

IAHS Activities Report, June 2015 - July 2017

Georgia Destouni, IAHS Vice President

**for IAHS Bureau meeting, Port Elisabeth, 9 & 15 July
2017**

- Participation in the IAHS 2017 Assembly, 10-14 July 2017 in Port Elizabeth, South Africa. I contribute to session S1-“Water security and the food-water-energy nexus: drivers, responses and feedbacks at local to global scales”, as co-author of oral presentation IAHS2017-38 “Global-regional water and land impacts of local energy transformations”; and in session W11-“Hydrology and the Anthropocene”, as author of oral presentation IAHS2017-296 ” Large-scale long-term hydrological dynamics in the changing landscapes and climate of the Anthropocene”.

- Participation as IAHS representative in the 26th UN-Water Meeting, 6–7 February 2017 in Geneva, Switzerland. The meeting part open for partner organizations, such as IAHS, included the following items and sub-items for minutes, see further the attached meeting report):
 - *Item 2 Selected reports and progress updates*
 - 2.1) Update on the High-level Panel on Water
 - 2.2) Report on the third meeting of the Global High-Level Panel on Water and Peace
 - 2.3) Update on “International Decade for Action – Water for Sustainable Development” 2018 – 2028 Resolution
 - 2.4) Report on the third United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development
 - 2.5) Report on the 22nd Conference of the Parties (COP 22) to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)
 - 2.6) Report on the Budapest Water Summit 2016
 - 2.7) Report on the 15th session of the WMO Commission for Hydrology
 - 2.8) Report on the Global Forum for Food and Agriculture
 - 2.9) WASH4Work update

- *Item 3 Update on the status of implementation of the 2030 Agenda*
 - *Item 4 Monitoring and reporting of water and sanitation in the SDGs*
 - 4.1) Update on the SDG indicators process
 - 4.2) Update on integrated monitoring and reporting of water and sanitation related SDG targets and indicators (GEMI)
 - 4.3) Update from the WHO/UNICEF Joint Monitoring Programme on Water Supply and Sanitation (JMP)
 - 4.4) Update from UN-Water Global Analysis and Assessment on Sanitation and Drinking-Water (GLAAS)
 - 4.5) Update on the 2018 UN-Water Synthesis Report on water and sanitation
 - 4.6) Publication plan for 2017-2018
 - *Item 5 Planning of World Water Days, World Water Development Reports and World Toilet Days*
 - 5.1) Report on the 2016 World Toilet Day on Water and Jobs
 - 5.2) Update on planning for 2017 World Water Day on Wastewater and on the 2017 World Water Development Report
 - 5.3) Update on the 2018 World Water Development Report on Nature-Based Solutions and on the campaign name of World Water Day 2018
 - 5.4) Decision on the 2019 and 2020 World Water Day themes including the presentation of poll results
 - *Item 6 Future events for UN-Water's possible engagement*
 - 6.1) Sanitation and Water for All High-Level Meetings, 20 – 21 April 2017, Washington DC, United States
 - 6.2) UN Conference to Support the Implementation of SDG 14 (Oceans), 5 – 9 June 2017, New York
 - 6.3) UNCCD Conference of the Parties (COP 13), 4 – 15 September 2017, Ordos, China
 - *Item 7 Decision on date and venue of next UN-Water Meeting*
- Participation in the session “Advances in Socio-hydrology” at the European Geosciences Union (EGU) General Assembly 2017, Vienna, Austria, 23-28 April 2017, jointly developed with the framework of the Panta Rhei Research Initiative of IAHS under the working group of “Socio- hydrological modeling and synthesis”. I gave an oral presentation entitled “Reality check of socio-hydrological interactions in water quality and ecosystem management”.

