

International Hydrological Programme

43rd session of the IHP Bureau
(Paris, 3 – 5 June 2009)

IMPLEMENTATION OF RESOLUTIONS AND OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS ADOPTED BY THE 18TH SESSION OF THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL COUNCIL OF IHP

Item 4 of the provisional agenda

SUMMARY

This document presents a summary of actions taken – as of May 2009 – in the implementation of the resolutions adopted at the 18th session of the Intergovernmental Council of the IHP.

The Bureau may wish to comment and provide recommendations where appropriate on the follow up to the implementation of the resolutions adopted by the 18th session of the IHP Council.

Resolution XVIII-1
UNESCO-IHE Institute for Water Education

1. Resolution XVIII-1 expressed the appreciation of the Council to the Government of the Netherlands for the support provided to UNESCO-IHE and the satisfaction for the successful evaluation of the 2003-2007 period. It also appealed to Member States, international institutions and donors to increase their support and encourage the Government of the Netherlands and UNESCO to exert all required efforts to conclude the renewal of the Operational Agreement.

2. In August 2008, UNESCO and the Government of the Netherlands reached an agreement and signed the renewed Operational and Cooperation Agreements for the period from 1 September 2008 to 31 December 2013 in accordance with the terms of 34 C/Resolution 23. An important achievement was the increase of the subsidy by €750,000 in 2008 and by €1.5 million per annum in the consecutive years. The additional subsidy will allow UNESCO-IHE to invest in the modernization of its education, to strengthen its research programme, to intensify the integration within the UN-system and to build-up a sound financial reserve. UNESCO-IHE started several other concrete activities in response to the external evaluation recommendations, including the modernization of education (i.e. quality assurance, flexibility in the programs, more participatory teaching) and further integration in UNESCO. With the exception of the subsidy increase and a considerable contract from the Netherlands Government for a programmatic cooperation with the Ministry of Development Cooperation, support to UNESCO-IHE from Member States other than the Netherlands has not increased substantially during this period, limiting the capacity of the institute to positively respond to all requests it receives, in particular those for MSc Education at the Institute. It is expected that the extrabudgetary component of the UNESCO Tertiary Water Education Grants Programme may contribute to facilitate such support, in particular if a small overhead programme support cost is in place.

Resolution XVIII-2
Water education initiatives

3. Resolution XVII-2 decided the establishment of a UNESCO Tertiary Water Education Grants programme in order to seek funding for fellowships for post graduate accreditation at UNESCO-IHE. It also requested the support of UNESCO-IHE and recommended that Member States embrace an active role in the implementation of the programme.

4. The UNESCO Tertiary Water Education Grants Programme was established and launched according to the rules adopted by the Council. The following offices are actively contributing to the implementation of the programme: IHP (UNESCO HQ), UNESCO Quito, UNESCO Jakarta, UNESCO Beijing and UNESCO Teheran. Two students, one from Latin America and the Caribbean and others from Asia and the Pacific regions, have started an MSc based on recommendations from IHP Regional Hydrologists and with the full endorsement of their respective IHP National Committees. In addition, the Secretariat is currently working with field offices in other regions to identify funds to cover grants for additional students. A student from the Arab States will be admitted under the 2009/2010 intake, with the support of UNESCO Cairo. The extrabudgetary component of the UNESCO Tertiary Water Education Grants Programme has not received donations in this period and the Secretariat is now working on the creation of a Special Account with a small overhead support cost to make such donations more attractive to donors. With regards to the global water education and training needs assessment, UNESCO-IHE and IHP have identified resources and preparations for the survey have started. Survey materials are currently being developed in consultation with UNESCO's Education Sector and a first round is foreseen for March 2010.

Resolution XVIII-3

Endorsement of the proposals for the establishment of water-related centres under the auspices of UNESCO (category 2)

5. By means of Resolution XVIII-3, the IHP Intergovernmental Council (Paris, June 2008) endorsed the following proposals for the establishment of water-related centres under the auspices of UNESCO (category 2):
 - HIDROEX International Centre for Education, Capacity-building and Applied Research in Water (Federative Republic of Brazil);
 - International Centre of Water Resources and Global Change (Germany);
 - International Centre on Coastal Ecohydrology (Portugal);
 - Central Asian Regional Glaciological Centre (Republic of Kazakhstan);
 - Centre for the Sustainable Management of Water Resources in the Caribbean Island States (Dominican Republic);
 - International Centre for Integrated Water Resources Management (ICIWaRM) (United States);
 - Regional Centre of International Training and Research on Sediment, Isotope and Erosion Techniques (Turkey).
6. It requested the IHP Secretariat to conduct the feasibility studies and to assist in the preparation of documents for UNESCO's Governing Board.
7. The current status of these proposals is given in the following paragraphs:
 - (i) **HidroEx – International Centre for Education, Capacity-building and Applied Research in Water, in the Federative Republic of Brazil**

A detailed feasibility study was carried out by the UNESCO Secretariat, jointly with UNESCO-IHE, at the request of the Brazilian Government. Based on the Director-General's report presented in document 181 EX/17, the Executive Board at its 181st session (Paris, April 2009) recommended to the 35th session of the General Conference to approve the establishment of the HidroEx – International Centre for Education, Capacity-building and Applied Research in Water and to authorize the Director-General to sign the corresponding agreement between UNESCO and the Government of Brazil.
 - (ii) **International Centre of Water Resources and Global Change (Germany)**

A detailed feasibility study was carried out by the IHP Secretariat at the request of the German Government. Based on the Director-General's report, presented in document 181 EX/17, the Executive Board at its 181st session (Paris, April 2009) recommended to the 35th session of the General Conference to approve the establishment of the International Centre of Water Resources and Global Change in Koblenz, Germany and to authorize the Director-General to sign the corresponding Agreement between UNESCO and the Government of Germany.
 - (iii) **International Centre on Coastal Ecohydrology (Portugal)**

A detailed feasibility study was carried out by the IHP Secretariat at the request of the Portuguese Government. Based on the Director-General's report, presented in document 181 EX/17, the Executive Board at its 181st Session (Paris, April 2009) recommended to the 35th session of the General Conference to approve the establishment of the International Centre on Coastal Ecohydrology in Portugal and to authorize the Director-General to sign the corresponding Agreement between UNESCO and the Government of Portugal.

