



International Hydrological Programme (IHP)

Technical meeting of the members of the IHP Bureau

Merida, Mexico, 13-14 November 2014

FINAL REPORT

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ANNEX
Agenda and Timetable

1. OPENING

1. The Chairperson of the IHP Intergovernmental Council, Mr David Korenfeld (Region III, Latin America and the Caribbean), welcomed the participants in the name of the President of Mexico. The Chairperson thanked Mr Johannes Cullmann, Vice-Chairperson of Region I (Europe and North America), Mr Mitja Brilly, Vice-Chairperson of Region II (Eastern Europe), Mr Ian White, Vice-Chairperson of Region IV (Asia-Pacific Region), Mr Jean Patrice Jourda, Vice-Chairperson of Region Va (Africa) and Mr Mahmoud Abou-Zeid, Vice-Chairperson of Region Vb (Arab States) for accepting the invitation to this meeting, as decided at the 51st session of the IHP Bureau. He highlighted the importance of continuing the follow-up to the decisions of the 21st session of the IHP Council and of the 51st session of the IHP Bureau (June 2014, Paris), prior to the 52nd session of the Bureau in 2015, given the ample set of important items to be advanced. He asked the Bureau members if they had any objection to the presence of observers and reminded that simultaneous interpretation for English, French and Spanish was available during the meeting. He also mentioned the open technical session on "IHP responses to regional water challenges" (agenda item 9) as an opportunity for enrichment and exchange with water specialists and professionals from Mexico.

2. Ms Blanca Jiménez-Cisneros, Secretary of IHP, thanked the Chairperson and the National Water Commission of Mexico (CONAGUA) for hosting the technical meeting of the IHP Bureau members. She stressed the relevance of IHP as the only international scientific intergovernmental programme on water sciences, research, education and management in the UN system. She also noted the conclusion of the external evaluation of IHP-VII about the urgent need to strengthen IHP. To this end, she highlighted the importance of various agenda items, including the report of the Chair of the IHP Finance Committee, the audit of the governance of the scientific programmes of UNESCO, and the involvement of IHP in the post-2015 process. Finally she drew attention to the Water Futures and Change Proposal, as well as the 40th anniversary of IHP and 50th anniversary of water at UNESCO as opportunities to strengthen IHP's leading role on water and to improve its visibility.

3. The Chairperson expressed the importance of acting swiftly and of strengthening links with other organizations and international events, in particular the 7th World Water Forum. He noted that the proposed panel on Water Futures and Change could become a valuable tool to strengthen the science-policy interface.

2. ADOPTION OF AGENDA AND TIMETABLE

4. The Bureau members adopted the agenda and the timetable of the meeting (see Annex).

3. CONSIDERATIONS EXPRESSED BY THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE IHP COUNCIL'S FINANCE COMMITTEE

5. The Chairperson of the IHP Finance Committee, Mr Stein Van Oosteren (The Netherlands) expressed his gratitude to the Chairperson of the IHP Council and to CONAGUA for hosting the meeting, which provided an opportunity to improve external communications and the visibility of IHP, as requested in the external evaluation of the Programme. He focused on five main points:

- The importance of establishing a multi-donor Trust Fund for IHP, as well as appointing a professional fundraiser for the IHP, as recommended in the evaluation of IHP-VII.
- The need to have detailed information on the way funds are spent in connection with activities, also to validate the budget allocations, while noting that micromanagement must be avoided.
- The need to improve future reporting of results. He noted that there is a consensus in the UNESCO Executive Board that reporting should be two-fold, with one document focusing on outputs and another on results achieved.
- Discussion is needed on how financial reporting should be done in relation to the flagship programmes of the IHP, such as FRIEND or HELP.
- The need to think strategically on how to best take advantage of the network of water-related category 2 centres, as a major asset of IHP. This includes the need to have

information on their cost to UNESCO and the need to contract a professional to manage and coordinate the network, similar to what BSP will do for category 1 Institutes.

6. The Vice-Chairperson of Region IV asked about information on whether UNESCO had allocated the budget following the request from Member States. The Chairperson of the Finance Committee informed that this information had been requested to the IHP Secretariat. He noted, however, that according to usual practice, a small portion of the resources allocated to IHP would be retained for administrative staff and other expenses at sector level.

