Pavilion also hosted the aforementioned 19 side events with the members of the Water Family, most of which in hybrid modality; educational and capacity development actions targeting children (six primary school classes) and Youth, supported by the UNESCO Field Office Dakar, the University Cheikh Anta Diop of Dakar, Senegal, and the Global Water Museums Network. At the Pavilion, UNESCO and its partners disseminated several hundred printed and digital publications and communication materials to at least 2000 visitors.

11. Details on the UNESCO Pavilion:

- Daily visitors at the pavilion could be estimated to around 500-800 people, that excludes those that came to the sessions and those that came to greet friends, acquaintances or meet with collaborators, the IHE alumni and the pupils and teachers who visited the pavilion in groups.
- A total of 6 primary schools visited the pavilion on Wednesday and Thursday with each school bringing a rough total of about 15-20 pupils and with about 4-5 teachers accompanying them.
- The majority of visitors varied between expert hydrologists and student hydrologists.
- Focus area of communications was on UNESCO related water projects in Africa, water education initiatives of UNESCO, the role of UNESCO in water access and governance, what is UNESCO doing on groundwater management.
- The most greatly demanded publications were the World Water Development Report and for children, the Water Education series for children, Bouba and Zaza, Water Education publication from IHP and the Water Education e-series for children from 5-18 years (This went away more as they were in USB sticks).

- The Pavilion witnessed high media presence, with the following media organizations visiting:
 1. TV5 Monde Afrique(Images)
 2. RTS (images)
 3. World Water Forum media team (images)
 4. Telesud (Interview with IHP Secretary): Click link to watch: [Forum de l'eau avec Abou Amani 11/04/22 - YouTube](#)
 5. RFI Service Mandingue (Interview with Alexander Otte and Dr. Allassane Samoura of Water Museum Burkina Faso): Click link to listen to interview with Dr. Samoura: <https://bit.ly/3Ew8l7w>
 6. NTA (Images and request for future interview with Ayuk(to be confirmed)
 7. Senegal Youth Media (Images and non-filmed interview with Ayuk on link between UNESCO and Water)
 8. Africa Green Magazine (interview with Abou Amani, Director, Water Division, UNESCO)

C. Media coverage

Media coverage for the World Water Development Report lunch at the opening ceremony of the forum was strong. The same was the case with media reporting on the World Water Day. Groundwater was the “star of the day” with articles reported in the news media from Le Monde to CNN, BBC, Deutsche Welle and more, and also reports by organizations. Groundwater messages also featured in the UNESCO Courier:

https://www.instagram.com/p/CbZvPiEM7HU/?utm_source=ig_web_copy_link

Below a non-exhaustive list of links to external news reports:

- a. RFI <https://www.rfi.fr/en/international/20220321-world-water-forum-in-senegal-promises-to-be-a-catalyst-for-action>
- b. WHO NEWS: <https://www.who.int/news-room/feature-stories/detail/world-water-day-2022-groundwater-invisible-but-vital-to-health>
- c. IUCN: <https://www.iucn.org/news/world-commission-environmental-law/202203/un-world-water-development-report-2022-groundwater-making-invisible-visible-officially-launched-2>
- d. SIWI: <https://siwi.org/latest/world-water-development-report-with-focus-on-groundwater/>
- e. BBC: <https://www.bbc.com/news/science-environment-17775211>
- f. CNN Philippines: <https://www.dailymotion.com/video/x899dsa>
- g. BGS: <https://www.bgs.ac.uk/news/world-water-day-2022/>
- h. <https://balkangreenenergynews.com/world-water-day-2022-increasing-importance-of-groundwater/>
- i. <https://www.ndtv.com/world-news/world-water-day-2022-history-significance-and-focus-for-this-year-2835589>
- j. <https://www.vaticannews.va/en/world/news/2022-03/world-water-day-richard-connor-conservation-groundwater.html>
- k. <https://www.advancedsciencenews.com/world-water-day-2022/>
- l. The Guardian Nigeria: <https://guardian.ng/opinion/world-water-day-2022-and-lagos-acute-water-scarcity/>
- m. The Guardian: <https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2022/mar/21/better-use-of-groundwater-could-transform-africa-research-says>
- n. Le Journal du Quebec: <https://www.journaldequebec.com/2022/03/22/limportance-de-leau>
- o. Institut Pasteur : <https://www.pasteur.fr/fr/accueil/journal-recherche/actualites/journee-mondiale-eau-toujours-nombreuses-maladies-liees-eau>
- p. <https://www.ecologie.gouv.fr/journee-mondiale-leau-eaux-souterraines-en-lumiere>

- q. https://www.lemonde.fr/planete/article/2022/03/21/les-eaux-souterraines-une-ressource-mal-geree-voire-gaspillee_6118375_3244.html
- r. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hwrA4piDwGQ>
- s. <https://www.sknis.gov.kn/2022/03/22/deputy-prime-minister-speaks-at-un-groundwater-event-of-the-federations-search-for-sustainable-water-solutions-with-the-help-of-specialised-un-agencies/>

D. Social Media

Especially the Groundwater campaign has reached a large audience during the WWForum9. Data from the @unescoWATER twitter handle spiked 21-25 March, reaching over 32.3 thousand people, with a strong engagement from IHP target audiences of global water organizations, networks and specialists, as well as youth. The highest audience reach recorded was on the 22 March, World Water Day. Messages were prepared by IHP's communications team in collaboration with WWAP colleagues and disseminated also with the support of UNESCO Office in Dakar. The messages received a strong audience engagement. Some links below.

https://twitter.com/UNESCO_fr/status/1508685526794219525?s=20&t=sG_eXmpD7yJCj4prw

https://twitter.com/UNESCO_Dakar/status/1506942666285756426?s=20&t=sG_eXmpD7yJCj4prw

Groundwater messages were and are still being put up on all general UNESCO social media channels (Twitter, Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn) in all the 6 languages used at UNESCO. See some links below:

LinkedIn: https://www.linkedin.com/posts/unesco_water-groundwater-wwdr-activity-6914500973088362496-V5HU?utm_source=linkedin_share&utm_medium=member_desktop_web

Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/photo?fbid=337540615088160&set=a.292345616274327>

<https://www.facebook.com/photo?fbid=337588418416713&set=a.292345616274327>

Instagram: https://www.instagram.com/p/CbaeZYMgbPI/?utm_source=ig_web_copy_link

Twitter French:

https://twitter.com/UNESCO_fr/status/1506307271357259776?s=20&t=sG_eXmpD7yJCj4prw

Twitter English:

https://twitter.com/UNESCO/status/1508774132221157383?s=20&t=sG_eXmpD7yJCj4prw

https://twitter.com/UNESCO/status/1506426373291880455?s=20&t=sG_eXmpD7yJCj4prw

Twitter Russian:

https://twitter.com/UNESCO_russian/status/1507000547890581509?s=20&t=sG_eXmpD7yJCj4prw

Twitter Spanish:

https://twitter.com/UNESCO_es/status/1506316031769387009?s=20&t=sG_eXmpD7yJCj4prw