



**International Hydrological Programme**  
18<sup>th</sup> session of the Intergovernmental Council  
(Paris, 9 – 13 June 2008)

**DRAFT SUMMARY REPORT**  
**Part I**  
**(Agenda items 1 – 8)**

**OPENING OF THE SESSION**

1. The 18<sup>th</sup> session of the Intergovernmental Council of the International Hydrological Programme (IHP) was held at UNESCO Headquarters in Paris from 9 to 13 June 2008. Mr. Benedito Braga, Chairperson of the Intergovernmental Council, opened the session. Delegates from the thirty-six Member States that are members of the IHP Intergovernmental Council attended the session. Thirty-seven delegations from Member States that are not members of the Council, fourteen governmental and non-governmental organizations and three UN organizations were represented as observers. The list of participants is attached as Annex II.

**Report of the outgoing Chairperson**

2. Mr. Braga, the outgoing Chairperson, opened the Council. After welcoming the participants, Mr. Braga started his intervention by paying tributes to the Honorable former Minister of Water Resources, His Excellency Mr. Alhaji Mukhtari Shagari of Nigeria, who ceased his functions as Chairperson of the IHP Intergovernmental Council, following his election to serve his country as Deputy Governor of Sokoto State.

3. Mr. Braga highlighted that the IHP community, the National Committees, the category 2 centres, the UNESCO chairs and the IHP Secretariat have all done a great job in turning IHP into a global water programme with great impact. UNESCO-IHP has been ranked as the most influential international organization on freshwater at a recent comprehensive survey including officials of nearly 40 international water-related institutions. He noted that IHP has covered an extensive area to develop capacities together with the UNESCO-IHE Institute for Water Education and the World Water Assessment Programme (WWAP) to meet the challenges of advancing knowledge for better water resources conservation and development.

4. Mr. Braga noted that the Bureau did not consider that the approximately 15% cut in the budget of IHP was justifiable. He noted that, in the case of some Main Lines of Action (MLAs) corresponding to Major Programme II, the budget allocated to staff is over two times the budget for activities, while the activities dedicated to freshwater had the lowest ratio of staff budget per both regular budget and extrabudgetary resources for activities. He reported that the Bureau was of the view that the budget for IHP activities and staff on the 34 C/5 should be allocated along the different MLAs in similar proportion to allocations in the 33 C/5, and that those reductions or increases in the regular budget for Major Programme II should be equally distributed among all the science programmes.

5. Mr. Braga noted the disappointment of the Bureau at this situation; it was felt that it was largely due to some of the recommendations of the Report of the Overall Review Committee for Major Programmes II and III, the Natural and Social Sciences, respectively. The Bureau considered that some of the Recommendations made by the Review Committee were acceptable, particularly since IHP had indeed already been working along the lines of these recommendations for many years. The Bureau voiced concern about the comment of the Review Report on the imbalance in funding in favor of water-related activities.

6. Mr. Braga continued indicating that the Bureau noted the strong bias that the Review Report projected against UNESCO's freshwater programmes. Moreover, he stated, the Bureau

disagreed with the assertion by the Review Committee that considerable overlap existed between the ISPs and other UN bodies and outside scientific organizations. The Bureau also noted that, while coordinating with other bodies and initiatives working on specific aspects of water resources, UNESCO-IHP was the only global water-related, intergovernmental, scientific and education programme of the UN system dedicated to freshwater and its interactions.

7. Mr. Braga pointed that water and sanitation is not only a key target within the MDGs but also one of the rare if not unique issues which cuts across all of the MDGs. The hydrological cycle is one of the most sensitive parts of the climate system. He particularly expressed Bureau's concerns that a lessening of UNESCO's effort in freshwater at this juncture could be interpreted as a diminishing commitment of the Organization to the drive to achieve the MDGs by 2015.

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

8. Mr. Walter Erdelen, Assistant Director-General for Natural Sciences, welcomed the delegates who are members of the Council together with the considerable number of observers from other Member States, representatives of UN bodies as well as intergovernmental and non-governmental IHP partners.

9. The Assistant Director-General noted that since the water was elevated as a principal priority of UNESCO eight years ago, the organization has developed a substantial institutional framework and capacity base notably through IHP, UNESCO-IHE, WWAP and the UNESCO chairs, networks and category 2 centres. He congratulated the Council on the excellent work for the establishment of twelve category 2 centres, devoted to various global or regional aspects of water.

10. The Assistant Director-General noted that the last General Conference (i.e., the 34<sup>th</sup> session) strongly encouraged Member States, international institutions and donors to increase their support to UNESCO-IHE and called for continued efforts towards strengthening the linkages between UNESCO-IHP and UNESCO-IHE. He also noted that, at the 34<sup>th</sup> session of the General Conference, the Director-General of UNESCO was authorized to renew the Operational Agreement between UNESCO and the Government of The Netherlands for a period of five years (2008-2012), provided that no cost or financial risk is incurred by the Organization.

11. The Assistant Director-General made a special mention of the IHP's role in the thematic Programme on Education for Sustainable Water Management within the UN Decade of Education for Sustainable Development (DESD, 2005-2014). He also noted the critical impacts of global changes and associated feedback mechanisms on the very sensitive hydrological processes and highlighted UNESCO's leadership in creating a Task Force on Global Climate Change in 2007.

12. He likewise highlighted key events that took place during last two years, bringing together scientists, water managers, decision-makers and other water professionals to explore major deliverables from the sixth phase of IHP. He also noted how IHP has broadened water management agenda by developing a more human, holistic and policy-oriented approach through initiatives dealing with water conflict resolution, water and cultural diversity and others.

13. He referred to UNESCO-IHP's involvement in the Fifth World Water Forum, that will take place in Istanbul in March next year. He elaborated on IHP's role in the organization of this global event which provides high visibility to UNESCO throughout the Forum. He noted that UNESCO-IHP plays a leading role in the Forum, particularly in leading topics on Global Changes and Risk Management, on Advancing Human Development and the MDGs, and leading the theme on Education, Science and Capacity Building. He mentioned the notable collaboration of IHP with WWAP that will materialize in a new edition of the World Water Development Report to be presented at the Forum.

