

International Hydrological Programme

52nd session of the IHP Bureau
(Paris, 1-2 June 2015)

PROPOSED IHP PANEL FOR WATER FUTURE AND SUSTAINABILITY

Item 5.6 of the provisional agenda.

Summary

This document comprises a revised proposal submitted by the Chairperson of the IHP Intergovernmental Council (Mexico) on the creation of a Panel for Water Future and Sustainability.

The Bureau may wish to endorse the Panel proposal and forward it to the Intergovernmental Council for its out-of-session decision.



Intergovernmental Panel on Water

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May 2015

Background

Water is a vital resource for humanity. It is a crosscutting good for all social, economic and environmental activities. It is a condition for all life on our planet, an enabling or limiting factor for any social and technological development, a possible source of welfare or misery, cooperation or conflict. The current actions undertaken by governments, international organisations, business people and civil society are vital to ensure long-term sustainable water management and security.

To safeguard the access of today's children and of future generations to water with adequate quantity and quality as well as to minimise water-related hazards, such as droughts, floods as well as water-related illnesses, it is critical to define a long-term planning timeline, beyond the current frameworks that are restricted to a few years (e.g. IHP phases, which are envisaged to six years or the MDG's targets and objectives designed by decades). What is needed today is to count on a broad vision encompassing the 21st century. Moreover, the half-century experience of UNESCO has demonstrated that the resources and efforts invested in this field can have better enduring outcomes by anticipating emergent challenges.

In spite of significant progress towards achieving a global access to safe drinking water within the MDGs scope, the global situation of water resources remains worrisome and the current challenges such as social conflicts or illnesses derived from the lack or low level of sanitation, among others, could have been prevented rather than faced with remedial actions. International initiatives take time to be defined and often reflect immediate needs, while neglecting future objectives and impacts.

This project proposes to make a serious analysis that identifies the actions gradually required from the present time to achieve the desired goals and ensure a better future. Small changes implemented now can strongly contribute towards achieving the future we want. In this vein, science, policy and the implementation of innovative technologies are often disconnected, resulting in a significant time lag for the implementation of scientific and technological advances on the quality of life of the global population. In addition, such implementation requires adequate financial mechanisms and human and institutional capacities. As demonstrated by the slow implementation of drinking water disinfection approaches during the 20th Century or by the delays in the establishment of flood control measures, such disconnection and time-lag can result in avoidable deaths, human suffering and significant economic losses. Thus, strengthening the linkages and active dialogue amongst water, natural and social sciences, engineering, technological development, policy-makers, decision-makers, financial stakeholders and groups involved in capacity building, is key to catalyse the implementation of efficient solutions. We assume that the links to this forecasting exercise is provided by the scientific methodology.

In this context, a collaborative initiative was proposed. This initiative is based on a platform for researchers, scientists, academics and water professionals to jointly work with decision-makers in order to generate recommendations that derive in public policies to develop the water sector for the benefit of the populations. This is the Intergovernmental Panel on Water (IPWater).

Justification

While water is a crosscutting element essential for development, found in each of the productive activities of mankind and the environment, it has not been a theme sufficiently established itself as a single sector, it is included as part of the whole when it is the core of sustainable development.

Water has not been valued in the various international fora (to begin with, the one on climate change) as a drive for peaceful coexistence (a social containment factor), or as an axis for the development of nations. While there are multilateral agencies already working in this theme, these have not had an impact on positioning the importance of the water sector in the international agenda, and hence, to boost the development of the theme itself.

Due to the lack of a unified vision on this theme, financing is not adequately flowing to address the problem.

Based on the aforementioned, the Government of Mexico presented the initiative to create IPWater under the framework of the 69th UN General Assembly convened by the Secretary General of the United Nations, Mr Ban Ki-moon in New York on 16 September 2014. This initiative coincided with the works carried out to draw up the post-2015 Agenda around the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which for the first time, considered the establishment of an objective exclusively on water.

More than a scientific Panel merely producing recommendations for policy-makers and strengthening the science-policy interface, this initiative shall go beyond. As noted in the UNESCO 37 C/5 strategy, it shall contribute to improve the information available to support decisions of policy-makers and other groups of stakeholders.