7. The Vice-Chairperson of Region I highlighted the importance of allocating staff and budget to IHP networking and fundraising, even if not immediately feasible in the present context of UNESCO. He mentioned that in the meantime the Secretariat is implementing relevant actions, as well as specific contributions from Member States. As an example, he noted the upcoming meeting of category 2 centres in Koblenz, Germany. He reiterated the importance of identifying "selling points" for the IHP, such as the process of the forthcoming Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the network represented by UNESCO's Water Family. In terms of reporting tools, he noted the complex and much debated problem of identifying and measuring impact and outcomes in the short-term.

8. The Chairperson of the Finance Committee referred to existing fundraising staff within UNESCO (i.e. BFM/CFS), which could further work with IHP on the multi-donor Trust Fund. As for the reporting period and in order to be able to visualize the impact of the work of UNESCO, he noted that a 4-year period could be adopted. He underlined that, if this trust fund were to be used, it could be dedicated to a specific objective. However, this would not be compulsory.

9. The Chairperson summarized that the two main issues raised under this item were the financial and staff constraints. He called for Member States to support the IHP by financing specific initiatives and programmes, which could be further replicated in other countries and regions. In this regard, Mexico intends to set an example to initiate the momentum. The Chairperson took note of the suggestion of the members of the Bureau to define the UNESCO Water Family, membership, collaboration and representation.

4. FOLLOW-UP TO THE EVALUATION OF IHP-VII

10. The Secretary of IHP reported that in response to the evaluation of IHP-VII, the Secretariat has already started to improve its website and has been given a more defined budget allocation structure. She further reported that the Secretariat collaborates with various Member States on secondments and sabbaticals at IHP. She welcomed the possibility of having a professional fundraiser working at the Secretariat, as well as to have staff devoted to the coordination of the Water Family, which is necessary and time demanding. She further remarked that the aforementioned profiles are very specific and not available within the Secretariat.

11. The Chairperson of the Finance Committee highlighted a series of issues, including the need of developing a communication platform; the possibility of having the category 2 centres reporting to IHP instead of to BSP; the lack of visibility of the IHP that could be raised by using social networks; and the adoption of a special account or multi-donor trust fund for IHP.

12. The Vice-Chairperson of Region I indicated that raising funds for specific purposes would be more effective than generic fundraising. He mentioned that a proposal could be prepared by the Secretariat for the IHP Council, targeting some of the IHP's flagship initiatives.

13. The Bureau discussed the possibility of creating a Water Family logo, which could be adopted by all its members. The Secretary of IHP mentioned that a communication mechanism including the newsletter requires dedicated staff, and that a multi-donor fund can in principle be opened to gather donations. Finally, she pointed out that an implementation strategy for IHP had been agreed upon in Nairobi and could serve as a basis for the communication and outreach strategy.

14. The Chairperson agreed on the establishment of a programme of sabbaticals at the Secretariat and stated that CONAGUA would support it with funds. He also requested support from other regions to strengthen IHP and its Secretariat.

5. AUDIT OF THE GOVERNANCE OF THE INTERNATIONAL SCIENTIFIC PROGRAMMES OF UNESCO

15. The Chairperson highlighted his decision to complete the questionnaire for the audit of the governance of the intergovernmental programmes of UNESCO in a transparent and consultative manner, with the participation of all Bureau members. He recalled that after receiving inputs from all Bureau members, he circulated among them the version that was submitted to the auditor. The Chairperson took this occasion to invite the Bureau members to reflect on the governance of IHP, for instance by seeking ways to improve the functioning of the IHP Council, to allow for longer debates and exchanges during its sessions. He noted that the IHP Statutes were last updated nearly 20 years ago and that the Rules of Procedure of the IHP Council may also be improved. He suggested that the next session of the IHP Bureau should consider options to update these documents, in order to present a proposed revision to the Council.

16. The Chairperson of the Finance Committee considered the periods between Council sessions too long and also noted that membership of the IHP Bureau is small. Therefore, the implementation working group would be a good compromise to ensure that substantial work is done in the period between sessions. He suggested that future Bureau reports include a line on decisions pertaining to relevant agenda items. The Bureau members welcomed this proposal.

