



## **International Hydrological Programme**

20<sup>th</sup> session of the Intergovernmental Council  
(Paris, 4 – 7 June 2012)

# **REPORT ON IMPLEMENTATION OF RESOLUTIONS AND OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS ADOPTED BY THE 19TH SESSION OF THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL COUNCIL OF IHP**

Item 5 of the provisional agenda

### Summary

This document presents a brief report on the implementation of the resolutions adopted at the 19th session of the Intergovernmental Council of the IHP, as of May 2012.

With respect to Resolution XIX-2, the Council may wish to consider the implication of recent developments on the programme and the budget for the remainder of this current biennium (2012-2013) and in the future.

**RESOLUTION XIX-1: Creation of the Section on Groundwater Resources and Aquifers Systems within the Division of Water Sciences**

1. The Section on Groundwater and Aquifer Systems was established in July 2011 at no extra cost to the Organization.
2. IHP's Groundwater programme is considered one of the most comprehensive within the UN system. It has already been instrumental in setting up several UNESCO category 2 centres related to groundwater.
3. The Section has been very active in mobilizing extrabudgetary funds and possesses an ever growing portfolio.

**RESOLUTION XIX-2: Financial Support to the International Hydrological Programme and Appeal to the Executive Board and the General Conference**

4. The status of the implementation of Resolution XIX-2 was reported on during the 46th session of the IHP Bureau and included information regarding human resources requirements as well as budgetary needs for the optimal functioning of IHP and preparation of the 36 C/5. Under the 36 C/5 the regular budget for IHP activities was reduced by around USD\$1,300,000. It also indicated that there would be no additional staff posts for IHP.
5. However, the financial crisis announced at the end of the 36th session of the General Conference rendered the approved 36 C/5 budget extremely difficult to implement. IHP staff are now working to mobilize external financial resources, while making efficient use of the Emergency Funds made available by the Director-General through a house-wide process and of the vast potentials for contributions from a wide network of category 2 centres.

**RESOLUTION XIX-3: New Strategic Directions and Comprehensive Reforms of UNESCO-IHE Institute for Water Education**

6. The New Strategic Directions for UNESCO-IHE in the 2020 document, as approved by its Governing Board, was finalized in 2011 and has been widely disseminated.
7. The Governing Board of UNESCO-IHE has begun to evaluate the benefits of a reform process and will report on this to the Executive Board and the General Conference.
8. Since the last session of the IHP Intergovernmental Council, a UNESCO-IHE strategy paper, highlighting a major new direction for the Institute was finalized in August 2011 along with an Implementation Plan detailing all necessary reform-related steps.
9. The internal institutional reform was put into operation in September 2011, following the nomination of the new Heads and Deputy Heads of Department. Under the new structure the three new academic departments, along with the Education Bureau, also under new leadership, began operating in October 2011 with the reformed business management support units launched in January 2012.
10. The UNESCO-IHE reform concept was reported to the Science Commission of the 36th session of the General Conference and Member States took note of "the general principles of the new decadal strategic directions and comprehensive reforms of UNESCO-IHE, aimed at expanding its global impact on water education as decided by the UNESCO-IHE Governing Board, and encourages its timely implementation".

#### **RESOLUTION XIX-4: Establishment of UNESCO-IHE Mirror Institute in Sub-Saharan Africa**

11. The necessary conditions for the implementation of Resolution XIX-4 include the final adoption by the Governing Board of UNESCO-IHE and UNESCO, of a fully transparent scheme for the establishment of a UNESCO-IHE global campus. However, these conditions have not yet been met.

12. The 46th session of the IHP Bureau took note of the strong commitment of the Institute to work with countries in sub-Saharan Africa towards the establishment of a regional institute as part of the envisaged UNESCO-IHE Global Campus.

#### **RESOLUTION XIX-5: Granting of Doctoral Degrees by UNESCO-IHE Institute for Water Education**

13. The right to grant doctoral degrees (*Ius Promovendus*) at UNESCO-IHE has received the support of a number of stakeholders, including the Dutch Ministry of Education, Culture and Science, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and various academic institutions in the Netherlands and abroad. The importance of the *Ius Promovendus* has been particularly clear with respect to the envisaged Global Campus. An alternative route would be to bring this matter to the attention of the UNESCO General Conference following the precedence set by the 64th session of the UN General Assembly in 2009 which provided the United Nations University granting rights for PhDs, as stipulated in UNGA document, A/C.2/64/L.55.

#### **RESOLUTION XIX-6: Endorsement of the Proposals for the Establishment of Water-related Centres under the Auspices of UNESCO (category 2)**

14. The following water-related UNESCO category 2 centres were approved by the 36th Session of the General Conference and agreements between the two respective governments and UNESCO are now pending signature:

- (i) Regional Centre on Groundwater Resources Education Training and Research for East Africa, in Kenya;
- (ii) Regional Centre for Capacity Building and Research in Water Harvesting, in Sudan.

15. The agreement for the Regional Centre for Integrated River Basin Management (RC-IRBM) in Kaduna, Nigeria, also approved at the 36th session of the General Conference, was signed in March 2012.

16. The establishment of the African Centre for Global Change and Water Resources Research in South Africa is currently in progress.

#### **RESOLUTION XIX-7: Strengthening of IHP Activities in Sub-Saharan Africa**

17. A bi-annual meeting of the IHP National Committees in Sub-Saharan Africa is coordinated by the Regional Hydrologist in Nairobi. Examples of generally adopted procedures and practices have been made available to National Commissions in the region, to encourage them to establish their own IHP National Committees. The new UNESCO category 2 centres located in Sub-Saharan Africa will enhance the implementation process of the IHP programme in the region.