To achieve the above, a structure was sought that would give water a space from which long-term planning for the prevention of future challenges could be done. The model of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) has been spearheading the international arena, which has strengthened critical themes and managed to be adopted by the UN General Assembly through Resolution 43/53 " Protection of global climate for present and future generations of mankind". It is in this line in which the water strategy is based and seeks analogously for the General Assembly to receive IPWater, so that through resolution remains subject to the highest level of UNESCO.

It should be noted that, just as the IPCC, this Panel does not seek to undertake research or monitor data or parameters related to water.

Objectives

The short-term objective of IPWater as an intergovernmental and multidisciplinary body is to propose to policy-makers and other stakeholder groups, (through recommendations) pathways to improve the governance and management of water security until 2100 at the global and regional level, and at local scales. Such pathways would be grounded on a review of state-of-the-art and current practices, as well as water-related sciences, innovation and policies; likewise the current situation and future plausible scenarios of water resources and social interactions will be analysed.

The medium and long-term objectives of IPWater are:

- Review and assess the most recent scientific, technical and socio-economic water-related information produced worldwide.
- Provide Member States with a clear scientific view on the current state of knowledge on water resources in the world and its potential environmental and socio-economic impacts.
- Establish a flexible scheme for exchanging experiences on water management, and replicate successful cases in other parts of the world.
- Drive water demand reduction through actions that enable a more efficient use, reuse and recycling, promoting a proactive and leading society participation through fora and disseminate the state of water systems and on how society can engage in water management to face extreme events.

Functions

The Panel shall have the following functions:

- a. Define options and pathways to address the identified challenges using the best available knowledge for science, technology and policies, as well as considering local specific and realistic conditions for its implementation.
- b. Propose ways to address future risks with different reliability degrees, while keeping an acceptable and feasible probability of success.
- c. Report on international and regional policies aimed at ensuring global water security, as well as on the steps to be taken from now to maintain water security during the 21st century.
- d. Propose improvements in water security management for the short, medium and long-term.
- e. Identify future needs on science, technology, methodology, finance, capacity development and policies in order to succeed in the governance of current challenges and new problems.

Implementing Agency

UNESCO as the international organisation with a mandate in Sciences, Education and Culture is ideally placed to develop this type of initiatives, such as the one presented herein, because:

- a. It has experience and expertise in facilitating education and capacity building as well as in improving the management and governance of water resources through the International Hydrological Programme (IHP), an intergovernmental programme that furthers the use of science and technology for the development of policies at international, regional and local level in order to support decision-makers to solve water-related challenges; it mobilises international cooperation to develop and apply science and technology, as well as the necessary local knowledge to achieve water security; and develops human and institutional capacities.
- b. UNESCO, through its Natural Sciences and Social and Human Sciences sectors can support and facilitate the mobilisation of experts from different regions, communities and sectors. While physical aspects are highly relevant in understanding challenges and finding solutions, the social, economic and human sciences are essential to understand the context and the mechanisms to implement diverse and sometimes complex options.
- c. UNESCO can help to promote learning and inform society on the various possibilities through its Education and Culture sectors. This is fundamental to ensure the identification and wide adoption of best practices for water management.

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With IPWater, UNESCO shall count on an established scientific intergovernmental mechanism that organises and implements long-term strategic plans that enables a wider continuity on the actions to improve water security governance and management in a cumulative and staggered way.

Implementation

IPWater shall be at the highest level in UNESCO linked to the Office of the Director General.

For purposes of its implementation, a high level panel shall be established. It can be comprised of all UN and UNESCO member countries that will meet in a Plenary Session –highest body for decision-making– at least once a year to adopt key decisions.

IPWater shall have a Bureau responsible for the development of activities, four Working Groups, the IHP and a Secretariat.

The Office of the Director General of UNESCO shall appoint the members of the Secretariat, whose initial task shall be to organise the First Plenary Session of the Panel. In this session the following shall be elected:

- The Bureau of the Panel shall be composed of thirteen members: a Chairperson, a Secretary and a representative from each region (North America, Latin America and Caribbean, Africa, Asia, Europe and Oceania), and the IHP.
- The co-chairs of the four Working Groups

The IHP shall designate its own participant members.

