



International Hydrological Programme
17th session of the Intergovernmental Council
(Paris, 3 – 7 July 2006)

DRAFT SUMMARY REPORT
Part I
(Agenda items 1 – 7, 9)

OPENING OF THE SESSION

REPORT OF THE OUTGOING CHAIRPERSON

1. The 17th session of the Intergovernmental Council of the International Hydrological Programme (IHP) was held at UNESCO Headquarters in Paris from 3 to 7 July 2006. Mr. Ognjen Bonacci, Chairperson of the Intergovernmental Council, opened the session. Thirty-five Member States that are members of the Council sent delegates. Forty delegations from Member States that are not members of the Council attended. Twelve governmental and non-governmental organizations and seven UN organizations were also represented. The list of participants is attached as Annex xx.

2. Mr. Bonacci, the outgoing Chairperson, opened the Council. After welcoming the participants, Mr Bonacci started his intervention by noting the solid progress achieved by IHP in the past two years, as well as the programme's consolidated position within the UN system. He thanked in this regard the Director-General of UNESCO for his strong support of water and associated ecosystems as a principal priority for the organization, which has enabled IHP to multiply its budget over the past three bienniums.

3. Mr. Bonacci noted with satisfaction the progress achieved by IHP in implementing the sixth phase of IHP (IHP-VI 2002-2007) as well as in planning for the seventh phase of IHP (IHP-VII 2008-2013). He emphasized the importance of turning IHP into a policy relevant science programme and underlined the important role the IHP Council has taken on in recognizing water sciences in a more holistic context. He noted that UNESCO, due to its strong pillars, i.e., IHP, UNESCO-IHE and the World Water Assessment Programme (WWAP), was able to make significant contributions to water issues worldwide.

4. Finally, Mr. Bonacci called on the Council to move ahead with the process of IHP's governance. He noted that the Bureau had prepared a document on IHP governance which it was submitting to the Council, in which it proposed that IHP's statutes be modified in order to allow for the creation of Regional Intergovernmental Councils, which would act as regional subsidiary bodies to the Council, in order to achieve an open, all inclusive and bottom-up governance process. He called on the Council to work towards a resolution of the governance issue with "goodwill and positive spirit."

SUMMARY OF THE OPENING STATEMENT OF THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL

5. The Director-General welcomed the delegates who are members of the Council together with the considerable number of observers from other Member States. Representatives of UN bodies and non-governmental IHP partners were also welcomed.

6. The Director-General noted with satisfaction that UNESCO has continued over the past biennium to develop and strengthen a very substantial institutional framework and capacity base for executing UNESCO's mandate in the field of freshwater, notably through IHP, UNESCO-IHE, WWAP and the UNESCO chairs, networks and category II centres.

7. The Director-General noted that freshwater was an issue of global importance that links all eight Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) into a coherent interconnected system. He noted that it was for this reason that he decided to elevate water as a principal priority for UNESCO five years ago and he was pleased to note that the General Conference, at its 33rd session, had decided to maintain water and associated ecosystems as one of UNESCO's five priority areas. He further noted that IHP's Bureau had proposed at its last session that water be maintained as the principal priority during the next medium term strategic period and that regional consultations so far indicated that many Member States would want to maintain water as a principal priority for the organization.

8. The Director-General noted that the principal priority status of water within UNESCO had enabled UNESCO to expand its human and financial resources in the area, and that UNESCO now boasted the strongest human and financial base in the field of water in the UN system. He highlighted in particular the strong team which had been put together in Africa.

9. The Director-General highlighted the creation of a UNESCO network of twelve category II centres devoted to water, and noted that the General Conference (at its 33rd session) and the Executive Board (at its 174th session) had approved the establishment of five new centres. He further noted that UNESCO would soon launch a review process of the centres that had been in operation the longest in order to ensure that their activities were in line with UNESCO's strategic objectives. In addition, he noted with satisfaction that the Council would be spending a considerable part of its discussion in identifying the best mechanisms for achieving synergy between the centres themselves along with UNESCO-IHE.

10. The Director-General then turned his attention to the topic of IHP's governance. He recalled his earlier call for the Council to come up with a set of substantial proposals on the subject and noted with satisfaction the Council's Resolution XVI-7 on governance and the Bureau's follow-up proposal to change IHP's statutes to enable the creation of Regional Intergovernmental Councils. He re-emphasized the importance of creating a governance system based on a bottom-up and fully transparent approach.

11. The Director-General then highlighted a number of global events addressing water and water-related issues, including the World Conference on Disaster Reduction in Kobe, Japan in 2005 and more recently in March 2006, the Fourth World Water Forum in Mexico in March 2006. He highlighted the publication of the second World Water Development Report (WWDR-2) and the holding of World Water Day, also in Mexico City on March 22 2006, devoted to "Water and Culture".

12. He noted that WWDR-2 was put together by WWAP, a programme bringing together twenty-four UN agencies, and a successful example of UN collaboration. He further noted that the WWAP Secretariat, which has been hosted by UNESCO since its inception at its headquarters in Paris, would be moving to Perugia, Italy, thanks to a generous offer by the Italian Government to host the Secretariat. He reiterated that the Secretariat would remain an integral part of UNESCO's Division of Water Sciences.

13. The Director-General noted that WWDR-2 raised many important issues, including that the water crisis is in essence a water governance issue and that sustainable water management demands a holistic and multidisciplinary approach. In this regard, the Director-General noted that UNESCO was in a unique position to respond to such calls for interdisciplinarity, in particular through its existing initiatives linking water and culture. He noted that UNESCO was developing a new strategic framework for intersectoral cooperation in the field of water within the context of the United Nations Decade on Education for Sustainable Development (DESD) for which UNESCO is the lead agency. He noted with satisfaction that the seventh phase of IHP (IHP-VII) on "Water dependencies: Systems under stress and societal responses" reflected such an intersectoral approach.

