Documentation of the Simulation of the

United Nations Education, Science and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)*

Conference A

6 - 10 April 2025

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The United Nations Education, Science and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)

Committee Staff

Director	Jessie Luévano
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Chair	Sophie Hüttemann

Agenda

1. Water Resources Management and Sustainable Development
2. Protecting UNESCO World Heritage Sites in Conflict Areas

Resolutions adopted by the Committee

Code	Topic	Vote (In favor - Against - Abstention)
UNESCO/1/1	Water Resources Management and Sustainable Development	42 in favor, 5 against, 10 abstentions
UNESCO/1/2	Water Resources Management and Sustainable Development	46 in favor, 3 against, 8 abstentions
UNESCO/1/3	Water Resources Management and Sustainable Development	39 in favor, 9 against, 9 abstentions
UNESCO/1/4	Water Resources Management and Sustainable Development	40 in favor, 7 against, 10 abstentions
UNESCO/1/5	Water Resources Management and Sustainable Development	23 in favor, 21 against, 13 abstentions

Summary Report

The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) held its annual session to consider the following agenda items:

1. Water Resources Management and Sustainable Development
2. Protecting UNESCO World Heritage Sites in Conflict Areas

The session was attended by representatives of 57 Member States. On Sunday, the committee adopted the agenda of topic 2, followed by topic 1, beginning discussion on the topic of “Water Resources Management and Sustainable Development.”

By Monday, the Dais received a total of 10 proposals covering a wide range of sub-topics, including regional cooperation, knowledge-sharing, education, support for developing countries, infrastructure, innovative technology, health, regional cooperation, funding/costs, public-private partnerships, gender equality and AI. On Tuesday, delegates specifically debated about the methods of regional cooperation and innovative technologies as well as they stressed that transboundary water agreements are important. The atmosphere in the committee was one of collaboration and productivity. Throughout the day, several working papers were able to merge as similar themes have been addressed, resulting in a total amount of five working papers on Tuesday evening.

On Wednesday, 5 draft resolutions had been approved by the Dais. The committee adopted all 5 resolutions following the voting procedure, all of which had a request for a recorded vote. The resolutions represented a wide range of issues, including transboundary water governance, empowering the position of women and other marginalized groups or the help of AI.

Code: UNESCO/1/1
Committee: United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
Topic: Water Resources Management and Sustainable Development

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The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization,

Recognizing the need to implement solutions relating to water resources management as outlined by Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 3 (good health and well-being), SDG 5 (gender equality), SDG 6 (clean water and sanitation), SDG 9 (industry, innovation and infrastructure), SDG 10 (reduced inequalities), SDG 11 (sustainable cities and communities), SDG 12 (responsible consumption and production), SDG 14 (life below water), and SDG 15 (life on land) in advancing sustainable, productive development practices in emphasizing equitable water distribution, agricultural efficiency, and resource conservation,

Noting the significance of General Assembly resolution 64/292 which recognizes “the right to safe and clean drinking water and sanitation as a human right that is essential for the full enjoyment of life and all human rights,”

Appreciating leading ongoing efforts for sustainable long-term water technology solutions, such as Warka Water Towers, structures that are implemented in 4 developing Member States that absorb up to 100 liters of potable drinking water per day from the atmosphere, and SunSaluters, which are low-cost solar panel rotators, boosting solar panel efficiency by 30%, and providing clean drinking water,

Underlining the successful water treatment projects like the Aqaba-Amman Desalination Project, which aims to desalinate 300 million cubic meters of seawater annually, and the Decentralized Wastewater Treatment Systems (DWATS), operating in 34 treatment plants across Jordan reusing 25% of treated wastewater for agriculture,

Reaffirming the *Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses* (1992) and International Lakes and the Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM),

Acknowledging the successes of the *Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes* (1992) in addressing the creation and upholding of transnational water sources governance,

Cognizant of the fundamental importance of upholding the rights of Indigenous and local communities through the principle of Free, Prior, and Informed Consent (FPIC),

Noting the Intergovernmental Hydrological Programme (IHP) is the only intergovernmental program of the United Nations with a focus on water research and resource management, as well as their mission to both enhance and foster collaboration in transboundary water aquifers, while concerned that none of the past nine phases of the program have yet devoted their efforts to the foundation or facilitation of transboundary agreements,

Bearing in mind that 60% of the global freshwater supply lies in a transboundary water body whilst only five of these 310 aquifers possess international agreements,

Reiterating that the World Water Assessment Program (WWAP) has great potential through the evaluation of global water resources and providing reports, although being funded single-handedly by only one Member State,

Alarmed by the fact that 4 billion people experience severe water scarcity for at least one month each year and that over 2 billion people live in areas with contaminated water sources, leading to increased disease, poverty, and fatality,

Underlining the importance of irrigation systems while also securing accessibility for every Member State in alignment with SDG 7 (affordable and clean energy),

Observing the effectiveness of existing frameworks such as UNESCO's WWAP for water governance, the Local and Indigenous Knowledge Systems (LINKS) Programme for integrating traditional environmental practices, the UNESCO Chair on Water, Culture and Heritage for advancing culturally-based water solutions, and the Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems (GIAHS) initiative for successfully blending Indigenous agricultural and water practices with proper development goals,

Drawing attention to the intricate issues presented by the lack of availability of sustainable water, including the local effects and the transnational aspects,

Seeking that transparent water usage reports be made available by non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and private sector organizations actively affecting water sources,

Expressing appreciation for Private Sectors and NGOs fund water-centered higher education programs in local communities to equip citizens with leadership capabilities,

Recalling water management education initiatives through private companies like the Replenish Africa Initiative (RAIN), the Purifier of Water Packet project, and AWS International Water Stewardship Standard,

Conscious of the lack of water protection frameworks relating to water pollution in many developing and industrializing Member States,

Recognizing the Murray-Darling Basin Authority as an example of productive water use and sustainable water management,

Deeply concerned with the overuse and lack of regulation for public water usage done by private sectors, enabling them with unfair leverage over Member States' public resources,

1. *Calls for* the implementation of utilizing sustainable long-term water technological solutions through both the private and public sectors via:

    a. The implementation of Warka Water Towers, storing water, and providing canopies that create a shaded social space, increasing social cohesion which is particularly important in rural villages;

    b. Using SunSaluters to improve water access by providing both clean water and energy for local communities;

    c. Implementing desalination techniques like the Aqaba-Amman Desalination Project which recognizes the increased water demand while reducing reliance on unsustainable groundwater extraction;

    d. The encouragement of the use of wastewater treatment and water reuse technology, such as the DWATS;

2. *Encourages* the implementation of this project through the WWAP, which meets the growing requirements of Member States by:

    a. Using trustworthy data and information across different water resource developments and management, through the production and consistent management of the United Nations World Water Development Report (UN WWDR);

    b. Aiming to equip water managers and policy decision makers with the required knowledge, tools, and skills to promote and ensure sustainable and durable water strategy structures;

