



UNITED NATIONS EDUCATIONAL,
SCIENTIFIC AND CULTURAL ORGANIZATION

International Hydrological Programme (IHP)

38TH SESSION OF THE IHP BUREAU

Paris, 6 – 8 June 2005

Final Report

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OPENING OF THE SESSION

1. The 38th session of the Bureau of the Intergovernmental Council of the International Hydrological Programme (IHP) was held at UNESCO Headquarters in Paris from 6 to 8 June 2005. Mr. Ognen Bonacci (representing electoral region II – Eastern and Central Europe), Chairperson, and the following Vice-Chairpersons attended the meeting: Mr. Mohammad Radwan Almomani (region Vb – Arab States) in replacement of Mr. Edward Atallah Elias Qunqar (now retired), Mr. Siegfried Demuth (region I – Western Europe and Northern America), Mr. Liu Heng (region IV – Asia and the Pacific), Mr. Mohammed Hamisu Ibrahim (region Va – Africa) and Mr. Victor Pochat¹ (region III – Latin America and the Caribbean). Also present at the meeting as Observers were Mr. Pierre Hubert, Secretary General of the International Association of Hydrological Sciences (IAHS), Mr. Avinash Tyagi, Director of the Hydrology and Water Resources Department of the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), and Mr. Lucio Ubertini (Italy), Chairperson of the IHP Finance Committee. The list of participants is shown in Annex II.

2. Mr. Bonacci, Chairperson, opened the meeting by welcoming the participants. Mr. A. Szöllösi-Nagy, Deputy Assistant Director-General for Natural Sciences and Secretary of IHP, also welcomed the participants on behalf of the Director-General and introduced the agenda, timetable as well as the background documentation. The list of documents is attached as Annex III.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

3. The Bureau adopted the agenda reproduced in Annex I.

REPORT ON THE DRAFT 33 C/5 PROGRAMME AND BUDGET (2006-2007) AND ON THE 170TH AND 171ST SESSIONS OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD OF UNESCO

4. The Secretariat reported that the Executive Board had requested the Director-General to present to it, at its 172nd session, a budget proposal with a baseline of \$610 million – the zero nominal growth option – which in effect means a budget reduction for most UNESCO programmes due to the increase of statutory costs and the effect of inflation. However, the Secretariat reported that this would not adversely affect IHP's programmes, since "water and associated ecosystems" would remain a principal priority within the Natural Sciences Sector for 2006-2007 and retain approximately the same regular budget (\$8,800,200) as for the previous biennium. The Secretariat also reported on the staffing situation within the Secretariat, which has improved in the field but still needed improvement at headquarters. The Bureau expressed its satisfaction with the budgetary status of IHP and concern for the ongoing lack of staff at headquarters.

5. The Secretariat reported on the 170th and 171st sessions of the Executive Board of UNESCO. In particular, the Secretariat reported on the approval by the Executive Board of the principles and guidelines for the establishment and operation of UNESCO institutes and centers (category I), and institutes and centers under the auspices of UNESCO (category II). The Secretariat also reported on the Executive Board's favorable opinion on the proposal to establish the International Center on Water Hazard and Risk Management (ICHARM) in

¹ Past Chairperson, ex officio member of the Bureau

Tsukuba, Japan under the auspices of UNESCO and its recommendation to the General Conference that it approve the establishment of the center. The Secretariat also noted the Executive Board's decision to request the Director-General to submit to its 172nd session a proposal for the establishment of the IHP-HELP Center for Water Law, Policy and Science in Dundee, UK, under the auspices of UNESCO.

FOLLOW UP TO RESOLUTION XVI-7 ON IHP GOVERNANCE

6. The Secretariat introduced this item by reviewing document IHP/Bur-XXXVIII/7, including IHP Intergovernmental Council Resolution XVI-7, and the "IHP Chairperson's Paper" (document IHP/IC-XVI/11) presented at the 16th session of the Council. It was proposed that the Bureau examine Resolution XVI-7 point by point.

7. The Bureau agreed that IHP National Committees needed to be strengthened, and also highlighted the discrepancy in status and effectiveness between National Committees. It was recommended that IHP National Committees, as well as Regional Hydrologists, be made aware of the Council's recommendation (within Resolution XVI-7) that IHP Member States review the status of their IHP National Committees. It was also noted that the communication between the Secretariat and IHP National Committees should be improved (specifically for this matter and regarding consultations on IHP-VII). It was also proposed that stronger IHP National Committees could help weaker IHP National Committees in their own region. The Bureau decided to use the principles outlined in document IHP/IC-XIII/11², in which a previous Bureau had proposed to the Council guidelines for IHP National Committees as a basis for implementing Resolution XVI-7 concerning the strengthening of IHP National Committees. The Bureau further emphasized that Resolution XVI-7 was intended to strengthen IHP National Committees.