14. The Director-General also noted that WWAP and the WWDR would evolve in their next phase to include assessments at regional, national and river basin level, supported by country case studies along with contributions from IHP-related water centres. He noted that these assessments would be underpinned by the gradual establishment of globally integrated and geo-referenced data bases and simulation models, which would allow for monitoring across time and permit the close evaluation of development targets such as the millennium development goals. He noted that Member States found the reports very useful in formulating national plans for integrated water resources management. The Director-General noted that the report is expected to become the principal UN reporting mechanism on freshwater issues for the International Decade for Action: Water for Life.

15. The Director-General highlighted the leading role UNESCO, through IHP, played in implementing WWAP and called on Member States to further contribute, both in kind (through secondments) and in funding to the programme. The Director-General ended his intervention by calling on the Council to provide guidance that would ensure IHP's continued relevance to scholars, managers and policy makers.

ELECTION OF THE INCOMING CHAIRPERSON

16. The delegate of Benin nominated Mr. Alhaji Muhktari S. Shagari (Nigeria, Group Va) as Chairperson. This nomination was seconded by the delegates from Congo, Egypt, Germany, India, Malaysia, Mexico, Russia, Turkey and Yemen. As no other candidature was proposed, Mr. Shagari was declared the new Chairperson of the Intergovernmental Council.

17. The elected Chairperson took the floor to accept this nomination. He noted that this election was a recognition of Nigeria's prominent role within IHP in the African continent during the last few years, noting particularly Nigeria's hosting of the first African Regional Consultative Meeting of the National Committees for UNESCO's International Hydrological Programme held in Abuja in March 2006.

ELECTION OF THE VICE-CHAIRPERSONS

18. The elected Chairperson took the Chair and proceeded with the election of the following Vice-Chairpersons: Mr. Alan Jenkins (United Kingdom, Group I); Mr. Benito Braga (Brazil, Group III), Mr. Keizrul Abdullah (Malaysia, Group IV) and Mr. Muhammad Al-Rasheed, (Kuwait, Group Vb).

19. The Council noted that, in conformity with its Statutes, the IHP Bureau is composed of a Chairperson, four elected Vice-Chairpersons and of Mr. Ognen Bonacci (Croatia, Group II), the outgoing Chairperson.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

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

DETERMINATION OF THE COUNCIL'S METHOD OF WORK

21. The Council elected the following Resolutions Drafting Committee members: Mr. Kristinn Einarsson (Iceland, Group I), Mr. Pavol Miklanek (Slovakia, Group II), Mr. Alvaro Aldama (Mexico, Group III), Mr. Igor Severskiy (Kazakhstan, Group IV), Mr. Mbanginesi P. Nephumbada (South Africa, Group Va) and Mr. Mohamed Bahaa Eldin Ahmed M. Saad (Egypt, Group Vb). Mr. Aldama was elected as Chairperson of the Resolutions Drafting Committee.

22. The Council elected three new members to the Finance Committee: Ms Olga Gorelits (Russia, Group II), Mr. Evens Emmanuel (Haiti, Group III) and Mr. Abel Afouda (Benin, Group Va). Mr. Lucio Ubertini was re-elected as Chairperson and Mr. Afouda was designated as Rapporteur of the Finance Committee.

REPORT BY THE SECRETARIAT ON THE 33RD SESSION OF THE GENERAL CONFERENCE AND ON THE 170TH TO THE 174TH SESSIONS OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD OF UNESCO, INCLUDING OVERVIEW OF THE PROGRAMME AND BUDGET FOR 2006 – 2007 (33 C/5)

23. The IHP Secretariat reported on the major water-related decisions from the 33rd session of the General Conference and from the 170th session to the recently held 174th session (April 2006), discussed in document IHP/IC-XVII/Inf.2. The Secretariat also reported on the adoption of the Programme and Budget for 2006-2007 (33 C/5) by the General Conference at its 33rd session.

24. Delegates asked whether a coordinated position existed between the different UN agencies involved in water. The Secretariat indicated that IHP worked closely with the other UN agencies involved in water through UN Water, the interagency mechanism which acted, *inter alia*, as the steering committee for WWAP. The Secretariat also highlighted the close working relationship between IHP and the World Meteorological Organization (WMO).

25. The delegate from Australia asked what relationship existed between IHP's regular budget and its extrabudgetary funding. The Secretariat indicated that extrabudgetary funds were at this point more stable and that the regular funding often acted as seed money for securing extrabudgetary funding.

REVIEW OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE RESOLUTIONS AND OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS ADOPTED BY THE 16TH SESSION OF THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL COUNCIL OF IHP

PROGRESS REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE RESOLUTIONS

26. The Secretariat reported on the status of the implementation of the resolutions and other recommendations adopted by the 16th session of the Intergovernmental Council. The delegate from Iceland noted the modest advancement in the follow-up to Resolution XVI-6 so far. An effort will be made to include hydrological activities in the Arctic in the plan of IHP-VII. The representative of Costa Rica expressed support to the initiative of establishing a regional centre for ecohydrology in Indonesia (Resolution XVI-3).

REPORT OF THE IHP FINANCE COMMITTEE

27. The Secretariat presented the report of the Finance Committee contained in document IHP/IC-XVII/Inf.4, reviewing the Committee's activities during the past two years. It was explained that the IHP Finance Committee had provided elements of the financial analysis for consideration of the Bureau for the follow up to Resolution XVI-7 on governance.

28. The Australian delegate brought attention to the fact that inflation and fluctuation in currency rates should be reflected in IHP's financial reports. Other delegates indicated interest in having more details regarding the funding of particular activities within IHP.

29. The Secretariat noted that there are some UNESCO headquarters common charges for all programmes within UNESCO which reduce the budgetary availability for programme execution. The Secretariat also noted that SISTER, the results-based reporting system used by UNESCO, was accessible to delegates.

REVIEW OF IHP-IV ACTIVITIES AND RELATED ACTIVITIES OF UNESCO

RESULTS OF IHP-VI PROJECTS SINCE THE 16TH SESSION OF THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL COUNCIL OF IHP

Themes 1, 2 and 3

30. The Council expressed with satisfaction the achievements made in the implementation of these three themes. The delegate from Costa Rica reported on some activities conducted in the Latin America and Caribbean region under these themes, *inter alia*, hydrology and environmental flows, ecohydrology, water quality and methodologies for mapping.

