

Working Group on the Sustainable Goals (SDGs)

1 September 2019 Meeting

Room Barcelona 4, Hotel Riu, Panama City, Panama

Meeting Notes

1. The meeting started with an overview of the sequence of events that led to the formation of the Working Group (WG) on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and a review of recent activities, which included:
 - Participation in the 30th and 31st meetings of the UN Water program (in Rome and Stockholm respectively)
 - IAHR's contribution to the 2020 World Water Development Report (WWDR) on "Water and Climate Change". Contributions were provided by the IAHR Working Group on Climate Change and the Technical Committees on Water Resources Management, Coastal and Maritime Hydraulics, and Flood Risk Management
 - Contribution to the UN-Water Policy Brief on Climate Change and Water
2. The group discussed how IAHR can contribute to the 2021 World Water Development Report (WWDR) whose theme will be "Valuing Water". UN Water is organizing a workshop on September 18-19 in Perugia, Italy to discuss the contents and structure of this report. IAHR will be represented by Roberto Ranzi, Francesco Baillo and Shu-Qing Yang.

Topics proposed for this report include:

 - Water use efficiency
 - The cultural value of water
 - The economic value of water
 - Transboundary issues related to the value of water
 - The effect of climate change on the value of water
3. The importance of engaging members from Africa in IAHR's support to the SDGs. Angelos Findikakis discussed IAHR's efforts to revitalize its Africa Division, which now exists only on paper. He explained that Arthur Mynett, former IAHR Vice President is leading this effort which so far has not been successful. In 2017 during the IAHR Council in Delft, Eyasu, an IHE graduate from Ethiopia made a presentation to the Council about organizing an IAHR-sponsored regional conference as the first step towards revitalizing the Africa Division. Unfortunately, this presentation was not followed by an action.

There was a discussion on how important it is to identify key individuals in different African countries who would lead the effort to establish IAHR's presence in the continent. Assad Shamseldin said that he is acquainted with someone in Sudan who was in UNESCO and now has retired and who could help with his many African connections.
4. In the search for a Vice Chair of the WG, Assad Shamseldin indicated his interest in serving in that role and the group agreed.
5. All those present in the meeting agreed to be considered members of the WG on the SDGs. Membership in the WG is open to all those interested in the SDGs.

List of Attendance

Name	Organization	Country	email address
Rita CARVALHO	U. of Coimbra	Portugal	ritalmfc@dec.uc.pt
Angelos FINDIKAKIS	Bechtel Corporation	USA	anfindik@bechtel.com
Mario FRANCA	IHE Delft	Netherlands	m.franca@un-ihe.org
Carlos GALVAO	U. Federal de Campina Grande	Brazil	carlos.galvao@ufcg.edu.br
Elpida KOLOKYTHA	Aristotle U. of Thessaloniki	Greece	elpicol@auth.gr
Yannis MYLOPOULOS	Aristotle U. of Thessaloniki	Greece	mylop@auth.gr
Roberto RANZI	U. of Brescia	Italy	robertoranzi@unibs.it
Nils RUTHER	Norwegian U. of Science and Technology	Norway	nils.ruther@ntnu.no
Satoru OISHI	Kobe U.	Japan	tetsu@phoenix.kobe-u.ac.jp
Stefano PAGLIARA	U. of Pisa	Italy	s.pagliara@ing.unipi.it
Assad SHAMSELDIN	U. of Auckland	New Zealand	a.shamseldin@auckland.ac.nz
Gensheng ZHAO	Nanjing Hydraulic Research Institute	China	gszhao@nhri.cn