14. The Assistant Director-General ended his intervention by calling on the Council to make strategic decisions about how to keep IHP at the forefront of solving existing and emerging hydrological science and international water management challenges. He called upon the Council members to provide guidance on how IHP can enhance its reputation for solid scientific research, and strengthen its relevance to scholars, managers and policy-makers.

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

15. The delegate of Libya nominated Mr. Abdin Salih (Sudan, Group Vb) as the Chairperson. This nomination was unanimously seconded by the delegates. As no other candidature was proposed, Mr. Salih was declared the new Chairperson of the Intergovernmental Council.

16. The elected Chairperson took the floor to accept this nomination. He thanked the Council members for their confidence in Sudan and for recognising his extensive experience with UNESCO IHP.

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

17. The elected Chairperson took the Chair and proceeded with the election of the following Vice-Chairpersons: Mr. Johannes Cullmann (Germany, Group I); Mr. Pavol Miklanek (Slovakia, Group II), Mr. Karou Takara (Japan, Group IV) and Mr. Mbanginesi P. Nephumbada (South Africa, Group Va). All the elected Vice-Chairpersons received secondments from a large majority of the delegates.

18. The Council noted that, in conformity with its Statutes, the IHP Bureau is composed of a Chairperson, four elected Vice-Chairpersons, including the outgoing Chairperson, Mr. Benedito Braga (Brazil, Group III).

#### **ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA**

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

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

20. The Council took note of the Rules of Procedure of the IHP Intergovernmental Council as recommended by the 41<sup>st</sup> session of the IHP Bureau. The submission of draft resolutions is encouraged at least two weeks prior to the start of Council, but can be also be submitted within the first three days of the Council session.

21. The Council elected the following members to the Resolutions Drafting Committee: Mr. Mathew C. Larsen (USA, Group I), Mr. Konstatin Tsankov (Bulgaria, Group II), Ms. Elena Benitez (Paraguay, Group III), Mr. R.D. Singh (India, Group IV), Mr. Adama Sall (Senegal, Va) and Mr. Muhammad Al Rashed (Kuwait, Vb) The Committee elected Mr. Larsen to serve as its Chairperson.

22. The Council elected three newmembers to the Finance Committee: Mr. Hamza Ozuguler (Turkey, Group I), Mr. Ahmed Murad, United Arab Emirates, Group Vb) and Mr. Trevor Daniell (Australia, Group IV ). The Committee elected Mr. Daniell to serve as its Chairperson.

#### **REPORT ON THE 34<sup>TH</sup> SESSION OF THE GENERAL CONFERENCE AND ON THE 177<sup>TH</sup> AND 179<sup>TH</sup> SESSIONS OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD OF UNESCO, INCLUDING OVERVIEW OF THE MEDIUM-TERM STRATEGY FOR 2008-2013 (34 C/4) AND THE PROGRAMME AND BUDGET FOR 2008-2009 (34 C/5)**

23. The Secretariat presented an overview of the decisions on water-related issues of the 34<sup>th</sup> session of the UNESCO General Conference and of the 177<sup>th</sup> and the 178<sup>th</sup> sessions of the Executive Board, as well as the water and IHP related components within UNESCO's Medium-term Strategy for 2008-2013 (34 C/4) and the Programme and Budget for 2008-2009 (34 C/5), as summarized in document IHP/IC-XVIII/Inf.2. It was noted that many Member States strongly supported water as a key priority for UNESCO during the debate on UNESCO's medium-term strategy for 2008-2013 during the 34<sup>th</sup> session of the UNESCO General Conference.

24. The Council took note that freshwater is addressed in the scope of the overarching objective of mobilizing science knowledge and policy for sustainable development, and as part of the strategic programme objective of leveraging scientific knowledge for the benefit of the environment and the management of natural resources in the 34 C/4 medium-term strategy for 2008-2013 of UNESCO. The Council took note that while the UNESCO programme and budget for 2008-2009 in document 34 C/5 keeps freshwater as a priority for Major Programme II (Natural Sciences), it also defines two other more general biennial sectoral priorities for the Natural Sciences; thus, freshwater no longer holds the status as a principal priority of UNESCO.

25. The Council stressed the importance of freshwater, in particular its critical relevance for human and food security, and expressed its deep concern that the reduction of the budget allocated to IHP during the current biennium would negatively affect IHP's capacity to effectively meet the needs of the Member States in areas relating to freshwater. At the request of the Council, further clarifications were provided regarding the additional reduction of the IHP budget, as well as on IHP's significant achievements in raising extrabudgetary funds. The Council supports strengthening the budget of IHP, with a view to maintaining UNESCO's strong capacities and leadership in addressing freshwater issues to the benefit of Member States. For this purpose, following the recommendations of the past and current Bureaux, the Council unanimously decided to prepare an appeal to the Governing bodies of UNESCO with a view to increasing the budget of IHP to the level of the previous biennium. The appeal is annexed to this report (see Annex \_\_\_).

### **FOLLOW-UP TO THE REPORT OF THE OVERALL REVIEW COMMITTEE FOR MAJOR PROGRAMMES II AND III**

26. The Secretariat reported on the recommendations of the Overall Review Committee for Major Programmes II and III, including the Implementation Plan presented at the 34<sup>th</sup> session of the General Conference, and the programmatic and budgetary implications for IHP. The Secretariat also reported on the position adopted by the IHP Bureau at its 40<sup>th</sup> session, in particular the letter sent by the then-Chairperson of the Council to the Director-General, which noted that the IHP had already addressed many of the recommendations of the Review Committee. The Council shared the position of the Bureau. The delegate of Costa Rica highlighted that the IHP should not be particularly targeted by the recommendations of the Review Committee, as the IHP has been proactive and has anticipated many of the recommendations, emphasizing the activities implemented in Latin America. A clarification on the link between the recommendations of the Review Committee and the reduction of the budget of IHP was provided at the request of the delegate from India.

### **REVIEW OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE RESOLUTIONS AND OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS ADOPTED BY THE 17<sup>TH</sup> SESSION OF THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL COUNCIL OF IHP**

#### **Progress report on the implementation of the resolutions**

27. The IHP Secretariat provided an overview on the implementation status of the resolutions adopted at the 17<sup>th</sup> session of IHP Intergovernmental Council. The Council took note of progress in the implementation of the resolutions.