17. The Vice-Chairperson of Region II asked for improved transmission of the results of the IHP Bureau and Council to all Member States, by improving the access and visibility of the dedicated IHP webpage. He also asked how National Committees that are not members of the IHP Council can report to it.

18. The Vice-Chairperson of Region I emphasized that the Bureau should strive to diminish the bureaucracy associated with the implementation and governance of IHP. He referred to the categorization of the institutes and centres, noting that such distinction of category 1 and 2 should not be necessary outside of bureaucratic processes. He proposed to focus on a reduced number of highly visible, scientific and technical topics during the upcoming Council. As for the implementation working group, he suggested to evaluate how to involve it more deeply in some actions.

19. The Vice-Chairperson of Region Vb noted that the proposals presented by the Chairperson of the Finance Committee were reasonable but challenging to implement. He concurred that the biennial periodicity of the Council sessions was too long and highlighted that improved communication among Member States would reduce the need for more frequent meetings, while increasing the number and frequency of meetings would also increase costs. He noted that the IHP Bureau was of adequate size to represent all regions but claimed for more time for discussion during the Council sessions. He commented on the status of category 2 centres, noting that cooperation and coordination between them should be further strengthened.

20. The Chairperson asked the Secretariat to prepare a proposal on the improvement of the functioning of the IHP Council for submission to the next session of the Bureau, including a revised timetable, potential revisions of the Rules of Procedure and eventually of the Statutes.

21. The Secretary of the IHP clarified that some aspects were outside of the scope of IHP, in particular the categorization of UNESCO centres and institutes. The Secretariat further informed that a revision of the IHP Statutes would need to be approved by the General Conference, and that the meetings were governed by specific regulations (14 C/Resolutions and updates). The Secretariat also added that the IHP Statutes already state that voluntary contributions may be accepted and established as trust funds.

22. The Chairperson of the IHP Finance Committee noted that the collection of reporting data from category 2 centres should be simplified.

6. CELEBRATIONS OF THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF IHP AND IHD

23. The Secretary of IHP highlighted the main events dedicated to the anniversary of IHP and IHD, including the adoption of a logo connected with the anniversary as requested by the IHP Council. The Secretary informed that an open call for proposals had been issued and about 20 expressions of interest have been received. She invited the Bureau members to select their preferred proposal. In relation to the anniversary celebrations, she noted that the main event will take place in Paris and could include the launching of an international initiative or the launching of a book. A possible meeting of the Water Family is also being considered and some Member States have expressed their interest in hosting and supporting it. A high-level panel on water security during the 7th World Water Forum is envisaged and the presence of the Bureau members would be highly appreciated. Lastly, a possible celebration event during the General Conference, as suggested by some Member States, has still to be discussed and if adopted would represent the closing of the celebrations. She encouraged the Bureau members to conduct celebrations in their regions and to participate in the different events.

24. Out of the received proposals for the anniversary logo, the Bureau Members selected the logo displayed in annex 1.

25. The Chairperson highlighted the anniversary book as a major output for the commemoration, as well as a legacy of the IHP. An outline is already available for the Bureau members and the book will be fully financed by the Mexican Government. He informed that the book launch is foreseen to take place in UNESCO HQ in June 2015, possibly in the presence of the President of Mexico. He also encouraged Member States to create postal stamps for the anniversary celebration and invited the Bureau members to work with countries in their regions in this regard.

26. The Vice-Chairperson of Region IV expressed appreciation for the generosity of the Mexican Government for the support to the commemorative book and enquired about the possibility of developing some visual materials targeted at the youth.

27. The Chairperson of the Finance Committee proposed that social media could be used to disseminate parts of the book in order to reach the youth.

28. The Chairperson welcomed the comments and mentioned that the commemorative anniversary book will focus on the past, present and future of IHP. He welcomed the idea of using social media to disseminate it among the youth.

29. The Vice-Chairperson of Region I informed that in Germany water issues have changed dramatically in the past 50 years, often with notable improvements, presenting the example of the pollution in the Rhine river and how it was successfully addressed.

30. The Vice-Chairperson of Region Vb suggested that the celebrations could be connected with the 2015 World Water Day and there should be room for proposals from Member States through the IHP National Committees, especially for events carried out at national level.