31. With regard to focal area 2.1, the delegates from Brazil and Mexico noted that in addition to floods, greater attention should be paid to droughts, and that more emphasis should be given to the management of groundwater resources and surface water related to droughts. Concerning terminology used for the title of focal area 2.2, "International river basins and aquifers", the delegate from Brazil proposed that this focal area be titled "transboundary" rivers.

32. The delegate from Slovakia reported on regional cooperation being coordinated by Slovakia in 2006 in the Danube, involving eighteen countries, while the delegate from Egypt noted the need to highlight additional areas such as desalination, low-cost technology, use of brackish water, demand management, and arid zones. The delegate from the Russian Federation outlined the importance of examining, *inter alia*, impacts of global change on hydrological regimes. He also noted that hydrology should be studied as science *per se* in order to solve problems surrounding water and society. In addition, the delegate from the UK voiced concern about the expansion of IHP activities and the need to provide guidance to potential users of IHP output through a proper dissemination plan.

33. The IHP Secretariat took note of all comments and concerns of the delegates. The Secretariat indicated that droughts were being given a proper place as the topic fell in ICHARM's planned activities, that droughts were also considered in drylands studies and there was a drought centre foreseen in Namibia. The Secretariat also explained that the range and scope of IHP activities reflected the needs of Member States expressed in the successive IHP phases, including a growing emphasis on social aspects.

Themes 4 and 5

34. The Council noted with satisfaction the progress made in these themes. Representatives of Mexico, International IHP-HELP Centre for Water Law, Policy and Science, and UNESCO-IHE noted the importance of integrating hard and engineering sciences with social sciences to solve water conflicts, and Mexico provided an example where mathematical modeling made vital contributions to consensus-building and conflict resolution.

35. Many delegates, namely from Costa Rica, Haiti, India, Italy, Japan, Mexico and Romania, as well as various UNESCO category II centres, namely the International IHP-HELP Centre for Water Law, Policy and Science in Dundee, United Kingdom; Regional Humid Tropics Hydrology and Water Resources Centre for Southeast Asia and the Pacific (HTC) in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia; Regional Centre on Urban Water Management (RCUWM) in Tehran, Iran; Regional Centre for Training and Water Studies (RCTWS) in Cairo, Egypt; International Research and Training Centre on Urban Drainage (IRTCUD) in Belgrade, Serbia and Montevideo; Water Centre for the Humid Tropics of Latin America and the Caribbean (CATHALAC) in Panama City, Panama; European Regional Centre for Ecohydrology (ERCE) in Lodz, Poland; Regional Water Centre for Arid and Semi-Arid Zones of Latin America and the Caribbean (CAZALAC) in La Serena, Chile; reported on their own activities concerning water education, capacity-building, and training. Many of these activities were implemented in cooperation with UNESCO-IHE as well as with other water-related

centres under the auspices of UNESCO, and the need for strengthening cooperation and synergy among these centres was expressed.

36. The delegate from Mexico and the representative of the IHP-HELP Centre in Dundee, UK emphasized the importance of interpreting water education in a broader manner, that activities should not just focus on scientific training for professionals, but also on primary and secondary level education.

Cross-cutting IHP Themes: FRIEND and HELP

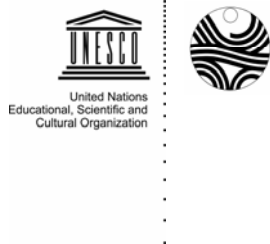
37. Several delegates, namely from Australia, Benin, Costa Rica Slovakia and UK, and the representatives of HTC Kuala Lumpur and IAHS expressed appreciation to the IHP Secretariat as well as the donors for the successful results achieved by the two cross-cutting themes, and further presented activities undertaken in their countries and regions under the framework of FRIEND and HELP. The need to focus attention to attract donors for these themes, focusing particularly in developing countries and south-south cooperation, was expressed by Benin and UK.

38. Concerning agenda item 9 as a whole, Australia, Brazil and UK remarked that activities should be reported in a more coherent manner and be more result-based, which should then help to raise the profile of IHP and to attract the attention of funding organizations, user communities, and younger hydrologists. Also concerning reporting the delegates from Australia, UK and USA commented on the importance of transparency, notably that the budget should be reported closely linked to activities and their outcomes.

COOPERATION WITH OTHER UNESCO ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAMMES

39. Representatives of MAB and IOC informed the Council on activities jointly implemented with IHP. Cooperation between IHP and MAB given across a wide spectrum of activities, recently focused on the International Scientific Conference "The Future of Drylands" (Tunis, 19-21 June 2006), sustainable management of marginal drylands (SUMAMAD project) and outreach and education activities. IOC highlighted results from the successful cooperation concerning quantification of submarine groundwater discharge in coastal areas and an IOC-IHP joint GEF project in the coastal zone of the Caspian Sea on groundwater management. Furthermore, in light of IOC's shift in emphasis on mitigation of coastal hazards, IOC invited IHP to cooperate in related freshwater issues.

40. A representative from the International Council for Science (ICSU) commented on complementary activities such as Global Water System Project (GWSP) and GEWEX (Global Energy and Water Cycle Experiment).



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DRAFT SUMMARY REPORT
Part II
(Agenda items 8 and 10)

UNESCO'S WATER-RELATED CENTRES (CATEGORY I AND CATEGORY II)

THE ROLE OF UNESCO-IHE INSTITUTE FOR WATER EDUCATION IN THE INTERNATIONAL HYDROLOGICAL PROGRAMME (IHP) OF UNESCO

41. The Director of the UNESCO-IHE Institute for Water Education gave a presentation on postgraduate education, training and capacity building in water, environment and infrastructure. It was explained that the Institute is the only entity in the UN system authorized to confer fully accredited MSc and PhD degrees. Details concerning UNESCO-IHE's academic programme and student body were reviewed, as well as partnership arrangements in place including joint degree programmes. Ways of drawing UNESCO-IHE and UNESCO-IHP closer together were discussed.