8. No consensus was reached on the matter of Regional Intergovernmental Councils (RICs) and the Bureau requested the Secretariat to investigate, in close collaboration with the Bureau, the legal and financial consequences of establishing RICs. A preliminary timetable was established, under which the Secretariat would proceed to consult with UNESCO's Legal Officer and the IHP Finance Committee and communicate on these matters with the IHP Bureau members by November 2005. The necessary documentation could then be prepared in consultation with the Bureau, for its 39th session in April 2006 and for the subsequent IHP Intergovernmental Council in July 2006. The Bureau has noted the recommendation stemming from the 12th IHP Regional Steering Committee Meeting for South East Asia and the Pacific (Adelaide, Australia, 25-26 November 2004). The Bureau has proposed the establishment of a similar IHP National Committee structure in Central Asia.

9. It was noted that Africa would proceed to organize a regional technical and management conference of IHP National Committees in Nigeria, to be held before April 2006. The Bureau has noted that activities have started to forge closer links between the AMCOW process and African IHP National Committees. The Bureau has encouraged the African IHP National Committees to act as scientific advisory committees to AMCOW. The

² "Proposal on improving the functioning of the National Committees for the IHP", presented at the 13th session of the IHP Intergovernmental Council (Paris, 8-13 June 1998). Available on the internet at <http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0011/001133/113323eo.pdf>

IHP National Committees of electoral region I (Western Europe and Northern America) will meet in July 2005 in Wallingford, UK. The IHP National Committees of Latin America and the Caribbean will meet in Jamaica in October 2005.

TOWARDS A STRATEGY FOR WATER-RELATED CENTERS OPERATING UNDER THE AUSPICES OF UNESCO (CATEGORY II)

10. The Secretariat reported on the status of the various proposals for water-related category II centers. In particular, the Secretariat reported that the proposals for the IHP-HELP Center for Water Law, Policy and Science in Dundee, UK, (mentioned above in paragraph 5) and the Regional Center on Ecohydrology in Lodz, Poland are expected to be presented at the 172nd session of the Executive Board of UNESCO in September 2005 and subsequently to the 33rd session of the UNESCO General Conference in October 2005. The Secretariat also reported on the progress made with regard to establishing the International Groundwater Resources Assessment Center (IGRAC) in Utrecht, The Netherlands (which is already a WMO center), under the auspices of UNESCO. The Secretariat also noted that the proposals for establishing the Water Center for Arid and Semi-arid Regions of Latin America and the Caribbean (CAZALAC) in Chile and the Regional Center on Urban Water Management in Colombia under the auspices of UNESCO were at an advanced stage, but were not expected to be presented at the next session of the Executive Board due to time constraints.

11. It was recommended that category II centers be closely linked with the UNESCO-IHE Institute for Water Education and UNESCO regional offices. It was mentioned that the Partnership for Water Education and Research (PoWER) network could be a framework in which category II centers could be linked to each other, to UNESCO regional offices and to UNESCO-IHE. The Bureau discussed the nomination mechanism for scholarships at UNESCO-IHE and it was proposed that such nominations go through IHP National Committees and UNESCO National Commissions. It was emphasized that UNESCO-IHE could not meet the demands for admission of candidates (1,400 qualified candidates for 200-300 slots) and that more scholarships and innovative mechanisms, such as distance learning and working in coordination with category II centers, should be used to help bridge the gap. It was noted that most European countries had the potential to help in this regard and that IHP National Committees within these countries should offer to link courses at national universities to UNESCO-IHE. It was proposed that short courses be conducted by UNESCO-IHE professors and other academics in developing countries.

12. Bureau members were concerned that no category II centers existed in Sub-Saharan Africa, even though the need for such centers was great. The Secretariat acknowledged the need for category II centers in Sub-Saharan Africa. The Secretariat however explained that UNESCO guidelines required that the host government, not UNESCO, provide the core funding for the facilities and the running of the center. The Secretariat suggested that countries within that region might wish to submit a funding request to the African Development Bank to establish a center under the auspices of UNESCO.