31. The Chairperson of the Finance Committee expressed his support to the idea of creating a dedicated postal stamp and noted the successful experience by the Netherlands with stamps for UNESCO's World Heritage Programme.

32. The Vice-Chairperson of Region II highlighted the role of IHP among other international water programmes, especially on transboundary cooperation issues. He reported on a Conference in Saint-Petersburg, as well as the IHP regional meeting aiming at increasing cooperation and development in his region.

7. IHP AT THE 7TH WORLD WATER FORUM

33. The Secretariat presented the different sessions and processes in which IHP is involved, including sessions with other members of the UNESCO water network. All regions were invited to express their interest on the sessions and events organized by IHP.

34. The Chairperson expressed his intention to further strengthen the collaboration between IHP and the World Water Council (WWC) by building additional bridges and promoting synergies.

35. The Vice-Chairperson of Region Vb reported the involvement of Egypt in the Forum and requested additional information about IHP involvement in the preparatory process.

36. The Chairperson gave the floor to Mr Roberto Olivares, WWC representative, who requested support from the Secretariat to prepare a strategy to foster the anniversary of IHP within the context of the Forum.

8. WORKING GROUP ON APPROPRIATE TECHNOLOGY ON USE AND WATER MANAGEMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND SUBURBS AREAS

37. The Chairperson requested the permission of the Bureau members to allow Mr Victor Bourguett Ortiz, Director of Mexican Institute of Water Technology (IMTA), to present this item. Mr Bourguett highlighted the importance of technology for Mexico, LAC and other regions. He mentioned that financial support for this initiative will be provided from Mexican institutions.

38. The Vice-Chairperson of Region I welcomed this initiative and requested additional information to propose its expansion to his region. The Vice-Chairperson of Region Vb welcomed the proposal and invited Mexico to take into account the work already done by UNESCO. The Vice-Chairperson of Region IV also expressed his support to the proposal, particularly in view of the need for alternative technologies among the Pacific SIDS.

9. IHP RESPONSES TO REGIONAL WATER CHALLENGES (PRESENTATIONS BY THE BUREAU MEMBERS CONCERNING REGIONAL WATER ISSUES) OPEN TO ANEAS DELEGATES

39. The Vice Chairperson for Region I focused on the Kiel-Canal connecting the North Sea with the Baltic Sea. Focusing on the morphology of the canal, he indicated that it relies greatly on pumps to protect adjacent areas and reduce costs. Improved water management in the canal involves infrastructure safety, optimization of transport capacity, operation of crossings and flood prevention. He further highlighted that information is required for improved seasonal forecasting and that a major issue in Region I is the need for joint operation of data services. Pending funding, IHP's national Committees in Region I will collaborate to establish data exchange systems.

40. The Secretary of IHP highlighted that the Programme supports joint actions at the regional level and can set a platform for shared information and knowledge. The members of the Bureau welcomed the recommendation of the IHP-VII evaluation to clearly establish IHP's niche as a platform for scientific data collection for decision-making in the form of a data portal. The Chairperson of the Finance Committee noted that there is an opportunity to address recommendations made by the evaluators through the water knowledge forum.

41. The Vice-Chairperson of Region II noted that the expansion of the European Union to Eastern Europe had a notable impact on hydrology and has pushed cooperation in several areas, including in the Danube Basin. He expressed his disappointment at the recent closure of a centre in his region, while the number of chairs and centres should be increased and institutionally strengthened. He presented regional actions planned for the celebrations of the anniversary of IHP, including the meeting of the IHP National Committees. In addition, he pointed out the social development in the Sava Basin countries and indicated that important lessons have been learnt in light of the 2014 floods. He also introduced the programme "More Room for Water", launched by the Slovenian IHP National Committee.