42. Three questions were put forward by the Director for consideration by the Council:

- Would the IHP Council request special consideration for research support on behalf of UNESCO-IHE?
- Would the IHP Council consider requesting the UNESCO Fellowship Programme to make a special effort on behalf of UNESCO-IHE?
- Would the IHP Council request all Member States to inform the national fellowship programmes and IHP National Committees about the importance of supporting UNESCO-IHE?

43. The Council welcomed the offer of UNESCO-IHE to develop closer relations with UNESCO-IHP, and took note of the fact that, since the Institute is entirely extrabudgetary, funds would need to be sought for any joint activities. The offer by UNESCO-IHE to help raise the counterpart funds for joint action was also noted. Several countries expressed interest in developing a collaborative relationship. Others paid tribute to the training that water professionals from their country had received at the Institute.

PROPOSED CATEGORY II WATER-RELATED CENTRES

44. The Secretariat presented the recent proposals received for additional Category II Centres, which had been viewed favourably by the 39th session of the IHP Bureau (Delft, 3-5 may 2006) as described in document IHP/IC-XVII/7:

- 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 (Brazil)

- Centre on Sustainable Water Engineering and Management (Thailand)

45. The Council after considering the proposals decided to welcome them, requesting the IHP Secretariat to lend assistance in the preparation of the document required for the formal submittal to the Governing bodies of UNESCO. This decision is expressed in Resolutions XVIII- ... to XVII- ...

46. The representative of The International Water Academy (TIWA) informed that Council that his organization is working on a proposal to be submitted to UNESCO shortly for the establishment of an International Research and Training Centre on Hydropolitics (Kristiansand, Norway) as a category II centre. The initiative received positive comments from various Delegates and the Council decided to encourage the formalization of the proposal. The TIWA representative added that discussions are being held with the Norwegian government concerning the proposed centre.

OVERVIEW OF NEWLY-ESTABLISHED CATEGORY II CENTRES

47. The IHP Secretariat reported on the status of the Category II water centres which had been welcomed by the Council and that have been established since the 16th session of the Council after their approval by the Governing bodies of UNESCO (see document IHP/IC-XVII/Inf.5)

- The Regional Centre for Arid and semi-Arid Regions of Latin America and the Caribbean (La Serena, Chile) under the auspices of UNESCO
- The European Regional Centre for Ecohydrology (ERCE) in (Lodz, Poland) under the auspices of UNESCO
- The International Centre for Water hazard and Risk management (ICHARM) in Tsukuba, Japan under the auspices of UNESCO
- The International IHP-HELP Centre for Water Law, Policy and Science in Dundee, UK, under the auspices of UNESCO
- The Regional Centre on Urban Water Management (Cali, Colombia) under the auspices of UNESCO

The Council noted with satisfaction these significant developments.

NOMINATIONS FOR OFFICE BEARERS IN VARIOUS BOARDS OF CATEGORY I AND CATEGORY II CENTRES

48. The Secretariat reported on the process regarding the nominations of office bearers in the Governing Board for UNESCO-IHE (category I), the advisory board of the International Research and Training Centre on Erosion and Sedimentation in Beijing, China (IRTCES, category II), the governing board of the International Centre for Water Hazard and Risk Management in Tsukuba, Japan (ICHARM, category II) and the governing board of the European Regional Centre for Ecohydrology in Lodz, Poland (ERCE, category II), noting that the Bureau of the 16th session of the Council had made a short list of candidates based solely on technical ability and geographical distribution. On behalf of the outgoing Bureau, the Secretariat presented the Bureau's selection of short lists for the four centres. The delegate from Nigeria took the floor to put forward the names of one candidate from the Africa region for the governing board of IRTCES and one candidate for the advisory board of ICHARM.

49. As the statutes of UNESCO-IHE stipulate, six representatives elected by the IHP intergovernmental Council sit on the UNESCO-IHE Governing Board, three of whom will end their terms in June 2007. The Council elected three new representatives to serve from July 2007-June 2011, as follows:

- Mr. Robert A. Pietrowsky, USA (Region I)
- Mr. Ian White, Australia (Region IV)
- Mr. Walid Abderrahman, Saudi Arabia (Region Vb)

50. Similarly, six representatives elected by the IHP Intergovernmental Council sit on the Governing board of IRTCES, in accordance with the new agreement signed by UNESCO and the Republic of China in December 2005. The Council elected the following six representatives:

- Mr. Des Walling, UK (Region I)
- Mr. Zurab D. Kopaliani, Russia (Region II)
- Mr. Roberto Pizarro Tapia, Chile (Region III)
- Mr. Djoko Legono, Indonesia (Region IV)
- Mr. Francis Mutua, Kenya (Region Va)
- Mr. Abdalla Abdelsalam Ahmed , Sudan (Region Vb)

51. Six persons elected by the IHP intergovernmental Council sit on the Governing board of ICHARM, in accordance with the agreement signed by UNESCO and Japan establishing the centre in March 2006. The Council elected the following six representatives:

- Mr. Eugene Stakhiv, USA (Region I)
- Mr. Maciej Zalewski, Poland (Region II)
- Mr. Carlos Eduardo Morelli Tucci, Brazil (Region III)
- Mr. Mohamed Akram Kahlowan, Pakistan (Region IV)
- Mr. Abu Amani, Niger (Region Va)
- Mr. Anwar Jiries, Jordan (Region Vb)

52. Six persons elected by the IHP intergovernmental Council (three each from regions I and II) sit on the governing board of ERCE, in accordance with the agreement signed between UNESCO and the Republic of Poland establishing the centre in March 2006. The Council elected the following six representatives:

- Mr. David Harper, U.K.(Group I)
- Mr. Luis Chicharo, Portugal (Group I)
- Ms Nicola Fohrer, Germany (Group I)
- Mr. Geza Jolankai, Hungary (Group II)
- Mr. Volodimir Timchenko, Ukraine (Group II)
- Ms Olga Vlademirovna Gorelets, Russia (Group II)

DEVELOPING A STRATEGY FOR UNESCO'S WATER CENTRES

53. The Council was informed of the Bureau's recommendation that there was need for a strategy and plan for reinforcing the network of category I and II water centers. This was due primarily to new developments within the IHP, namely the entry of the UNESCO-IHE Institute for Water Education and the establishment of new water centers operating under the auspices of UNESCO (twelve in total now approved and five in the pipeline). It was also necessary to

respond to concerns raised by the UNESCO Executive Board as to how the centers worked together and how they relate to UNESCO's programme in freshwater. Attention was drawn to the new principles and guidelines for UNESCO's centers, which includes a stipulation that the designation as a category II institute or center would be reviewed during the preparation of the new UNESCO Medium Term Strategy for 2008-2013.

