



International Hydrological Programme (IHP)

54th session of the IHP Bureau

Paris, 17 June 2016

FINAL REPORT

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OPENING OF THE SESSION

1. The 54th session of the Bureau of the International Hydrological Programme (IHP) was held at UNESCO Headquarters on 17 June 2016, after the closing of the 22nd session of the IHP Intergovernmental Council in Paris, France. The Chairperson, Mr András Szöllösi-Nagy (Hungary, Group II – Eastern and Central Europe), and the following Vice-Chairpersons attended the meeting: Mr Helmut Habersack (Austria, Group I – Western Europe and North America), Mr Yasuto Tachikawa (Japan, Group IV – Asia and the Pacific), Mr Gaye Cheikh Becaye (Senegal, Group Va – Africa), and Mr Mahmoud Abu-Zeid (Group Vb – Arab States). Mr David Korenfeld Federman (Mexico, Group III – Latin America and the Caribbean) was not able to participate at the meeting due to an unforeseen event and requested Mr Victor Bourgett (from the IHP National Committee of Mexico) to take note of the discussions and convey to him the results and follow-up actions. The list of participants is attached as Annex II.

2. Mr Szöllösi-Nagy, Chairperson of the IHP Intergovernmental Council, opened the meeting by welcoming the participants.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

3. Following welcoming remarks from the Chairperson, the Bureau adopted the agenda (Annex I).

EVALUATION OF THE 22ND SESSION OF THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL COUNCIL OF THE IHP

4. The Bureau expressed its appreciation to the Secretariat for the organization of the Council session and agreed with the Secretary's comments on the importance of improving some aspects such as the preparation and translation of documents, room accommodation and interpretation, and particularly the process for the preparation, submission, presentation and adoption of draft resolutions in the plenary session.

5. The Chairperson underlined the importance of preparing an action plan to follow up on the implementation and execution of the decisions and recommendations adopted by the Intergovernmental Council. Bearing in mind UNESCO's Africa priority and limited financial and human resources, he requested the Secretariat to work closely with Member States through their IHP National Committees.

6. The Chairperson called upon the Vice-chairpersons and Secretariat to strengthen regional communication by organizing meetings in their regions in the upcoming two years in the framework of the follow-up of the 22nd session of the IHP Council, and in preparation of the next Council session. In this context, the Vice-Chairperson of Group I informed the meeting that the Group will organize a regional meeting in Perugia, Italy, in 2017.

7. The Chairperson referred especially to the consultation process requested by Member States on Statutes and the Rules of Procedure of the Intergovernmental Council, noting the importance of undertaking an inclusive process including all Member States of UNESCO. He recommended starting this process as soon as possible so that this item can be included on the agenda of the next Bureau session in 2017.

8. The Chairperson proposed a tentative schedule for Bureau meetings and consultation processes on Statutes and the Rules of Procedure of the Intergovernmental Council. Considering that the next Council session will be held in June 2018, the Bureau

sessions would be held in June 2017 and February 2018. The 55th Bureau session (June 2017) will include discussions on the results of the consultation on Statutes and the Rules of Procedure of the Intergovernmental Council. The main outcomes and Bureau decisions will be circulated among Member States in the second half of 2017.

9. However, the Chairperson also suggested that the Bureau members should closely follow the implementation of the decisions adopted by the Council using available communications technologies such as Skype to coordinate between themselves regularly and with the Secretariat. The Bureau agreed with the suggestion.

9. The Chairperson also highlighted that at the next General Conference of UNESCO, a new Director-General must be elected and he appealed to the Bureau and Secretariat to ensure that water issues remain a priority of UNESCO.

NEXT BUREAU MEETING

10. At the proposal of the Chairperson, the Bureau agreed to convene its next session in June 2017 at UNESCO Headquarters.

OTHER MATTERS

11. No other matters were discussed.

CLOSURE OF THE SESSION

12. The Chairperson thanked the Bureau members for their cooperation and constructive efforts. He also thanked the Secretariat for its work and emphasized the need for the Bureau members to maintain contact and continue to work together during the Council intersessional periods in order to carry out their great responsibility of supporting the Member States and achieving the goals of the Programme. The Chairperson then closed the session.

ANNEX I

AGENDA

1. Opening of the session
2. Adoption of the agenda
3. Evaluation of the 22nd session of the Intergovernmental Council of the IHP
4. Next Bureau meeting
5. Other matters
6. Closure of the session

ANNEX II

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

I. MEMBERS OF THE BUREAU

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