28. On the resolution regarding the outcome of the recent external evaluation of UNESCO-IHE

(Resolution XVII-1), the Council took note of the Action Plan developed as follow-up of the evaluation recommendations. In response to the enquiry from the delegate of Sudan about a link between UNESCO-IHE and IHP, the Secretariat explained the autonomous status of UNESCO-IHE, but noted that a part of the Governing Board of the Institute is elected by the IHP Intergovernmental Council. The delegate of India expressed a wish to see UNESCO-IHE developing more work in developing countries; the Director of the Institute noted that UNESCO-IHE is already working on courses and distance learning with a network of institutions, many of which are in developing countries. The delegate of Costa Rica expressed satisfaction of growing number of water-related UNESCO category 2 centres. . The Director of the Regional Centre for Training and Water Studies, Cairo (RCTWS) noted that the terminology “category 2 centres” is somewhat sensitive and asked for its revision.

29. Regarding the resolution on the establishment of the Regional Centre for Integrated Water Management in Arid Zones in Pakistan (Resolution XVII-2), the Secretariat reported that the Centre was approved by the 34th session of General Conference and that the agreement between the government of Pakistan and UNESCO is ready to be signed.

30. Concerning the IHP-HELP International Centre of Water Management for Food Security in Australia (Resolution XVII-3), the Secretariat reported on a need for follow-up due to the change of government, which will require more time before the required agreement can be signed. Japan expressed support for the establishment of the centre, stressing its role in the region, having been evoked in South-East ASPAC regional meeting in November 2007.

31. On the establishment of the international centre on Hydroinformatics at Itaipú Binacional (Resolution XVII-4), the Secretariat noted that the agreement is being finalized. The Secretariat reported that a proposal from Thailand for the establishment of a Regional Centre for Sustainable Water Engineering and Management in Bangkok needs revision in the light of the recently approved strategy for water related centres and an updated version is awaited.

32. With regard to the establishment of a regional water centre in Kaduna, Nigeria (Resolution XVII-6), the Council was informed that no formal request has been sent by the government of Nigeria. The delegate of Ghana suggested that other African countries might be interested in submitting a proposal, this initiative being seen as an opportunity for the whole continent.

33. On the IHP strategy for UNESCO's water-related institutes and centres (Resolution XVII-7), the delegate of India expressed appreciation of it and asked if it was going to be updated to take into account the relevant decisions of the last Executive Board. The Secretariat clarified that if necessary, in the light of the deliberations of the forthcoming 180<sup>th</sup> session of the Executive Board related to centres, IHP's strategy would be realigned, even though it served as basis for the strategy adopted for UNESCO centres in general. The delegate of Libya highlighted the importance of the category 2 centres in UNESCO's work, but emphasized that the geographical distribution and financial implications need to be looked at.

34. The Council took note of the process of endorsing IHP-VII strategic plan (Resolution XVII-10). Theme 1 (Adapting to the impacts of global changes on river basins and aquifer systems) was highlighted by the Secretariat as IHP's main contribution to UNESCO's climate change related work, which was inquired about by the delegate of Senegal. The delegates of India and Turkey noted reservations about IHP's mandate on dealing with water conflict issues. The Secretariat clarified that the scope of IHP's work in this area focuses on helping cooperation by providing education and science-based decision-support. The importance of addressing transboundary water issues was emphasized by the delegate of Brazil, who also complimented on IHP's related work. The delegate of Japan assured continuing its support to IFI, which was reported on under Resolution XVII-11, noting the importance of addressing floods on the region.

35. In response to the question of the delegate of India about IHP's participation in intersectoral

activities, in connection to the context of Resolution XVII-12 on water education, the Secretariat informed about the current preparation of a comprehensive interdisciplinary water education programme at all levels. Indonesia referred to the importance of water education not only at the formal level but for all. The Secretariat informed about the availability a number of water educational materials and pleaded for the support of IHP national committees to translate and adapt them. RCTWS noted that category 2 centres can be involved in adapting educational packages.

### **Report of the IHP Finance Committee**

36. The outgoing Chairperson of the IHP Finance Committee, Mr. Lucio Ubertini from Italy, presented its report, noting that the Committee shares the concerns of the Council regarding the budget reduction of the IHP. He thanked the Secretariat for the help to the Finance Committee in providing the documents and information concerning the budget of other divisions and programmes of the Natural Sciences Sector, which allowed a comprehensive reporting. He recalled that in the last biennium there has been a reduction in the budget of 15%, which is particularly critical as more expenses are foreseen, for example in respect to translation of Council documents. With reference to conclusions and recommendations of the Committee, he recalled the unfortunate downgrading of the principal priority status of water within UNESCO, the lack of clarity regarding the IHP budget in the 34 C/5 due to the reduced number of MLAs, the recommendation regarding maintaining the four working languages used so far in the Council due to the associated high cost of interpretation and translation, the need for a high-flexibility of the overheads applied to extrabudgetary funds which are perceived as much larger than those of some other agencies, and the recommendation that IHP funds should only be decentralized to UNESCO offices with expertise in water sciences.

37. Several delegates congratulated the work of the Finance Committee. With regards to the translation and interpretation costs, some delegates shared the concerns on growing expenses. Other delegates recalled the importance of multilingualism and the interests of different language groups.



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**DRAFT SUMMARY REPORT**  
**Part II**  
**(Agenda items 9.1, 9.2, 9.3, 10.3; portions of 13.1 and 13.2)**

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

**UNESCO-IHE Institute for Water Education (category 1)**

38. The Director of the UNESCO-IHE Institute for Water Education reported on the progress towards a strengthened collaboration between UNESCO-IHE and IHP, the results of the external evaluation of UNESCO-IHE and the recent developments regarding the renewal of the Operational and Cooperation Agreements between UNESCO and the government of The Netherlands. He also presented two new initiatives: a UNESCO tertiary water education grants programme; and a global water education and training needs assessment.

39. The Council highlighted the unique and important role of UNESCO-IHE to raise Member States' capacities through education and research, particularly in developing countries, and expressed its appreciation for the support provided by the government of The Netherlands. Concerning the renewal of the institutional agreements, the delegate from The Netherlands noted that his country is prepared to consider all the recommendations issued by the General Conference, including the increase in the support provided to the Institute, but noted that the General Conference resolution has also strongly encouraged other Member States and donors to increase their support to the Institute. He also indicated that there was no need to issue a resolution on this issue, given that the General Conference had already expressed its views at its 34<sup>th</sup> session. It was felt by several delegates that a draft resolution was justified on the basis that the Council began the process of integrating IHE's cooperation into the implementation of IHP's activities during the 6<sup>th</sup> phase of IHP, and it has followed the developments of the Institute since.