- Participation in the “International Conference on Hydro-Biogeochemical Processes, Coupling, and Impact”, October 27-31, 2015, Wuhan, China, organized by the IAHS working group on aquatic biogeochemistry. I gave an oral presentation entitled “Water from the Land Surface to the Coast: Deciphering Flow-Storage-Quality Changes and Their Drivers”, including results from two of my papers published the same year and also of relevance for *Panta Rhei*:
 - Jaramillo F, Destouni G, Local flow regulation and irrigation raise global human water consumption and footprint, *Science*, 350 (6265), 1248-1251, 2015.
 - Jaramillo F, Destouni G, Comment on “Planetary boundaries: Guiding human development on a changing planet”, *Science*, 348(6240), 1217, 2015.

Meeting Report
26th UN-Water Meeting
6 – 7 February 2017 in Geneva, Switzerland

This Meeting Report summarises the discussions and decisions taken by UN-Water Members, Partners with Special Status and Partners during the open part of the 26th UN-Water Meeting.

Item 2 Selected reports and progress updates

The Chair opened the item by welcoming UN-Water Partners and Observers to the Meeting.

2.1) Update on the High Level Panel on Water

Mr Nicolas Franke (UN DESA) outlined the contents of the Action Plan for the High-Level Panel on Water launched on 21 September 2016, which identifies 48 possible priority actions for water. The Panel has already announced six actions, and is planning to launch eight further initiatives during the next six months. At the Budapest Water Summit, the Panel met with senior representatives of the multilateral development banks, Green Climate Fund and the private sector, to consider ways to improve efficiency in terms of access and disbursement, and move towards doubling the current level of investment in water infrastructure over the next five years. Mr Franke explained that the Panel's work will conclude at the World Water Forum in March 2018 and noted that engagement with stakeholders is crucial for the implementation of the Action Plan and a high priority for the HLPW. Recently, the Panel engaged with UN-Water by requesting input on existing WASH campaigns as well as inputs on transboundary waters work. Participants suggested that the Panel look more closely at wetlands, water operators and providers, and diffuse pollution sources.

2.2) Report on the third meeting of the Global High-Level Panel on Water and Peace

The Vice-Chair reported on the third meeting of the Global High-Level Panel on Water and Peace (HLPWP) hosted by Costa Rica in December 2016 where the role of the private sector and the Security Council's 22 November 2016 debate on water, peace and security were discussed. He described the aims and objectives of the HLPWP's final report, which will discuss the global architecture for water and will target a political audience. It will be launched around the General Assembly opening in September 2017. The HLPWP, he said, might ask UN-Water for support in producing the report, possibly through a request to fact-check the contents.

Decision 7: The SPM take note of the progress of the Global High-Level Panel on Water and Peace and appoint the UN-Water Vice-Chair to represent UN-Water at the 4th Panel meeting taking place in Jordan in early May 2017.

2.3) Update on the “International Decade for Action – Water for Sustainable Development” 2018 – 2028 Resolution

The Secretary outlined the Water for Sustainable Development Resolution, which was introduced by Tajikistan and adopted by the UN General Assembly in December 2016. The resolution contains two mandates of concern to UN-Water. First, paragraph 8 of the resolution invites the Secretary-General “with the support of UN-Water, to take appropriate steps, within existing resources to plan and organize the activities of the Decade...”. Second, paragraph 11 requests the Secretary-General “with the support of UN-Water...to facilitate the implementation of the Decade...”. Moreover, paragraph 12 requests the President of the General Assembly to convene a working level dialogue to discuss improving the integration and coordination of the UN's work on water-related goals and targets. The Secretary introduced Mr Lukmon Isomatov, Acting Head of the Department for Economic Cooperation of the Tajik Ministry of Foreign Affairs, to discuss the Resolution. Mr Isomatov stated this was the first time that Tajikistan participated in a UN-Water Meeting and that his country was looking forward to close cooperation in the future. The Water Decade will start on World Water Day 2018 and he described the intent of the Decade to help with the implementation of the global goals and targets on water as well as to encourage more close cooperation between Member States and UN-Water.

