



**International Hydrological Programme**  
19<sup>th</sup> session of the Intergovernmental Council  
(Paris, 5 – 9 July 2010)

**PROVISIONAL FINAL REPORT**  
**Part I**  
**(Agenda items 1 – 8)**

**OPENING OF THE SESSION**

1. The 19<sup>th</sup> session of the Intergovernmental Council of the International Hydrological Programme (IHP) was held at UNESCO Headquarters in Paris from 5 to 9 July 2010. Delegates from thirty-five of the thirty-six Member States that are members of the IHP Intergovernmental Council attended the session. Thirty-four delegations from Member States that are not members of the Council, twenty governmental and non-governmental organizations and six UN organizations were represented as observers. The list of participants is attached as Annex II.

**Report of the outgoing Chairperson**

2. The outgoing Chairperson, Mr. Abdin Salih, opened the Council and welcomed the delegates. Noting that since the last session of the Council, major changes of leadership have occurred at several levels within UNESCO, he congratulated Mrs. Irina Bokova, Director-General of UNESCO, and Ms. Gretchen Kalonji, Assistant Director-General for Natural Sciences, on their appointments, and called for their support to the vision and expectations of the water community of UNESCO.

3. Mr. Salih emphasized the substantial amount of activities that have been carried out since the launching of the seventh phase of IHP. Highlighting key accomplishments made in the past two years, he noted that the network of water related category 2 centres has expanded both geographically and in disciplinary diversity. He expressed satisfaction that three proposals for new category 2 centres, endorsed by the 44<sup>th</sup> session of the Bureau for presentation to the Council, are from the African continent. Mr. Salih stressed that the increasing number of activities conducted jointly between two or more centres is a positive development that should be encouraged and highlighted the role UNESCO staff in the field have played in facilitating such collaborations.

4. Mr. Salih underlined that IHP continues to be at the forefront of the scientific aspects of water resources management. This has been demonstrated by the consolidation of research results in the publication of various scientific and practical series. He also noted the acknowledgement by the UN General Assembly of IHP's unique and valuable contributions to the development of the Law on Transboundary Aquifers which serves to highlight IHP's role as a key member of the UN -Water family.

5. Mr. Salih recognized the role of relevant extrabudgetary contributions in facilitating the implementation of IHP programmes and acknowledged the contributions from the Flemish Community of Belgium and from the governments of Japan and Italy, as well as other countries.

6. Reporting on the work of the outgoing IHP Bureau, Mr. Salih noted that three regular sessions of the IHP Bureau have been held since the 18<sup>th</sup> session of the Council and that the Bureau has been actively involved in identifying appropriate strategies to maintain and reinforce UNESCO's leadership in freshwater, as well as to develop the appropriate framework to guarantee the successful, long term implementation of IHP. Mr. Salih highlighted that the Bureau, at its 43<sup>rd</sup> session, considered the future role of IHP, and concluded that IHP was needed more today than ever since its inception in the early 70's. With IHP being the only intergovernmental programme of the United Nations system devoted entirely to research, education, and capacity development on

water science, management and policy, Mr. Salih emphasized UNESCO's unique position to respond to such needs at an international level.

7. Mr. Salih stressed that the Bureau was very much engaged, through its own sessions and continuous consultations, in key IHP issues such as the process leading to the formulation of the draft concept paper for the next phase of IHP, the initiation of the review of IHP-VI, and in regional IHP National Committee meetings. He also stressed the fundamental role of programme evaluation, and called on Member States to take an active role in the evaluation of IHP phases, and on UNESCO's Internal Oversight Services to provide direct support to the evaluation of programme activities.

8. Mr. Salih concluded by re-emphasizing the uniqueness and strength of IHP, which, as an Intergovernmental Programme, is designed and run by Member States for Member States. He called for the strengthening of IHP National Committees - the grass roots of IHP - and expressed satisfaction with progress being made by many National Committees. Mr. Salih acknowledged the demanding agenda presented to the Council, which includes defining the future of IHP and its impact globally over the years to come.

### **Summary of the opening statement of the Assistant Director-General for Natural Sciences**

9. Ms. Gretchen Kalonji, Assistant Director-General for Natural Sciences, welcomed the delegates on behalf of UNESCO. Ms. Kalonji shared her impressions on the success of IHP by highlighting that the strength of the programme rests in its interdisciplinary nature, its ability to strike a balance between fundamental research, practical applications, and policy advice, and its successful experience in building intersectoral partnerships within and outside UNESCO. She emphasized that the extensive network of water-related category 2 centres under the auspices of UNESCO, UNESCO Chairs, and partners, with whom IHP works closely in the implementation of its activities, are also a fundamental component of IHP's success story. Ms. Kalonji thanked the outgoing Chairperson of the IHP Council, the former Secretary of IHP, and the current Secretary of IHP for their leadership in strengthening IHP's role in the promotion of water sciences.

10. Ms. Kalonji presented some of her thoughts on the future direction of IHP. She emphasized the importance, during the planning of future phases of IHP, of developing and adopting a strategic focus for the Programme that further strengthens its leading role in water sciences. She also stressed the need to incorporate education throughout the research agenda of the Programme and to further build upon on the strong network of partnerships, so far developed by IHP. She encouraged IHP to actively engage with research centres in creating innovative research agendas, to strengthen and expand cooperation between category 2 centres, as well as with the IHP Secretariat and to bring along potential partners from the private sector. Ms. Kalonji expressed support for the proposals of the three new centres in Africa, reiterating that Africa and gender, as priorities of UNESCO, will be the priorities of the Natural Sciences Sector. She further expressed her satisfaction with the work carried out on transboundary issues and in particular on transboundary aquifers, noting that IHP has a key role to play in developing peaceful cooperation, which is one of UNESCO's founding principles.

### **ELECTION OF THE INCOMING CHAIRPERSON**

11. The delegate of Japan nominated Mr. Soontak Lee (Republic of Korea, Group IV) as Chairperson of the Intergovernmental Council of IHP, in recognition of his longstanding contribution to IHP, as well as his outstanding work to promote water and hydrological research both in the Asia and Pacific region and globally. The nomination of Mr. Lee was unanimously seconded. With no other candidates proposed, Mr. Lee was unanimously elected as the new Chairperson of the Intergovernmental Council.

12. The elected Chairperson took the floor to accept his nomination and election. Mr. Lee thanked the Council members for their vote of confidence. He assured the Council that he would

serve not only in the interest of the Asia and Pacific region, but also to promote IHP's contribution to addressing global water challenges. Thanking the outgoing Chairperson for his leadership, Mr. Lee concluded by assuring the Council of the commitment of the Republic of Korea to actively contribute to the success of IHP.

## **ELECTION OF THE VICE-CHAIRPERSONS**

13. The Council proceeded with the election of the following Vice-Chairpersons: Mr. Matthew C. Larsen (USA, Group I); Mr. Jovan Despotovic (Serbia, Group II), Mr. Polioptro F. Martinez-Austria (Mexico, Group III) and Mr. Juma C. Omondi (Kenya, Group Va). The nominations for the Vice-Chairpersons were supported by a large majority of the delegates.

