

**PROGRESS REPORT ON THE FORMULATION OF THE 7TH PHASE
OF THE
INTERNATIONAL HYDROLOGICAL PROGRAMME (IHP-VII) (2008-2014)**

Item 15 of the Provisional Agenda

Summary

This document provides a draft concept note for IHP-VII prepared by a special Task Force formed as per the decision of the 35th session of the Bureau, taking into account contributions received from IHP National Committees.

The Bureau is requested to review this draft concept note and to comment on it, so that a revised draft can be prepared by the Task Force for presentation to the 16th session of the IHP Intergovernmental Council.

1. At its 35th session, the Bureau recommended that the planning process of the 7th Phase (2008-2013) of IHP (IHP-VII) be initiated, and requested the Secretariat to submit a draft concept for examination at the 36th session. It was also decided that a task force should be convened to draft a long-term vision on the role of IHP in a changing world.

2. In 20 October 2003 a letter was sent to IHP National Committees requesting their input to the planning of IHP-VII (see Annex 1). As of 20 March 2004, replies were received from 19 National Committees: Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Congo, Egypt, Germany, Kuwait, Kyrgyz Republic, Mauritius, Norway, Nepal, Nigeria, Pakistan, Palestine, Peru, Russian Federation, Spain, Turkey, Uzbekistan. Copies of these replies will be made available to Bureau members.

3. Based on consultations with the professional and scientific associations having close relations with IHP, a task force was formed. The purpose of the task force was to put forward a conceptual framework for the 7th phase of IHP (2008-2013) for discussion by various stakeholders in the IHP, taking into account the evolution of the international agenda and action in the field of freshwater, the situation within UNESCO, and the relevant MDGs and WSSD decisions as well as the proposals received from the IHP National Committees by the date of the 1st session of the task force.

4. Members of the task force are:

- Shamy Puri (Chair), Chairman, Commission on Transboundary Aquifer Resources Management, International Association of Hydrogeologists
- Blanca Jimenez, Senior Researcher, Institute of Engineering, National Autonomous University of Mexico, International Water Association
- Mohammed Karamouz, Professor, School of Engineering Amir Kabir University, Tehran, Iran
- Koichiro Kuraji, Lecturer, Forest Hydrology, University of Tokyo
- Iwona Wagner, Societe Internationale de Limnologie, Assistant Professor, Department of Applied Ecology, University of Lodz, Poland

5. The task force met for the first time in Paris on 15-17 March 2004. The draft concept note prepared by the group is attached as Annex 2. This note takes into account contributions received to date from IHP National Committees. The task force worked in an independent manner, the objective being to allow younger scientists, more or less formally engaged in IHP, to take a leadership role in planning the strategy for the future.

6. The Bureau is requested to comment on this draft. A second draft will be prepared by the Secretariat incorporating these comments and any further changes desired by the group. It will then be presented to the IHP Intergovernmental Council in June 2004. After that, the document will be circulated again amongst the IHP National Committees and will be shared with key NGO and other stakeholders in order to elicit the widest possible consultation and feedback in accordance with the established timetable.