3. *Further encourages* Member States from multiple regions to fund the WWAP, thus allowing it to broaden its capital source, thereby enhancing its use and efficiency, especially considering its potential to:

    a. Assist states lacking access to freshwater resources by designing better water policies to fight scarcity;

    b. Producing the UN WWDR series on the global situation covering water availability as well as its use and availability, preventing water-related conflicts through direct warnings;

    c. Accompany Member States in building and improving data collection, analysis, and research;

4. *Advocates* for the use of roads modeled after World Bank All-Weather Roads, an initiative that has provided more than 1.2 million people with a total of 50,000 kilometers of affordable, durable, and weather-resistant roads made of sustainable materials such as bamboo and recycled concrete across various developed and developing Member States and have connected rural villages with urban centers to ease the process of gathering water, which is particularly important in developing regions;

5. *Suggests* modeling transboundary water source agreements after the *Indus Waters Treaty* (1960), Integrated Water Resources Management, which were successful in setting clear transnational water and land agreements, thus maximizing social and economic welfare, which would help achieve more extensive regional collaboration on transnational governance of water sources, encouraging Member States to engage in bilateral and regional negotiations for the fair division of transboundary water resources;

6. *Urges* the expansion of IHP-IX to consider the foundation of these collaborations, per the mission of IHP and the urgency of transboundary water scarcity worldwide, recommending that equitable water allocation be at the forefront of these arrangements, in the spirit of equity and access;

7. *Urges* that technical and Research & Development aid be directed toward capacity-building in developing countries to facilitate the implementation of drought-resistant irrigation technologies to reduce water waste and enhance agricultural productivity, providing hands-on training for local experts and farmers, and supporting the innovation an adaptation of technologies to suit regional climates and crop types, considering higher dependence on agriculture and vulnerability to extreme weather conditions;

8. *Calls for* a balanced multilateral approach to establishing shared education on the treatment, processing, and protection of water sources, to empower local communities with skills to manage and operate water systems which includes a variety of techniques such as:

    a. A localized approach to water development, paying particular attention to Indigenous groups and their traditional methods for FPIC and regional cooperation between neighboring nations, specifically with those that share prominent borders or major water systems, or have shared ethnic or Indigenous groups;

    b. Supranational intervention in the cases of disputes that prevent cooperation towards a cohesive means of water treatment, processing, and protection, either through UNESCO or non-partisan NGOs, that offer an unbiased means of conflict resolution;

    c. Utilizing pre-existing programs like the GIAHS;

    d. Administering water testing kits supplied through NGOs, the private sector, UNICEF, and UNESCO for community scientific and census data which provides the opportunity for families and the local population to be aware of local contaminated water sources;

9. *Recommends* the integration of sustainable water management systems found in World Heritage Sites, such as the Subak system, the Qanat systems, and the Ifugao rice terraces, into modern water sustainability frameworks, recognizing that these sites serve not only as physical locations of cultural significance but also as pillars for environmental development by:

    a. Promoting research and knowledge exchange through existing mechanisms such as UNESCO's WWAP, the LINKS program, and the UNESCO Chair on Water, Culture, and Heritage;

    b. Supporting pilot programs modeled after successful efforts under the GIAHS initiative and UNESCO's Hydro-Heritage approach, which apply traditional water practices in climate-vulnerable regions;

    c. Facilitating intergovernmental, interregional, and rural community partnerships, in alignment with the principles of the IHP, to ensure culturally respectful implementation, and preservation of intangible heritage tied to water governance;

10. *Stresses* transparency on the part of the private sector to publicize how direct actions affect local communities, water usage, and employment in local communities by:

    a. Emphasizing transparency through corporation operations and management within impacted regions and overall statistical utility usage;

    b. Denouncing the private sector for negligence through its abuse of leverage within developing nations for personal corporation benefit;

11. *Recommends* the implementation of water protection frameworks coordinated by UN-Water per the *Convention on the Protection, the use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes* (1992), and the Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) to protect bodies of water against large polluters through:

    a. Fines and penalties for said actors that engage in pollution by threatening aquatic ecosystems through irrigation systems;

b. Permit-based system to make sure that private entities legally obtain the rights for water extraction per local laws;

12. Suggests that Member States implement economic incentives and penalties based on the involvement of governments for private entities that follow UNESCO standards and attribute the appropriate course of action following the mandate implemented and enforced by Member States at the level of their discretion by:

    a. Encouraging the need for corporations to adhere to the Member States' public sectors due to the overwhelming abuse of resources with ramifications of monetary penalties, sanctions, civil fines, criminal fines, and penalties, addressed to corporations in order to cooperate at level or below mandate regulations;

    b. Supporting corporations that are currently or in the process of maintaining the environment surrounding the operations conducted by said industries with the reward of tax breaks, rebates, sanctions, grants, recognition, green bonds, fee discounts, and installation financing for economic incentives to ensure that corporations follow mandates and nation-set regulation;

13. *Urges* Member States, when possible, to ensure that the most vulnerable populations always have access to clean drinking water through:

    a. Initiatives such as community wells, like those promoted through the Groundwater for Advanced Resilience in Africa (G4DR) and funded by the Global Environment Facility (GEF) use scientific approaches to understanding groundwater systems using data collection and monitoring, making sure that local communities are involved in the process through water resource management training, and collaboration with NGOs;

    b. The development of water purification systems, while using regional cooperation to streamline region-specific issues where possible;

    c. Implementation through increased collaboration between state actors responsible for environment, water, agriculture, and utilities;

14. *Supports* the creation of the following UNESCO industry standards for the private use of water to regulate and review current water usage practices by:

    a. Including water usage quotas to ensure the equitable corporate usage of water to ensure local populations have fair access to clean water;

    b. Encouraging the adoption of CEO Water Mandate guidelines in which corporations commit to water net neutrality and the more significant improvement of water sanitation over pollution in an effort to protect natural habits;

    c. Promoting active local community involvement regarding education, skills training, and community involvement particularly to improve impoverished communities;

    d. Backing corporate information transparency through the *United Nations Global Compact*;

15. *Encourages* the utilization of educational programs through the private sector to contribute to community development by educating the general public on how to best use sustainable practices, productive activities, efficient water use, and exchanging knowledge by:

a. Endorsing the private sector for participation and affiliation with local community schools and other education programs to instruct the local population on the background in which these corporations operate;

b. Calling for the creation of community water initiatives such as Water First, Project Wet, and the Plant Water Foundation, which provide hands-on work for those residing in regions backed by such programs;

c. Recommending international corporate funding of water management scholarships, incentivizing innovative youth to focus on marginalized communities;

d. Providing incentives such as tax reductions or tradable water credits to firms that invest in water-efficient technologies or reduce consumption below their allocated quota, while redirecting the saved water to support vulnerable communities for agricultural use, drinking water, and sanitation services in regions affected by water scarcity;

16. *Suggests* implementing a quota market at a national level under the WWAP guidance being a referrer to assist Member States in the transition of limiting the excessive use of water by private sector industries and to have its own processes and rules for allocating water, taking as an inspiration initiatives such as the Murray-Darling Basin Authority, by:

    a. Allocating water usage rights to farmers, industries, and enterprises of the private sector;

    b. Ensuring fair allocation of water for agriculture, industry, household drinking, bathing, and cleaning usage depending on climate conditions and availability;

    c. Establishing a survey by WWAP experts to determine the appropriate water distribution, based on criteria such as industry size and activity;

    d. Promoting efficiency, by allowing quota holders to buy, sell, or lease their rights on the market and reinvest a portion of the market's taxed profits in water conservation innovation or infrastructure development;

    e. Encouraging the use of local materials and Indigenous knowledge to adapt irrigation systems to specific environmental and cultural contexts, respecting the local communities while boosting the Member State's economy;

    f. Emphasizing transparency of funds allocation, prioritizing contributions by directly funding the development of drought-resistant irrigation technologies;

17. *Recommends* implementing the aforementioned solutions through sustainability and water management-geared NGOs such as Sustainable Energy for All, the Amsha Foundation, and the Mustard Seed Foundation, which work to fund and implement solutions in alignment with the goals and mandate of UNESCO.