14. The Council noted that, in conformity with its Statutes, the IHP Bureau is composed of the elected Chairperson, four newly elected Vice-Chairpersons and the outgoing Chairperson, Mr. Abdin Salih (Sudan, Group Vb).

## **ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA**

15. The Council adopted the agenda for its 19<sup>th</sup> session, which is reproduced in Annex I of this report. The documents made available for the session are listed in Annex III.

## **DETERMINATION OF THE COUNCIL'S METHOD OF WORK**

16. The Council took note of the Rules of Procedure of the IHP Intergovernmental Council and of the revisions on Draft Resolution admissibility criteria as outlined in the "Guidelines for the Preparation and Consideration of Draft Resolutions at the Intergovernmental Council of IHP", recommended by the 43<sup>rd</sup> session of the IHP Bureau, and in particular items 1, 3.1 and 3.2.

17. The Council elected the following members to the Resolutions Drafting Committee: Mr. Michael van der Valk (Netherlands, Group I), Ms. Snezhana Dakova (Bulgaria, Group II), Ms. Blanca Jiménez (Mexico, Group III) Mr. Leonardo Liongson (Phillipines, Group IV), Mr. Tumaini Kimaro (United Republic of Tanzania, Group Va) and Mr. Muhamad Radwan Al Momani (Jordan, Group Vb).

18. The Council elected three new members to the Finance Committee: Ms. Olga Golerits (Russia, Group II), Mr. Alexandre Brasil da Silva (Brazil, Group III) and Mr. Mbangiseni P. Nephumbada (South Africa, Group Va). The Council also noted the continued membership of Mr. Hamza Özgüler (Turkey, Region I), Mr. Ahmed Ali Murad (United Arab Emirates, Region Vb) and Mr. Trevor M. Daniell (Australia, Region IV).

## **REPORT ON THE 35<sup>TH</sup> SESSION OF THE GENERAL CONFERENCE AND ON THE 180<sup>TH</sup> TO THE 184<sup>TH</sup> SESSIONS OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD OF UNESCO, INCLUDING OVERVIEW OF THE PROGRAMME AND BUDGET FOR 2010-2011 (35 C/5) AND PREPARATIONS FOR THE PROGRAMME AND BUDGET FOR 2012-2013 (36 C/5)**

19. The Secretariat reported on the decisions of the 180<sup>th</sup> to the 184<sup>th</sup> sessions of the Executive Board and the 35<sup>th</sup> session of the UNESCO General Conference, as summarized in document IHP/IC-XIX/Inf.2.

20. The delegate of Morocco requested information on the implementation of the Executive Board decision, 166 EX/Decisions 3.6.1, on intersectoral water education. The Secretariat noted that this item would be reported appropriately under Agenda item 10.1. The delegate of the Islamic Republic of Iran inquired about the status of the proposal from Iran for the establishment of an International Drought Initiative, which was submitted to the General Conference. The Secretariat

informed the Council that this proposal would be considered under Agenda item 13 of the current session of the IHP Council.

21. Several delegates expressed their satisfaction with the approval of the proposals of six water-related centres under the auspices of UNESCO. The Delegates of Kenya and Senegal noted the significant need for category 2 centres in Africa and welcomed the proposals for the establishment of three new centres in Africa. The Secretariat recalled that there is a proposal for a fourth centre on river basin management in Kaduna, Nigeria in Sub-Saharan Africa. The delegate of the Russian Federation inquired about the proposal for a new centre on mountain hydrology in Kazakhstan endorsed by the previous Council session. The Secretariat confirmed that the proposal had been received and was being processed for presentation to the Governing organs of UNESCO. The delegate of Senegal proposed that the African Ministers Council on Water (AMCOW) and its established African Commission on Groundwater play an active role in cooperating with the proposed new centres for Africa. The delegates of Kenya and Sudan expressed wishes that the 36 C/5 include a separate MLA for IHP, so that its budget is clearly presented and consistent with the priority of freshwater as requested by Member States. It was further noted that there were hopes that water would continue to maintain its priority status within UNESCO, with a particular focus on arid zones and Africa.

## **RECENT INSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENTS IN IHP**

22. The Secretariat reported on recent institutional developments, including changes within senior management at UNESCO and the IHP Secretariat, and other changes in IHP staffing both at Headquarters and in the Field Offices. The Secretariat also reported on the recommendations of the 44<sup>th</sup> session of Bureau regarding continuity of leadership within IHP and on the strong endorsement of the 43<sup>rd</sup> and 44<sup>th</sup> sessions of the Bureau for the establishment of a section on Groundwater Resources and Aquifer Systems. The Secretariat informed the Council of the external audit carried out on the Division of Water Sciences, the results of which remain confidential until their publication.

24. Several members of the Council expressed concern about the lengthy process of recruiting a new Director of the Division of Water Sciences, with the functions of Secretary of IHP and Deputy ADG/SC. They urged the senior management of UNESCO to accelerate the process, and to take the necessary measures to ensure continuity and overlap between the out-going and the in-coming Directors of the Division. They underlined that such continuity would be beneficial for IHP's capacity to maintain a leading position in the international community.

25. The delegates of more than 20 Member States and one NGO expressed their support for the Bureau's recommendation for the creation of a new Section on Groundwater Resources and Aquifer Systems within the Division of Water Sciences. They highlighted the importance of groundwater as a crucial freshwater resource, on which many Member States facing water scarcity rely for their development and survival. This importance is further highlighted by the impacts of climate change which threatens surface water resources in many countries, and in some cases, threatens their cultural heritage due to land subsidence. Delegates shared their concerns about the over-exploitation of groundwater resources, particularly in large urban areas located in arid and semi-arid regions. Delegates also shared their expectations that the new section would facilitate the following: the development of knowledge and science on groundwater resources, the sustainable management of groundwater resources, the link between ground and surface water systems, the development of non-traditional water supplies, as well as groundwater protection and conservation. The Council noted that the details of such organizational restructure lie in the hands of the internal management of the Natural Sciences Sector. They also discussed eventual budgetary implications.

## **REVIEW OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE RESOLUTIONS AND OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS ADOPTED BY THE 18<sup>TH</sup> SESSION OF THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL COUNCIL OF IHP**

## **Progress report on the implementation of the resolutions and other recommendations**

### ***Resolution XVIII-1: UNESCO-IHE Institute for Water Education***

26. The Secretariat reported that a new Cooperation Agreement has been signed between UNESCO and the Government of the Netherlands, which includes an increase in the core budget of the Institute. It was also reported that, while several generous contributions had been provided by some Member States, no substantial increase in support has been made available to the Institute from Member States other than the Netherlands.