On the Decade, the Chair said it is extremely important for UN-Water to organise itself to be able to respond to the important responsibilities attributed to it. The SPM discussed the lessons learned from UN-Water's involvement in the 2005 – 2015 Water for Life Decade which was supported by two UN-Water Programmes. One of the most important lessons was that the nature of the mechanism made it difficult to oversee these Programmes. The fact that the resolution does not call for a Decade secretariat and stresses that the support should be administered through existing resources was raised. One participant asked if UN-Water had been contacted by the Executive Office of the Secretary-General. Responding, the Secretary explained that given the transition to the new Secretary-General, there had not been communication.

On the working-level dialogues participants discussed the request of the President of the General Assembly's office for elements to inform the dialogue concept note. At this point, the Secretary noted that the structure and panellists were still unknown. Several stressed that UN-Water should be in a position to inform about the UN's capacity to respond to SDG 6.

Decision 8: In support of the "International Decade for Action – Water for Sustainable Development" the SPM establish the Task Force on the Decade to facilitate UN-Water's support to plan and organize between now and the start of the Decade on World Water Day 2018. The Task Force will be co-coordinated by the UN-Water Secretary and Reza Ardakanian of UNU. The SPM reiterate decision 11 taken at the 22nd UN-Water Meeting that "UN-Water will no longer have separate Programme offices or structures governed by UN-Water" and agree in response to the mandate articulated in resolution A/RES/71/222 (paragraphs 8 and 11) that support to the International Decade for Action – Water for Sustainable Development should rely on existing structures.

2.4) Report on the third United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development

Mr Andre Dzikus (UN-Habitat) described the main outcomes of the Habitat III conference in Quito, Ecuador. The conference resulted in the New Urban Agenda (NUA), which rethinks the way cities should develop their water management structures. Recognizing that cities are a driver for sustainable development, the NUA takes up the water cycle, marine pollution resulting from point and non-point sources, integrated water resources management, public sanitation and suggests a water services fund. Mr Dzikus described ongoing work on NUA guidelines for monitoring along with a Secretary-General-convened meeting on how to carry the NUA forward.

2.5) Report on UN-Water participation in the 22nd Conference to the Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change

Mr Claudio Caponi (WMO) shared the outcome of the UNFCCC Conference of the Parties (COP) 22 UN-Water side event "Hydro-climate services for all" held on 9 November 2016 and organized by UNECE, UNESCWA, UNESCO and WMO on behalf of UN-Water with the support of all members of the Water and Climate Change Expert Group. He said it was a successful COP side event although noting that, given the amount of work required, it isn't clear whether such events ought to be organised every year. Instead, the Expert Group on Water and Climate Change could follow up on the COP 22 request for action on the ground by developing a project proposal among interested UN-Water Members and Partners to mobilize resources for improving hydro-climate services in a pilot region. Mr Thomas Stratenwerth of the German Ministry of the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety (BMUB) noted that there is already a request to have a water day at the next COP to be held in Germany but it is not certain that space will be available. Ms Sonja Koeppel (UNECE) said that, having been involved in preparing COP water side events as well as COP Water Days, she believes that the latter were more effective in mainstreaming water into the climate agenda and therefore should be UN-Water's focus going forward.

2.6) Report on the Budapest Water Summit 2016

The Vice-Chair reported back on his participation in the Budapest Water Summit held on 28 – 30 November 2016 where water was promoted as a source of cooperation, peace and development. He

represented UN-Water during the high-level panel discussion “Do we have water solutions for improved public health and hygiene?” and during the launch of the UN-Water Analytical Brief “Towards a Worldwide Assessment of Freshwater Quality”. Mr Balazs Heincz of the Hungarian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade said that, just as the Budapest Water Summit 2013 helped lay the groundwork for the water and sanitation SDG, the 2016 Summit was a chance to advance water and sanitation in the 2030 Agenda.