40. Given the need to resolve some aspects of the corresponding draft resolution concerning the renewal of the agreement of UNESCO-IHE, at the request of several delegates an informal consultation group "Friends of UNESCO-IHE" was established to assist in the preparation of an updated version. The delegates of Australia, Benin, the Netherlands and Sudan volunteered to be part of the group. The resulting proposed decision was considered and later adopted by the Council (Resolution XVIII-1).

41. The proposed UNESCO tertiary water education grants programme and the global water education and training needs assessment received full support from the Council. The delegates of Tanzania and Senegal emphasized the importance of water education in the Africa region, in particular to reach the MDGs, to address the current food crisis and to accomplish the objectives of the UN Decade of Education for Sustainable Development. The delegates of India, Costa Rica and Senegal asked for details on the funding of current students, the regular budget funding required for the grants programme, and in particular whether the funds needed for the grants programme would affect the implementation of IHP activities at the regional level. The Secretariat replied that UNESCO-IHE currently has about four hundred and fifty students at the master's level and ninety students at the PhD level, specifying that the total cost a fellowship for the master level is currently 37,500 euros per year. It was noted that the funds for the grants programme will come from the regular IHP budget decentralized to the field offices, since it will benefit directly the capacities of the Member States in their regions and also will contribute to the priorities of IHP at the regional level. The Council subsequently adopted Resolution XVIII-2.

### **Proposed category 2 centres**

42. Following the Secretariat's brief introduction to the proposed category 2 centres already endorsed by the Bureau according to the procedures set by the new IHP strategy for water-related centres, representatives from the following six proposed centres gave brief presentations:

- The Regional Centre of International Training and Research on Sediment, Isotope and Erosion Techniques (Turkey)
- HIDROEX Centre for Higher and Community Education in Water (provisional name – Brazil)
- The International Centre on Coastal Ecohydrology (Portugal)
- Centre for the Sustainable Management of Water Resources in the Caribbean Island States (the Dominican Republic)
- The International Centre for Integrated Water Resources Management (ICIWaRM) United States of America)
- International Centre of Water Resources and Global Change (Germany)

The proposed Central Asian Regional Glaciological Centre (Republic of Kazakhstan) was introduced by the Secretariat.

43. The Council, after considering the proposals and noting its benefits for UNESCO and in particular for the strengthening of water research and education with interventions of over 15 delegations, decided to strongly endorse the proposed centres, requesting the assistance of the IHP Secretariat to prepare the necessary documentation to be submitted to the governing bodies of UNESCO towards the creation of the centres in conformity with the IHP strategy for category 1 and category 2 water-related centres and document 33 C/19 and 33C/Resolution 90 regarding guidelines and principle for UNESCO category 2 centres. These decisions are expressed in Resolution XVIII-3.

44. From the African region, there were strong appeals to the IHP to help the region to come up with appropriate mechanisms to enable Member States in Africa to propose centres in the region. There were also proposals to the IHP to consider enhancing already-existing structures in Africa, and making existing water-related centres accessible to the African region. The Council noted these concerns of the African countries.

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

45. The IHP Secretariat reported on the status of the following six category 2 water centres, which had been established since 17<sup>th</sup> session of the Council after their approval by the governing bodies of UNESCO (see document IHP/IC-XVIII/Inf.7):

- Regional Centre on Urban Water Management for Latin American and the Caribbean (Colombia)
- International Groundwater Resources Assessment Centre – IGRAC (Utrecht, The Netherlands)
- Regional Centre for the Management of Shared Groundwater Resources (Tripoli, Libya)
- Regional Centre for Water Management Research in Arid Zones (Pakistan)
- IHP-HELP International Centre of Water for Food Security at Charles Sturt University (Australia)
- International Hydroinformatics Centre for Integrated Water Resources Management (Itaipu, Brazil-Paraguay)

In several cases, additional information on the functioning and activities of these centres was provided by their representatives.

46. In addition, the representatives of the following existing seven category 2 centres provided brief presentations on the activities implemented by the centres:

- European Regional Centre for Ecohydrology (ERCE), Lodz, Poland
- Water Centre for Arid and Semi-arid Zones of Latin America and the Caribbean (CAZALAC), La Serena, Chile
- International Centre for Water Hazard and Risk Management (ICHARM), Tsukuba, Japan
- Regional Centre on Urban Water Management (RCUWM), Tehran, Iran
- International Centre on Qanats and Historic Hydraulic Structures (ICQHHS), Yazd, Iran
- Regional Centre for Training and Water Studies of Arid and Semi-arid Zones (RCTWS), Cairo, Egypt
- Regional Humid Tropics Hydrology and Water Resources Centre for South-East Asia and the Pacific (HTC Kuala Lumpur), Malaysia

47. It was noted that RCUWM-Tehran, following the application of the new IHP strategy for water-related centres, had successfully undergone an external evaluation after 5 years of operation and that the corresponding agreement was set for renewal. The Secretariat informed the Council likewise that the agreement between UNESCO and the government of Panama for the CATHALAC centre had lapsed and had not been renewed.

48. The Council noted with satisfaction these overwhelmingly positive developments and stressed the important contribution of the category 2 centres to the implementation of the programme of the IHP and to the objectives of UNESCO, highlighting that these centres provide strong benefits to the Member States at a virtually no cost to UNESCO.

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

### **Cooperation with other UNESCO environmental programmes**

49. The Secretariat reported on collaborative activities with other environmental programmes of UNESCO. The representative of UNESCO's Man and the Biosphere (MAB) programme expressed great satisfaction with the close collaboration between IHP and MAB and with the results of joint activities, especially in UNESCO's field offices. He noted that in many cases, IHP and MAB National Committees have common quarters. He also emphasized the intersectoral platform on climate change, which brings IHP and MAB into working together closer. He informed the Council about the Madrid Action Plan (2008-2013), agreed upon at the 3rd World Congress on Biosphere Reserves held in February 2008, which among other issues aims at encouraging the use of Biosphere Reserves by programmes like IHP for research, information generation and policy advice.