27. The delegate of Morocco, expressing his satisfaction with the renewal of the agreement, pointed out the importance of increasing the number of places for students from developing countries, as well as the need for multilingual training programmes. Many other delegates also expressed their satisfaction with the renewal of the agreement and with the activities being convened by UNESCO-IHE. The Council underlined the importance of water education at all levels, including primary and secondary sectors. It highlighted in particular technical training for water supply and sanitation systems operators which would assist Member States in protecting and maintaining their existing infrastructure. Examples were provided on various initiatives already in progress at national and regional levels. These respond to the considerable need to improve technical capacities in the field of water resources management in order to meet the Millennium Development Goals. It was also noted that partnerships should be reinforced and further established to explore synergies with other IHP pillars including IHP National Committees and category 2 centres. The need for an increased budget for water education was stressed by many delegates and the Secretariat was requested to ensure the inclusion of water education in all thematic areas of IHP-VIII.

28. The Rector of UNESCO-IHE thanked the delegates for their support for the Institute and, recalling that the budget of the Institute is entirely extrabudgetary, called for the Member States to consider increasing contributions to enable the Institute to offer additional student places as well as increase the number of languages in which the courses are delivered. He emphasized that UNESCO-IHE has been providing technical training to water systems operators citing the ongoing activities to train 3,000 water systems operator in Iran. He also informed the Council that UNESCO-IHE is undertaking a process of reform which will be discussed in agenda item 9.1. The Council expressed its appreciation to the Rector of UNESCO-IHE for the achievements of the Institute.

29. The delegate of Japan, emphasizing the importance of IHP's water education activities, indicated the interest of ICHARM in further strengthening cooperation with UNESCO-IHE. He also reported that Japan, together with Mongolia, co-hosts the Chair on Groundwater Resources in coordination with the water education programme of the University of Tsukuba.

30. The Council underlined the need to increase support to the Institute. The Rector informed the Council that in its current location it had almost reached critical mass and that the formulation for further increasing its capacities was in progress.

### ***Resolution XVIII-2: Water education initiatives***

31. The Secretariat reported that the grants programme has been established as a result of close collaboration between the IHP Secretariat at Headquarters and the Field Offices. It was noted that no contributions from Member States had been received to date and that the Secretariat was working on the establishment of a mechanism to mobilize resources from external donors. The Secretariat also reported that a global survey into the exact needs was currently being prepared jointly by UNESCO-IHE and IHP.

32 The Council expressed strong support for water education initiatives, including those of primary, secondary and university sectors, technical education and further education. The need to engage more centres, universities and institutes was highlighted. Moreover, the Council stressed the need for additional resources in order to further improve programme performance and outreach of its activities. Megacities and related water challenges were given special attention by the Council as an emerging subject area in both developing countries and countries with transition economies. The need for improved water education initiatives in Africa was stressed by several Council members and observers. The Chairman of the IHP Intergovernmental Council congratulated the Secretariat on its tremendous efforts to carry out capacity building activities in different parts of the globe and for the significant results of these activities.

***Resolution XVIII-3: Progress on proposals for the establishment of water-related centres under the auspices of UNESCO (category 2)***

33. The Council congratulated the Secretariat on the approval by the General Conference of six new water-related centres under the auspices of UNESCO (category 2), namely:

- HidroEx – International Centre for Education, Capacity Building and Applied Research in Water (Federative Republic of Brazil);
- Centre for the Sustainable Management of Water Resources in the Caribbean Island States (Dominican Republic);
- International Centre for Integrated Water Resources Management (ICIWaRM) (United States of America);
- International Centre of Water Resources and Global Change (Federal Republic of Germany);
- International Centre on Coastal Ecohydrology (Portuguese Republic); and
- Asia Pacific Centre for Ecohydrology (APCE) (Indonesia)

34. The delegates underlined the need for establishing a mechanism for exchange of best practices and lessons learned between the various category 2 centres and their further coordination.

***Resolution XVIII-4: Support for the evaluation and reporting of IHP-VI***

35. The Secretariat reported on the progress in the preparation of the external evaluation of IHP-VI. It also informed the Council on the ongoing collaboration between the IHP Bureau, the Secretariat, and UNESCO's Internal Oversight Service (IOS) on the preparation of the draft terms of reference and in addressing the effects of the financial constraints on composition of the review team. The Council took note of the actions initiated to encourage Member States to contribute to the evaluation process as recommended by the 44<sup>th</sup> session of the IHP Bureau (IHP/Bur-XLIV/3).

36. The Delegation of the United States of America, seconded by the Delegation of Germany, supported the previous offer from the Netherlands to appoint a national expert as associate member of the review and evaluation team. The Netherlands had offered to support the appointment of an expert who would serve, at no extra cost to UNESCO, as an associate member of the review team along with its three other core members.

37. The Observer of the United Kingdom suggested incorporating results from the IHP-VI evaluation in the formulation of IHP-VIII. The Council requested the Task Force to consider the results of the IHP-VI evaluation in the preparation of IHP-VIII. The Secretariat noted that the evaluation report of IHP-VI should be made available by April 2011, in order that inputs could be provided for the shaping of IHP-VIII.

38. Several delegates underlined the importance of geographical distribution in the composition of the evaluation team and expressed appreciation for the efforts of the Secretariat in this regard. However, it was further noted that due to shortage of funding, this effort may be limited.

***Resolution XVIII-5: Submission of an appeal to the Executive Board and the General Conference of UNESCO***

39. The Council was informed that the actions taken by the Secretariat and the IHP Bureau for the implementation of Resolution XVIII-5 to secure additional funds for the 2008-2009 biennium had been unsuccessful. The Council, recalling the earlier statement of the ADG/SC, in which she indicated her full support to the Programme, expressed hope that no further reductions in the regular budget allocated to IHP take place.

40. The Council further expressed its concern about the budget reduction within the Division of Water Sciences of UNESCO over the recent biennia. The Council decided to launch an appeal to the Governing organs of UNESCO aimed at avoiding further reductions in the IHP budget in the current as well as in future biennia and indicated its intention of approaching UNESCO's upper management on this issue.



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**PROVISIONAL FINAL REPORT**  
**Part II**  
**(Agenda items 8.2, 9.1, 9.2, 9.3, 9.4, 10.2 and 10.4)**

**Report of the IHP Finance Committee**

41. The outgoing Chairperson of the IHP Finance Committee, Mr Trevor Daniell (Australia), reported to the Council on the regular budget of the Division of Water Sciences and provided an overview of the budgets allocated to IHP since 2001. The Chairperson's report highlighted the substantial decrease in IHP budget over the preceding biennia and the threat it poses to the sustained and successful implementation of IHP-VII activities. The understaffing of the Division of Water Sciences, as reflected by the ratio of staff costs to programme budget compared to the entire Natural Sciences Sector was also pointed out in the report. The Chairperson stressed the need to increase the number of professional staff positions both at headquarters and in the field. Mr Daniell noted the effect of the reduced number of Main Lines of Action in the 35 C/5 (2010-2011) UNESCO programme and budget document on the clarity of IHP's budget. He reiterated the Finance Committee's call on Member States to provide extra-budgetary contributions to IHP. Mr Daniell indicated the desirability of presence of the Chair of the Finance Committee in the IHP Bureau sessions. He concluded by inviting the Council to consider the draft resolution presented in document IHP/IC-XIX/6, which calls on the Governing Bodies of UNESCO to take measures to ensure appropriate funding for the IHP Secretariat, so that UNESCO may maintain its leading role in freshwater issues.