13. The Bureau recommended that category II centers and IHP National Committees should be closely linked in both directions, perhaps by encouraging center directors to be on their respective IHP National Committees and IHP National Committees to be on the

advisory board for centers in their region. It was suggested that the process of considering proposals for category II centers within IHP should be harmonized and consist in review and opinion by the Bureau, and subsequently by the IHP Intergovernmental Council. The Bureau noted that all centers should be linked with UNESCO regional and field offices and be involved in IHP's programme implementation.

14. The Secretariat reported on the new guidelines for centers operating under the auspices of UNESCO (document 171 EX/18), which are set to be approved by the General Conference at its 33rd session in October 2005. The Bureau took note of the new criteria and guidelines contained in document 171 EX/18, specifically the criteria contained on pages 17-18 of the document. In particular, The Bureau noted that the guidelines recommended regular evaluations (criteria II/4), that the centers should be regional or international in scope (criteria II/6) and that category II centers should be reviewed every six years (criteria II/14). The Bureau discussed various possibilities for conducting internal IHP evaluations of water-related centers³. It was proposed that the Secretariat consult with UNESCO's Internal Oversight Service on how to proceed.

PROGRESS REPORT ON THE PREPARATION OF THE SEVENTH PHASE OF IHP

15. The concept note for the seventh phase of IHP was endorsed by the 16th session of the IHP Intergovernmental Council. The Council requested all involved to continue work towards the completion of the IHP-VII plan of implementation. Inputs provided by IHP National Committees were therefore integrated in the revised concept note that was presented to the Bureau for their comments. In particular, the set of proposals from IHP National Committees relating to the various focal areas within the four approved themes were reviewed by the Bureau, which was split into two working groups, one dealing with themes I and III and the other with themes II and IV. Their comments are addressed in Annex IV.

16. The Bureau endorsed the revised concept note adding the above-mentioned comments. The Bureau also agreed that water-related centers and chairs should be better linked to the IHP-VII preparation and implementation. It was agreed that synergistic relations had to be established among the centers and the chairs. It was suggested that WMO should be invited to participate actively in the preparation of the IHP-VII programme. The Bureau recommended that an action plan be prepared for the UN Decade on Water for Life, to be submitted to the Council for approval. The IHP-VII Task Force was invited to complete expected outputs and results under each focal area. The Bureau advised to maintain the number of focal areas as listed in the present proposal. The mechanism for implementation will be discussed at the 39th Bureau session. The Bureau agreed that the cross-cutting FRIEND and HELP programmes will be continued and strengthened in IHP-VII, and suggested that their contribution to different focal areas should be evaluated. A consultation with the FRIEND and HELP focal points will be undertaken after the Bureau session. The Bureau advised avoiding the prioritization of focal areas.

³ It was suggested that evaluation teams of two people could be formed, consisting of the Bureau member from the center's region associated with a technical expert, possibly nominated by the regional hydrologist or regional office. It was suggested that HTC in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia and IRTCHWE in Nanjing, China could be evaluated first.

OVERVIEW OF NEW IHP INITIATIVES

17. The Bureau expressed support for both the International Sediment Initiative (ISI) and the International Flood Initiative (IFI). The specific circumstances of Middle East semi-arid and arid environments connected with flash floods were brought to the attention of the Bureau, and the associated high sediment transport. The latter would require adaptation of both new initiatives to these hydrological environments. It was proposed that the Niger River might later be an additional case study for the ISI if sufficient cooperating partners came forward. The Bureau recommended a possible coupling between the Niger and the Danube. The convenience of linking to IFI the Water Directors of the European Union (EXCIFF, European Exchange Circle on Flood Forecasting and Early Warning) connected with best practices in flood protection and mitigation was brought to the attention to the Bureau.

18. Mr. Demuth accepted the invitation by the IHP Bureau to be the IHP representative on the IFI Steering Committee. Following the Bureau's approval of the concept paper on IFI contained as an Annex to IHP/Bur-XXXVIII/10, the document will now go onward to the Executive Council of WMO in June 2005. Subsequently the document will be circulated to IHP National Committees and the WMO-CHy for comments.

COOPERATION WITH UNITED NATIONS AND NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

19. The Secretariat reported on the 13th session of the UN Commission on Sustainable Development – CSD (New York, 11-22 April 2005). This was the second year of a two-year cycle devoted to water, sanitation and human settlements, topics of relevance to IHP.

20. The Secretariat reported on the status of UN-Water as the coordinating mechanism of activities of UN agencies in the field of water and on the preparations of the UN International Decade for Action – Water for Life (2005-2015). The formal proposal by the Government of Spain to host the Secretariat of the Decade in the city of Zaragoza is being considered by UN-Water.