Authors, researchers, contributors, examiners and experts in the field of water shall contribute to the task of the Working Groups.

Additionally, UN bodies may propose members to the panel, for the consideration of the Plenary Session.

The overall governance of IPWater shall be delegated to the Bureau, which can consult at all times the members of the Working Groups on the advancement of their tasks.

IPWater shall be responsible for producing the output documents through an in-depth consultation among its members, assisted by a wide range of contributing authors, collaborators, and peer-reviewers.

Operation

IPWater shall be established for an initial 3-year period, with the option to be renewed for another three years depending on the availability of resources and on its decisions. During each period, at least three panel meetings shall be held complementing their work by distance communications. The initial meeting shall take place during the first 11 months after the establishment of the initiative. IPWater will focus on the themes: drinking water and sanitation, water and agriculture, water and climate change, water governance and management, and water security, without being exclusive.

Outputs

The main output will be a report with recommendations, possible solutions and pathways for the sustainable water governance and management until 2100, through best practices and recommendations for global, regional and local policies.

Budget

USD\$2,293,900 for three years of operation

Annex 1 - Terms of Reference

1. OBJECTIVE

1.1. The objective of IPWater is to propose to policy-makers and other groups of stakeholders, recommendations and pathways to improve the governance and management of water security until 2100, at the global, regional level and local scales.

These recommendations and pathways shall be grounded on a revision of state-of-the-art and current practices, and of water-related sciences, innovation and policies; likewise the current status and future plausible scenarios of water resources and societal interactions shall be analysed.

1.2. The objectives of IPWater in the medium and long term are:

1. Review and assess the most recent scientific, technical and socio-economic water-related information produced worldwide.
2. Provide Member States with a clear scientific vision on the current state of knowledge on water resources in the world and their potential environmental and socio-economic impacts.
3. Establish a streamlined scheme for exchanging experiences on water management so that the successful cases can be replicated in other parts of the world.
4. Drive water demand reduction through actions that enable a more efficient use, reuse and recycling, promoting a proactive and leading society participation through fora and disseminate the state of water systems and on how society can engage in water management to face extreme drought conditions that are foreseen to occur.

2. PERSPECTIVES

2.1. Contribute to improve water management through clear and feasible methodologies that allow the progressive and consistent attainment of sustainable water security under different conditions and for different climates.

2.2. Achieve a significant improvement for the sustainable management of water resources worldwide, of the coverage and quality of water services, especially in developing countries, and of the resolution of problems caused by/related to water.

2.3. Help in the significant reduction of negative impacts in terms of human lives, goods and damage to ecosystems caused by water, and

harnessing the positive impacts of future changes in water resources and their management.

2.4. Achieve the use of the knowledge obtained from conventional science and innovation produced at regional or local levels in different languages, regardless of being published in specialised magazines.

3. FUNCTIONS

3.1. The main functions of IPWater will be:

- (a) Provide recommendation to define options and pathways to address the identified challenges using the best available knowledge for science, technology and policies, as well as considering local specific and realistic conditions for their implementation
- (b) Propose ways to address future risks with different degrees of reliability, while keeping an acceptable and feasible probability of success.
- (c) Report on international and regional policies aimed at ensuring global water security, as well as on the steps to be taken from now to maintain water security during the 21st century.
- (d) Propose improvements in water security management for the short, medium and long-term.
- (e) Identify future needs on science, technology, methodology, finance, capacity development and policies in order to successfully meet current challenges and solve new problems.