Code: UNESCO/1/2
Committee: United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
Topic: Water Resources Management and Sustainable Development

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The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization,

Bearing in mind the *2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*, especially the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 4 (quality education), SDG 5 (gender equality), and SDG 6 (clean water and sanitation),

Conscious of General Assembly resolution 77/334 (2023), on sustainable development, which recognizes the need to prevent and reverse land degradation, and advocates for ecosystem restoration as a critical step toward addressing the global water crisis, while highlighting the importance of diverse inputs regarding the management of vital transboundary water sources,

Keeping in mind the success of Water4SDGs Knowledge Hub and Transboundary Water Knowledge Exchange Hub,

Recalling the need for decentralized approaches in international collaboration to achieve sustainable ecological goals as affirmed by the protection of self-determination in article 1 of the *International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights* (1966),

Aware that the Intergovernmental Hydrological Programme (IHP) has been successful in incorporating public and local involvement in decision-making processes,

Recognizing the regional fiscal commitments in regards to integrated water resource management such as the Africa Water Investment Programme, Asian Development Bank, Central American Commission on Environment and Development, European Water Framework Directive, and Inter-American Development Bank,

Acknowledging the efforts and successes of the over 450 UNESCO fellowships in providing access to specialized research opportunities that contribute to international sustainable development efforts and support regional development,

1. *Proposes* the expansion of a transboundary program through the United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Restoration (2021–2030), globally coordinated yet locally driven, dedicated to ecosystem restoration and creating water management committees made up of local community representatives to encourage a sustainable approach to water management;

2. *Suggests* the expansion of the Water4SDGs Knowledge Hub to collaborate with the Transboundary Water Knowledge Exchange Hub to promote the interactive sharing of knowledge and practices on water resources management and sustainable development by:

    a. Addressing and exploring further water technology innovations, sustainable agriculture, and water use with the intent of expanding water access and equity through educational programs;

b. Supporting and endorsing the distribution of portable water testing kits supplied by the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) in order to educate and embolden local communities to manage their own water;

c. Fostering the expansion of educational water recycling technologies, such as the UNESCO-project AquaLuz, a solar-powered rainwater collecting device, by teaching local communities how to use the AquaLuz device to sovereignly regulate their own water resources;

d. Promoting inclusive norms in educational programs regarding all national and international transboundary water initiatives, prioritizing women, marginalized populations, and vulnerable communities;

3. *Proposes* continuing measures within existing or possible future initiatives by encouraging community representatives to participate in meetings that concern programs for their specific localities to:

    a. Reaffirm the importance of education for long-lasting change, encouraging Member States to implement classes on water education in school curricula by integrating the Global Water Learning Hub;

    b. Provide feedback on whether programs are benefiting communities by increasing clean water access, facilitating education measures, furthering transboundary negotiations, or any other topic representatives deem appropriate;

    c. Have a recorded vote within water program review committees when proposed changes to these programs are decided;

4. *Calls for* strengthened international cooperation following the frameworks of the IHP to facilitate restoration strategies adaptive to specific regional ecological and socio-economic contexts, including transboundary water resources to:

    a. Advocate for the establishment of regional offices to tailor restoration methods that will best fit the unique needs of local ecosystems and communities, optionally utilizing the Water4SDGs Knowledge Hub as a resource;

    b. Encourage regional discussion forums with neighboring states sharing aquifers with the main goal of knowledge distribution and providing concrete solutions for the sustainable management of transboundary water governance mechanisms;

5. *Suggests* increasing optional funding commitments from such existing regional initiatives, such as the Inter-American Development Bank and the Central American Commission on Environment and Development, as well as individual Member States, to fund a localized approach to water management and expand representation within the IHP;

6. *Encourages* the development of a UNESCO fellowship focused on water sustainability, education, and technologies to support training programs and foster local leadership in water resource management by:

    a. Prioritizing applicants from rural areas and Least Developed Countries (LDCs), particularly those most vulnerable to climate change, with a focus on individuals actively engaged in community-level water access and sustainability efforts;

b. Providing fully-funded academic and technical training opportunities at UNESCO-affiliated institutions, for example, universities and the private sector, specializing in hydrology, water engineering, and environmental governance;

c. Facilitating post-fellowship reintegration support, including grants from voluntary contributions from Member States and donors, as well as extrabudgetary funds for community-based water initiatives and partnerships with local governments to apply acquired knowledge;

d. Establishing a global network of fellowship alumni, coordinated by UNESCO-IHP, to encourage continued knowledge exchange and regional collaboration on water sustainability.

Code: UNESCO/1/3
Committee: United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
Topic: Water Resources Management and Sustainable Development

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The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization,

Reaffirming the General Assembly resolution 64/292 (2010) and the Human Rights Council resolution 57/13 (2002) stating the right to water and sanitation as a human right,

Reminding that the United Nations General Assembly resolution 73/284 (2018) has explicitly recognized the need to prevent and reverse ecosystem degradation,

Acknowledging that global water accessibility and gender equality are strongly linked where the disproportionate lack of access to clean water and sanitation severely affects the health and lives of women because of traditional gender roles,

Taking into consideration that the *2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*, particularly the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 5 (gender equality), SDG 6 (clean water and sanitation), SDG 10 (reduced inequalities), and SDG 11 (sustainable cities and communities) are unlikely to be achieved without significant and coordinated efforts,

Realizing SDG 6 (clean water and sanitation) targets 6.a and 6.b to expand international cooperation and capacity-building support, using technology and data collection to empower local communities in addressing inequitable access to water and sanitation,

Further recalling the importance of SDG 4 (quality education) targets 4.3 and 4.5 on advancing equal education for all and reducing gender inequalities on a global scale in all areas of education,

Keeping in mind the mandate of this committee as it was updated in UNESCO resolution 42671, the *Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage* (2003), aiming to guarantee safeguarding for the intangible cultural heritage of the communities, groups, and individuals concerned,

Recognizing the importance of the private sector in the sharing of technology and general knowledge on every type of water resource management and acknowledging that every Member State should have access to those technologies,

Recalling the role of the Lake Chad Basin Commission (LCBC) as a comprehensive framework for regional cooperation and sustainable development in alignment with UNESCO's mandate to increase knowledge, sustainable development, and intercultural dialogue,

Aware that there exists a rollout time and adaptation of sustainable technology to be used for safe and accessible water,