50. The representative of UNESCO's International Geoscience Programme (IGCP) highlighted the UN International Year of Planet Earth 2008 and the recent shift of the IGCP focus more on applied geology. He noted that the IGCP priorities include geology and water, along with geological hazards and climate change. He also noted that IGCP's work have close links to IHP in the area of remote sensing in the Integrated Global Observing Strategy (IGOS) and the Global Earth Observation System of Systems (GEOSS), and in the Commission of the Geological Map of the World. The representative of IGCP acknowledged the strong support received from IHP, which has been crucial for the implementation of IGCP and said that IGCP looks forward to working closely with IHP on the organization of workshops on karst hydrogeology, with possible joint activities with the newly-established International Research Centre on Karst under the auspices of UNESCO, in China.

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

51. The Council noted with satisfaction UNESCO-IHP's increased collaboration with other agencies of the UN system and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations.

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

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

52. The representative of UNU noted that in the past two years, collaboration and scientific cooperation between UNU and UNESCO-IHP has strengthened. UNU is one of the core members of IFI. Within this Initiative, various other UNU Research and Training Centres and Programmes, notably UNU-ESD, UNU-EHS and UNU-INWEH, are working very closely with UNESCO-IHP to develop various capacity building and research initiatives. Likewise, UNESCO-IHP and UNU have initiated the "*Quo Vadis Aquifer?*" programme, which aims to advance scientific knowledge, to provide policy-relevant information to policy-makers, and to contribute to institutional and individual capacity development for an improved management of groundwater. Given the broad nature of this topic, UNU and UNESCO-IHP aim to initiate several multi-disciplinary projects. One such project is on "Ground Water and Human Security – Case Studies" and was recently launched in January 2008.

53. He further noted that as members of UN-WATER, UNU and UNESCO-IHP are collaborating in the preparation of the third World Water Development Report and in the UN-Water Decade Programme on Capacity Development (UNW-DPC), which was established in August 2007 in Bonn, Germany hosted by UNU. He closed by reiterating UNU's willingness to work closely with UNESCO and to investigate further areas of common interests.

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

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

54. The representative of IAHS stressed the importance of hydrological science to provide a basis for decisions in the management of freshwater resources. He stressed that remarkable progress has been achieved in hydrological sciences over the past decades, but much work is still needed to fully understand complex hydrological processes. He noted that IAHS looks forward to working with UNESCO in addressing challenges posed by climate change and that there are many decades of joint and critical research between UNESCO-IHP and IAHS. The representative of IAHS thanked UNESCO for the support to several IAHS activities over the biennium, in particular in assisting hydrologists from developing countries to attend scientific meetings, and in making a large amount of hydrological literature available online free of charge. He concluded by expressing hope that the cooperation between IAHS and IHP would be even stronger in the future and by announcing that the next IAHS Scientific Assembly will be held in Hyderabad, India, in September 2009, jointly with the 37<sup>th</sup> Congress of International Association of Hydrogeologists (IAH).



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**DRAFT SUMMARY REPORT**  
**Part III**  
**(Agenda items 9.4, 10.1, 10.2 and portion of 13)**

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

**Strategy for UNESCO's category 1 and category 2 water-related institutes and centres**

55. The Secretariat presented an overview of recent developments in the implementation of the strategy for UNESCO's water-related institutes and centres, noting that the submissions of new proposals and the review of an existing centre have already followed the strategy. The Secretariat also reported on the progress made concerning the recommendations for the implementation of the strategy, most notably on the periodic reporting by the centres, which is already being implemented by many centres.

56. The Council noted with satisfaction the current developments and that the strategy for the water-related institutes and centres has been formally acknowledged by the governing organs of UNESCO, noting that the strategy is reflected in recent Executive Boards documents reviewing the application of UNESCO's general guidelines for category 2 centres ([see document 177 EX/29](#)). The Council also stressed the importance of fully implementing the recommendations of the strategy and of strengthening the linkages between the centres and IHP National Committees. The director of the Regional Centre on Urban Water Management (RCUWM) reported on the positive experience of the Centre concerning this review process, noting that the evaluation recommendations were useful for strengthening the Centre.

57. In response to interventions by the delegates from the United Kingdom, Libya and Oman, expressing the need to take into account the number and location of centres in considering the new proposals, the delegate from India stressed that it is the prerogative of governments of Member States to propose category 2 centres, and thus not up to the IHP Council to limit the number or the location of these centres. The Secretariat concurred, pointing out that the centres are demand-driven. Concerns regarding the lack of centres in Africa, already discussed under item 9.2, and the need to address this issue were reiterated.

58. With regard to the concern raised by the delegate of Oman on the review of existing centres, the Secretariat reported that in the history of IHP, there has only been one case – Water Center for the Humid Tropics of Latin America and the Caribbean (CATHALAC) – where an agreement between the host government and UNESCO was not renewed. In response to the Indian delegate on the importance of ensuring the strengthening of linkages among the centres, the Secretariat noted that as part of this effort, especially concerning the communication strategy, a new corporate image of the IHP and the category 2 centres was endorsed by the Bureau at its 41<sup>st</sup> session. The Council noted this.

**REVIEW OF IHP-VI ACTIVITIES AND RELATED ACTIVITIES OF UNESCO**

**Results of IHP-VI projects since the 17<sup>th</sup> session of the IHP Intergovernmental Council**

59. The Secretariat reported on the implementation of the sixth phase of IHP (2002-2007), highlighting results of IHP-VI activities and projects carried out since the 17<sup>th</sup> session of the IHP Intergovernmental Council, as well as the major achievements of IHP-VI. The Council expressed overwhelming satisfaction with the successful implementation of IHP-VI and with the achievements and results of IHP-VI themes and cross-cutting initiatives. Many delegates congratulated the IHP

Secretariat for its efforts and substantial work that provided a major contribution to the success of IHP-VI.