42. The delegate of Brazil noted that, while strongly supporting IHP, the data presented on the ratio of staff to programme budget did not provide sufficient enough evidence to support the request to increase budget allocation to IHP. He suggested that it could be interpreted both as an indication of high staff productivity within the Division of Water Sciences and of its successful programme management; a model to be replicated by other Programmes. He further explained that attaining cost-efficient programme execution was a goal advocated by the Executive Board. Other delegates expressed similar concerns and encouraged the Secretariat and the Finance Committee to clearly demonstrate the impact of budget reduction on the implementation of individual programme elements when presenting the case to the Governing Bodies of UNESCO.

43. Several delegates expressed their support to an increase in the resources of IHP. Some delegates encouraged the Secretariat to ensure transparency regarding the budget allocated to IHP. The Secretariat noted that all budget information is currently available to Member States via the SISTER management software programme. The delegate of Germany highlighted the importance of developing a strategy to mobilize additional extra-budgetary resources. Expressing appreciation for the work of the IHP Finance Committee, several delegates encouraged the Secretariat to highlight the outcomes of the forthcoming evaluation of IHP-VI, in order to demonstrate to UNESCO and the Member States the value of supporting IHP.

**UNESCO'S WATER-RELATED INSTITUTE AND CENTRES (CATEGORY 1 AND CATEGORY 2)**

**UNESCO-IHE Institute for Water Education**

44. The Rector of UNESCO-IHE presented a report on recent developments concerning the Institute, including the strengthening of its cooperation with IHP and the process of reform at UNESCO-IHE, initiated in early 2010. After providing the Council with a statistical overview of key performance indicators, he emphasized that UNESCO-IHE has reached the physical limits of its hosting capacity in terms of its ability to accommodate the increasingly large number of applicants.

Noting the need to better emphasize the link between water education and society, he stressed that the new strategic vision of the Institute is based on three pillars: science, engineering/technology and social issues, all placed within the context of water. He also informed the Council of the decision to create regional 'mirror' sites, the principal objective of which would be to expand the Institute's response capabilities. The Rector noted the significant increase in demand for doctoral degrees at the Institute from candidates from developing countries. He concluded by stressing the urgent need of UNESCO-IHE to obtain the right to be able to independently confer Ph.D. degrees in order to enhance its capacity in terms of international collaborative programmes on education.

45. The Council presented its unanimous support to and appreciation of the work being conducted by UNESCO-IHE, with several delegates highlighting collaboration that already exists between their respective Member States and the Institute. The support provided to the Institute by the Government of the Netherlands was also noted with appreciation. Members of the Council as well as many observers expressed keen interest and strong support to enhancing the impact of the Institute, both in terms of its disciplinary coverage and geographical distribution. In particular, the proposed establishment of UNESCO-IHE 'mirror sites' in Africa, Asia and Latin America was strongly welcomed and fully supported by the Council. The delegates of Kenya, Nigeria, Senegal and the Republic of Tanzania expressed their appreciation of the high priority given to Africa by UNESCO-IHE. Supporting the creation of UNESCO-IHE 'mirror' institutes, the delegate of Germany also encouraged the Institute to explore the idea of strengthening existing water education programmes in developing countries as a complementary strategy. The Council took note of this recommendation. The delegates of Mexico, Peru and Cuba, as well as Observers from Panama and Uruguay also noted the need to increase the number of courses being offered in Spanish and expressed their thoughts that a mirror institute in Latin America would help to address this need.

46. Given the track record of the Institute with regard to its doctoral programmes, many members of the Council strongly welcomed and supported the efforts of UNESCO-IHE to acquire the *Ius Promovendi* (the right to confer doctoral degrees). The delegate of the Netherlands mentioned the high-quality of the programmes developed by UNESCO-IHE and indicated that his country is both honoured and proud to host and support the Institute. He noted that while the Netherlands supports the establishment of mirror institutes, his government has some reservations regarding the provision of *Ius Promovendi* to the Institute as it would require a lengthy and complex process to change existing relevant Dutch laws. Thus, he noted that while the ambitions of UNESCO-IHE in this regard are appreciated, a decision on this issue at the current moment may prove premature. The delegate of Germany and some observers shared the concerns of the Netherlands regarding the necessary changes to national legislation that granting the *Ius Promovendi* would incur. Acknowledging the overwhelming appreciation as well as the practical concerns raised on this issue, the Rector of UNESCO-IHE emphasized that the Institute is an integral part of UNESCO and as such is global in its nature. This fact requires an approach that is different from that of national institutions. The case of the UNU was cited as an example. He also added that the Council was not requested to make a final decision on the issue at this stage, but rather to endorse the initiation of the process for granting the *Ius Promovendi* to the Institute similarly to the precedence set by the case of the UNU. The Council adopted Resolution XX with respect to the matter.

### **Proposed category 2 centres**

47. The Secretariat provided brief summaries of the proposed category 2 centres, which were endorsed by the Bureau at its 43<sup>rd</sup> and 44<sup>th</sup> sessions, and were prepared in accordance with the Strategy for UNESCO category 1 and category 2 water-related centres (IHP/Bur-XL/8 rev. Consolidated) and the Integrated Comprehensive Strategy for Category 2 Institutes and Centres (35 C/22).

48. Representatives of the following three proposed centres presented their respective proposals:

- Regional Groundwater Training and Research Centre (Kenya);
- African Center for Global Change and Water Resources (South Africa); and
- Regional Centre for Capacity Development and Research in Water Harvesting (Sudan).

The Secretariat and the delegate of Nigeria also reported on progress being made in the establishment of the "Regional Centre for Integrated River Basin Management" (RC-IRBM) in Nigeria, which was endorsed by the 17<sup>th</sup> session of IHP Intergovernmental Council.

49. Following expressions of support from several delegates, the Council, noting the benefits of the proposed centres to the achievement of UNESCO's objectives and particularly their potential contributions to strengthening water research and education capacities in Africa, decided to strongly endorse the proposed centres. The Council requested the assistance of the IHP Secretariat in preparing the necessary documents for submission to the Governing Bodies of UNESCO, in conformity with UNESCO's established processes and procedures.

50. The representatives of UNESCO-IHE and of several established and approved water-related centres expressed their intentions to collaborate with the proposed centres in the African continent. Furthermore, several Member States proposed the enhancement of already existing water education capacities in Africa, and making all water-related centres accessible to the African region. Such offers of cooperation were noted and welcomed.