2.7) Report on the 15th session of the WMO Commission for Hydrology

Reporting on the 15th Session of the WMO Commission for Hydrology (Rome, 7 – 13 December 2016), Mr Johannes Cullmann (WMO) focused on the implementation of the WMO HydroHub to support the data-acquisition-to-knowledge-sharing value chain and on the establishment of a Global Hydrological Status and Outlook project, two initiatives which will assist member countries in SDG monitoring.

On a different but related topic, Mr Johan Gély (SDC), noting that the World Water Council had just circulated its monitoring report, said that if there is a new monitoring report for each water-related conference too much complexity is created. Suggesting that a rational logic among events and monitoring is critical, he urged the water community to strive for coherence leading up to the 2018 High-Level Political Forum. In terms of coherence, the water community lags behind health.

2.8) Report on the Global Forum for Food and Agriculture

Mr Marlos De Souza (FAO) said that the agricultural community is becoming increasingly open to discussing water use, with those promoting wastewater use for crops taking the lead. At the Global Forum for Food and Agriculture (Berlin, 21 January 2017), 83 agricultural ministers signed a communiqué committing to enhance water access, improve water management and to better adapt agriculture to the hydrological cycle. There is a real opening at this point and ways to use this communiqué to advance coherence should be explored.

2.9) WASH4Work update

Mr Jason Morrison (UN Global Compact) updated participants on the WASH4Work initiative that develops tools to mobilize business and government to create policies and regulatory frameworks to support business action on WASH. The initiative is undertaking an assessment on how water, sanitation and health impact countries and how companies might infringe on the human right to water and sanitation. The initiative is working on its own governance structures as well as with business pioneers to develop, apply, document and disseminate approaches and results.

Item 3 Update on the status of implementation of the 2030 Agenda

With a focus on the High-Level Political Forum (HLPF), the Secretary said that among Member States and stakeholders the focus is on implementation, with the HLPF assigned a central role with respect to follow-up and review of the Agenda at the global level. SDG-related integration, national monitoring and reporting, and partnerships and finance are expected to take shape this year as national governments continue to bring to life to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The countries that have signed on for Voluntary National Reviews in 2017 can draw on the valuable experience and lessons learned by the countries that conducted reviews for the 2016 HLPF. For the first time this year, the HLPF will conduct in-depth reviews of a set of SDGs (1, 2, 3, 5, 9, 14 and 17). UN-Water can learn from this year’s process in order to prepare for the 2018 HLPF when SDG 6 will be reviewed.

Item 4 Monitoring and reporting of water and sanitation in the Sustainable Development Goals

4.1) Update on the SDG indicators process

The Vice-Chair provided an update on the SDG indicators process and the work of the Task Force on the 2030 Agenda. He drew attention to the deadlines set by the UN Statistics Division (UNSD) for providing data and story lines for the 2017 SDG Reports. While the custodian agencies are responsible for providing data and indicator story lines by the 28 February 2017 deadline, the Task

Force would submit the integrated story line along with the consolidated data. In terms of tier classifications, the Inter-Agency Expert Group on SDG Indicators (IAEG-SDGs) has a three-tier system and originally there was concern that too many SDG 6 were classified as tier 3, meaning these indicators would not be reflected in the official SDG reports. However, this is a fluid process and being tier 3 means an indicator has time to fine-tune its methodology. There has been some communication between the Task Force and UNSD regarding indicator custodians, he said. On communication with countries on the new indicators, several country representatives said that they were receiving uncoordinated letters from different custodians making it difficult for them to provide coherent data – UN-Water could play a role to avoid this problem. A question was raised about the possible addition of indicator 6.4.3 on number of people affected by water scarcity – this will be taken up by the IAEG-SDGs next year.

Decision 9: The SPM extend the mandate of the Task Force on the 2030 Agenda until the 27th UN-Water Meeting in order to provide coordinated input to the work of the Inter-Agency Expert Group on SDG Indicators and to the SDG Progress Reports. The SPM further request the Task Force to prepare a concept note on its possible transformation to an Expert Group for consideration at the 27th UN-Water Meeting.