21. The Secretariat reported on preparations for the Fourth World Water Forum (WWF4), which will be held in Mexico in March 2006. It will be organized by the Mexican Government and under the sponsorship of the World Water Council (WWC). The Secretariat informed the Bureau on the various activities that IHP would be participating in during the Forum.

22. Mr. Tyagi informed the Bureau about WMO cooperation with IHP, particularly regarding IFI, the preparation of WWDR-II and the FRIEND 2006 Conference. WCP-Water was also highlighted, with HELP being one of IHP's important contributions. A wider distribution of the resulting publications was requested, using IHP's normal channels. The IHP-CHy Liaison Committee in May 2005 decided on the initiation of joint work on the preparation of a methodologies guidebook for the assessment of water resources. Regarding WWF4, Mr. Tyagi suggested risk management, where WMO stands as a "beacon", as a possible topic for a joint session. A new WMO strategy for education and training in hydrology and water resources has been approved and it was suggested that WMO cooperate with UNESCO centers to implement it.

23. Mr. Hubert reported on the IHP cooperation with IAHS, highlighting the symposia and workshops organized as a part of the 7th IAHS Scientific Assembly in Brazil in April 2005 and the current efforts to make IAHS "Red Books" available on the Internet. The Bureau decided to hold the next joint UNESCO-IAHS Kovacs Colloquium in Paris from 30 June 30 to 1 July 2006 with the suggested title "Frontiers in the research of hydrological extremes". The members of the Bureau emphasized the importance of avoiding duplication with earlier topics and the need to involve social science aspects.

24. The Bureau noted the importance of linking IHP National Committees with AMCOW. It was suggested that IHP and AMCOW sign a memorandum of understanding on the subject.

OTHER MATTERS

25. The Bureau decided that the 39th session of the IHP Bureau would be held 2-4 May 2006, possibly at UNESCO-IHE in Delft. The Bureau also decided that the 17th session of the IHP Intergovernmental Council would be held from 3-7 July 2006 at UNESCO headquarters in Paris, and would be preceded by the above-mentioned Kovacs Colloquium.

26. The Bureau expressed concern that in some cases funds foreseen for regional IHP activities and decentralized to field offices were used for other activities.

27. Mr. Bonacci's proposal to host a joint IHP-IAHS international symposium in Hvar, Croatia, focusing on the applicability of the hydrological sciences to practice, probably in 2008, was welcomed by the Bureau, the Secretariat and IAHS. The title for the symposium has yet to be finalized.

APPROVAL OF THE FINAL REPORT AND CLOSURE OF THE SESSION

28. The Bureau reviewed and approved the final report of the 38th session of the Bureau. Mr. Bonacci, the Chairperson of the IHP Intergovernmental Council, thanked the members of the Bureau and observers for their participation, as well as the Secretariat for the efficient preparation and support for the meeting, including the finalization of the report. He then brought the meeting to a close at 5:00 PM on 8 June 2005.

ANNEX I

AGENDA

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2. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA
3. REPORT ON THE DRAFT 33 C/5 PROGRAMME AND BUDGET (2006-2007) AND ON THE 170TH AND 171ST SESSIONS OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD OF UNESCO
4. FOLLOW UP TO RESOLUTION XVI-7 ON IHP GOVERNANCE
5. TOWARDS A STRATEGY FOR WATER-RELATED CENTRES OPERATING UNDER THE AUSPICES OF UNESCO
6. PROGRESS REPORT ON THE PREPARATION OF THE SEVENTH PHASE OF IHP
7. OVERVIEW OF NEW IHP INITIATIVES
 - 7.1 International Sediment Initiative (ISI)
 - 7.2 International Flood Initiative (IFI)
8. CO-OPERATION WITH UNITED NATIONS AND NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS
 - 8.1 Status and meetings of UN-Water
 - 8.2 13th session of the UN Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD-13)
 - 8.3 IHP's role in the "International Decade for Action – Water for Life", 2005-2015
 - 8.4 Preparations for IHP's participation in the 4th World Water Forum
9. OTHER MATTERS
10. CLOSURE OF THE MEETING

ANNEX II

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ANNEX III

LIST OF DOCUMENTS
(all documents in English only)

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ANNEX IV

BUREAU COMMENTS ON IHP-VII PROPOSED OUTLINE

WORKING GROUP I

Focal Area I.1 should include reference to coastal aquifers, saltwater intrusion due to sea level rise and groundwater level decrease due to over-pumping or drought. Likewise, attention should be given to oil contamination into aquifer systems.