### **Overview of recently-approved category 2 centres**

51. The IHP Secretariat reported on the establishment of the following three category 2 water-related centres, following their approval at the 35<sup>th</sup> session of the General Conference of UNESCO and the signature of the agreements between the respective host Member States and UNESCO:

- HIDROEX Centre for Higher and Community Education in Water (Brazil);
- Centre for the Sustainable Management of Water Resources in the Caribbean Island States (Dominican Republic); and
- International Centre for Integrated Water Resources Management (ICIWaRM) (United States of America).

The Secretariat informed the Council that upon the request of the governments of Germany, Indonesia, and Portugal, agreements are foreseen to be signed for the following: International Centre of Water Resources and Global Change in Germany, the Asia Pacific Centre for Ecohydrology (APCE) in Indonesia and the International Centre on Coastal Ecohydrology in Portugal. These establishments were all approved by the 35<sup>th</sup> session of the General Conference.

52. In addition, representatives from twelve existing category 2 centres present during the discussion of this item provided brief presentations on the activities that have or are being implemented at their centres. The Secretariat indicated that reports on the activities of the centres are available online.

53. The Council noted with satisfaction the significant contributions of these centres towards the effective implementation of the IHP strategic plans and their strong benefits to Member States at virtually no cost to UNESCO. The Council requested the Secretariat to update the Strategy for UNESCO category 1 and category 2 water-related Centres (IHP/Bur-XL/8 rev. Consolidated), in harmony with the Integrated Comprehensive Strategy for Category 2 Institutes and Centres (35 C/22), approved by the 35<sup>th</sup> session of the General Conference. The Council also requested the IHP Bureau to look into mechanisms for the effective representation of category 2 centres during IHP Intergovernmental Council meetings.

54. The Secretariat took note of the strong recommendations from several Member States to promote the active cooperation between water-related centres. The delegate of Iran transmitted the offer of his government to host a meeting to discuss cooperation between the centres.

### **Nominations for office bearers on governing boards of various category 1 and category 2 institutes and centres**

55. Following the review by the IHP Bureau of the nominations received from Member States for office bearers for the Advisory and Governing Boards of the category 1 institute and two category 2 centres as well as the regional consultations corresponding to the electoral groups where such appointments were necessary, the Council unanimously designated the IHP representatives as follows:

- to UNESCO-IHE's Governing Board:
  - Region I: Mr Fritz Holzwarth (Germany)
  - Region IV: Mr Tomoharu Hori (Japan)
  - Region Vb: Mr Abdin Salih (Sudan)
  
- to the Advisory Board of the International Centre for Water Hazard and Risk Management (ICHARM):
  - Region II: Mr Zurab D. Kopaliani (Russian Federation)
  - Region III: Mr Basil Fernandez (Jamaica)
  - Region Va: Mr Biemi Jean (Cote d'Ivoire)
  
- to the Advisory Board of the International Center for Integrated Water Resources Management (ICIWaRM):
  - Region I: Mr Ibrahim Gurer (Turkey)
  - Region II: Mr G. Jolánkai (Hungary)
  - Region III: Mr Rubem La Laina Porto (Brazil)
  - Region IV: Mr Liu Heng (China)
  - Region Va: Mr Dhesigen Naidoo (South Africa)
  - Region Vb: Mr Ahmed Murad (United Arab Emirates)

## **REVIEW OF IHP-VII ACTIVITIES AND RELATED ACTIVITIES OF UNESCO**

### **Report on extrabudgetary activities**

56. Upon the updates reported by the Secretariat on IHP extrabudgetary activities and projects, the Council expressed strong appreciation to the governments of Italy and Japan, and to the Flemish Community of Belgium for their significant contributions to IHP since the last session of the Council. Likewise, the Council took note of the strong relationship developed between IHP and the Global Environment Facility (GEF), as the largest donor for environmental projects within the UN System. The Secretariat reported on the process of UNESCO's application to become a GEF Executing Entity, noting that this issue is expected to be debated during the next GEF Council Meeting, scheduled for November 2010 in Washington D.C.. The Secretariat highlighted the support shown by IHP National Committees in informing their respective national GEF representatives of UNESCO's application. The Council also highlighted the need to identify new donors, in order to further strengthen and increase the capacities of IHP.

## Cooperation with other UNESCO programmes

57. The Secretariat reported on the cooperation and joint activities carried out with other programmes of UNESCO. Several joint activities were organized with MAB, IGCP and IOC both Headquarters and in the Field.

58. The representative of UNESCO's International Geoscience Programme (IGCP) highlighted cooperation on several activities, including the preparation of an international conference on "Transboundary Aquifers: Challenges and New Directions", to be held 6-8 December 2010 at Headquarters. The IGCP representative informed the Council of a joint activity within the international initiative of the geological survey of world springs - part of the International Year of Planet Earth (IYPE). The representative also mentioned the development of a dynamic geological map of the world and the new UNESCO initiative on Earth Science Education to be launched by IGCP.

59. The representative of the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) reported on IOC's Global Ocean Observing System in Africa (GOOS-AFRICA). He noted that IOC and IHP had organized the first joint Pan-African Workshop on Decision-Making Support for Coastal Zone Management, Water Resources and Climate Change in Africa, in Cotonou, Republic of Benin, in February 2010. A high-level governance and policy forum took place during the workshop, providing a platform for African leaders and their partners to assess the outcomes of UNFCCC/COP 15. It was further noted that IOC and IHP had developed a number of standards for measuring submarine groundwater discharge in coastal zones. Finally, that IOC and IHP are collaborating in the development of the Global Transboundary Water Assessment Programme, which is funded by the Global Environment Facility.

60. The Secretariat of IHP reported that PCCP, together with UNESCO's Social and Human Sciences Sector, organized an international experts meeting on the right to water. IHP also collaborated with UNESCO's Communication and Information Sector to provide training on transboundary water issues to media professionals. The delegate from Iran inquired as to whether negotiations on transboundary waters might be better handled by the Member States as opposed to by intergovernmental scientific organizations. [The Secretariat responded that the primary objective of the training in question was to assist members of the media in identifying and using peaceful and cooperative terminology when describing transboundary water issues, and is therefore consistent with UNESCO's mission to promote peace.](#)



**International Hydrological Programme**  
19<sup>th</sup> session of the Intergovernmental Council  
(Paris, 5 – 9 July 2010)

**PROVISIONAL FINAL REPORT**  
**Part III**  
**(Agenda items 10.3 and 12)**

**Report of the IHP Publication Committee**

61 The Secretariat gave a brief account of recent developments on UNESCO's Publication and Distribution Policy and the recommendations of the IHP ad hoc Publication Committee, as endorsed by the 44<sup>th</sup> session of the IHP Bureau, with a view to establishing an IHP Publication and Communication Committee. The Secretariat also presented the draft Terms of Reference for the formal establishment of the proposed committee as a subsidiary body of IHP's Intergovernmental Council, in accordance with Article V of the Council Statutes.