4.2) Update on integrated monitoring and reporting of water and sanitation related SDG targets and indicators (GEMI)

The UN-Water Global Monitoring Officer Mr William Reidhead updated the meeting on the activities of the Integrated Monitoring Initiative (GEMI) between September 2016 and January 2017. Actions included completed pilot processes in five countries; global workshop held in Delft (September 2016); expert review of methodologies; invitation letters for the first phase of the global rollout sent to 65 countries; data repository working group launched; inception webinars developed and under transition. He also described the data baseline support provided to countries that included on-line tutorials, regional exchange through workshops and communities of practice as well as country support, which in some cases includes direct support. GEMI is encouraging countries to look holistically at SDG 6, which takes time. In the interim, he said, he hopes that countries will not receive too many uncoordinated requests for data. Regarding universal coverage, the challenge of having countries report against all population segments – for example, refugee populations – was raised. The work on a consolidated data portal was welcomed by Mr Thomas Stratenwerth of Germany, who asked about the relation with the UNESCO WINS platform. The need to reflect gender-disaggregated data in the baseline process was stressed. At the national level, the fact that some countries have their own types of targets and data collection that may be different from the GEMI approach was discussed. For example, some countries might not want to work on a particular indicator given that it doesn't fit into their national development strategies. Participants discussed how some indicators and targets are more global in nature while others are national, which raises challenges in terms of synthesized reporting.

Decision 10: The SPM reaffirm their commitment to jointly producing and updating a common data portal for SDG 6, which is branded and communicated under the UN-Water visual identifier. The portal will provide acknowledgment and links to the relevant custodian agencies' data repositories.

4.3) Update from the WHO/UNICEF Joint Monitoring Programme on Water Supply and Sanitation (JMP)

Ms Cecilia Scharp (UNICEF) said that JMP is doing normative work focusing on standards and methods for collection and how they can be refined within the ladder approach and given the new indicators resulting from the 2030 Agenda. Two reports on safely managed drinking water and safely managed sanitation are being prepared that will consider what the more ambitious universal access targets mean. In terms of country engagement, she explained how JMP is working with countries as their baselines are changing. Many countries, for example, had almost reached the MDG water and sanitation targets, but are now looking at their baselines dropping significantly.

4.4) Update from the UN-Water Global Analysis and Assessment of Sanitation and Drinking Water (GLAAS)

Mr Bruce Gordon (WHO) said the 2017 GLAAS report will be completed mid-March – it is focused on finance and changing donor priorities and the need for countries to push for innovative financing. Regarding taxes and transfers, the report should include data from 60 recipient countries and 20 donors. The GLAAS analysis will be presented at the Sanitation and Water for All (SWA) meetings in April in the context of the SWA collaborative behaviours. This GLAAS report will not just look at aid flows for WASH, but will also include integrated water resources management and in this regard GLAAS are working with OECD and UNEP.

4.5) Update on the 2018 UN-Water Synthesis Report on water and sanitation

Speaking on behalf of the Task Force on the SDG 6 Synthesis Report 2018, Mr Stefan Uhlenbrook (UNESCO) provided an update on the UN-Water Synthesis Report that will be published as an input to the 2018 High-Level Political Forum. The annotated table of contents, the work plan and budget are all completed. Part one will focus on “where we are”. Part two will analyse the linkages with the 2030 Agenda. Part three will consider the way forward. Mr Uhlenbrook outlined the timeline and deliverables and suggested that the report be a category 1 UN-Water publication.

Decision 11: The SPM agree that, in light of the relevant decision taken at the 25th UN-Water Meeting, the TF on Water and Sanitation Reporting in the 2030 Agenda will be renamed TF on the SDG 6 Synthesis Report 2018.