18. The 4th Regional Meeting of African IHP National Committees took place in Tanzania in April 2012, run jointly with a conference on water science and governance. Around 30

countries reported on the situation related to the implementation of this resolution and an update can be provided verbally during the IHP Intergovernmental Council in June 2012.

#### **RESOLUTION XIX-8: Protection of the Andean Ice Core Archives**

19. The IHP Secretariat consulted with UNESCO World Heritage Centre to define potential processes for a declaration concerning Andean Ice Core Archives. The meeting highlighted the need for detailed consultations with Member States and other stakeholders to assess a possible roadmap for the way forward.

20. Consultations with scientists and policy makers of the Andean countries are currently being fostered by the Secretariat; the first was organized in Chile in 2011, and a second will be held in Peru in May 2012. The IHP Working Group on Snow and Ice of the LAC region (Grupo de Trabajo de Nieves Y Hielos – GTNH PHI-LAC) is providing technical contribution to these consultations.

21. An extrabudgetary project “The Impact of Glacier Retreat in the Andes: International Multidisciplinary Network for Adaptation Strategies” is being implemented with the financial support from the Flanders UNESCO Science Trust Fund (FUST). The main objective is to establish a multidisciplinary network to enhance resilience to change, particularly climate change, through improved understanding of vulnerabilities, opportunities and potential for adaptation. The network will then serve to develop strategies and policy advice.

#### **RESOLUTION XIX-9: Initiative on Internationally Shared Aquifers Resources Management (ISARM)**

22. In December 2011, the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) at its 66th session adopted a new Resolution on the “Law of Transboundary Aquifers” (A/RES/66/104). This Resolution calls upon IHP to support countries in the sustainable and equitable management of their transboundary aquifers. It also encourages IHP to continue assessing of transboundary aquifers world-wide; pivotal in achieving the peaceful sharing of groundwater resources and preventing conflict.

23. The UNGA also recommended that the 19 draft articles annexed to the first Resolution (A/RES/63/124) be considered by Member States when negotiating future agreements or arrangements for the management of their transboundary aquifers, where appropriate.

24. As a result of the ISARM programme’s success, donor agencies, such as the Global Environment Facility (GEF), are increasing investment into the governance and management of transboundary aquifers. One example is the related component of the new GEF project on a Global Transboundary Water Project (TWAP), approved in 2011, for which UNESCO is the executing agency.

#### **RESOLUTION XIX-10: Communication of IHP Progress to Member States**

25. Resolution XIX-10 requested the conceptualization of a web-based communication and information strategy to report regularly to Member States on IHP-related activities. The 46<sup>th</sup> session of the IHP Bureau took note of the new web tool ([www.unesco.int](http://www.unesco.int)) launched by UNESCO to provide Member States with access to biennial Programme and Budget (C/5) via SISTER, an IT-based management tool which supports UNESCO’s Results Based Management approach. Only policy levels of C/5 Main Lines of Action are accessible to Member States.

26. Complimentary options include using the UNESCO Water e-Newsletter to report on IHP-related activities, either through a periodical issue of the newsletter dedicated to IHP-VII progress and upcoming activities, or through the Integration of IHP thematic structure into the format of the newsletter.

27. Due to the ongoing financial crisis, the UNESCO Water e-Newsletter was suspended in January 2012. The IHP Secretariat, in coordination with the IHP National Committees, will endeavor to seek extrabudgetary funding to pursue communication-related activities, including the IHP Newsletter. The IHP Council may also wish to endorse the recommendation of the 46th session of the IHP Bureau on the need for a dedicated IHP communications officer with support provided by Member States.

#### **RESOLUTION XIX-11: IWRM Guidelines at River Basin Level Initiative**

28. Resolution XIX-11 requested the Secretariat to further expand and develop the IWRM guidelines and to link them with other IWRM activities; it also called on Member States to support IWRM through the IHP National Committees and category 2 water-related centres.

29. Since its launch in 2008, more than 500 sets of the IWRM Guidelines and CDs have been distributed through various training courses and HELP symposia worldwide. There is active collaboration with the Network of Asian River Basin Organizations (NARBO) on activities, in partnership with the Asian Development Bank and the Japan Water Agency. IWRM Guidelines have been customized for the HELP Davao River Basin project in the Philippines which hosted a training programme for other river basins in 2011. The Guidelines have been translated into Spanish and Korean.

30. The UNESCO category 2 International Center for Integrated Water Resources Management (ICIWaRM) hosted by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is supporting the implementation of the Water Resources Management Modernization Project of Peru (PMGRH). Using the Guidelines, the project is building institutional capacity and developing IWRM plans at six priority pilot basins.

31. Regional Integrated River Basin Management (IRBM) Workshops have been delivered in Africa, while a modular Water Education course for IWRM at the River Basin level is being delivered at the new category 2 Integrated River Basin Management Centre in Nigeria.

#### **RESOLUTION XIX-12: Proposal of the Establishment of an International Drought Initiative (IDI)**

32. Resolution XIX-12 on the establishment of the International Drought Initiative (IDI) has been implemented and the following activities carried out:

- (i) An IDI Inception Meeting held in Teheran in November 2011 developed a roadmap for future activities. This was finalized during the first half of 2012 and a list of international organizations will soon be asked to contribute to the initiative. The roadmap will be presented during the 20th session of the IHP Council.
- (ii) IDI was presented at the 6th World Water Forum and received positive feedback.
- (iii) IDI will be presented at the High Level Meeting on National Drought Policy (HMNDP), a side event at Rio+20 in June 2012.