54. The Council recognized that until now the focus had been primarily on the review and establishment of new category II centers. It was felt that by developing a strategy for the centers, it would be possible to maximize their contribution to the solution of regional and global water problems, and also to build an effective network among them which avoids overlap, promotes cooperation, and provides coherence vis a vis Member States.

55. Several countries expressed support for developing such a strategy, in order to avoid duplication, improve communication, and ensure that the activities of the centers were well aligned with IHP. One country was of the view that such a strategy should be dovetailed with the overall review of Major Programmes II and II of UNESCO, now underway. It was suggested that if a task force were formed it should include independent members, and that the cost of implementing a strategy be evaluated. It was also suggested that it might be useful for Directors of the category II centers to be part of the IHP National Committees. Directors of the category II centers present at the Council meeting expressed their views, including the comment by one that any strategy or mechanism for the centers should allow for flexibility and respect the autonomy of the centers.

FOLLOW-UP TO RESOLUTION XVI-7 ON IHP GOVERNANCE

56. The chairperson of the Bureau of the 16th session of the IHP Intergovernmental Council Mr. Bonacci presented document IHP/IC-XVII/9 the Bureau had prepared on the follow-up to resolution XVI-7 on IHP governance. He explained that the document contained a short background section on the subject, a draft resolution and a proposed change in statutes of the IHP Council which would enable the creation of regional intergovernmental councils which would be subsidiary bodies of the IHP Council that would design, implement and evaluate the regional aspects of IHP, and have in effect the same functions on the regional level as IHP Intergovernmental Council has on a global level.

57. The delegate from India asked whether amending IHP's statutes was necessary in order to create regional intergovernmental councils and noted that article VI.I might already provide for that possibility. The delegate from India indicated it would provide an alternate resolution for discussion by the plenary on its last day.

58. The delegate from Brazil took the floor to express its concerns regarding the financial and administrative implications of creating regional intergovernmental councils and noted the opinion of UNESCO's Office of International Standards and Legal Affairs (LA), reported in document IHP/IC-XVII/9, that regional intergovernmental councils, if created, could not "designate or elect members of the Council from the region".

59. The delegate from Mexico supported India's view that article VI.I could provide for the creation of regional intergovernmental councils and noted that different regions might want to decide whether or not to create such councils.

60. The delegate from Malaysia expressed its concern that the financial implications of creating regional intergovernmental councils had not been sufficiently studied. The delegate

from Malaysia further noted that in the Asia and Pacific Region they were satisfied with the current system of regional committee.

61. The delegate from Egypt took the floor to respond to the concerns of his fellow delegates. He expressed the strong support of his region for regional intergovernmental councils, noting that such councils would provide a forum for regional issues to be discussed and offered the possibility for all Member States to participate in the activities and governance of IHP. He noted that decentralization should be advocated within the overall UNESCO and UN context. He further noted that the financial concerns had been addressed by the IHP Finance Committee at various times during the lengthy 14 year debate on the subject.

62. The delegate from Costa Rica took the floor to note that the regional committee for Latin America and the Caribbean had passed a resolution supporting the establishment of regional intergovernmental councils. The delegate from Chile noted that Chile did not have the authority to endorse the resolution as it now stood.

63. The observer from Denmark took the floor to note that a number of questions regarding regional intergovernmental councils that had not been addressed in document IHP/IC-XVII/9, such as the translation costs involved in such councils. The delegate from Iceland noted that his country was satisfied with the system of regional committees now in place.

64. The observer from Sudan noted that the establishment of regional intergovernmental councils was a very good idea that would allow for a more democratic, bottom-up approach, in which all Member States could be involved in IHP.

65. The delegate from Japan expressed concern that the idea of regional intergovernmental councils was not sufficiently clear but nevertheless supported the idea of full participation by Member States in IHP. The delegate from Japan further noted that the creation of regional intergovernmental councils should be up to the regions.

66. The delegate from Australia expressed support for the involvement of all Member States in IHP but noted that the financial implications of creating regional intergovernmental councils had not been sufficiently explored. The delegate from Australia also advocated that article VI of the existing IHP statutes on regional committees should not be replaced. The delegate from Germany expressed some concern that proposal as it now stood would weaken IHP national committees. The observer from Poland expressed some concern with the added costs of attending regional intergovernmental councils.

67. The observer from Oman highlighted the many positive aspects of the creation of regional intergovernmental councils, including the possibility for the councils to be forums for fundraising for IHP. The delegate for Yemen took the floor to express its support for the proposal to establish regional intergovernmental councils.

68. The representative of the Office of International Standards and Legal Affairs (LA) took the floor. He noted that the Council did not have the authority to discuss a change in governance of IHP, but should limit its deliberations to the scientific aspects of the proposal. He noted that LA felt that there were inconsistencies in the proposed changes to the statutes. He noted that article VI.2 did not pose any legal problems but that other parts of the article did, although these problems were not specifically pointed out. He also noted that LA would advise the Council to have these proposed changes in statutes reviewed by the Executive Board before they were submitted to the General Conference.

69. The delegate from the UK took the floor to express some concern with the possible overhead costs of the Secretariat at these regional intergovernmental councils and suggested that other means of strengthening IHP national committees should be considered.