- (iv) **Central Asian Regional Glaciological Centre (Republic of Kazakhstan)**
A detailed proposal and formal request for feasibility study is awaited from the Republic of Kazakhstan for IHP Secretariat to facilitate next steps for the establishment of this centre.
- (v) **Centre for the Sustainable Management of Water Resources in the Caribbean Island States (Dominican Republic)**
The Executive Board at its 180th session (Paris, October 2008) recommended to the 35th session of the General Conference to approve the establishment of the centre and to authorize the Director-General to sign the corresponding Agreement between UNESCO and the Government of the Dominican Republic.
- (vi) **International Centre for Integrated Water Resources Management (ICIWaRM) (United States)**
A detailed proposal and formal request for feasibility study was received from the United States. The IHP Secretariat has carried out a feasibility study. The Government of the United States that is reviewing the corresponding legal and institutional issues anticipates that the proposal will be submitted to the 182nd session of the Executive Board for recommendation to the 35th session of the General Conference to approve its establishment.
- (vii) **The Regional Centre of International Training and Research on Sediment, Isotope and Erosion Techniques (Turkey);**
A detailed proposal and formal request for feasibility study is awaited from the Government of Turkey for IHP Secretariat to facilitate the next steps for the establishment of this centre.

Resolution XVIII-4

Support for the evaluation and reporting of IHP-VI

8. Resolution XVIII-4 calls for undertaking the external evaluation of the execution of IHP-VI and for the production of a comprehensive report on IHP-VI implementation, inviting the Member States to make voluntary financial and in-kind contributions to both; requesting the IHP Secretariat and UNESCO in general to provide the necessary information to the evaluation team; and to present the results of the evaluation to the 19th session of the IHP Intergovernmental Council.

9. Thus far there has been no contribution from Member States forthcoming for either the external evaluation of IHP-VI or for the publication of the comprehensive report. The IHP Secretariat is currently undertaking actions to set the basis for the evaluation and seek the necessary funding.

Resolution XVIII-5

Submission of an Appeal to the Executive Board and the General Conference of UNESCO

10. In its Resolution XVIII-5 the IHP Council noted the reduction of the IHP allocated regular budget by approximately 12% from document 33 C/5 to draft document 34 C/5 Draft and by a further 4% after the 34th session of the General Conference.

11. The resolution requests the Director-General to reconsider his decision of reducing by 4% the budget allocated to IHP for the biennium 2008-2009; recommends that he submits the appeal prepared by the IHP Council to the Executive Board; and urges the

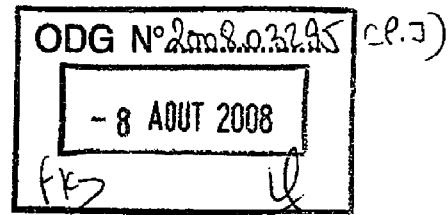
General Conference, the Executive Board and the Director-General, while preparing the next budget, to reinstate the budgetary situation of IHP to the level of the previous biennium and further increase the budgetary allocation of IHP for the 2010-2011 budget. .

12. In response to this resolution, the Chairperson of the IHP submitted the appeal to the Director-General in August 2008, with a request that due consideration be given to its presentation to the Executive Board (see Annex). A reply to the letter has not been forthcoming and the appeal was not presented to either the 180th or 181st sessions of the Executive Board. No budgetary reinstatements in the 2008-2009 Regular Budget have taken place in the meantime to compensate the earlier budget cut; no specific measure to enhance IHP's budget has been foreseen under draft 35 C/5 (2010-2011 biennium) .

ANNEX

**Letter addressed to the Director-General of UNESCO
from the Chairperson of the IHP Intergovernmental Council**

The Chairperson of the Intergovernmental Council



Dear Mr Director-General,

As you may recall, the 18th session of the Intergovernmental Council of the International Hydrological Programme was held in Paris, on 9-13 June 2008. I had the honour of being elected Chairperson of the Council, a most significant experience for me as I have been involved in the international freshwater community during all my professional life, lately at UNESCO under your leadership until my recent retirement.

On this occasion, I would like to bring to your attention the appeal issued by Intergovernmental Council of IHP at its 18th session. This appeal is directed to the Executive Board and urges this body to take adequate measures in order to maintain UNESCO's strong capacities and lead on freshwater issues to the benefit of Member States. It also recalls that the determination of Member States and your leadership made UNESCO a key player in addressing the looming water crisis.

In order to ensure the follow-up on the appeal, the Council has adopted resolution XVIII-5, whereby it recommends the Director-General of UNESCO to submit the attached appeal to the Executive Board.

A copy of the resolution and appeal are attached to this letter. The Council and Bureau of the International Hydrological Programme stand ready to provide the necessary elements that would facilitate the consideration of this issue by the Executive Board and to assist the Secretariat in implementing this resolution.

We would therefore highly appreciate that you give due consideration to the proposed appeal for its presentation to the next session of the Executive Board.

Yours sincerely,

Abdin Salih

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cc. ADG/SC; IHP Secretary; IHP Bureau Members