Underlining the Recommendation 2 of the 2024 Evaluation of the World Water Assessment Programme (WWAP) and the importance of the WWAP's core fundraising encourages the effective implementation of Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) and requires sustainable, predictable, and adequate financing at all levels, including for infrastructures, governance, data systems, and educational resources,

Having received the Recommendation 1 of the 2024 Evaluation of the WWAP and the importance of reviewing the WWAP's funding alongside its mandate to reform its place in the scientific water assessment initiatives,

Deeply concerned that although there is sufficient freshwater globally to meet human needs, its unequal distribution emphasizes the need to strengthen international cooperation through fair and effective transboundary water agreements for equitable and sustainable management of shared water resources, especially in the face of increasing climate-related pressures,

Concerned by the impact of industrial agriculture, toxic substances, and insufficient infrastructure on water quality,

Affirming the urgent need for ecosystem restoration as a critical step towards addressing the global water crisis,

Taking note of the International Hydrological Programme (IHP) and its efforts on water research management and education on its fields,

Deeply concerned by the lack of financial commitment towards the UN Women Fund for Gender Equality for its focus to increase levels of political empowerment for women,

Expressing the need of combining the exchange of knowledge and technological development to establish an international and transnational knowledge network,

Recognizing the work done by NGOs that provide microloans to rural communities and groups who lack access to funds that would allow them to develop their own water resources especially in regards to women,

Believing that the use of various technological innovations could enhance Member States' management of water resources,

Expressing the need for combining the exchange of knowledge and technological development to establish an international and transnational knowledge network,

1. *Encourages* all Member States to implement educational programs related to the lack of clean water access and proper sanitation with cooperation of the IHP by:

    a. Raising awareness to the importance that everyone should receive equal access to water, regardless of their gender, sexual orientation, geographic location, or socioeconomic standing, focusing on developing Member States and showcasing the importance of water as a right that should be respected, particularly emphasizing the importance of combating gender-based discrimination;

    b. Promoting opportunities for women to hold important positions on water-related industries, such as agriculture, in rural areas;

2. *Endorses* international cooperation and the decentralization of restoration strategies, adapted to specific regional ecological and socio-economic contexts, by encouraging the establishment of regional offices and promoting the involvement of local communities in their water management programs;

3. *Suggests* a united effort within willing Member States toward the funding of improving water infrastructure, technology, research, innovation, and education through Member States deciding their own nationally determined contributions (NDC) for funding, as well as Member States exporting their knowledge and research to other States in need of said research;

4. *Endorses* Member States to collaborate and discuss the use of common technology for safe and sustainable water infrastructure by:

    a. Inviting Member States with profound understanding and capability of water infrastructure to assist those who are underdeveloped in this field;

    b. Supporting the transfer of knowledge to the assisted Member States to ensure that national independence is sustained and respected;

    c. Establishing a knowledge exchange platform using the Lake Chad Basin Commission as a role model for ensuring the sustainable management of water, water conservation, and agricultural development while further promoting the creation of UNESCO regional hubs to support South-South and global cooperation;

5. *Supports* the creation of a regional water cooperative framework and advances the role of women in water governance as a program through the Women in Water Diplomacy Network titled “Sustainable Hydro Operations and Resources for Equality” (S.H.O.R.E) by:

    a. Supporting the creation of a framework adaptable to Member States or regional priorities that will focus on educational programs for water retrieval projects on a regional level, including groundwater collection and fostering the active participation and leadership of women in water governance, scientific innovation, and Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) disciplines, using data from the International Groundwater Resources Assessment Centre and clean water sanitation technology in cooperation with UNESCO, national education ministries, and relevant stakeholders;

    b. Urging Member State*s* to uphold women in leadership positions, particularly addressing Member States with underrepresentation of women in water governance and STEM fields, by promoting the development of gender-focused water education programs in rural and underserved communities;

    c. Recommending the election of a board of directors to oversee the program, with at least forty percent being women, made up of experts in fields related to Meteorology, Hydrology, and Agriculture, with special advising from the Community of Women in Water, an international network of recognized experts in industry and academia specializing in water sustainability;

    d. Establishing a locally owned cooperative structure to aid local water retrieval programs, allowing membership to be voluntary with selection of differing levels of involvement by taking in consideration of regional priorities;

    e. Encouraging funding partnership through contributions of regional cooperative members, along with support from the UN Women's Fund for Gender Equality;

f. Further recommending that Member States increase their financial commitment to the UN Women's Fund for Gender Equality, to allow for the capacity for developing nations to increase their percentage of women in leadership positions;

g. Encouraging the creation of an UNESCO “Women in Hydrological Development Leadership” Award, to be given regionally, to highlight the contributions and gratitude of women experts advancing innovation and equality in water management with a substantial monetary award to use to fund future research;

h. Establishing scholarship programs specifically targeted at women and girls pursuing education and careers in water-related fields and STEM disciplines, particularly in regions most affected by water scarcity and gender inequality;

6. *Recommends* the creation of the Water Technology Bank Initiative (WTBI) under the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR), an international bank of data, technology, and other knowledge on water resource management with a focus on Capacity building, using new technologies called Data-driven Resource Intelligence Platform (DRIP) which:

    a. Encourages Member States to base the creation, expansion, and development of water resource management projects on science, technology, and sustainability, and to encourage Member States to base these projects on the goals of the SDGs;

    b. Asks that the WTBI would be accessible to every Member State who is willing to have access to the Common Bank, and that every Member State could contribute by sharing the technology, data, and knowledge they own and add it to the bank;

    c. Advises that every Member State could contribute by sharing the technology, data, and knowledge they own and add it to the bank;

    d. Would be a resource accessible to the WWAP and every UNESCO led agency, programs, organizations, and other types of initiatives in order for those to be as technologically advanced as possible and to keep up to date on the newer advancements;

    e. Emphasizes that the technology, data, and knowledge sharing should be opened to the private sector and post-secondary education institutions;

    f. Focuses on capacity building and the use of new technologies to provide opportunities for marginalized communities whether by gender or location in their daily lives as it pertains to their access to clean water;

7. *Encourages* the adoption of revisions of the WWAP based on its 2024 Evaluation reports by:

    a. Recommending the redirection of funding sources of the WWAP to different and more varied channels so that Member States can voluntarily contribute on the funding of the WWAP and the IWRM and so that the private sector can help on said funding;

    b. Suggesting the clarification of the WWAP’s mandate to reaffirm that it now also uses UNESCO’s WBTI technology, data, and other knowledge to incentivise UNESCO-supported platforms for dialogue by ways of negotiation and mediation between willing Member States who share transboundary water sources;

8. *Encourages* Member States to explicitly integrate climate change adaptation measures into all transboundary water agreements in order to:

    a. Minimize the impacts of climate change, such as droughts and floods, so that they can be better managed by affected Member States;

    b. Emphasize coordinated management efforts to help prevent the unilateral restriction of water flows through infrastructure such as dams, and ensure the fair and resilient distribution of freshwater across regions, thus providing more equitable and reliable access to drinking water for all populations, particularly in areas most vulnerable to climate change;