42. The Vice Chairperson for Region IV emphasized that his region is vast and complex, being affected by a wide range of water-related challenges. ASPAC contains 60% of the world's population, including six of the ten world's largest cities. While some countries are very advanced technologically, others are still subsistence economies. The full range of climates is reflected in the region and the question of season forecasting is particularly critical. This issue is complex, diverse and variable to the extent that current global climate models do not address it satisfactorily. He further noted some of the main challenges affecting the Pacific, namely extreme events and disasters, water scarcity and over-extraction, biodiversity loss, transboundary basins, water pollution, irrigation, governance and community engagement. He noted that some countries will fail to meet the Millennium Development Goals on water. Life-losses connected to water are sadly a noteworthy statistic, particularly affecting children. He reminded that transboundary waters are dominant in the region and that there are great stresses on water systems and the dependent ecologies. He highlighted the work of UNESCO to address these challenges. He added that the Funds-In-Trust supported by the Japanese Government have been instrumental. Finally, he highlighted that information sharing must be the way forward for all countries. Several international conferences, particularly in connection to urban and peri-urban areas will be hosted and the region is actively supporting the 7th World Water Forum.

43. The Secretary of IHP concurred that IPCC data indicates that there is a problem with changes in precipitation patterns and that water challenges are pressing.

44. The Vice-Chairperson of Region Va presented IHP initiatives to address water challenges in Sub-Saharan Africa. He highlighted that population growth is greatly affecting the region, along with social instability. Six climatic regions are present in the region and transboundary waters are common. He indicated that while there are considerable water resources in Sub-Saharan Africa, they are not accessible in great part due to economic water scarcity. He then presented the regional challenges defined by the African Ministers' Council on Water (AMCOW) and reported that IHP is addressing these challenges through several clusters, as well as via the IHP National Committees and focal points. He noted that IHP plays a key role in water governance and management, including through its support to the AMCOW Commission on Groundwater. With regards to risk management and climate change, he highlighted numerous initiatives currently in place, among them the Earth Observation for Integrated Water Resources Management in Africa (TIGER), where IHP is operating in partnership with UNEP and UN-Habitat, and a study on urban groundwater pollution conducted in eleven African countries. He noted that UNESCO is strongly contributing to the water sector through numerous initiatives, including HELP, G-WADI and FRIEND.

45. The Secretary of IHP emphasized that problems across regions share similarities but must be addressed according to local settings. She noted that IHP is strongly contributing to capacity building at the international level and has been at the origin of several key international initiatives.

46. The Vice-Chairperson of Region Vb noted that the Arab region is a severely water-scarce region. Some of the major challenges include vulnerability to climate change, food insecurity and the lack of access to safe water and sanitation. He further noted that significant increases in population are foreseen by 2050, with potentially serious implications for water scarcity. Nevertheless, the region is leading technological innovations and the exploitation of non-conventional water resources. He indicated that some perceived challenges could be converted into opportunities, for instance by using transboundary waters as tools for cooperation, the achievement of sustainable development and advancing the food-water-energy nexus. He noted that wadis are a vital water source for Arab countries and that the Wadi Hydrology Programme is incorporated in IHP and coordinated by UNESCO. In addition, he noted the Groundwater Protection Network, which aims to conduct joint research to develop cost-effective techniques and to promote cooperation. He also drew attention the Egyptian IHP Committee, which was constituted in 2012 and is conducting numerous activities, including an annual course on Environmental Hydrology for Arid and Semi-arid Regions.

47. The Secretary of IHP noted that water scarcity in the Arab region is well above the global average and that IWRM is critical to address it. She concurred that the region is a leader in the use of brackish water and other non-conventional water sources and highlighted the contribution of IHP in gathering local knowledge regarding wadis.

48. Ms Zelmira May, IHP Regional Hydrologist a.i. for Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC), presented water challenges and opportunities in her region together with Mr Bourguett Ortiz. In addition to the various IHP activities in LAC, Ms May noted the need to raise the profile of IHP at the political level and to position it on the water agenda. She also highlighted that IHP National Committees are strong. Mr Bourguett presented IMTA's activities in the framework of IHP, in particular those related to ecohydrology, sedimentation, floods and droughts and the UNESCO Chair at IMTA. He mentioned that most activities have a regional scope and informed that IMTA has allocated a substantial budget to finance IHP-related activities in the coming years. He highlighted the Central America success in improving water management in rural areas. Mr Bourguett also referred to the work of IMTA in water pollution and tropical cyclones, as well as the monitoring of the El Niño with support from the meteorological service and in collaboration with WMO. He highlighted the interest of IMTA in strengthening cooperation with UNESCO to foster capacity development and education.