62 The delegates of Morocco and Brazil expressed concerns about the potential proliferation of divergent publication policies among different programmes of UNESCO given the existence of a UNESCO-wide Publication and Distribution Policy as set out in the Director-General's Blue Note DG/Note/08/22 of 25 June 2008. Concerns were also expressed regarding the potential duplication of the work of other UNESCO bodies and the budgetary implications of the establishment of the proposed committee. It was noted that the draft Terms of Reference were vague in their descriptions of the committee's role and responsibilities. To this effect, some delegates raised the issue that the Committee should not be performing those tasks that are the prerogative of the Secretariat, such as publishing or reviewing specific publications. Several Member States expressed their conditional support for the establishment of a Publication and Communication Committee, with reservations reflecting the above-mentioned concerns. As a solution, the delegate of the United States of America proposed the incorporation of a sunset clause in the Terms of Reference, to which the delegates of Jordan, Germany and Mexico agreed. Considering these concerns, the Secretariat responded that responsibilities of the proposed Committee would include ensuring the compliance of the IHP publication strategy with the newly adopted Publication Policy, and that the Committee would only work on the establishment of a general strategic approach to IHP publications and their dissemination, rather than deal with specific publications. The Secretariat also replied that the establishment of such a Committee would not have implications for the regular budget.

63. In view of these clarifications, the Council asked the Secretariat to provide more specific details on the mandate of the proposed Committee. It also requested that the Secretariat revise the draft Terms of Reference, so that the establishment of the Committee and its actions would not have any implications on the regular budget. The Council agreed to re-consider a revised version of the draft Terms of Reference later in the session.

**ENDORSEMENT OF THE CONCEPT PAPER FOR THE EIGHTH PHASE OF IHP (IHP-VIII, 2014 – 2019)**

64. The Secretariat reported to the Council on the preparations for formulating the Eighth Phase of IHP (2014-2019) and presented a summary of the draft concept paper (IHP/IC-XIX/10). It noted that the Task Force consists of a multidisciplinary and geographically diverse group of experts, working under the guidance of the IHP Bureau. The Secretariat emphasized that the aim of the paper was to provide elements to be discussed with Member States during the forthcoming in-depth consultation phase of the process.

65 Representing the Task Force, Mr. Maciej Zalewski (Poland) provided the Council with an overview of the concept note. He highlighted the links between water scarcity and the four key

areas of knowledge presented by the Task Force for the consideration of the Member States, namely:

- Water-related disasters and hydrological change;
- Groundwater in a changing environment;
- Water and human settlements of the future; and
- Ecohydrology, engineering harmony for a sustainable world,

and the four cross-cutting areas, which would include:

- Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) in adapting to global changes;
- Transboundary or shared waters;
- Human Dimension and Governance; and
- Water Education.

66. The Council was unanimous in its strong appreciation of the efforts made by the Task Force. Highlighting the adverse impacts of water scarcity on sustainable development, especially in arid and semi-arid regions, many delegates encouraged the Task Force to include water scarcity as a key area within the Eighth Phase of IHP. A large number of delegates also stressed that both floods and droughts should be considered as equally important extreme events when addressing water-related disasters. Likewise, several members of the Council and Observers indicated that water quality is a challenge deserving serious consideration as a key thematic area in the Eighth Phase of IHP. Council Members strongly agreed that climate change is a cross-cutting issue that affects all four key knowledge areas and that it should be treated as such. Members of the Council also addressed the significance of water education and the need to leverage UNESCO's comparative advantage to make the link between the technical and ethical aspects of water resources management. Several delegates expressed interest in coastal zones, wetlands, and nutrient recycling, as well as in non-conventional water resources augmentation technology, such as desalinization and water harvesting. Many delegates also expressed strong satisfaction at the fact that groundwater is being considered a high priority challenge by the Task Force.

67. While expressing full confidence in the competence of the Secretariat, some observers urged the Task Force to consider the impact of the budgetary and staffing constraints on the breadth of topics covered by the Eighth Phase of IHP. The Secretariat indicated that one of the unique advantages of IHP is its ability to multiply resources through the mobilization of its partnerships in the execution of the various phases of IHP.

68. The Council endorsed the draft concept paper as a basis for discussion with the Member States during the detailed consultation that will ensue as part of the process for formulating the Eighth Phase of IHP. This was done on the proviso that it would not limit the scope of the consultations or the ability of Member States and partners to propose new thrusts or emphases other than those included in the concept note or its summary.

69. The Council requested the Secretariat to proceed with the initiation of the detailed consultation on the formulation of the Eighth Phase of IHP with the Member States, while taking into account the issues raised by the Members of the Council and Observers during the session.



**International Hydrological Programme**  
19<sup>th</sup> session of the Intergovernmental Council  
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**PROVISIONAL FINAL REPORT**  
**Part IV**  
**(Agenda items 10.1, 10.3, 11, 13 and 14)**

**Results of IHP-VII projects since the 18<sup>th</sup> session of the IHP Intergovernmental Council**

70. The Secretariat reported to the Council on the progress made in the implementation of the IHP-VII plan. The Council commended the Secretariat on the work presented by staff both at Headquarters and the Field Offices and on the information regarding the accomplishments made in all five themes of IHP-VII and their Focal Areas.

71. The Council expressed satisfaction with the excellent progress in meeting the targets set for IHP-VII. The delegate of Sudan highlighted IHP's achievement in developing a network of 12 universities in the Arab region focusing on education and building capacity in water resources management. The delegate from Brazil highlighted both the importance of developing collaborative networks between the various water-related centres under the auspices of UNESCO and of the significance of focusing on water education. Expressing satisfaction with the work reported in Africa, the delegate from Senegal highlighted the importance of continuing the work, in particular in improving knowledge of aquifers and the need to develop drought management tools that can be used by Member States. The delegate from the Netherlands noted the need to feedback to Member States on their plans for participation in IHP-VII, as expressed during the planning stages of IHP-VII. Likewise, the delegate from Pakistan encouraged fellow delegates to become personally involved in IHP activities. Delegates from the Russian Federation encouraged the Secretariat to improve the publication and dissemination of results from the many projects conducted within the framework of IHP-VII and suggested that the Secretariat convene groups of experts to provide synthesis of important projects such as the Modena Basin project. The delegate of Jordan expressed satisfaction at the number of activities being carried out in Africa. The delegate also encouraged Member States to be more active in developing their respective IHP National Committees, possibly with training provided by the Secretariat and Regional Offices. The delegate from Kenya, while acknowledging that the development of National Committees is the responsibility of Member States, indicated that IHP activities in Africa could also be greatly enhanced with the help of the Secretariat. By providing training activities, the Secretariat could assist in empowering the IHP National Committees, especially in Sub-Saharan Africa. The delegate from Peru emphasized the importance of snow and ice processes in several Latin American countries, and indicated that a Draft Resolution had been submitted to recognize this and other important issues in the region.