9. *Recommending* the creation and strengthening of transboundary water agreements, drawing inspiration from successful precedents such as the *Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes* (Water Convention, 1992), with the goal of promoting equitable, sustainable, and climate resilient access to shared water resources, particularly in regions highly vulnerable to hydrological stress and climate impacts;

10. *Suggests* Member States to put forward an advantageous framework for all Member States on their autonomy by:

    a. Operating local infrastructures including cloud catchers to sustainably collect moisture in the environment and repurposing it as safe drinking water, rainwater harvesting to reuse water from rooftops as consumable water, water wells as a source to tap into aquifers, water storage and filtration tanks to allow for water to be stored for prolonged periods of time;

    b. Implementing Aqualuz, a self-sufficient, sustainable, and affordable tool that has proven its effectiveness in rural areas in Brazil by using solar energy to disinfect brackish water, can aid up to 1000 people a day and filter up to 5000 liters of water a day, and can be improved to cater for desalination;

    c. Encouraging to host annual meetings and share data about the recommendations above to ensure the Member States activities don't impact each other;

11. *Endorses* Member States to use inclusive technologies, such as the Digital Urban Twin systems, to address the gender data gap by identifying regions where women and girls are disproportionately affected by water scarcity, thus facilitating the planning of gender-responsive infrastructure, virtually testing potential solutions, and collecting disaggregated and diverse data to better reflect the needs of all populations regulated by UNESCO via the use of Artificial Intelligence (AI)-powered tools;

12. *Further invites* the creation of two complementary platforms that enable data collection, data sharing, and analysis, while the Data-driven Resource Intelligence Platform (DRIP) focuses on Data gathering and organization of Data, the Digital Urban Twin Platform incorporates the following tools to analyze that data which:

    a. Offers a real-time digital representation of the asset which is created using smart sensors that collect data from the product Digital Urban Twin Platform;

b. Offers AI-powered tools targeting optimization of water use, improved irrigation schedules, and the prediction of extreme weather events like droughts;

c. Implements surveys, discussions, interviews, observations, and focus groups creating a proper format for data collection focusing on gender inequality to water access in regional areas through DRIP;

13. *Requests* the establishment of UNESCO-supported platforms for dialogue and negotiation among riparian and shore states to facilitate peaceful conflict resolution and the equitable management of shared basins by using mediation experts from diverse backgrounds, such as NGOs, UN agencies, non-state actors, scientists, and many others, in order to:

    a. Create new transboundary water agreements and strengthen and expand existing transboundary water agreements to ensure equitable, sustainable, and climate-resilient access to shared water resources, particularly in regions vulnerable to water scarcity and the impacts of climate change;

    b. Promote positive incentives for cooperation by prioritizing access to new water technologies, such as smart irrigation systems and AI-based early warning systems, for Member States actively engaging in transboundary agreements;

    c. Establish annual UNESCO awards, to honor successful water cooperation efforts, and by positively highlighting committed Member States in relevant UN and UNESCO reports;

14. *Suggests* a united effort of willing Membering State for funding in the betterment of overall water infrastructure, technology, research, innovation and education by Member States deciding their own nationally determined contributions (NDC) for funding, exporting states' knowledge and research to other Member States in need of said research, and encouraging the establishment of a tax related to the waste of water to incite the population to reduce water usage and finance the project; and to suggest the creation of programs against to corrupt leaders to make sure they do not take advantage of the funds collected.

Code: UNESCO/1/4
Committee: United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
Topic: Water Resources Management and Sustainable Development

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The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization,

Reaffirming the fundamental principles outlined in the *Charter of the United Nations* which recognizes water as a public good and fundamental human right as established in article 25 of the *Universal Declaration of Human Rights*, General Assembly resolution 64/292, and article 11 of the *International Convention on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights*,

Fully aware of the alarming reality that 2 billion people lack access to safe drinking water and with due attention, devoted to the immense impact of depleting water resources, particularly on states reliant on transboundary bodies of water,

Noting the conventions enshrined in the *2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development* and its 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), to expand the global community to increase collaborative efforts and assistance aimed at improving the abilities of nations in the water and sanitation sectors,

Recognizing the urgent need to align international water policies with SDG 6 (ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all), specifically article 6.3, which strives to improve water quality by pollution reduction and waste dumping reduction to ensure safe access to water, SDG 4 (ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all), SDG 10 (reduce inequality within and among countries), SDG 11 (make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable), SDG 12 (ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns), and SDG 13 (take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts), as well as recognizing the work of the UN Development Programme (UNDP) and its work aimed at achieving the SDGs,

Taking into account the UNESCO Strategy on Education for Health and Well-being, referring to SDG 3 (ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages), specifically articles 3.3 and 3.8, aiming to end epidemics such as water-borne diseases and achieving accessibility to safe, essential healthcare services, respectively,

Affirming the Constitution of UNESCO adopted in 1945, which recognizes the importance of international cooperation in science, education, and culture, which are integral to addressing the issues of water scarcity and access,

Acknowledging the *Mar Del Plata Action Plan* (1977), which provides recommendations and frameworks to address issues on Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) through cooperation amongst Member States,

Welcoming the role of UNESCO's Intergovernmental Hydrological Programme (IHP) and its work in promoting IWRM, particularly in vulnerable regions, and emphasizing UNESCO's role in promoting sustainable water management through the IHP, which supports research, education, and capacity-building for water security,

Recognizing the work of the Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) Wateraid, in the extension of the *Water Convention* and the *Protocol on Water and Health*, through the distribution of the EcoSan toilets that aid with reducing the amount of water needed in communities,

Confident in the role of education services and NGOs in maintaining a global culture of water conservation, and UNESCO's commitment to improving educational frameworks in school curriculums worldwide,

Deeply concerned that climate change continues to exacerbate freshwater scarcity across Small Island Developing States (SIDS) and Archipelagic and Island States (AIS), threatening agricultural sustainability, food security, and public health, thus increasing vulnerabilities,

Expressing appreciation for the existence of the Sanitation and Hygiene Fund and the Global Sanitation Fund that help in funding country-driven programs to improve sanitation and hygiene,

Noting with concern the fact that women encompass 80% or more of displaced person populations in times of climate-induced migrations, which disproportionately affect women and girl's access to clean water and sanitation,

Realizing regional success achieved by addressing the varying levels of technological experience, expertise, and innovation amongst Member States and guided by the guidelines for Treated Wastewater framed by the International Organization for Standardization to invest in decentralized, cost-effective irrigation technologies to ensure inclusive and sustainable water access in irrigation projects,

Noting with approval the importance of UN-Water, the water and sanitation program, NGOs, and the private-public sector in providing support for rural regions through humanitarian aid, access to education, and financing for technologies,

Deeply conscious of the current internationally agreed upon definitions of water management and sustainability, including the Medium-Term Strategy 2022-2029, to better equip educational services regarding responsible water use, climate resilience, and regional success amongst Member States,

Concerned that many Member States may not have access to materials, production, and funding for treatment facilities as well as education programs in safety regulation and acknowledging that numerous treatment facilities are still in poor upkeep including no proper maintenance and no adequate reporting on water input and output levels, both clean and contaminated,