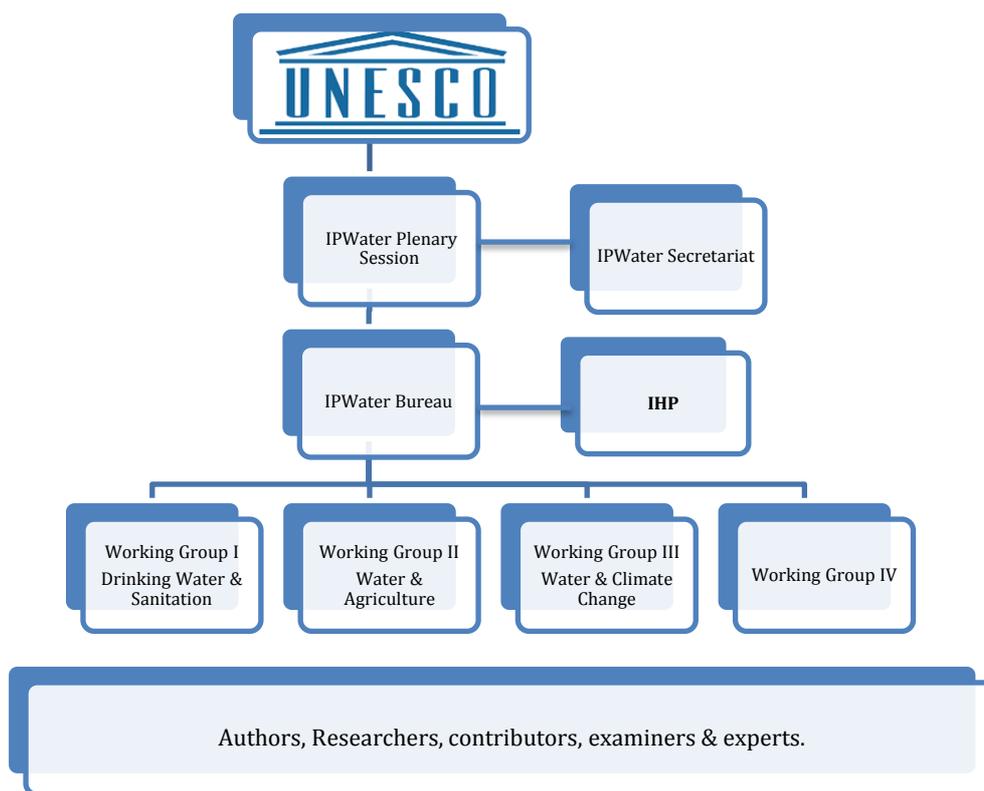
4. OUTPUTS

4.1. The main output shall be a report with possible solutions and pathways for the sustainable water governance and management until 2100, through best practices and recommendations for global, regional and local policies. The report shall be disseminated in at least three of the five working languages of the United Nations.

5. STRUCTURE

5.1. IPWater shall be at the highest level in UNESCO linked to the Office of the Director General, who shall be responsible for inaugurating the works.

5.2. The Organisation chart has the following structure:



5.3. IPWater shall be established for an initial period of three years, renewable for another three years depending on the achievements and budgetary availability.

5.4. **IPWater Plenary Session.** It meets at least once a year with government representatives linked to water management. The expected participants are senior officials responsible for water management and administration, and experts from organisations and institutions of member countries and participating organisations. Among the functions and activities of the Plenary Session are the approval of reports, as well as their scope and future working actions. The decisions adopted must have the consensus of the parties.

Participating Governments and agencies shall designate the members who will take part in the Plenary Session, prior accreditation and/or registration with the IPWater Secretariat.

All decisions are adopted by the Plenary Session, including the designation of IPWater officers, which is composed of thirteen members: a Chairperson, a Secretary, a representative from each region (North America, Latin America and the Caribbean, Africa, Asia, Europe and Oceania), the IHP; and the co-chairs of the four Working Groups. This designation shall be proposed and approved by the majority of the parties.

5.5. **IPWater Bureau.** The Bureau members are responsible for carrying out the assessment reports of the Working Groups. They will serve for

a period of at least 3 years and would be advisable if they are experts in water administration and management.

The Bureau is composed of thirteen members: a Chairperson, a Secretary, a representative from each region (North America, Latin America and the Caribbean, Africa, Asia, Europe and Oceania), who shall be designated by the Plenary Session, the IHP, and the Working Groups. In all cases, the proposal for designation and consensus of the parties, except in the case of the IHP, is required. In absentia of the Chairperson, the Vice-Chairperson of the Working Group on duty, selected on a staggered basis, will take over their functions.

5.6 IPWater Working Groups. The Co-chairs of the four Working Groups shall be elected by the Plenary Session for three years and shall have a mandate to develop a report on the following topics: water and sanitation, water and agriculture, water and climate change, governance and water management.