72. Several members of the Council encouraged the Secretariat to streamline the reporting process, to allow for more deliberation by the Council, especially considering the detailed information already made available in the report documents of the Council.

**Establishment of the IHP Publication and Communication Committee**

73. As requested by the Council, the Secretariat presented a revised version of the draft Terms of Reference of the IHP Publication and Communication Committee. While agreeing with the revised Terms of Reference, Germany, Brazil, Jordan, and the Netherlands requested the Terms of Reference to be amended, so that the Committee is a temporary subsidiary body.

74. The Council endorsed the establishment of the IHP Publication and Communication Committee, on a temporary basis until the next session of the Council. The Chair Person declared

the committee established and asked for nominations to the committee. The following were elected members of the newly established committee:

- Region I – W Europe and N. America: Netherlands;
- Region II - Eastern and Central Europe: Bulgaria;
- Region III - Latin America and the Caribbean: Chile;
- Region IV - Asia and the Pacific: Iran;
- Region Va – Africa: Senegal;
- Region Vb – Arab States: Sudan.

## **SCIENTIFIC SEGMENT: PRESENTATION OF A SELECTED AREA OF IHP**

75. As recommended by the 42<sup>nd</sup> session of the IHP Bureau, a three-hour scientific session was organized in the framework of the 19<sup>th</sup> session of the IHP Council, under the theme “Hydrological Sciences for Policy Responses to Uncertain Global Change Futures”. A number of speakers, including the award winner of the 2010 International Hydrology Prize delivered scientific presentations. Abstracts of these presentations are presented in document [IHP/IC-XIX/Inf.12](#).

## **PROGRESS REPORT ON RECENT IHP INITIATIVES AND PROGRAMMES**

76. The Secretariat reported on recent IHP initiatives, namely Water and Cultural Diversity, the involvement of IHP on the DESD and the UNESCO Strategy on Climate Change. It reported, in particular, on two proposed initiatives requiring a decision from the Council for their creation: the International Drought Initiative (IDI) and the Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) Guidelines on the River Basin Level Initiative. Several Member States, including Brazil, Oman, Mexico, Senegal, Sudan, Pakistan, Philippines, UAE and USA expressed strong support for the establishment of the IDI and the IWRM Guidelines on the River Basin Level Initiative.

77. With respect to IWRM, Japan, highlighted the importance of the initiative and expressed complete satisfaction with the publication of the IWRM guidelines. Japan requested support from Member States in terms of capacity building through this initiative.

78. As for IDI, it was noted by the Secretariat that the suggestion of the IHP Bureau to combine IDI with the International Flood Initiative (IFI) to form an international initiative on extreme events was not favoured due to concerns expressed by many members of IFI. While the delegate of Japan supported the idea of managing extremes, he expressed the need for IDI to closely collaborate as an independent initiative with IFI. Japan also emphasized the need to consider the programme structure of IDI in order to bring about effective international cooperation.

79. It was also reported that both initiatives would most certainly require continued extrabudgetary support - from the Republic of Iran and Japan respectively. The proposal for the establishment of IDI received strong support from the Council, with many delegates highlighting the importance of droughts. The delegate of the United States of America welcomed the initiative and suggested that the Secretariat work, for the remainder of IHP-VII, to incorporate aspects of the IDI within existing initiatives, such as G-WADI, HELP and FRIEND, with a view to establishing IDI within the framework of IHP-VIII. The delegates of the Netherlands, Germany and Brazil strongly endorsed the proposal by the United States of America and highlighted the need to introduce a sunset clause to, and consider financial implications of, any new initiative. The Islamic Republic of Iran thanked the delegates for their support of the Initiative and indicated that such support would further motivate Iran to work towards improved international cooperation on drought issues.

## **RELATIONS WITH UNITED NATIONS, INTERGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS AND NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS**

### **Cooperation with UN System on freshwater issues**

### ***Global Environment Facility (GEF)***

80. The representative of the Global Environment Facility (GEF) informed the Council on the main priorities of the 5<sup>th</sup> replenishment of the Facility's programme (2010-2014). The GEF is a global fund that serves as the financial mechanism for global environment conventions such as the Conventions on Climate Change, Desertification, and Biodiversity. He also informed the Council that IHP and IOC are partners assisting GEF agencies and Member States in the GEF International Waters Focal Area. It was also noted that most of the GEF-IHP partnership efforts are within the field of aquifers, where ISARM and IGRAC help deliver research results to Member States. The Council took note with satisfaction of the successful cooperation between IHP and GEF. It also learnt that the process initiated by UNESCO-IHP to become a GEF agency is now being developed with the approval of the GEF Council. The latter is set to name additional UN agencies that can directly receive GEF grant funding on behalf of Member States.

### ***World Meteorological Organization (WMO)***

81. The representative of the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) noted that the WMO's Hydrology and Water Resources Programme (HWRP) and UNESCO's IHP are the two main water-related programmes within the UN system. Highlighting close cooperation between the two programmes, the WMO representative reported on the outcomes and decisions of the 28th session of the UNESCO/WMO Liaison Committee for Hydrological Activities. These outcomes include a review of the working agreement on long-term cooperation in the field of hydrology originally established in 1974, and the exchange of findings from the joint project on flood disaster resilience in Western Africa. The Council noted that these reviews aim to develop synergies with WMO's project on the impacts of floods and droughts in agriculture. The Council also took note that WMO's Integrated Drought Management project could potentially contribute to the International Drought Initiative.

### ***United Nations Environmental Programme (UNEP)***

82. The representative of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) emphasized that UNESCO and UNEP signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) in April 2009. The MoU provides a framework of cooperation between the two organizations, including cooperation with IHP and WWAP in the field of freshwater. The Council was informed that cooperation between UNEP and IHP benefited both organizations by providing better synergy and coordination of activities, in particular through the Global Environment Ministers Forum, under the auspices of UNEP. It was noted that several joint activities with UNESCO have been undertaken, including a project on transboundary aquifers and joint publications. UNEP invited the IHP to collaborate on the upcoming World Environment Forum for Basin Organizations to be held in May 2011.

### ***United Nations University (UNU)***

83. The representative of the United Nations University (UNU) reported that collaboration and scientific cooperation between UNU and UNESCO-IHP has progressed over the last two years through the implementation of various joint initiatives. The Council was informed of UNU's contributions to the International Flood Initiative, the joint UNESCO-IHP/UNU programme "Quo Vadis Aquifer?" on groundwater; the UN-Water Decade Programme on Capacity Development, and a project on Water and Cultural Diversity. The Council also noted that IHP is a core partner in the UNU-INWEH executed GEF MSP "Enhancing the Use of Science in International Waters Projects to Improve Project Results", through its leadership of the project's Groundwater Working Group.

84. The UNU expressed its wish to further expand cooperation with IHP in other areas of common interest and to initiate additional joint activities.

