



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization

Organisation
des Nations Unies
pour l'éducation,
la science et la culture

Organización
de las Naciones Unidas
para la Educación,
la Ciencia y la Cultura

Организация
Объединённых Наций по
вопросам образования,
науки и культуры

منظمة الأمم المتحدة
للتربية والعلم والثقافة

联合国教育、
科学及文化组织

The Director-General

To all Permanent
Delegations and
Observer Missions
to UNESCO

15 MAY 2018

Ref: DG/2/18/3544

Dear Minister,

I have the honour of inviting you to attend and deliver a message at the first Water Science-Policy Interface Colloquium (SPIC Water) taking place on 14 June 2018 in Paris, UNESCO Headquarters and organized as a one-day conference within the 23rd Intergovernmental Council of the International Hydrological Programme (IHP).

IHP as an intergovernmental platform brings together policy makers to discuss challenges, gaps and the way forward to implement the 2030 Agenda in the domain of water.

At SPIC Water, Ministers in charge will convene to present and exchange on the progress made thus far in implementing Sustainable Development Goal 6 of the 2030 Agenda and related targets. They will also discuss how these targets and their indicators effectively contribute to the progress of the water agenda in their respective countries.

The concept note and a draft programme of the meeting is attached herewith for your information. The IHP Secretariat will be pleased to assist you with information for preparing your intervention, should you wish so.

We would be much honoured by your participation and grateful if you could confirm your availability before 4 May 2018 by e-mail to Mr Alexandros Makarigakis (Tel.: +33 1 45 68 08 06; e-mail: a.makarigakis@unesco.org) and Ms Anna Movsisyan (Tel.: +33 1 45 68 04 16; e-mail: a.movsisyan@unesco.org).

Yours sincerely,

Audrey Azoulay

CONCEPT NOTE

1st Water Science-Policy Interface Colloquium (SPIC Water)

Water security is indispensable for human life and health and is at the core of sustainable development. Water can cause also major losses during floods and droughts. The 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda, has prioritized water in its sixth goal, targeting improvement of provision of safe access to water and sanitation, calling for increasing water efficiency, the use of Integrated Water Resources Management, transboundary cooperation, protection of water bodies, and human and institutional capacitation.

The 8th World Water Forum, in its Ministerial declaration, called upon the renewal and reinforcement of the political commitment to ensure implementation of immediate and effective action towards overcoming water and sanitation-related challenges in particular water scarcity in the context of climate change adaptation and achieving related Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and targets. It further requested UNESCO's expertise and network, including the International Hydrological Programme (IHP) to support the search for solutions for water and sanitation challenges and implement and share water education policies and best practices on water and sanitation¹. At the 22nd session of the IHP Intergovernmental Council, Member States requested² the support of IHP for a sound science based implementation of the SDG 6 and of water related targets.

On 14 June 2018, Ministers in charge of water resources will convene at UNESCO's Headquarters in Paris to present and discuss the progress made thus far in implementing SDG 6 and other water related targets. The objective of the meeting is to report their countries' accomplishments during implementation of the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda water related goals, bring up the challenges and gaps. This one-day meeting will be the 1st Water Science – Policy Interface Colloquium (SPIC Water) taking place during IHP's 23rd Intergovernmental Council session.

In this context, IHP as an intergovernmental platform brings together policy makers to discuss challenges, gaps and the way forward to implement the 2030 Agenda in the domain of water. The aim is to identify how IHP may better assist countries to elaborate a Scientific, Technological and Capacity development agenda to accompany them in their endeavours

A launch of the UN Synthesis Report is going to set the stage and key speakers will participate to the panels and add to the Ministerial statements elements on the interlinkages between IHP activities and the SDGs.

It is envisioned that messages from the Colloquium will be presented in a side event during the upcoming High Level Political Forum, taking place from 9 to 18 July in New York, where progress towards achieving several of the Sustainable Development Goals including SDG 6 on Water and Sanitation will be examined.

¹ Paragraph 22 of the Ministerial Declaration: <http://www.worldwaterforum8.org/en/news/ministerial-declaration-seeking-decisive-action-water>

² with IGC Resolution XXII-7



International Hydrological Programme (IHP)
1st Water Science – Policy Interface Colloquium (SPIC Water)
23rd IHP Intergovernmental Council
(Paris, 14 June 2018)

PROVISIONAL AGENDA

1. Opening of the session

- 1.1. Welcome by the President of UNESCO's General Conference (TBC)
- 1.2. Address by the Chairperson of IHP
- 1.3. Address by the Director-General of UNESCO (confirmed)

2. Setting the scene and Ministerial Presentations: lessons learned implementing SDG 6 and other water related targets

- 2.1. Objectives of the meeting, Secretary of IHP
- 2.2. Presentation of the SDG 6 Synthesis Report 2018 on Water and Sanitation, Coordinator of WWAP
- 2.3. Cabo Verde (confirmed)
- 2.4. Costa Rica (confirmed)
- 2.5. Cuba (confirmed)
- 2.6. Egypt (TBC)
- 2.7. Iran (confirmed)
- 2.8. Lebanon (TBC)
- 2.9. Morocco (confirmed)
- 2.10. Nicaragua (confirmed)
- 2.11. Oman (TBC)
- 2.12. Pakistan (TBC)
- 2.13. Senegal (TBC)
- 2.14. Sudan (TBC)
- 2.15. Tunisia (TBC)
- 2.16. Turkey (TBC)
- 2.17. Zimbabwe (TBC)

- 2.18. Video message from Tajikistan linking a review of SDG 6 and the International Water decade: Use of existing mechanisms

3. Panel sessions

- 3.1. UNESCO Water Family members and other experts discussing their contribution and identified gaps concerning SDG 6

4. Closing of the session

- 4.1. Summary by the Secretary of IHP
- 4.2. Closing statement by the Chairperson of UNESCO's Executive Board (TBC)