Focal Area I.2 should read as follows: “hydrological extremes in different hydro-climatic zones”. Reference should be made to small experimental basins and short-term intense rainfall.

Focal Area I.3 should include reference to hydrology in megacities.

Focal Area III.2 should include reference to the improvement of knowledge on hydrological regime to support restoration of the environment.

WORKING GROUP II

The proposed new title for Theme II is “Water Governance and Socio-Economics”. Additional Focal Areas should be included in the scope of the Primary Focal Areas and the number of additional Focal Areas should be reduced. The titles of the Focal Areas should be simplified into shorter and more conceptual ones, e.g., by leaving out parts considered as means or instruments, as follows:

Primary Focal Areas

- Focal Area II-1: Culture, ethics and legislation for wise stewardship of water
- Focal Area II-2: Good governance, capacity development and stakeholder participation
- Focal Area II-3: Water for poverty alleviation: affordability and assured financing
- Focal Area II-4: Shared water resources and conflict resolution
- Focal Area II-5: Resolving the water and energy nexus through sound governance including stakeholder participation

Of the additional Focal Areas, FA A.II-a “Information technology, e-learning and knowledge-based social participation” was seen as a part of the educational dimension to cross-cut all the areas. Focal Area A.II-b “Water financing and life cycle cost of delivering water and sanitation services” was seen included in “assured financing” of FA II-3. Water rights issues of FA A.II-c were considered to fit into the scope of FA II-1 and focus on private sector participation in delivery of services was considered too limiting.

The Primary Focal Areas of Theme IV on “Water Quality, Human Health and Food Security” should be modified as follows:

Focal Area IV-1: Methodologies for safeguards against natural and water-borne biotic and abiotic pollutants

Focal Area IV-2: Access to safe water for human health

Referring to IWRM was not felt to add to the main concept, but was seen as over-arching. Specific examples mentioned in the title of FA IV-4 (former Focal Area IV-3), Non-conventional water resources, were left out, noting that non-conventionality depends on the country. Desalinization of FA A.IV-c was considered an additional method of this Primary FA and therefore left out from the focal area title and included in the description of the focal area.

Focal Area IV-4 “Access to water for food security” was given more importance by renumbering it FA IV-3.

Additional Focal Area A.IV-a, Local water resources especially groundwater for food security, was left out as a specific case of FA IV-3. Reference to groundwater specifically could be added to the explanation.

FA A.IV-b, “Potentially health threatening, naturally occurring pollutants in water resources e.g. arsenic & selenium in aquifers – global inventory and assessment” was considered a special case covered by FA IV-1.

It was suggested that FA A.IV-d be renamed “Water resources in emergency situations”.

ANNEX V

**GLOSSARY OF ACRONYMS AND SPECIAL TERMS
USED IN THIS REPORT**

AMCOW	African Ministerial Council on Water
CAZALAC	Water Center for Arid and Semi-arid Regions of Latin America and the Caribbean (La Serena, Chile)
CHy	Commission for Hydrology of WMO
CSD	Commission on Sustainable Development (UN)
EU	European Union
EXCIFF	European Exchange Circle on Flood Forecasting and Early Warning
FA	Focal Area
FRIEND	Flow Regimes from International Experimental and Network Data
HELP	Hydrology for the Environment, Life and Policy
HTC	Regional Humid Tropics Hydrology and Water Resources Center for Southeast Asia and the Pacific (Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia)
IAHS	International Association of Hydrological Sciences
ICHARM	International Center for Water Hazard and Risk Management (Tsukuba, Japan)
IFI	International Flood Initiative
IGRAC	International Groundwater Resources Assessment Center
IHE	International Institute for Infrastructural, Hydraulic and Environment Engineering, now called the UNESCO-IHE Institute for Water Education (Delft, The Netherlands)
IHP	International Hydrological Programme (of UNESCO)
IHP-VII	Seventh Phase of IHP (2008-2013)
IRTCHWE	International Training and Research Center for Hydrology, Water Resources and Water Environment (Nanjing, China)
ISI	International Sediment Initiative (formerly <i>International Sedimentation Initiative</i>)
IWRM	Integrated Water Resources Management
PoWER	Partnership for Water Education and Research
RIC	Regional Intergovernmental Council
UN	United Nations
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
WCP	World Climate Programme
WMO	World Meteorological Organization
WWC	World Water Council
WWDR	World Water Development Report
WWF4	Fourth World Water Forum