The SPM acknowledge the Synthesis Report Project Document and actions proposed therein by the TF regarding the production of the Synthesis Report.

The SPM note with appreciation the success of the fundraising campaign for the Synthesis Report led by UNESCO (WWAP), and gratefully thank the supporting partners for their contributions. The SPM endorse the budget and Annotated Table of Content for the production of the Synthesis Report.

As per the UN-Water Operational Guidelines, the SPM agree with the recommendation of the TF that the Synthesis Report will be a category 1 UN-Water publication, therefore featuring the UN-Water visual identifier on the front cover and the identifiers of the Agencies that significantly contributed to the Synthesis Report on the inside front cover of the Report.

4.6) Publications plan for 2017 – 2018

The UN-Water Communications Manager Ms Daniella Boström-Couffe outlined the set of planned publications with the additions of the UN-Water Policy Briefs on Water and Climate Change and on the Water Conventions as well as the Analytical Brief on Water Efficiency. Given the Synthesis Report’s importance, she suggested that UN-Water Members and Partners agree not to produce competing publications in the lead-up to the 2018 HLPF. A wide-ranging discussion ensued with questions raised as to the definition of “competing publications” along with Members noting that they had their own institutional mandates to respond to and might not be in a position to agree to a UN-Water publishing schedule. Summarizing the discussion, the Chair said the Synthesis Report and the agreement of UN-Water to coordinate in advance of its release went close to the purpose of UN-Water and the meaning of coordination – the intent is that the Report has the maximum impact and that nothing detract from that impact.

Decision 12: The SPM decide to join forces to maximize the impact of the SDG 6 Synthesis Report prior to the 2018 High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) and therefore refrain from publishing other reports at the SDG 6 goal level targeting the 2018 High-Level Political Forum. At the 27th UN-Water Meeting the SPM will consider the publication and communication plan leading up to the HPLF 2018.

Item 5 Planning of World Water Days, World Water Development Reports and World Toilet Days

5.1) Report on the 2016 World Toilet Day on Water and Jobs

Speaking on behalf of the UN-Water Task Force on the 2016 World Toilet Day, Ms Boström-Couffe outlined activities that included disseminating printed and translated material to 12 UN information centres along with increased social media engagement, an analysis of which showed that the impact of the campaign is growing. She also described involvement in strategic events including a major Global Citizens led event in Mumbai, India, along with UN events in Geneva and New York. Members welcomed the excellent materials produced for World Toilet Day advocacy.

5.2) Update on planning for 2017 World Water Day on Wastewater and the 2017 World Water Development Report

Speaking on behalf of the UN-Water Task Force on the 2017 World Water Day, Ms Boström-Couffe said that the TAU was asked at the last UN-Water Meeting to prepare a concept note “on the main UN-Water World Water Day celebration and associated launch of the World Water Development Report”. She outlined the contents of the requested note, which considers how to maximize impact of the World Water Development Report while inspiring and engaging action. For 2017, the pivot event will be held in Durban, South Africa with thematic sessions on wastewater. The Vice-Chair will attend and President Zuma is expected to join.

Decision 13: The SPM approve the work plan, budget and timeline for the 2017 World Water Day campaign, including the concept note on the UN-Water pivot celebration of World Water Day and associated launch of the 2017 World Water Development Report.

The SPM encourage all UN-Water Members and Partners to promote wider dissemination of the World Water Development Report through their websites and their field network including regional launches.

The SPM extend the mandate of the Task Force on World Water Day 2017 to include the planning and implementation of World Toilet Day 2017 in light of the common theme on wastewater. The Task Force is coordinated by UNEP, UN-Habitat, UNU and WHO, with FAO, ILO, UNDP, UNESCO and UNICEF as members.