49. The Chairperson of the IHP Finance Committee noted that regions share similar problems and expressed his support for the organization of a high-level panel at the 7th World Water Forum.

10. PROPOSAL FOR “WATER FUTURES AND CHANGE” (SCIENTIFIC PANEL PROJECT) AT UNESCO

50. The Secretary presented a proposal for the creation of a scientific and policy panel, aimed at proposing pathways to enhance the governance and the management of water security until 2100, at the global, regional and local levels. She further informed that such pathways are to be based on a revision of current practices and on plausible scenarios of water resources and societal interactions.

51. The Chairperson expressed his support for this initiative and noted that scientific knowledge needs to be promoted, highlighting the importance of advising governments to allow better adaptation to future changes. The Chairperson noted the Government of Mexico attaches a great importance to the question of water and in this context, he also underscored that the President of Mexico proposed at the United Nations Climate Summit organized by the Secretary-General of the United Nations on 23rd September 2014, the creation of an Intergovernmental Panel on Water “as a space to develop new adaptation works that enable us to be better prepared for the impact of increasingly severe weather event”. A ministerial decision in Mexico also followed to promote this initiative in the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) conference of the Parties (COP) in Lima. He encouraged all Member States to support the initiative. In this regard, he requested the Secretariat to submit a detailed proposal to the Bureau members for their comments, which could be followed by a meeting during the 7th World Water Forum. As an alternative to the presentation during the COP and in case the initiative would not be supported by UNFCCC, a panel might be created exclusively within IHP.

52. The Vice-Chairpersons of Regions IV, II and Vb expressed their support for this initiative.

53. The Vice-Chairperson of Region V mentioned the particular features of the region he represented in terms of the vulnerabilities, and mentioned that the IHP is a proper framework for the development of the initiative.

54. The Vice-Chairperson of Region I encouraged the scientific platform to be connected with the political level. He expressed his strong support for the initiative and suggested to link it with the World Water Assessment Programme (WWAP).

55. The Chairperson of the Finance Committee reiterated the importance of involving policy-makers, and also requested that the Permanent Delegations are periodically informed on the advances in this initiative. He also recalled that UNESCO is part of the Scientific Advisory Board of the UN Secretary-General and linkages could be explored.

56. Mr Roberto Olivares, WWC Governor, underscored that the proposal had also been discussed within the WWC. However, no significant progress had been made to include water in the UNFCCC agenda, in spite of the scientific evidence that links the themes.

57. The Chairperson asked the IHP Secretariat to avoid duplication with ongoing efforts when preparing the detailed proposal. He concluded by asking the Bureau members to present this initiative in their countries and regions. He called for utilizing all available platforms to promote it and requested that the new proposal be prepared in advance to COP21. He also referred to the need of giving time to Member States to discuss and promote the proposal. He highlighted that this initiative aims to assess global change impacts on water resources and to solve conflicts.

58. The Ambassador of Mexico to UNESCO mentioned the need to focus on concrete outputs to respond to the challenge of positioning water on the climate change agenda. He mentioned that UNESCO could take an active role in the negotiation it towards COP.

59. The Secretary of IHP confirmed that the Secretariat will prepare the detailed proposal and circulate it among Bureau members for comments.

11. PROPOSAL FOR A REGIONAL CENTRE ON WATER SECURITY AS A CATEGORY 2 CENTRE UNDER THE AUSPICES OF UNESCO IN MEXICO

60. The Chairperson requested the Bureau members' to invite the Directors of IMTA and the Engineering Institute of UNAM to outline the proposal. The Director of the Engineering Institute noted that the proposed centre addresses several important themes, including water resource management, water security, sustainability and the protection from extreme meteorological events. He highlighted that the proposed centre, which will contribute to five themes of IHP-VIII, aims for interdisciplinary scientific collaboration to address water security and provide a foundation for collective regional cooperation. The objectives of the centre include a common agenda for water security, response mechanisms from policy-makers, relevant stakeholders and multidisciplinary research. He outlined the main lines of research that the proposed centre will undertake and noted that national and international cooperation will include synergies with international stakeholders. The organizational structure includes a scientific committee with the presence of UNESCO. The centre will be entirely funded by the Mexican Government and Mexican institutions. The Chairperson added that the Centre will not seek funds from UNESCO and will rely on the strength of its two host institutions. The Director of IMTA explained that both institutes possess a solid revenue generating strategy. The Director of UNAM added that the Governing Board of the centre will integrate representatives of the Government of Mexico, including CONAGUA.