70. The Secretariat took the floor to acknowledge the various opinions expressed by Members of the Council on the subject. The Secretariat noted that the debate, which had now lasted for the past 14 years, still had not reached a consensus, and that some issues were being raised now that the Council had addressed at an earlier stage (such as an analysis of the financial consequences, which had been done in an extensive manner by the finance committee in document IHP/Bur-XXV/19). Therefore, the Secretariat encouraged the Council to take a final decision at this session regarding the establishment of regional intergovernmental councils, taking into account all relevant considerations.

71. The chairperson took the floor and noted that no consensus had been reached on the establishment of regional intergovernmental councils and the proposed change in IHP's statutes during the plenary session devoted to the agenda item. He proposed that the draft resolution proposed by the Bureau be reviewed by Member States during informal regional meetings and by the Drafting Resolutions Committee during its remaining sessions. He called on the Council to make all the necessary efforts to ensure that resolution on the subject be approved during the adoption of draft resolutions by the Council.



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DRAFT SUMMARY REPORT
Part III
(Agenda items 11 to 13)

**MAIN LINES OF ACTION FOR THE DRAFT PROGRAMME AND BUDGET FOR 2008-2009
(DRAFT 34 C/5)**

72. The IHP Secretariat presented a proposal for the Main Lines of Action (MLAs) for the water programme of UNESCO for 2008-2009, which is the first biennium of the next C/4 medium-term period of UNESCO (2008-2013), and also coincides with the period of execution of IHP-VII (see document IHP/IC-XVII/10). The proposed MLAs, viewed favourably by the 39th session of the IHP Bureau, received general support from the Council members. The Council debated on titles of some of the MLAs, and agreed upon wording changes. The MLAs, as agreed, are the following:

- MLA-1: Enhancing adaptation capacities against the impacts of global changes on catchments and aquifers
- MLA-2: Developing (strategies) (guidelines) for managing the interactions of hydrology, water quality, human and ecosystem health and food security at watershed scale
- MLA-3: Improving science based water governance in various socio-economic settings for sustainability
- Joint MLA-4: Developing (social) ecohydrology for environmental sustainability (with the Man and Biosphere Programme of UNESCO)
- Joint MLA-5: Improving freshwater education programmes at all levels and building capacities for sustainable water resources management (with UNESCO-IHE Institute for Water Education and the Education Sector of UNESCO).

73. The proposed resolution was adopted by the Council, with wording adjustments as shown above (Resolution XVII/3). These proposals for MLAs would then be submitted as recommendations from the IHP Intergovernmental Council to the 34th session of the General Conference, for final approval.

ENDORSEMENT OF THE DRAFT PLAN OF THE 7TH PHASE OF IHP (IHP-VII, 2008-2013)

74. Mr Shamminder Puri, the Chair of the Task Force for IHP-VII, and Ms Iwona Wagner, a member of the Task Force, made presentations on the Draft Strategic Plan for the 7th Phase of IHP. Based on the presentations and the two documents submitted by the Task Force to the Council, namely, the Executive Summary (IHP/IC-XVII/11) and the 5th Report of the Task Force (IHP/IC-XVII/Inf-9), the Council was invited to review and approve the Draft Strategic Plan.

75. The Council commended the Task Force for the high quality and the comprehensive scope of the Draft Strategic Plan, which responds to the interests and concerns of the Council members and IHP National Committees.

76. Interventions were made by the following delegates and organizations: Iceland, Japan, the Russian Federation, the Netherlands, Costa Rica, Benin, India, Australia, Egypt, Malaysia, Mexico, Yemen, Kazakhstan, Italy, Oman, Sudan, Bulgaria, Haiti, Chile, Turkey, Canada, USA, Sri Lanka, Kuwait, Poland and IAHS. The former Chairperson of the Evaluation Task Force for IHP-V also made comments.

77. Interventions focused on the following nine issues:

- a) The arctic region and issues concerning snow and ice in northern countries: Several delegations expressed the need to address issues related to hydrology of the arctic regions, and suggested that this issue be incorporated into Theme 1. Specifically, it was recommended that aspects such as processes of snow formation, glaciers melting and impact of global changes on the hydrology of arctic regions be addressed.
- b) Strengthening scientific aspects in the IHP-VII framework: As not all environmental issues have solutions that are obvious, it was noted that conducting research is important in order to obtain a more comprehensive picture of the hydrological cycle and its major drivers. Thus, it was suggested that a clearer reference be made to some of the purely scientific aspects of hydrological research. Such activities would include collection of data and development of databases, coordination of information research and modeling, as well as ensuring the active involvement of young hydrologists.
- c) Deliverables, measurable outputs, and indicators of progress: Some questions focused on the next steps to be undertaken in the process of further development of the IHP-VII strategic plan, mostly those related to the Implementation Plan. It was explained that the Task Force and the IHP Secretariat will co-ordinate the preparation of the plan. Consultations with the IHP National Committees will be conducted, in order to include their suggestions for the actions, outputs, benchmarks and execution of IHP-VII. Indicators of progress and assessment will also be developed.
- d) Water-energy nexus: This was noted as an important issue, and it was noted that there is also a need to place stronger emphasis on other potentially conflicting issues surrounding water.
- e) Data collection and the importance of modeling: Some delegates commented on the need to address climate-change responses and to develop decision-support systems.
- f) Cooperation with other UN agencies and international initiatives: The need to strengthen existing cooperation, as well as facilitating new cooperation, was underlined. Cooperation with WMO was pointed out to be particularly significant. In the context of hydrological research, links with IAHS was also considered important, most notably concerning future needs for the science of hydrology as formulated by the Hydrology 2020 Working Group, as well as the PUB initiative.
- g) Water-related issues in Africa: The need to strengthen IHP activities concerning water-related issues in Africa, in particular, developing water-related centres under the auspices of UNESCO, was emphasized, in order to strengthen the process of education and capacity building.

