International Hydrological Programme (IHP)

47th session of the IHP Bureau
Paris, 1 June 2012

FINAL REPORT

UNESCO, Paris 2012
1. The 47th session of the Bureau of the Intergovernmental Council of the International Hydrological Programme (IHP) was held in Paris, France, on the 1 June 2012. Mr Soontak Lee (Republic of Korea, representing electoral Group IV – Asia and the Pacific), Chairperson, and the following Vice-Chairs attended the meeting: Mr Matthew Carl Larsen (US, representing electoral Group I – Western Europe and North America); Mr Jovan Despotovic (Serbia, representing electoral Group II – Eastern and Central Europe); Mr Polioptro F. Martinez Austria (representing electoral Group III – Latin America and the Caribbean); Mr Christine Omondi Juma (Kenya, representing electoral Va – Africa); and Mr Abdelhafiz Elawad (Sudan, representing electoral Group Vb - Arab States). Also present at the meeting were Mr Christophe Cudennec (Secretary of IAHS), and Mr Verne R. Schneider (US Geological Survey).

2. Mr Soontak Lee, Chairperson of the IHP Intergovernmental Council, opened the meeting by welcoming the participants. He thanked the Secretariat for the preparation of the Bureau and the Council meetings and thanked the outgoing members of the Bureau for their excellent work during the last two years. The Bureau welcomed the new Deputy Secretary of the IHP, Mr Bisher Imam. Mr Lee highlighted the main points of the Bureau meeting agenda, including the evaluation of the IHP-VI phase, the preparation of the strategic plan of IHP-VIII, the preparation of the 20th session of the IHP Council, the new proposals for category 2 centres and nominations of new members for the governing boards of the centers. The provisional agenda was adopted.

3. The Director of the Division of Water Science and Secretary of the IHP, Mr Abdin Salih, thanked the Bureau members for their continued support during the very difficult financial situation the organization is facing. The Secretariat explained the new format for the upcoming Intergovernmental Council (IGC) and stressed respecting the time constraints for presentations and interventions. The focus of the IGC will be on the presentation and discussion of the draft strategic plan for IHP-VIII. The Bureau decided to retain provisional agenda item 4.2, as previously approved, and in response to a request by a member state, allocated a short time slot on the third day of the Council for the presentation by the evaluation team of IHP-VI of the most salient points of the review. The Bureau raised the issue of monitoring the success of the IHP program through the use of performance indicators. The Secretariat informed the bureau that the organization monitors its programs through a results-based management system. The Secretariat reported that, within the Science sector, IHP is the most successful at raising extra-budgetary funds.

4. The members of the Bureau expressed their appreciation for the work and progress of the Task Force on the preparation of the draft strategic plan for IHP-VIII. Several members of the Bureau brought up topics which have not been adequately represented, such as education particularly under 6.5 should cover cross-cutting issues (IWRM, transboundary and shared waters, human dimensions, governance, global change).... The Bureau requested the Task Force to go beyond guidelines and briefing papers for all focal areas in Theme 6. The IHP-VIII phase will be subject to a resolution approved during the IGC.

5. The Bureau endorsed the following category 2 centres: International Centre for Water Security and Sustainable Management at the K-Water Institute, Daejeon, Republic of Korea, the International Centre for Water Cooperation in Sweden, and the Regional Centre on Groundwater Management in Uruguay. The Bureau recommended candidates for the governing boards of UNESCO-IHE, RC-IRBM and HidroEX, to be discussed and approved by the regions and presented to the IGC. The Secretariat presented the process of renewal of category 2 Centre’s and proposed a grace period between the end of the current agreement and approval of the new agreement according to the 35 C/22 and recommended a draft resolution on this aspect to the Council.
6. The Secretariat introduced the new World’s Large Rivers Initiative (WLRI) proposed by the Executive Secretary of the Austrian National Committee for Geo/Hydro Sciences shortly before the IHP Bureau meeting. The Bureau discussed the proposal and agreed to forward it to the IGC for deliberation.

7. Due to the reduced duration of the Council, the Bureau recommended to the Council to submit draft resolutions only within the first two days.
ANNEX I

AGENDA

1. Opening of the session
2. Adoption of the agenda
3. Review of preparations and reporting mechanisms for the 20th session of the IHP Intergovernmental Council
4. Review of IHP-VI final evaluation report
5. Review of IHP-VIII (draft) Strategic Plan
6. Review of pending issues related to UNESCO’s water-related institute and centres (category 1 and category 2)
   6.1 Proposed water-related category 2 centres
   6.2 Consideration of nominations for office bearers in various boards of category 1 and category 2 centres
   6.3 Renewal of existing category 2 centres and interim agreements
7. Other matters
8. Adoption of the final report
9. Closure of the session
ANNEX II

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

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