

Hundred and seventy-first session

171 EX/57
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Item 63 of the provisional agenda

**PROPOSAL FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AN IHP-HELP CENTRE FOR WATER
LAW, POLICY AND SCIENCE AT THE UNIVERSITY OF DUNDEE, UK, UNDER THE
AUSPICES OF UNESCO**

SUMMARY

This item has been included in the provisional agenda of the 171st session of the Executive Board at the request of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

An explanatory note with a proposed decision are attached.

Decision proposed: paragraph 5.

EXPLANATORY NOTE

1. The 16th session of the Intergovernmental Council of IHP held at UNESCO, Paris (20-24 September 2004), discussed the need for research on water that interfaces water law and policy with natural sciences (geography, life sciences, civil engineering) to promote the sustainability of contemporary water resource management systems.
2. Based upon the recommendations of the University of Dundee (convenor of the UNESCO-IHP-HELP international conference, “Good Water Governance for People and Nature: What Roles for Law, Science, Institutions and Finance?”, administrator of the Editorial Committee of the HELP Water Data and Law Book), the Intergovernmental Council of IHP welcomed the United Kingdom Delegation proposal to establish a Centre for Water Law, Policy and Science at the University of Dundee, under the auspices of UNESCO.
3. The Intergovernmental Council of IHP recognized the potential role of the Centre in supporting IHP activities and of bridging the gap between scientific knowledge in updating water-related legal instruments. The Council adopted the attached Resolution XVI-5 (Annex).
4. The Secretariat is ready to prepare a feasibility study as well as cooperate with the University of Dundee to complete the documentation for submission to the Executive Board at its 172nd session and subsequently to the General Conference at its 33rd session.

Proposed draft decision

5. Taking into consideration the above-mentioned points, the Executive Board may wish to adopt a decision along the following lines:

The Executive Board,

1. Recalling the importance of interfacing water law, policy and science in the work of UNESCO,
2. Having examined document 171 EX/57,
3. Takes note of the important opportunities for cooperation mentioned in this document;
4. Requests the Director-General to prepare a feasibility study for submission to its 172nd session and subsequently to the General Conference at its 33rd session.

ANNEX

RESOLUTION XVI-5

IHP-HELP Centre for Water Law, Policy and Science at the University of Dundee

The Intergovernmental Council of the International Hydrological Programme of UNESCO,

- Noting**
- (i) that the effective management of water resources at the local and global levels, consistent with the principles of Integrated Water Resources Management, requires an operational interdisciplinary approach, including water law;
 - (ii) that there is a need for a good legal framework for the effective management of water resources and achievement of the Millennium Development Goals;
- Recognizing**
- that HELP promotes integrated catchment management through the creation of a framework for water law and policy experts, water resource managers and water scientists to work together on water-related problems;
- Recognizing also**
- (i) that there is a need globally to integrate water law into the work done by regional centres and HELP basins, and in UNESCO-IHP programmes, more generally;
 - (ii) that the University of Dundee has created an Interdisciplinary Research Centre on Water, interfacing physical sciences, engineering, social sciences and water law;
- Noting with satisfaction**
- that the International Water Law Research Institute of the University of Dundee has an international reputation of excellence, was one of the founding members of HELP, and continues to provide water law expertise and support for the HELP programme and basins;
- Noting also**
- that ancillary to the objectives of this Centre is an opportunity for it to become the Regional Coordinating Unit of HELP for Europe;
- Requests**
- UNESCO's assistance in preparing the documentation necessary to be submitted to the governing bodies of UNESCO towards the creation of this Centre according to 21 C/36 Section B(ii);
- Invites**
- Member States and in particular the existing UNESCO network of centres and institutes which address relevant water issues, especially at the regional level, to actively support the proposed Centre and ensure cooperation with the existing regional centres.