



International Hydrological Programme

41st session of the IHP Bureau
(Paris, 26 – 28 March 2008)

RECOMMENDATIONS BY THE IHP NATIONAL COMMITTEES OF REGION I FOR IMPROVING THE RUNNING OPERATIONS OF THE SESSIONS OF THE IHP INTERGOVERNMENTAL COUNCIL

Item 11.1 of the provisional agenda

SUMMARY

Following the Regional Meeting of the IHP National Committees of Electoral Region I (Western Europe and Northern America) in Istanbul in September 2007, a set of recommendations were formulated, for consideration by the IHP Bureau, with regard improving the running operations of the sessions of the IHP Intergovernmental Council.

The attached report with its set of recommendations is herewith submitted by Mr Alan Jenkins, Vice-Chairperson of the IHP Intergovernmental Council representing Electoral Region I, for consideration by the IHP Bureau.

Decision required: paragraphs 2 and 3.

The Vice-Chair for Region I submitted the following text:

1. The Final Report of the 40th session of the IHP Bureau, paragraph 57, states:

" 57. The representative of the United Kingdom observed that the manner in which the IHP Intergovernmental Council usually runs might be improved. The Bureau noted that electoral region I (Europe and North America) may come up with recommendations in this regard during its regional meeting of IHP National Committees to be held in Turkey on 20-21 September 2007. The recommendations are expected to be submitted to the Bureau for its consideration at its next session to be held in April 2008."

2. At the IHP Region I meeting in Istanbul, September 2007, this was discussed and I transmit this feedback on behalf of the participants. The participants at the Region I meeting agreed that more emphasis could be placed on the science activities within the IHP and offered the following recommendations:

- Give the science of IHP more prominence at the meeting.
- Schedule presentations from the main cross-cutting themes/initiatives and focal areas.
- Not all at every meeting but perhaps on a rolling programme or with a view to covering all areas over two IGC meetings.
- Presentations should be given by both IHP Secretariat staff who lead themes/initiatives and country participants.
- Focus should be on achievements and plans with the objective of getting more countries actively involved.
- Possible suggestions include FRIEND (led by the FIGCC chair and presentations from up to three co-ordinators), HELP, UNESCO Centres.

3. In addition, we wondered whether the KOVACS symposium, which precedes the IGC, could become a more IHP focused event?

4. We recognise that it may be too late to effect any changes for the forthcoming session but would like the Bureau to consider our recommendations.

Alan Jenkins
Chair, UK IHP National Committee
Vice-Chair, IHP Intergovernmental Council, representing Electoral Region I