The scope of the report prepared by the respective Working Group shall be agreed upon at the Plenary Session. Teams of authors, researchers, contributors, reviewers and experts on topics hydrological shall support these works. IPWater members shall make observations during its review.

5.7 The IHP. Its integration and representation during the IPWater works shall be the responsibility of the IHP Chairperson, or failing that, the official appointed on their behalf.

The IHP shall have a 3-years term and shall be responsible for developing the theme on water security in coordination with the IPWater Bureau from their remit. It must also submit a report to the Bureau that contributes to the aim set by the Panel.

5.8 Authors, Researchers, Contributors Examiners and Experts from around the world will contribute to draw up the IPWater reports as authors, researchers, contributors, examiners and experts. They will be selected for three years by the Secretariat from the nominations received from governments and participating organisations or identified directly through their expertise verifiable through their publications and work.

5.9 IPWater Secretariat. It is responsible for the management and follow-up of every decision of the Bureau, including the plenary sessions. It is supported by UNESCO and located at the UN headquarters of this body.

The task of the Secretariat shall be appointed by the Plenary Session for a 3-years period with the option to continue in office if approved by the Plenary Session.

One of its other duties is to draw-up a list containing the names of candidates for the Bureau. They must be nationals of the Member States or representatives of the bodies of the United Nations.

6 MEETINGS

- 6.1 At least three meetings shall be held within a period of three years. The initial meeting will be held during the first 7 months after the establishment of the Panel.
- 6.2 The meetings of the Panel shall take place at the UNESCO offices. However, if a Member State of the UN or UNESCO extends an invitation and the IPWater Bureau accepts it, an IPWater session may be held in that Member State. In this case, the costs of holding such a meeting of the Panel shall be borne by the Member State that extended the invitation
- 6.3 As a general rule, IPWater meetings will be private. Member States and international intergovernmental or non-governmental organisations may send observers to follow the proceedings of these meetings only on invitation of the Panel.
- 6.4 Each member of IPWater is accorded one vote.
- 6.5 The Panel shall meet at agreed times and places, as fixed by the Secretariat. The latter will propose the agenda.
- 6.6 IPWater shall be able to communicate whenever it deems it necessary, through videoconference, teleconference, e-mail as well as any other channels of communication it deems necessary and feasible
- 6.7 The Rules of Procedure of IPWater are drawn up by the Secretariat and shall be submitted to the Panel for adoption.
- 6.8 At the start of its first meeting, the Plenary Session shall elect the IPWater Bureau and the co-chairpersons of the four Working Groups, who shall serve for a 3-years period. Bureau members are eligible for re-election.
- 6.9 The Chairperson of the IHP or the official they appoint on their behalf, shall seek to promote the proactive involvement of the diverse members of the UNESCO freshwater network, particularly UNESCO category 1 and 2 centres and institutes, centres and Chairs.

7 REPORTS

- 7.1 Reports shall be published in any form of material and in the UN working languages.
- 7.2 Reports shall be prepared by teams of authors, researchers, contributors, examiners and experts on hydrological topics, inviting government representatives to comment during review. The Plenary Session The approval shall be responsible of the reports approval.
- 7.3 Reports will be targeted at policy-makers and other stakeholders and shall include:
 - Introduction
 - Background
 - Working Groups reports
 - Conclusions and recommendations

7.4 Reports will focus on:

- Themes and focal areas defined by the IPWater Bureau

7.5 In order to ensure proper preparation and review of the Reports, IPWater shall undertake the following steps:

- Designation of coordinating editors and authors.
- Compilation of lists of potential contributors, consisting of Authors, Editors, Peer Reviewers.
- Selection of contributors
- Draw-up the draft Report
- Review
- Review by peer-reviewer collaborators
- Review by IPWater Bureau, in consultation with IHP Members by electronic means (with the assistance of the IPWater Secretariat)
- Draw-up of final draft Report
- Endorsement of the Report by IPWater members
- Endorsement of the Report by the IPWater Bureau (with the assistance of the IPWater Secretariat).

8 MEMBERS

8.1 Panel members shall be independent.

8.2 The IHP shall have its own member designation process.

8.3 In its first plenary session, IPWater shall elect the Bureau, the Co-Chairs of the four working groups and shall define the working methods by simple majority.