60. The delegate of Switzerland highlighted the contribution of its IHP National Committee to IHP's International Sediment Initiative (ISI). The delegates of Benin, Sudan and Kuwait expressed appreciation for the work of IHP at regional level and noted the need to enhance the budgetary provisions for IHP activities in Africa and Arab States regions. The delegate of Costa Rica highlighted the active contribution of its IHP National Committee to IHP-VI activities in the areas of groundwater and water for peace. The delegate of Senegal stressed that successful activities of IHP-VI should be continued in the seventh phase of IHP. The delegate of the Russian Federation highlighted the scientific significance and relevant impact of IHP-VI activities and the need for further research on experimental hydrology. The delegate from Tanzania noted that it would have been more useful to present the results of IHP-VI activities together with measurable indicators and called for continued work in Africa, in particular on capacity building, water harvesting and groundwater. The delegate of the United Kingdom expressed concern about the potential intervention of UNESCO's Internal Oversight Service in the evaluation process of IHP-VI, noting his negative experience during the evaluation of IHP-V. The delegate of Japan highlighted the support and significant contribution of the Japanese IHP National Committee to various activities of IHP-VI, among them the establishment of the UNESCO Chair on Sustainable Groundwater Management at the Mongolian Academy of Sciences and the newly-established master course coordinated by ICHARM. The delegate of Italy emphasized the support of the Italian government to WWAP and other IHP activities. The representative of the WMO provided clarification on the joint UNESCO-WMO training workshops on the assessment of national capabilities for the evaluation of water resources.

61. The Secretariat took note of all comments and underscored that the success of IHP lies in the collective work done in partnership with the Member States, especially IHP National Committees and scientists around the world. It also noted that the suggestions presented by the delegates would be taken into account in the implementation of IHP-VII.

62. The Council then considered the draft resolution on this agenda item. The delegates of the United Kingdom, Finland and India requested that the report of the IHP-VI evaluation be submitted to the next 18<sup>th</sup> session of the Council and suggested amendments in the draft resolution. The Council consequently adopted Resolution XVIII-4 as amended.

### **IHP-related extrabudgetary activities**

63. The Secretariat reported on extrabudgetary projects implemented by the IHP Secretariat and UNESCO regional offices, highlighting the significant contributions provided by the governments of Italy and Japan, the Flemish Community of Belgium, and the UK Department of International Development during the biennium 2006-2007. Particular attention was given to the successful partnership recently established between IHP and GEF.

64. The Council, in addition to expressing great appreciation for the donors that contributed to IHP, underlined the importance of strengthening ties with GEF and stressed the importance for UNESCO of achieving the status of GEF Executing Agency under expanded opportunities. For this purpose, the Council called for the support of IHP National Committees in coordinating with their corresponding national representatives in the GEF Council to support UNESCO application for obtaining the status of GEF Executing Agency. The delegates of Benin and Senegal made reference to a project on aquifers in the Gulf of Guinea and of Guinea Bissau, while mentioning the World Bank project and recommended for GEF to explore possible synergies. The delegates of Italy and Japan affirmed the continued support of their governments to the new phase of IHP. In particular, Japan expressed interest in supporting activities on climate change and floods.

65. The Council took note of the report and concerns about the difficulties in the execution of extrabudgetary projects, due to the complexity of the new administrative regulations of UNESCO.

The Council stressed that administrative regulations should be flexible, taking into account the intergovernmental nature of IHP, particularly in regard to overhead charges on funds received from multilateral agencies and other key donors. In response to concerns raised by the delegate of India about impacts of extrabudgetary projects on the execution capacity for regular budget activities – especially, if these projects do not deal with issues of priority, the Secretariat responded that all IHP extrabudgetary projects selected for implementation focus on areas and topics of IHP priority.

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

### ***European Space Agency (ESA)***

66. The representative of ESA expressed great appreciation for IHP for its continued support and partnership in the TIGER project, which aims at developing sustainable satellite-based information services to support sustainable water resources management in Africa. He noted that the second phase of TIGER, which is to be launched in 2008, will be more inclusive and called upon the IHP National Committees in Africa to facilitate the participation of scientists and managers in the region. He noted that the key focus of the second phase of the project will be to improve the understanding of impacts of climate change and variability on water resources and will offer access to satellite data and training opportunities.



**International Hydrological Programme**  
18<sup>th</sup> session of the Intergovernmental Council  
(Paris, 9 – 13 June 2008)

**DRAFT SUMMARY REPORT**  
**Part IV**  
**(Agenda item 9.5, 11, 12 and 13)**

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

**Nominations for office bearers in various boards of category 1 and category 2 centres**

67. The Council considered the nominations for office bearers in the Advisory Board of ICHARM and the Governing Board of UNESCO-IHE. The IHP Bureau produced a suggested slate of candidates which was discussed by the Regional Groups. The nominations were set forward to the Council by the Regional Groups after reviewing the proposed slate and the CVs of the candidates.

68. The Council unanimously endorsed the nomination of the following candidates in the Advisory Board of the ICHARM:

- Region I Mr. E. Stakhiv, USA
- Region IV Mr. K. Abdullah, Malaysia
- Region Va Mr. Francis Musyoka Mutua, Kenya
- Region Vb Mr. M. Saad, Egypt

69. The Council unanimously endorsed the following candidates in the Governing Board of UNESCO-IHE:

- Region II Mr. O. Bonacci, Croatia
- Region III Ms P. Cornejo, Ecuador
- Region Va Mr. A. Afouda, Benin

**IMPLEMENTATION OF IHP-VII: FOCUS FOR 2008-2009**

70. The Council confirmed its ample and categorical support to the implementation of the seventh phase of the IHP (IHP-VII). The Secretariat noted that over 80 Member States actively participated in the preparation of the strategic plan of IHP-VII, providing their inputs during the consultations initiated in 2005. The Council endorsed with satisfaction the implementation workplan for the first biennium (2008-2009) of IHP-VII.

71. The delegates of Benin, Chile, China, Costa Rica, Ghana, Germany, Indonesia, Mexico, Paraguay, Tanzania and the Russian Federation stressed the importance of considering experimental hydrology, water scarcity, droughts and floods extremes, also highlighting the relevance of strengthening capacities at the national and regional levels on groundwater resources assessment and development, as well as the need to further investigate the role groundwater can play in mitigation of climate change impacts. Several delegates stressed strong needs in training and capacity building in Africa. The delegate of Slovakia, recalling the regional programme on the Danube, outlined the importance of regional activities and coordination, recommending further exchanges of experience amongst regions.