Cognizant of article 19.2 of Law 14/1986 of 25 April, General of Health, which implements general health standards in areas including water pollution,

Calling attention to the Institute for Water Education facts, which explain that between 2020 and 2023, only eight Member States worked on the cooperation of transboundary water bodies, where 80% of those bodies are polluted,

Accounting for the reports of the World Water Assessment Programme (WWAP) that sustains support for water conservation and resource management as a key component for scientific research guidelines,

Having considered the wor*k* of the Internationally Shared Aquifer Resources Management (ISARM) program on assisting regional organizations with the development of groundwater resources and raising awareness on shared water resources,

Keeping in mind the existing cooperation among the Global South through the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States, the Caribbean Water and Sewerage Association, the Caribbean Climate-Smart Accelerator, and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations,

Further encouraging inter-state cooperation and equity in the sharing of environmental technology and resources as described by the Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes to emphasize the legal protections of transboundary aquifers as a long-term provision of agricultural, industrial, and domestic water as written in General Assembly resolution 68/118,

Mindful of the standards concerning the availability, scope, and use of intellectual property rights (Part II of the Trade-Related Aspect of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS) Agreement),

Further recalling the *Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women*, *the Convention on the Rights of the Child,* and the *Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities* with its call towards addressing the inequities for those who do not have a sustainable and accessible source of water,

Reiterating the importance of early action and recommending the implementation of a regional standard for early warning and detection systems used to monitor water quality and resource supply,

Emphasizes the importance of promoting the development of sustainable water infrastructure by integrating traditional knowledge and modern practices, in collaboration with UNESCO and the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), as exemplified by initiatives under the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat), as well as other effective programs that advance water resource management and sanitation,

Appreciating the vital role of the UNESCO IHP, particularly the Climate and Hydrological Engineering (CHE) initiative, in fostering global scientific cooperation and technological advancement aimed at sustainable water management, including the development of sewage treatment plants, desalination facilities, artificial intelligence-driven ecological solutions, Internet of Things (IoT) water monitoring systems, and solar-powered infrastructure, as essential steps toward recognizing water as a global public good,

1. *Promotes* the development of sustainable water infrastructure and combining traditional methods, in collaboration with UNESCO and ECOSOC, as proposed by programs such as the UN-Habitat and other proven methods of promoting water resource management and sanitation by:

    a. Investing in programs such as wastewater treatment and recycling, water-efficient agricultural practices, and desalination projects that limit water consumption in collaboration with existing projects such as the Aqaba-Amman Water Desalination & Conveyance Project through the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, which is turning saltwater into drinkable fresh water at reasonable costs;

    b. Suggesting Member States collaborate on information gathering technology such as flood sensor technology, weather analysis, coding-based leak detection systems, and soil composition assessments that help identify vulnerabilities and act proactively to prevent drought and other water crises, and further contribute to the WWAP United Nations World Water Development Report;

c. Allowing the use of rainwater harvesting using real-time monitoring sensors and water meters to optimize storage for future use to further support water supply infrastructures that manage water distribution in a needs-responsive, efficient manner;

d. Sharing the knowledge to construct and maintain sustainable wells in local communities to prevent the contamination and pollution of the water resources in those structures and other groundwater supplies being shared transnationally;

e. Encouraging Member States to utilize public non-commercial use of patented technologies under the Agreement on TRIPS article 31;

f. Defining Innovative Technologies as a tool to expand access to education, enhance learning quality, and build inclusive, resilient learning systems while emphasizing the importance of human rights and ethical considerations in its development and implementation;

g. Increasing support of and partnership with NGOs that create and develop water resources and sanitary conditions, such as the Watercredit initiative, via the utilization of microloans, which provide increased support for rural communities lacking consistent access to water resources, as well as communities experiencing disproportionate access to water resources based on gender;

2. *Ensures* financial sustainability and cost recovery by:

    a. Implementing tiered water pricing systems that aim to promote responsible consumption while ensuring affordability for lower-income populations;

    b. Introducing incentives for businesses and municipalities that adopt water-efficient technologies and conservation practices;

    c. Reducing operative costs and emissions by combining manual labor with solar-powered waste technology such as compactors, sorters, or dehydrators, particularly those in rural regions;

    d. Exploring circular economy approaches, such as monetizing Treated Wastewater for agricultural irrigation, industrial use, and even potable reuse, to offset infrastructure costs;

    e. Adding private sector involvement, encouraging corporate responsibility programs and investment from regional and international companies specializing in water purification and infrastructure development;

    f. Suggesting Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs) that reduce the financial burden on the government while promoting innovation and efficiency in water management;

    g. Granting accessibility for all Member States regardless of their economic, social, or political situation and/or status to ensure equal and fair opportunities;

3. *Further invites* Member States to engage in multilateral negotiations and cooperation regarding shared water resources and sustainable development according to a shared policy framework guided by the Water Enhancement Taskforce (WET) by:

a. Supporting Member States' continued involvement in bodies such as UNESCO, the Food and Agriculture Organization, and the UNDP, as bodies uniquely capable of bringing together representatives of the Member States, NGOs, and relevant scientific and educational experts to tackle global problems;

b. Attending regular forums such as the UN-Water conference, utilizing such opportunities to discuss transboundary water resources to maintain active and open dialogue surrounding the use and management of prominent shared water sources, developing actionable region-specific solutions;

c. Adhering to existing legal frameworks such as the International Law Commission's Draft Articles on the Law of Transboundary Aquifers, which sets forth legal guidelines and frameworks for managing transnational water sources;

d. Collaborating on building shared governance structures that allow IWRM over shared resources to be responsive to needs across national borders by encouraging productive negotiation;

e. Engaging in knowledge-sharing practices that promote collective understanding of existing needs, such as ongoing crises of drought or climate events or long-term projects such as biodiversity protection and climate resilience, including through regional platforms that allow for increased responsiveness to varying needs and contexts;

f. Developing domestic policies that regulate the use of shared water supplies to ensure sustainable consumption that supports international water access and equity, as well as preventing regional drought and water scarcity;

g. Inciting Member States to create agreements whenever they plan to use a large quantity of a shared water body to prevent significant transboundary impacts and ensure equal access;

h. Inviting Member States to collaborate with existing auditing and monitoring mechanisms under bodies like UN-Water to provide broader regional coverage, enhance evaluation criteria, and integrate climate resilience metrics;

4. *Encourages* aid from capable Member States to support less developed countries and vulnerable communities for sustainable water resource management by:

a. Diversifying specialized funding for SDG 6 under the Joint SDG fund that is accessible to all Member States regardless of politics, economics, race, or gender status;

b. Encouraging the expansion of the Global Water Fund leadership to include regional representatives;

c. Requesting voluntary contributions to existing UN programs such as UN-Water and the water and sanitation program, aimed at infrastructure development, water purification technologies, and climate-resilient water systems;

d. Proposing additional monetary contributions through donations, loans, micro-loans, and other forms of financial support;

e. Establishing partnerships with accredited NGOs and civil society actors to implement community-led water governance models and investment platforms that ensure equitable access and local capacity-building;

f. Expanding cooperation with sanctioned countries to provide access to UN-Water projects while ensuring the funds and technologies are used efficiently and effectively;