5.3) Update on the 2018 World Water Development Report on Nature-Based Solutions and on the campaign name of World Water Day 2018

Noting that production of the 2018 World Water Development Report is underway, Mr Stefan Uhlenbrook said that the World Water Assessment Programme (WWAP) of UNESCO is requesting a revision of the production process meaning that the SPM reviews the report two times. WWAP is also aiming for a more concise report, moving from 17 to 7 chapters. On the title, ‘Nature for Water’, he acknowledged that some people did not like it, however given the amount of time debating it, he asked for the SPM’s endorsement. Questions were raised as to how WWAP would manage 2018 when both the World Water Development Report and the Synthesis Report are to be delivered.

Decision 14: The SPM acknowledge the report by UNESCO that summarizes the changes in the World Water Development Report (WWDR) production process as well as the actions and timelines proposed therein.

Lead Agencies for different WWDR 2018 chapters are requested to closely follow the structure, issues and timelines identified in the comprehensive Annotated Table of Content.

The SPM endorse the chosen title of the World Water Day 2018 campaign ‘Nature for Water’.

5.4) Decision on the 2019 and 2020 World Water Day themes including the presentation of poll results

Ms Boström-Couffe recalled that at the 25th UN-Water Meeting, Members and Partners broke into groups and came up with 12 themes, which were then circulated for Members and Partners to vote on.

Thirty-four Members and Partners responded and the results were presented in the background brief. In looking at the results, she said, it is important to consider relevant events with which the World Water Day themes could effectively align. Participants discussed the pros and cons of the top results of the poll which included “Water and Climate Change”, “Water and Displacement”, and “Water Governance”.

Decision 15: The UN-Water Members and Partners decide on “Leaving No One Behind” (with a focus on displaced persons and human rights) as the theme for 2019 World Water Day and “Water and Climate Change” as the theme for 2020 World Water Day.

Item 6 Future events for UN-Water’s possible engagement

6.1) Sanitation and Water for All High-Level Meetings, 20 – 21 April 2017, Washington DC, United States

Ms Amanda Marlin (SWA) described the preparations for the SWA High-Level Meetings that will take place in Washington DC at the time of the World Bank Group’s Spring Meetings in April. First, they are supporting the country level process so that Ministers can be better prepared – this support is happening through webinars, bilateral exchanges and meetings. The UN-Water Chair will be invited to the Finance Ministers Meeting for which there is a restrictive invitation list given the size of the room.

6.2 UN Conference to Support the Implementation of SDG 14 (Oceans), 5 – 9 June 2017, New York

The Secretary outlined the major outputs expected from the Ocean Conference which include a Call to Action, Partnership Dialogues and Voluntary Commitments. Ms Marianne Kjellen (UNDP) made the link between oceans and the World Water Day theme of wastewater, and suggested that a UN-Water side event could draw on the Action Platform on Source-to-Sea Management.

Decision 16: The SPM decide to prepare and submit a side-event proposal to the High-level UN Conference to support the implementation of SDG 14 and to seek out collaboration with UN-Oceans and the Action Platform on Source-to-Sea Management in the organization of an event focusing on the links between SDGs 6 and 14. The SPM mandate UNDP to coordinate UN-Water’s engagement in this event.

6.3 UNCCD Conference of the Parties (COP 13), 4 – 15 September 2017, Ordos, China

Mr Daniel Tsegai (UNCCD) provided background on the UNCCD COP which will include a High-level round table for droughts. At UNCCD COP13, the Parties will consider the Strategic Framework that will guide action under the Convention from 2018 – 2030. He asked that UN-Water be present and also contribute to making the event a success.

Decision 17: The SPM decide that UN-Water will be present at the High-level round table for droughts due to be held in the framework of the 13th session of the UNCCD Conference of Parties (4-15 September 2017). The SPM mandate UNCCD to coordinate UN-Water’s engagement in this event.

Item 7 Decision on date and venue of next UN-Water Meeting and closing remarks to Partners

Decision 18: The 27th UN-Water Meeting will take place on 25-26 August 2017 in Stockholm, Sweden.