72. The delegates of China, Indonesia, Japan and the Russian Federation have presented activities that will be implemented in their respective national programmes, which can

provide valuable contributions to IHP-VII, in particular for the development of training materials, case studies and guidelines.

73. During the debate on the implementation of IHP-VII, the Council also considered the appeal prepared by the IHP Bureau, requesting the re-instatement of the budgetary situation of the IHP to the level of the 33 C/5. Many delegates stressed their strong support for re-instating the regular budget allocated to IHP and considered the text of the appeal. The Council likewise decided to request the Director-General to reconsider his decision of reducing by an additional 4% the budget allocated to IHP within the 34 C/5. As a consequence of its debate and decision, the Council adopted Resolution XVIII-5, attaching the appeal and making it an integral part of the resolution.

### **Report of the Finance Committee**

74. The Chairperson of the IHP Finance Committee, reported the conclusions of the Committee, recalling its terms of reference (TOR) as adopted at the 14<sup>th</sup> session of IHP Council. He noted that the data presented in the current and previous regular programme and budgets of UNESCO made it difficult to evaluate the growth or decline in funding for the IHP and to ascertain the effect of the cuts on the future programming activities. He also noted that the detail required for the TOR to be carried out has never been prescribed and that the provision of detailed budget breakdowns, rather than general aggregated data, may help a detailed analysis. With regards to the current procurement procedures, he reported that these seem to have become heavily bureaucratic. He expressed concerns that there is a risk that the new administrative rules and regulations, stipulating a number of rigid requirements for the engagement of national and international partners, consultants, and institutions, will decrease the efficiency of programme delivery and the execution of IHP-VII. He noted that procurement rules may be appropriate in the case of equipment, but can be detrimental for scientific services, especially for the recruitment of consultants and institutions. With regards to IHP-VII, he noted that the current system do not allow to directly align financial information, which is organized accordingly to the 34 C/5, with the themes and focal areas of IHP-VII. He also noted that there appears to be a need for extra budgetary funds, but a better mechanism for handling these funds need to be settled as the current one is discouraging to donors of such funds. Likewise, he highlighted the desirability of a mechanism for retaining unspent funds with the programme beyond the biennium. The Council noted that the Finance Committee will not perform micro management or audit in the performance of its functions.

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

### **Water and Cultural Diversity**

75. The Secretariat reported the Council with the background information and activities implemented and planned for the new project on Water and Cultural Diversity, which is being implemented under Theme 2 of IHP-VII. Members of the Council, in particular the delegates of Paraguay, Peru and Costa Rica, strongly supported this project, highlighting the importance of understanding the linkages between water and cultural diversity, recognizing that it is particularly relevant in order to translate and apply science and technologies to solve water-related problems, in particular in the developing countries of the world.

### **IHP's role in the Thematic Programme on Education for Sustainable Water Management of the UN Decade of Education for Sustainable Development (DESD, 2005-2014)**

76. The Secretariat reported on recent developments on the thematic programme on education for sustainable water management of the Decade on Education for Sustainable Development (DESD), stressing the need to enhance water education and highlighting IHP's collaboration with other UNESCO Sectors, UNESCO-IHE, UNESCO category 2 water-related centres and chairs. The Secretariat invited the UNESCO water-related centres and chairs to strengthen their involvement in this thematic programme. Several delegates, in particular from Japan, Tanzania and Costa Rica, expressed their support to this initiative, highlighting its importance for water

management and sustainability. The delegate of Japan also noted the work of the Asia Pacific Water Forum in the area of water education and its role on establishing Water Museum in Thailand and creating several knowledge hubs in various parts of Asia.

### **IHP's involvement in the UNESCO Strategy on Climate Change**

77. The Secretariat reported on the intersectoral platform on climate change, which has been conceived to support the implementation of the UNESCO draft Strategy for Action on Climate Change. The initiative will leverage on the strength of all sectors both the human sciences and the natural sciences sector within an integrated approach to climate change and address the entire range of environmental, economic, social, educational, and behavioral issues involved. A first mapping of UNESCO's programmes has identified over 40 activities related to climate change by all sectors. A work plan is under preparation, with clear objectives and deliverables for this biennium. Council Members and Observers, in particular the delegates from Ghana, Costa Rica, Senegal, Tanzania, Sudan, USA, Oman, Paraguay, and Canada, expressed their overwhelming support to the new initiative on climate change. The Council requested IHP to further develop this program to address concerns of policy makers and also to develop a platform to deal with the declining water resources in various parts of the world. The Council also suggested adopting an inclusive strategy to deal with this issue. The Secretariat thanked the Council for its strong support for the initiative and pointed out that the initiative is linked with IHP-VII Theme 1 on global changes and adapting to these changes.

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

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

78. The representative of WMO reported that the first edition of the UNESCO/WMO International Glossary of Hydrology was published in 1974 and the second in 1992. For the preparation of the third edition, the 8<sup>th</sup> and last meeting of the UNESCO/WMO Standing Committee on Terminology was held in Geneva last year. The Spanish, English, French and Russian versions of the Glossary would be prepared by the end of June 2008. He noted with satisfaction the cooperation between UNESCO and WMO, in particular via the UNESCO-WMO Liaison Committee for Hydrological Activities, which coordinates the collaboration between the two agencies. In order to strengthen the existing coordination mechanism, during its last meeting in 2007, it was recommended that the Liaison Committee meet every year.

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

79. The President of the International Association of Hydrogeologists (IAH) provided an overview of the joint activities implemented within the framework of IHP-VI. He voiced IAH's strong support to the seventh phase of IHP, and informed about the planned activities for the 2008-2009 biennium. He also assured the Council of IAH's full support to activities such as ISARM and WHYMAP. He likewise IAH's active role in the of the conference on Groundwater and climate change in Africa being organized by IHP and the Ministry of Water Resources of Uganda in Kampala (23-25 June 2008) within the framework of IHP-VII Theme 1, Focal Area 1.4.

### ***The International Water History Association (IWHA)***

80. The representative of the International Water History Association reported that the IWHA was established in 2001 and already has about 700 members. Although IWAH advocates the use of historical research, it was deliberately established as an interdisciplinary organization. IWAH has held biannual conferences and the next conference will be held as part of a large congress organized by a new International Consortium of Environmental History Organizations (ICEHO), to take place in Copenhagen in 2009. The IWHA is presently developing a journal on International Water History with Springer. He noted that a key joint effort of IWHA and IHP for the past several years focuses on preparing a series on the History of Water and Civilization.