- h) Climate change and global changes that are associated with increased intensity of human impacts: Comments were made in response to some earlier views expressed during the Council on the balance of impacts arising from climate change and global changes.
- i) Cultural issues in water and indigenous knowledge: This was welcomed as an important issue that has been included in IHP-VII.

78. The Council also commended the Task Force for its foresight and the attention paid to issues of greater concern to the global community. The following issues were highlighted as those of particular importance: the inclusion of SIDS, which are vulnerable to impacts of climate change and water-related hazards; the comprehensive nature of the theme on governance; the reference made to development of dams, given that there is a need to provide more infrastructure for storing water in the face of uncertainties and climatic extremes while sustaining ecosystem quality at the same time; and hydro-hazards.

79. The Council concluded the discussions on this agenda item by approving the Resolution presented in document IHP/IC-XVII/11. The next steps to be taken that the Task Force recommended were adopted, and it was agreed that the preparation of the Implementation Plan would commence as soon as possible. In this process, benchmarks, outputs and deliverables would be better defined, in consultation with IHP National Committees.

PROGRESS REPORT ON NEW IHP INITIATIVES

INTERNATIONAL SEDIMENT INITIATIVE (ISI)

80. Mr Manfred Spreafico, the Chairperson of the ISI Steering Committee, reported on the overall progress of ISI. This was then followed by a report by Mr Cheng Liu, representing the International Research and Training Center on Erosion and Sedimentation (IRTCES) in Beijing, China, which acts as the technical secretariat of ISI.

81. Several delegates, including Italy, Costa Rica, USA, Egypt, India and Sudan, highlighted the importance of ISI, and introduced some activities taking place in their countries concerning sedimentation. Italy encouraged collaboration with other initiatives related to sediments, such as the Sediment Management International Observatory (SMIO) and IAHS's PUB. The representative of Sudan invited the delegates to the first ISI International Conference, to take place in November 2006 in Khartoum.

82. A representative of AGRHYMET (Centre Regional d'Agro-Hydro-Meteorologie) suggested that ISI deal with issues that are of great concern in Western Africa, such as lack of information on sedimentation and on how to measure sedimentation, while Egypt noted the importance of integrated management of watersheds and isotope techniques for sediment control.

INTERNATIONAL FLOOD INITIATIVE (IFI)

83. Mr Kuniyoshi Takeuchi, Director of the International Centre for Water Hazard and Risk Management (ICHARM), introduced ICHARM to the Council and reported on the overall progress of IFI.

84. Many delegates, including Ireland, China, India, Benin, Costa Rica, Australia, Nigeria and USA welcomed the initiative and expressed willingness to fully participate in IFI. Ireland recommended that IFI develop close linkages with the EU Water Framework Directive, and various countries offered names of organizations that could potentially partner in IFI, namely: Bureau of Hydrology, Yangtze River Commission, under the Ministry of Water Resources, China; Central Water Commission of India; and the Niger River Basin Committee. Oman announced the upcoming International Workshop on Flash Floods in Urban Areas and Risk Management, to take place in September 2006 in Muscat, Oman, co-organized with the Regional Centre on Urban Water Management (RCUWM).

85. A representative of WMO, a partner in IFI, introduced the Hydrology and Water Resources Programme of WMO and commented on the range of activities that UNESCO and WMO are working together. He also noted the issue of terminology concerning “floods” and “flooding”. Referring delegates to the UNESCO/WMO International Glossary of Hydrology, he suggested that the latter be used. IAHS, another partner of IFI, mentioned that it was a joint organizer of the Kovacs Colloquium titled Frontiers in Flood Research, held immediately prior to the Council meeting.

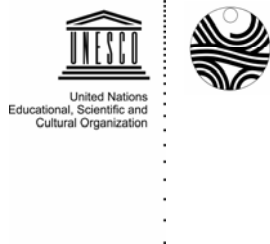
86. The delegate from Egypt noted the importance of risk assessment, flash floods in dry areas, and early warning systems, and called for more research and studies in these areas. Sudan also drew attention to flash floods in dry regions, and mentioned the need to study, *inter alia*, impacts of human settlements in floodplains on flooding, formation of sand bars along river banks and the narrowing of river courses, and flood risk caused by failure of hydraulic structures. The delegate from Australia pointed out the need to put together a matrix of activities, and expressed its concern that due to the increase in the number of research and initiatives on tsunami, it is necessary to identify exactly what area IFI should focus, in order to avoid duplication. The delegate from Brazil pointed out the importance of focusing on structural measures such as dams, dikes and weirs for flood control.

PROPOSED THEMATIC PROGRAMME ON WATER EDUCATION WITHIN THE UN DECADE ON EDUCATION FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT (DESD, 2005-2014)

87. The Council strongly supported the Bureau’s recommendation to the Council to set up a working group of experts to advise and guide UNESCO’s work on water education and capacity building, to review the draft thematic programmes for the DESD to ensure that they are scientifically sound, and to help engage all the relevant actors engaged in UNESCO’s water programme, including IHP National Committees and water-related centres. The Council underlined the critical importance of education for achieving sustainable development, and welcomed the development by UNESCO of an integrated programme for water education at all levels and all its forms. The Council also decided to authorize the Bureau to constitute the working group and to determine its Terms of Reference.

IHP-RELATED EXTRABUDGETARY ACTIVITIES

88. The Secretariat reported on document IHP/IC-XVII/Inf.7, which recapitulates and updates information relevant to UNESCO and IHP extrabudgetary activities, and summarizes on-going extrabudgetary projects. The Council took note of the Secretariat’s report.



International Hydrological Programme
17th session of the Intergovernmental Council
(Paris, 3 – 7 July 2006)

DRAFT SUMMARY REPORT
Part IV
(Agenda item 14)

RELATIONS WITH UNITED NATIONS AND NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

Cooperation with WMO

89. The representative from WMO referred to the WMO Resolution 37 (Cg-XIII), where the thirteenth Congress decided to revise the terms of Reference of the WMO Commission for Hydrology, by shifting the focus from “operational hydrology” to Hydrology and Water Resources with particular reference to Water Resources Assessment and Flood Forecasting and Management.