5. *Desires* the integration of gender-responsive approaches, keeping in mind SDG 5, within national and regional water resource development programs by:

    a. Increasing the participation of women, including in rural and native communities, in decision-making bodies related to water governance;

    b. Providing targeted capacity-building initiatives to support women-led water conservation and infrastructure projects;

    c. Partnering with the Commission on the Status of Women and the Commission on Science and Technology for Development, developed by ECOSOC to ensure that water-related development goals contribute directly to women's health, education, and economic empowerment;

6. *Supports* the biosphere reserves and national parks in implementing sustainable water management practices by:

    a. Calling for the expansion of the framework of the UNESCO Strategy on Education for Health and Well-Being, which commits to promoting health and well-being outcomes for youth, to include water-borne diseases caused by inadequate access to clean water and sanitation;

    b. Restoring degraded river ecosystems to improve biodiversity and reduce water pollution from agricultural runoff;

    c. Expanding the use of nature-based solutions, such as wetland restoration and reforestation, to improve groundwater retention and mitigate the effects of desertification;

    d. Working alongside organizations such as the World Health Organization, which oversees aid in conflict or disaster areas, and the United Nations Children's Fund, which responds to global humanitarian situations by providing care, medicine, and resources to identify issues and potential solutions regarding the impact of water-borne illnesses;

    e. Advocating for national implementation of services within the UNESCO Health and Education Resource Center hosted by the UNESCO International Institute for Educational Planning that promotes the health and well-being of communities affected by water-borne illnesses through intergovernmental cooperation;

7. *Further recommends* the promotion and extension of the UNESCO IHP named Climate and Hydrological Engineering (CHE) to develop further scientific research around technologies needed to achieve sustainable water management, including sewage plants, desalination plants, AI eco-friendly driven solutions, IoT sensors or solar plants among others, to establish water as a global public good by:

a. Establishing a Global Freshwater Technology Exchange Database for all Member States to regularly update with current discoveries and research in the field of Freshwater Technology, with funding to be proposed as a part of the annual UN budget, through contributions of Member States and with access restricted to state actors, except when permitted by the government for independent research organization, to promote free and open exchange between Member States regardless of social, economic, and political barriers including but not limited to sanctions and embargoes;

b. Defining “Freshwater Technology” as technologies related to, but not limited to the sustainable procurement of filtered, drinkable water for everyday use, the access to environmentally safe methods of crop irrigation for agricultural use, and the provision of equitable access to clean water for sanitary use;

c. Encouraging participating Member States to publish a bi-annual review of findings in the field of Freshwater Technology, which shall be made available to the public within a reasonable amount of time after publication, with the completion of the report corresponding with the annual CHE convention, so that the results may be used in technology exchange;

d. Suggesting technical advisory teams to assist with the design of locally adapted, water-efficient systems based on regional hydrological data through establishing monitoring and evaluation tools to track water efficiency and quality, crop productivity, and long-term sustainability of development of innovative water treatment technologies, such as nanofiltration, irrigation systems, and electrocoagulation;

e. Inviting CHE to work in conjunction with ISARM to monitor the groundwater quality of Member States and share the data with the governments, researchers, and water-specialized organizations to ensure all actors have the information they need to implement further measures;

f. Integrating existing regional programs such as the Center for Sustainable Management of Water Resources in the Caribbean Island States, and the Regional Centre for Integrated River Basin Management in Western Africa, as well as other existing IHP support to aid with the transferring of scientific and technological knowledge to all interested Member States regardless of administrative barriers;

g. Encouraging industries to adopt sustainable water management practices, including closed-loop water recycling systems in manufacturing plants and eco-friendly agricultural irrigation techniques;

8. *Encourages* the implementation of the Facilitating Local Opportunities for Water Sewerage Systems (FLOWS) program by all interested Member States to support SDG 3, SDG 4, SDG 6, and SDG 11, which includes:

    a. An awareness campaign focusing on the importance, installation, monitoring, and maintenance of sewerage systems and ensuring high water quality, as well as local community engagement;

    b. A program that teaches the installation of condominial sewerage systems in line with the experience of condominial water and sewerage systems in Brazil, as reported by the WB in 2005, to enable access to clean water on a small scale and in a sustainable manner;

c. Education programs covering the importance, usage, and maintenance of new water infrastructure such as condominial water sewerage systems, cloud catchers, IoT sensors, water pipelines, desalination plants, and the EcoSan toilets following the frameworks outlined in the ISO for the implementation and development of water recycling and reuse technologies, as well as the benefits they have for local communities in improving accessibility to water, an increase in sanitation, and the possibility to recycle water, especially greywater, for agricultural practices to ensure environmental sustainability and food security, build local expertise and promote sustainable agricultural practices that ensure prevention of water contamination and air pollution as well as utilization of alternative products to synthetic fertilizers by following the method of Project Berlac Component 3 of UNESCO and its actors and additionally;

d. Promoting targeted programs for women, young people, and local farmers such as demonstration farms and community field schools utilizing recycled water irrigation systems, where local farmers can receive hands-on training and observe the safe and effective use of treated and recycled water for crop production where they can then share their knowledge with their communities while introducing innovative teaching approaches which include learning hubs with interactive materials and simulations, the deployment of solar-powered audio learning stations broadcasting health content in native languages, the integration of sensor-based water kits in schools and clinics alongside educational sessions on contamination;

e. Calling on volunteers from the population that received the training to undergo an extra seminar training on how to teach the content learned in the work programs, so that these volunteers can go to a neighboring community and teach these workshops, therefore creating a domino-effect expansion system that should allow for easier local implementation and adaptation of the program;

f. Recommending the provision of financial incentives, such as subsidies or grants, for farmers and households to install basic sustainable water infrastructures such as condominial sewerage and greywater collection systems;

9. *Welcomes* the establishment of a UNESCO Water Resilience Certification to recognize and reward countries, cities, and corporations that demonstrate excellence in implementing innovative, inclusive, and sustainable water management strategies to foster long-term resilience to water-related disasters and suggests that certification provides beneficiaries with:

    a. On-demand technical expertise and tailored advisory support from a multidisciplinary roster of UNESCO-affiliated water specialists;

    b. Preferential entry to resilience-oriented funding channels, including innovative financing tools, climate bonds, multilateral grants focused on water security, and donations for Member States suffering from urgent water scarcity situations;

    c. A collaborative global platform for knowledge-sharing, capacity-building, and co-innovation across regions vulnerable to hydrological stress;

    d. Annual recognition at the International Forum for Water Resilience, with the opportunity to mentor emerging resilience leaders and replicate best practices worldwide;

e. Asking for the International Forum for Water Resilience to be hosted in the capitals of Member States suffering the most from these issues;