8.4 The main function of the Bureau members is to coordinate and organise the work of the Working Groups and collaborators, as well as to ensure the quality and timely delivery of outputs.

8.5 The Bureau shall designate the authors, researchers, contributors, examiner and/or experts that will be responsible for coordinating the main sections of a Report, which ensures a high scientific standard, in a timely manner and in compliance with the overall style guidelines set for the document.

8.6 The Bureau shall designate the editors that will be in charge of reviewing and editing the work provided by the authors.

8.7 The Plenary Session shall select and appoint the Bureau members, taking into account cultural diversity, balanced geographical representation, gender equality and the need to ensure appropriate rotation based on a list drawn-up by the Secretariat, in order to meet the following requirements:

- (a) All members shall be nationals of Member States of UNESCO or representatives of UN bodies.
- (b) All members shall have at least 15 years of professional experience, with demonstrated high technical quality in their remit at national, regional or international level.
- (c) All members shall be able to communicate in English and shall have demonstrated experience in the production of documents.

- 8.8 Panel members shall be designated at any moment and shall serve for a period of 1 year. The exact duration of the term of service can be adjusted, anticipated or extended by the IPWater Bureau, to ensure its chronological consistency with the production of reports. IPWater members may be re-elected twice, once by the IPWater Bureau with no need to be proposed by Member States, and a second time if a new proposal is submitted by a Member State.
- 8.9 IPWater members shall not receive any compensation from UNESCO and do not represent UNESCO and cannot commit the Organisation in any way.

9 COLLABORATORS

Collaborators from around the world shall serve in a private capacity and contribute as authors, researchers contributors, examiners and experts and contribute to draw-up the Panel reports. They will be selected by the Secretariat from the nominations received from governments and participating organisations or identified directly through their expertise verifiable through their publications and work.

9.1 Collaborators:

- (a) Shall have a minimum of 10 years of professional experience or alternatively at least 5 years of experience with a minimum of 5 peer-reviewed scientific publications.
- (b) Gender equity must be taken into account: no more than 75% shall be of the same gender.
- (c) Equal participation of the 6 regions must be guaranteed: at least 10% and not more than 40% shall be nationals of the same region.
- (d) No more than 15% shall be nationals of the same country.
- (e) Participating governments and organisations can propose a minimum of 5 collaborators to the Secretariat.

10 TIMELINE (annexed)

11 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

11.1 IPWater shall operate to a large extent on extra-budgetary funding.

11.2 The estimated operational cost of the Panel amounts to USD\$2,293,900 for 3 years, as follows:

Support to expert group members (Including flights and DSAs)	1,080,000
Secretariat costs (Including meeting rooms)	950,000
Cost recovery (13%)	263,900
Total USD	2,293,900

12 DURATION

12.1 IPWater shall have duration of 3 years, with a possibility of extension based on extra-budgetary funding contributions.

13 CONTACT

Reviewed by Mexico

IHP Chairperson

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10 TIMELINE

Activity		2014	2015										2016	
		November	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	January	February
1	Favourable recommendation of the IHP Bureau members meeting to prepare proposal of the Intergovernmental Panel on Water													
2	Presentation of the IHP Chairperson comments and observations on the proposal drawn-up by the IHP Secretariat													
3	Consultations within the IHP Bureau on the comments and observations made by the IHP Chairperson													
4	Presentation of the IHP Chairperson on the proposal to create an Intergovernmental Panel on Water in the WWF7													
5	Preparing the participation of the IHP Chairperson in the 52 nd IHP Bureau meeting (Panel, publication, commemorative stamp, etc.)													
6	Adoption of a (favourable) decision of the IHP Board to create the Intergovernmental Panel on Water													
7	Official announcement of the creation of the Intergovernmental Panel on													

	Water at UNESCO headquarters													
8	Selection of the Intergovernmental Panel on Water members													
9	Presentation of the IHP Chair on the Intergovernmental Panel on Water at the 38 th UNESCO General Conference													
10	Presentation of the IHP Chair on the Intergovernmental Panel on Water at the 21 st Climate Conference Paris (COP21)													
11	Preparation of the opening meeting of the Intergovernmental Panel on Water													
12	Holding of the opening meeting of the Intergovernmental Panel on Water													