90. UNESCO and WMO cooperated in the organization of meetings for presenting the UNESCO/WMO publication “*Water Resources Assessment - Handbook for the Review of National Capabilities*”. Joint WMO-UNESCO preparations are already underway for the preparation of the Third Edition of the International Glossary of Hydrology. In the field of education and training, WMO is working closely with UNESCO-IHE in developing training programmes for technicians.

Cooperation with UNU

91. The UNU representative referred to the strong links that UNU has with UNESCO. UNU is the core member and one of the initiators of the International Flood Initiative.

92. There are three more areas of common interest where UNESCO IHP and UNU may cooperate or revive cooperation:

a) Transboundary water management and conflict analysis; b) Water education, with particular reference to the internet based IWRM training package developed by UNU-INWEH and the revival of the UN wide cooperative mechanism in water related human capacity building W-E-T; and c) Water ethics, including its consideration in educational programmes.

Cooperation with UNEP

93. UNEP's Representative noted UNEP's appreciation to IHP and the new mechanism to work together through a Liaison Office within UNESCO that has been operational since September 2005.

94. UNEP-GPA and UNESCO IHE have strengthened their inter-agency collaboration under the Train-Sea-Coast Programme of the DO ALOS, in response to the urging by the member States of IHP at their 16th Session. Recently the Train-Sea-Coast GPA-UNESCO-IHE partnership has been further expanded through a US \$ 2M grant from the EU ACP Water facility and UNDP-GEF. This will deliver, in the next three years, 60 training courses and training for an additional 1200 experts from Africa, the Caribbean and the Pacific.

95. UNEP's DGEF has been very active with UNESCO IHP and has developed a portfolio of projects for possible GEF funding (some mentioned in IHP/IC-XVII/Inf.7). An area of increased interest is in developing the ecohydrology approach in projects and also under the ISI for decrease in land degradation. A strong programme in international waters has been prepared.

Cooperation with COMEST

96. The representative from the Social and Human Sciences sector of UNESCO presented an overview of the World Commission on the Ethics of Scientific Knowledge and Technology (COMEST) and the intersectoral collaboration with IHP in the area of Water Ethics. The current collaboration is on 'Water Ethics and Governance project'. IHP is one of the COMEST members. She presented the activities and achievements of Ethics on Scientific Knowledge and Technology Section under the Social and Human Sciences Sector. Special emphasis was made on Water Ethics and later on broadened it to Environmental Ethics.

Cooperation with IGCP

97. The Secretary of IGCP presented a short overview of the cooperation in the field of earth sciences and IHP. The cooperation is growing both in content and visibility. New efforts are undertaken in the field of geohydrological mapping in cooperation of the CGMW. New opportunities for collaborations are being studied in the areas of natural hazards, karst geohydrology and the improved use of space technology for earth observation in the framework of GARS, IGOSS and GEOSS. Joint actions are already underway to prepare for the International Year of Planet Earth. The year will be an opportunity to reinforce the cooperation in the area of geological and water resources to achieve sustainable development.

Cooperation with IAEA

98. The secretary of IHP reported on cooperation between the IAEA and IHP. He noted that their relationship has continued to grow within the framework of the JIHP Programme. He noted concrete activities planned and developed within the framework of JHIIP;

Cooperation with GWSP

99. The representative from the global water system project noted its functional statute within ICSU, in which IHP acts as an ex-officio member. The representative noted that a conference has been planned in 2005, from which a special issue of Water Resource Management will be published. GWSP hopes to continue supporting IHP in its seventh phase through its scientific programs.

Cooperation with IAHS

100. The representative of IAHS recalled its long standing collaboration with UNESCO. Specific reference was made to the successful Kovacs colloquium that IAHS convened jointly with UNESCO on 30 June and 1 July 2006. He expressed confidence that cooperation with UNESCO would continue to grow in the future, in particular as IAHS's initiative on Prediction for Ungauged Basins (PUB) develops its links with FRIEND and HELP programmes of IHP.

Cooperation with IAH

101. The representative of IAH informed the Council of the deep appreciation of IAH for IHP. He thanked IHP for giving due recognition and priority for groundwater activities. He assured the Council and the secretariat of IAH's full support to activities such as ISARM, and WHYMAP.

Cooperation with ISESCO

102. The Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization- ISESCO – as one of the main international players in the field of water science management in 51 member states, strongly supports IHP initiatives particularly those related to the capacity building, human resource development and expansion of the activities and coverage of UNESCO Category II centers.

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

103. The Secretary of IHP informed the Council about the most recent developments regarding WWAP, the UN-wide programme led by UNESCO and having the collaboration of twenty four UN agencies involved in freshwater activities. The principle product of WWAP is the World Water Development Report, which provides an on-going mechanism for assessing and reporting on water-related issues. It monitors progress achieved since the Rio Conference on all freshwater-related issues and pays particular attention to the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

104. The Secretary reported on the offer received from the Italian government to fund WWAP \$2.5 million/year for three years, which was put forward in response to resolution IHP/IC-XV/Resolution 2, in which the Council had asked IHP National Committees and Focal Points to "actively solicit their respective governments to provide financial support to WWAP activities." The offer, ensuring the continuity of WWAP, which also included the use of facilities in Perugia for the WWAP Secretariat, was accepted by the Director-General of UNESCO, having been announced at the 4th World Water Forum. The Council noted that the funding was secured with the help of the IHP Finance Committee. The Secretariat reported that the post of coordinator has been advertised and that WWAP's move to Perugia would begin in October 2006. The Council welcomed the Italian offer and endorsed the move of the WWAP Secretariat to Perugia.

IHP'S PARTICIPATION IN THE 4TH WORLD WATER FORUM

105. The Secretariat reported on UNESCO's and IHP's prominent participation in the 4th World Water Forum in Mexico City in March 2006. The Council endorsed the statement of the 39th session of the IHP bureau expressing its satisfaction with the substantive role played by IHP in the forum reaffirming UNESCO's lead in the field of freshwater within the UN system.