10. *Further suggests* the commitment of Member States and the IHP to the continuous promotion of public awareness and education on water management by using a holistic bottom-up approach, focusing on the engagement of local communities to create a water-conscious globe through:

    a. Implementing initiatives to educate rural communities on water management procedures, ensuring that programs are contextually and culturally specific, fusing regional and scientific knowledge through collaboration with local communities to design strategies that respect cultural needs and practices, and building local capacity by training leaders who can continue water management;

    b. Highlighting local issues by connecting households and communities directly about sustainable water practices through further partnerships between UNESCO, Member States, UNESCO partner NGOs, and grassroots organizations by promoting access to educational campaigns, training, workshops, seminars, and other public-oriented discussions focused on conservation and water management efficiency;

    c. Advising the enhancement or introduction of water education in pre-collegiate school curricula, falling in line with UNESCO's Water Division's position that a key tool to promoting sustainability is primary school education, and training teachers to incorporate sustainable water management education into their classrooms;

    d. Utilizing media outlets to spread informational materials such as public service announcements or advertisements regarding water scarcity and management targeted to all demographics, such as households, businesses, and farmers, to inform communities about efficient waste management techniques and the impacts of water scarcity on health and well-being;

    e. Promoting the inclusion of women and girls in educational frameworks, providing an equitable space that promotes stronger inclusion of women in information-sharing practices and policy discussions;

11. *Calls for* the progression of concrete preventative measures and the expansion of the framework of the UNESCO Strategy on Education for Health and Well-Being, which commits to promoting health and well-being for youth which will include raising awareness of water-borne diseases such as cholera, dysentery, typhoid fever, schistosomiasis, and E. coli infections, caused by inadequate access to clean water and sanitation by:

    a. Organizing Public Health Services that focus specifically on areas affected by water pollution;

    b. Shifting the focus of the health policy toward territorial and social imbalances by improving access and health benefits according to the conditions of equality, as supported by SDG 10, and implementing the necessary actions for the functional rehabilitation and social reinsertion of the patient;

    c. Working alongside organizations such as the WHO, which oversees aid in conflict or disaster areas, and the UNICEF, which responds to global humanitarian situations by

providing care, medicine, and resources, to identify issues and potential solutions regarding the impact of water-borne illnesses;

d. Advocating for national implementation of services within the UNESCO Health and Education Resource Center hosted by the UNESCO International Institute for Educational Planning that promotes the health and well-being of communities affected by water-borne illnesses through intergovernmental cooperation.

Code: UNESCO/1/5
Committee: United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
Topic: Water Resources Management and Sustainable Development

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The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization,

Stressing the importance of international cooperation and partnerships to address water security challenges,

Ensuring that all nations, especially developing countries, have the support and resources to tackle these issues effectively,

Emphasizing the value of transparent, community-driven, and participatory frameworks, and the use of Open Data principles in enhancing water governance and sustainability at the grassroots level,

Recalling the International Hydrological Programmes, IHP-IX (2022-2029) strategic priority area 3, bridging the data-knowledge gap,

Reaffirming the critical role of reliable, timely, and detailed data for evidence-based decision-making,

Reiterating that environmental challenges and responsible resource sharing management are critical to fostering stability, security, and practical development outcomes that serve both present and future generations,

Bearing in mind the profound and disproportionate impact of water scarcity on women and girls,

Acknowledging the urgent need to address the growing challenges posed by water scarcity, exacerbated by climate occurrences, urbanization, and over-consumption of freshwater resources,

Appreciating the *Mar del Plata Action Plan* (1977), which first introduced the principle of Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM),

Taking note of the necessity to transition toward science-based agricultural practices through the integration of innovative, Artificial Intelligence (AI) driven water management strategies,

Recognizing the need for a voluntary, science-based, and standardized classification of hydrological data to improve comparability and enable knowledge sharing,

Seeking to support and empower local non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in facilitating effective citizen-driven water management research and data collection,

Commending the work of the water-related centers under the auspices of UNESCO (category 2) in their mission to advance water security globally,

1. *Recommends* the utilization of existing international cooperation frameworks, such as UNESCO's Intergovernmental Hydrological Programme (IHP) and UN-Water, for the exchange of data, best practices, and technological resources in responsible water management to improve efficiency, with particular focus on water-scarce regions;

2. *Endorses* the Open Hydrology framework recommendations for Open Data, to support effective research at the local level by:

    a. Creating an intergovernmental platform for Open global water management and hydrological observations;

    b. Fulfilling the call for greater guidance and training on Open Data in water management research and data collection through targeted training programs and published best practices that are relevant and accessible to civilian-led research groups;

    c. Utilizing the Open and FAIR (Findable, Accessible, Interoperable, and Reusable) research framework, leveraging global knowledge to ease research capacity challenges caused by a lack of resources and limited access to consistent data;

3. *Invites* the Intergovernmental Hydrological Programme's Water Information Network System (IHP-WINS) to establish a global Data-driven Water-Resources Intelligence Platform (DRIP) that:

    a. Leverages AI, while taking into account UNESCO's *Recommendation for Ethics of Artificial Intelligence*, to enhance knowledge, data sharing, and access to accurate predictions for precipitation, particularly in times of drought;

    b. Introduces AI-powered monitoring systems and analytical tools that suggest ways to optimize agricultural and industrial water use by supporting the management, recycling, and distribution of clean water, independently accessible to every Member State;

    c. Underscores the importance of resource-efficient AI usage and the use of innovative technologies that minimize water consumption, adapted to the geographic conditions of each Member State, such as immersion cooling, underwater data centers, lightweight intelligence models, and energy-efficient hardware solutions;

    d. Designs training modules that maximize accessibility and understanding for all stakeholders;

    e. Account for the inequitable impact of water scarcity on women and girls;

4. *Encourages* the IHP Intergovernmental Council to allocate existing funds from the UNESCO budget dedicated to water resource management towards the establishment of DRIP;

5. *Stresses* the need for transparent, accessible, and interoperable water information systems to support effective planning, monitoring, and accountability in IWRM implementation, by:

    a. Conducting water resources inventory surveying of surface water, groundwater, water quality, and infrastructure;

    b. Developing digitized water basin maps to identify high-risk zones for floods, droughts, and contamination;

    c. Promoting the development of drought-resistant crops, water-saving cultivation techniques, and precision irrigation systems;

6. *Calls upon* Member States to improve the standardized classification of hydrological data to enhance knowledge exchange and support efficient water resource management among Member States by adopting UN Statistical Commission standards, including by:

    a. Advocating the voluntary exchange of standardized hydrological data related to agricultural and industrial water usage;

    b. Integrating existing digital platforms, such as IHP-WINS, alongside classification standards developed by the United Nations Statistical Commission;

    c. Supporting Member States in making national datasets accessible for comparative analysis using the United Nations Statistics Division's (UNSD) UNdata platform, facilitating the dissemination and accessibility of statistical information globally, while fully respecting national sovereignty;

7. *Welcomes* the UNESCO water-related centers to take inspiration from existing research bodies, such as, but not limited to, the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organization (CSIRO), Korean-Water (K-Water), United Kingdom Water Industry Research (UKWIR), United States Geological Survey (USGS), Instituto Nacional de Recursos Hidráulicos (INRH), Japan's National Institute for Environmental Studies (NIES) as examples of success in building creative, innovative, data-informed water management solutions, by adding expertise from outside partners with historic collaboration in UNESCO;

8. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its eighty-second session a report on the implementation of the present resolution.