61. The Vice-Chairperson of Regions II and Va expressed their support for the proposed centre.

62. The Vice-Chairperson of region IV indicated that a new thematically related Centre on Water Security and Sustainable Management will be launched by K-Water at the 7th World Water Forum, offering a great opportunity for inter-regional synergies.

63. The Vice-Chairperson of Region I indicated that his region welcomed the proposal and invited the proponents of the centre to attend a meeting of category 2 centres in December 2014 in Germany.

64. The Vice-Chairperson of Region Vb inquired about the possibility of converting IMTA into a regional institute.

65. The Chairperson clarified that IMTA will maintain its functional autonomy and the new centre will benefit from the expertise of both IMTA and UNAM.

66. Taking into account the unanimous support received by the members of the Bureau, it was noted that the proposal to establish this centre could be formally endorsed without debate at the 52nd session of the Bureau.

12. IHP AND THE POST-2015 AGENDA

67. The Secretary of IHP indicated that this item is included for information and expressed the need to clarify the concept of "water security", to reposition it as an operational tool for Member States. In addition, she emphasized the need to address the concept of water security in the context of COP 21.

68. The Vice-Chairperson of region I indicated that further discussions among Member States about water in the post-2015 agenda are likely, including during the meeting of category 2 centres in Germany. He proposed that an information letter be sent to Member States.

13. FOLLOW-UP TO THE INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF WATER COOPERATION

69. The Secretary of IHP highlighted the impact of the 2013 International Year of Water Cooperation, with over 1000 reported activities and contributions worldwide, estimated to have reached over 20 million people.

14. CLOSURE

70. The Vice-Chairperson of Region IV expressed his gratitude for the occasion to present the Asia-Pacific water issues in the meeting, particularly those of Small Island Developing States (SIDS) as highlighted at the 3rd UN Conference on SIDS in Samoa. He then recalled that the water community recently lost a dedicated member, Mr Mike Bonell, who in his extensive career also served at the IHP Secretariat.

71. The Chairperson proposed that the legacy of Mr Bonell and of other distinguished colleagues would be honoured in the IHP anniversary book.

72. The members of the Bureau expressed their gratitude to the Chairperson for organizing such successful meeting, and extended their gratitude to CONAGUA, IMTA, UNAM and the IHP Secretariat.

73. The Chairperson thanked all participants for accepting his invitation and for their contributions to its success. He closed the meeting.

ANNEX

AGENDA AND TIMETABLE

DATE	TIME	AGENDA ITEMS
Thursday, 13 November	10.00 – 10.30	1. Opening
		2. Adoption of agenda and timetable
	10.30 – 11.00	3. Considerations expressed by the Chair of the IHP Council's Finance Committee
	11.00 – 11.15	Group photo and coffee break
	11.15 – 12.00	4. Follow-up to the evaluation of IHP-VII
	12.00 – 12.20	5. Audit of the governance of the International Scientific Programmes of UNESCO
	12.20 – 12.40	6. Celebrations of 50 th anniversary of IHD and IHP
	12.40 – 12.50	7. IHP at 7th World Water Forum
	12.50 – 13.00	8. Working Group on "Appropriate Technology on Use and Water Management for Rural Development and Suburbs Areas"
	13.00 – 15.00	Lunch break
15.00 – 17.00	9. IHP responses to regional water challenges (Presentations by the Bureau members concerning regional water issues) <i>open to ANEAS delegates</i>	
Friday, 14 November	14.00 – 14.30	10. Proposal for "Water Futures and Change" (scientific panel project) at UNESCO
	14.30 – 15.00	11. Proposal for a Regional Centre on Water Security, as a category 2 centre under the auspices of UNESCO, in Mexico
	15.00 – 16.00	12. IHP and the post-2015 agenda
	16.00 – 16.20	13. Follow-up to the International Year of Water Cooperation
	16.20 – 16.30	14. Other matters
	16.30 – 16.50	15. Adoption of the report
	16.50 – 17.00	16. Closure