### ***United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD)***

85. The representative of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) noted that sustainable water management is linked to sustainable land management and emphasized that water scarcity and drought mitigation issues are amongst the pillars of the foundation of the UNCCD. Noting the importance of water management in dry-lands, UNCCD encouraged the inclusion of a focus on water scarcity in the next phase of IHP and stressed that the UN, as a whole, has the responsibility to help build solid partnership arrangements on transboundary land and water resources and to encourage collaborative sustainable management amongst countries.

86. UNCCD expressed its readiness to closely collaborate with IHP and suggested the following possible areas of cooperation: joint advocacy for sustainable water and land management, drought risk management; and synergistic activities for the development of knowledge systems and awareness raising.

### **Cooperation with intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations**

#### ***Bureau de Recherches Géologiques et Minières (BRGM)***

87. The representative of BRGM informed the Council that the collaboration between BRGM and IHP is based on the shared recognition of the increasing role of groundwater as a key water source that needs to be appropriately managed. The result of this cooperation includes:

- The most complete 1/10 000 000 scale hydrogeological map of Africa (SIG AFRIQUE), funded by the French Ministry of Foreign Affaires, to be distributed free of charge
- A guidebook on "Management of Transboundary Aquifers", developed in collaboration with several French partners: AFD (French Development Agency), OIEau (International Office of Water), Académie de l'Eau (Water Academy).

88. In addition, BRGM collaborates with UNESCO on several IHP projects on transboundary aquifers (ISARM), management of artificial recharge (MAR) and management of coastal aquifer (MED MAP). The council took note that BRGM is looking forward to further enhancing its collaboration with UNESCO/IHP in the coming years.

#### ***International Association for Hydro-Environment Engineering and Research (IAHR)***

89. The representative of the International Association for Hydro-Environment Engineering and Research (IAHR) highlighted that IAHR is an independent, world-leading scientific community that focuses on research and best practice in fluid mechanics, hydraulics, water and environment engineering and management. He indicated that IAHR was founded in 1935 by the world's leading hydraulics research institutes and has now over 2,500 members worldwide. He informed the Council that IAHR organizes conferences, workshops and short courses, which are recognized globally for the purpose of professional status requirements. He also noted that IAHR publishes monographs, scientific journals and magazines and promotes international collaboration with a strong regional perspective. It maintains close relations with WMO, UNESCO, as well as with other associations such as ASCE, IWA, IAHS and SHF. IAHR possesses fifteen Technical Committees covering the different hydro-environment engineering sciences, and its members can participate in various working groups, focusing, in particular, on climate change and flooding within the IFI framework. IAHR wishes to extend its collaboration with IHP and more generally with UNESCO initiatives related to water.

#### ***International Association of Hydrogeologists (IAH)***

90. The representative from the International Association of Hydrogeologists (IAH) stressed the strong cooperation of his organization with the groundwater programmes of IHP. IAH welcomes the Council's view on the need for a new Section on Groundwater Resources and Aquifer Systems within IHP. The functions of aquifers are fundamental to the quantity and quality regulation of the ecohydrology of river basins and they contain an under-recognized and undervalued sub-surface space within which water and heat can be stored and can be considered for carbon capture and storage. Furthermore, land management policies need to couple with aquifer management to address food security in a sustainable manner. There are three areas that will require focus in the next half-decade: water scarcity, the achievement of the MDG's and water quality. Aquifers and the space available in them can make an undeniable contribution to these three areas.

91. IAH has recently conducted a "Forward Look – Forward Action" assessment for "IAH 2020", a look ahead to how the Association will evolve and develop in the next 10 years in response to the needs of the future. The representative, who was closely involved in the conceptualization of the seventh IHP Phase, congratulated the Task Force of the Eighth Phase for its work and highlighted that a number of issues, identified within the "IAH 2020", are also being highlighted in document [IHP/IC-XIX/Inf.13](#).

#### ***International Association of Hydrological Sciences (IAHS)***

92. The representative of IAHS indicated to the Council that he has submitted a written statement reflecting the comments made by him during the Council's discussion on the IHP-VIII

#### ***Senegal River Basin Development Authority (OMVS)***

93. The High Commissioner for the Senegal River Basin Development Authority (OMVS) informed the Council on the cooperation established with the IHP and OMVS. The network of basins could provide a valuable partner for UNESCO.

#### **Cooperation between IHP and the UN World Water Assessment Programme (WWAP)**

94. The Coordinator of the UN World Water Assessment Programme (WWAP) reported on the programme's activities since the 18<sup>th</sup> session of the Council. Noting that WWAP is hosted and led by UNESCO, the Coordinator of WWAP highlighted that members of UN-Water, including UNESCO through IHP are now contributing to the fourth World Water Development Report (WWDR). He also expressed appreciation to the Government of Japan for providing the generous contribution to produce the first and the second editions of the report and to Italy for providing support and the facilities to host the WWAP secretariat in its third phase.

95. The Council took note of the Coordinator's report that UNESCO-IHP is extensively involved in the scientific work of the WWDR preparation process, contributing to its forthcoming fourth edition by coordinating the challenge area on the "Status of the Resource" and, jointly with UNESCO-IHE, the one on "Water Allocation" and collaborating with WWAP in the joint Potential Conflict to Cooperation Potential (PCCP) initiative on transboundary water issues.

96. The Council was also informed about the uncertainty in the financial resources for the WWAP- Italian government sent a letter to DG with renewed commitment for the new phase.

97. The delegate of Jordan expressed strong support to WWAP and hope that the funding issues will be resolved. He emphasized importance of regional meetings and workshops in providing regional contributions to WWAP reports and invited the Member States to support the Programme.

98. The Council took note of the request made by the Bureau of IHP, who at its 44<sup>th</sup> session noted with satisfaction the cooperation between IHP and WWAP and expressed support to WWAP

in its institutional efforts. The Bureau requested the IHP National Committees to encourage their governments to consider supporting the WWAP Secretariat and its projects.

### **UNESCO-IHP involvement in the 5<sup>th</sup> World Water Forum and preparations for the 6<sup>th</sup> World Water Forum**

99. The Secretariat reported on the success of IHP's participation in the 5<sup>th</sup> World Water Forum (Istanbul, March 2009) and the resulting increased visibility. It was highlighted that IHP significantly contributed to the WWF5 Political and Thematic Processes and the WWF5 Water Fair, as well as to key outcomes, such as the Ministerial Declaration and Istanbul Water Guide. The Council expressed appreciation of the Secretariat and its current engagement in the preparations for the 6<sup>th</sup> World Water Forum to be held in Marseille, 2012 and encouraged it to continue playing an active role. The delegate of Turkey expressed appreciation of UNESCO's important contribution to the WWF5, both in the preparation leading up to the event and during the Forum itself.

### **IHP's role in the International Decade for Action – Water for Life (2005-2015)**

100. The Secretariat reported on collaboration with WWAP, UNW-DPAC, UNW-DPC and UN DESA within the scope of the International Decade for Action – Water for Life (2005-2015). The Council took note of the developments in this area with appreciation.