

## **ANNEX 2**

### **Extracts from the Final Report of the 19<sup>th</sup> Session of the Intergovernmental Council of IHP**

**(SC-2010/WS/24)**

#### **ENDORSEMENT OF THE CONCEPT PAPER FOR THE EIGHTH PHASE OF IHP (IHP-VIII, 2014 – 2019)**

76. The Secretariat reported to the Council on the preparations for formulating the strategic plan of the Eighth Phase of IHP (2014-2019) and presented a summary of the draft concept paper (IHP/IC-XIX/10). It noted that the IHP-VIII Task Force established to prepare the plan consists of a multidisciplinary and geographically diverse group of experts, working under the guidance of the IHP Bureau. The Secretariat emphasized that the aim of the paper was to provide elements to be discussed with Member States during the forthcoming in-depth consultation phase of the process.

77. Representing the Task Force, Mr Maciej Zalewski (Poland) provided the Council with an overview of the concept note. He highlighted the links between water scarcity and the four key areas of knowledge presented by the Task Force for the consideration of the Member States, namely:

- Water-related disasters and hydrological change;
- Groundwater in a changing environment;
- Water and human settlements of the future; and
- Ecohydrology, engineering harmony for a sustainable world,

and the four cross-cutting areas, which would include:

- Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) in adapting to global changes;
- Transboundary or shared waters;
- Human Dimension and Governance; and
- Water Education.

78. The Council was unanimous in its strong appreciation of the efforts made by the Task Force. Highlighting the adverse impacts of water scarcity on sustainable development, especially in arid and semi-arid regions, the delegates of Iran, Jordan, Kenya, Malaysia, Mexico, Morocco, Oman, Pakistan, Senegal, Sudan, and the United Arab Emirates encouraged the Task Force to include water scarcity as a key area within the Eighth Phase of IHP.

79. Likewise, the delegates of Cuba, Iran, Japan, Jordan, Malaysia, the Netherlands, Republic of Korea and Sudan also stressed that both floods and droughts should be considered as equally important extreme events when addressing water-related disasters. Also, several members of the Council and Observers indicated that water quality is a challenge deserving serious consideration as a key thematic area in the Eighth Phase of IHP. The delegate of Japan asked whether FRIEND and HELP would be included as cross-cutting themes in IHP-VIII. Several Council members strongly

agreed that climate change is a cross-cutting issue that affects all four key knowledge areas and that it should be treated as such.

80. Members of the Council also addressed the significance of water education and the need to leverage UNESCO's comparative advantage to make the link between the technical and ethical aspects of water resources management. Several delegates expressed interest in coastal zones, wetlands, and nutrient recycling, as well as in non-conventional water resources augmentation technology, such as desalinization and water harvesting. Many delegates also expressed strong satisfaction at the fact that groundwater is being considered a high priority challenge by the Task Force.

81. While expressing full confidence in the competence of the Secretariat, some observers urged the Task Force to consider the impact of the budgetary and staffing constraints on the breadth of topics covered by the Eighth Phase of IHP. The Secretariat indicated that one of the unique advantages of IHP is its ability to multiply resources through the mobilization of its partnerships in the execution of the various phases of IHP.

82. The Council endorsed the summary concept paper as a basis for discussion with the Member States during the detailed consultation that will ensue as part of the process for formulating the Eighth Phase of IHP. This was done on the provision that it would not limit the scope of the consultations or the ability of Member States and partners to propose new thrusts or emphases other than those included in the concept note or its summary. The delegate of Pakistan invited the Secretariat to keep the permanent delegations at UNESCO involved in the consultation process.

83. The Council requested the Secretariat to proceed with the initiation of the detailed consultation on the formulation of the Eighth Phase of IHP with the Member States, while taking into account the issues raised by the Members of the Council and Observers during the session.