

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization



UNESCO is the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization. It seeks to build peace through international cooperation in Education, the Sciences and Culture.

UNESCO has a unique role to play in strengthening the foundations of lasting peace and equitable and sustainable development. Advancing cooperation in education, the sciences, culture, communication and information holds strategic stakes at a time when societies across the world face the rising pressures of change and the international community faces new challenges.

WHAT IS UNESCO

UNESCO AND HUMAN RIGHTS

UNESCO was the first UN agency to place the 1948 Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) at the core of its action. Article 1 of UNESCO's constitution establishes that: "the purpose of the Organization is to contribute to peace and security by promoting collaboration among the nations through education, science and culture in order to further universal respect for justice, for the rule of law and for the human rights and fundamental freedoms which are affirmed for the peoples of the world, without distinction of race, sex, language or religion, by the Charter of the United Nations."

UNESCO develops educational tools to help people live as global citizens free of hate and intolerance. UNESCO works so that each child and citizen has access to quality education. By promoting cultural heritage and the equal dignity of all cultures, UNESCO strengthens bonds among nations. UNESCO fosters scientific programmes and policies as platforms for development and cooperation. UNESCO stands up for freedom of expression, as a fundamental right and a key condition for democracy and development. Serving as a laboratory of ideas, UNESCO helps countries adopt international standards and manages programmes that foster the free flow of ideas and knowledge sharing.

WHAT IS UNESCO IHP?



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Intergovernmental
Hydrological
Programme

The Intergovernmental Hydrological Programme (IHP) is the only intergovernmental programme of the United Nations system devoted to water research and management, and related education and capacity development. The IHP started out in 1975 as an internationally coordinated hydrological research programme. Since then, it has evolved to facilitate an interdisciplinary and integrated approach to watershed and aquifer management, incorporating the social dimension of water, and supports international cooperation in

hydrological and freshwater sciences and at the interface with policy-makers, and reinforces institutional and individual capacities. The main objective of IHP's current, eighth phase (IHP-VIII 2014-2021) is to put science into action required for water security.

WHAT IS UNESCO WWAP?

UNESCO established the World Water Assessment Programme (WWAP) in 2000 in response to a call from the UN Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD) to produce a UN system-wide periodic global overview of the status in terms of quantity and quality, use and management of freshwater resources. WWAP coordinates the work of UN-Water 31 members and 39 partners in the UN World Water Development Report (WWDR), the flagship report on freshwater providing an authoritative picture of the state, use and management of the world's freshwater resources. The report gives insight into the main trends concerning the state, use and management of freshwater and sanitation, based on work by members and partners of UN-Water.



UNESCO AND SDG 6



UNESCO along with UNECE are co-custodian agencies for the indicator 6.5.2 on transboundary water cooperation. UNESCO-IHP contributes directly and/or indirectly to SDG 6 and its targets by delivering education and training, providing data and information, developing and testing tools and methodologies.

UNESCO-WWAP coordinated the production of the 'SDG 6 Synthesis Report 2018 on Water and Sanitation' was produced by a UN-Water Task Force to present the overview of SDG 6 progress at the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF) in 2018. The UN SDG 6 Synthesis Report 2018 provides an overview of the status of implementation at the global and regional levels, outlining ways to accelerate progress towards this goal, as well as some comprehensive information about how SDG 6 is interlinked to other SDG targets and indicators.



THE WAY FORWARD

Without a doubt, freshwater and its management (including aquifer management) constitute a backbone of the aquatic ecosystem. I believe that a sustainable aquatic ecosystem is a prerequisite to the universal access to safe drinking water and sanitation. In this regard, it is my pleasure contribute and work with UNESCO-WWAP on the UN Water Global Report for 2022 on groundwater and I look forward to future collaboration with other parts of UNESCO.



Pedro Arrojo-Agudo,
UN Special Rapporteur on the human rights to safe drinking water and sanitation

*The Special Rapporteur held a meeting with UNESCO representatives on 12 February 2021

**PARTNERING WITH ORGANIZATIONS
WORKING ON THE HUMAN RIGHTS TO
SAFE DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION**

**Who's who
in WAS+?**