### ***Global Water System Project (GWSP)***

81. The representative of GWSP reported that this initiative is an international coordination project in the tradition of the global environmental challenge research programmes. Since its inception in 2004, GWSP has enjoyed the cooperation with UN organizations, in particular with UNESCO-IHP. He expressed GWSP's interest in extending collaboration with IHP on the topic of adaptation and noted that GWSP scientists contribute to IPCC, the World Water Development Report. He also noted that the GWSP is working closely with UNESCO-IHE and category 2 centres and experts and managers of HELP to set joint research priorities.

### ***Nile Basin Initiative (NBI)***

82. The representative of the Nile Basin Initiative, an intergovernmental body involving Nile riparian countries, reported on the *raison d'être* of the initiative, highlighting that the vision of the initiative is to achieve sustainable socio-economic development through the equitable utilization of, and benefit from, the common Nile Basin resources. The initiative's three-track strategy involves the Cooperative Framework Agreement, the Shared Vision Programme and Subsidiary Action Programmes. He noted that the capacity building arm of the NBI organizes short courses for water practitioners, professionals and trainers, and sponsors students to MSc and PhD courses. It also strengthens training and research institutions in order to create an institutional capacity for sustainable water resources management through a knowledge based decision making. The representative invited IHP and UNESCO category 1 and 2 water-related centres to work together for fruitful collaboration and knowledge sharing with Nile Basin institutions and the Nile Basin Initiative- Applied Training Project.

### ***Organization of Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE)***

83. The representative of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) informed the Council about the Organization's focus on water issues in the political context of early warning, conflict prevention and management, and post-conflict-rehabilitation. The representative of OSCE underlined that the OSCE seeks closer cooperation with the IHP, in particular in Central Asia, noting that OSCE's 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> Economic Environmental Forums closely relate to water management and security and the OSCE contributes towards setting-up of a Regional Drought Management Centre in Central Asia. She proposed to contribute to promoting the agenda of IHP through its established regional governmental contacts and to involve even more the technical expertise of IHP in the political dialogue.

### ***Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (ISESCO)***

84. The representative of ISESCO reported on its cooperation with IHP under the UNESCO-ISESCO cooperation programme, which has been signed between the two organizations. He highlighted the need to accord a higher priority for the issue of water pollution, recognized as the

biggest health threat in developing countries. He noted that the river water pollution due to human activities have serious impacts on human health and environment, in particular the loss of biodiversity, among others. The ISESCO representative suggested that climate change needs also to be considered in water programmes, noting that climate change and global warming have impacts on the river systems and other water resources. He also mentioned the Environment Ministerial Conference to be held in October, 2008, at Rabat, Morocco and hoped for cooperation with IHP.

## **COOPERATION BETWEEN IHP AND THE UN WORLD WATER ASSESSMENT PROGRAMME (WWAP)**

85. The coordinator of the WWAP reported on the programme and noted that 24 United Nations bodies of UN Water contribute to the third World Water Development Report (WWDR). He noted that WWAP is hosted and led by UNESCO, with its Secretariat structurally located within the Division of Water Sciences of UNESCO. The coordinator thanked the Member States, particularly Japan, for their generous contribution to produce the first and the second editions of the report. He also expressed strong gratitude to the government of Italy, which has provided a very relevant support and the facilities to host the WWAP secretariat in its third phase. He reported that the preparations are at final stages and that the secretariat will soon move to Perugia, Italy.

86. He noted that UNESCO-IHP is extensively involved in the scientific work of the WWDR preparation process, contributing to its 3rd edition by facilitating and coordinating the chapter on the "Status of the Resource" and by supporting WWAP through its PCCP initiative on transboundary water issues.

87. Voicing the significance of UN system-wide initiative on water resource assessment and appreciating the lead role played by UNESCO, the delegate of Italy noted the synergy that government of Italy has managed to forge through the hosting of WWAP secretariat in Perugia and reiterated its support to the WWAP secretariat. The delegate of Japan noted its willingness to support the mechanism. The delegates of Costa Rica, China and Germany voiced their support to the WWDR process and urged other countries to provide resources to strengthen the reporting mechanism. The delegate of Sudan noted his concern on the lack of a better mechanism to deal with transboundary groundwater resources and hoped for an increased role of IHP through its WWDRs for the better management of the internationally shared groundwater resources. The delegate of Senegal requested UNESCO-IHP to strengthen the WWAP secretariat's capacity-building components. The delegate of the United Kingdom requested to make the assessment mechanism imbedded in the WWDR process more transparent. The Secretariat has responded to all the questions raised.

## **UNESCO-IHP INVOLVEMENT IN THE 5<sup>TH</sup> WORLD WATER FORUM**

88. The Secretariat informed the Council of UNESCO-IHP's active involvement in the preparations of the 5<sup>th</sup> World Water Forum, to be held in Istanbul, Turkey in March 2009, both in its programmatic aspects as well as in the political processes. Furthermore UNESCO will be a lead agency in the celebration of World Water Day 2009 in Istanbul. UNESCO holds the lead or coordination of one of the six themes and of several topics that form the basis of the programme for the Forum.

89. The delegates of Japan, Turkey and Paraguay expressed appreciation for UNESCO-IHP's role in the 5<sup>th</sup> World Water Forum and congratulated its role in the Ministerial Conference. The delegate of Turkey noted that the 2<sup>nd</sup> announcement of the Forum has been published and is being translated in the 6 UN languages. He also noted that the third announcement will be published during November 2008.

**IHP'S ROLE IN THE INTERNATIONAL DECADE FOR ACTION – WATER FOR LIFE (2005-2015)**

90. The Council took note of the contributions made by the IHP to the International Decade for Action "Water for Life". The delegate of Paraguay stated the need for IHP to contribute, in addition to Expo 2008 in Zaragoza (Spain), to Expo 2012 in Yeosu (Korea) whose theme is "the living ocean and coast" and Expo 2015 in Milan (Italy), with the theme "feeding the planet, energy for life". These expositions should all be considered as contributions to the International Decade for Action.