

Resolution XXIV-7

UNESCO IHP IN SUPPORT OF DEVELOPING THE GLOBAL NETWORK OF WATER MUSEUMS (WAMUNET)

The Intergovernmental Council of the Intergovernmental Hydrological Programme of UNESCO,

- Recalling** that WAMUNET was established in 2017 and officially endorsed by the UNESCO IHP Council Resolution n.XXIII-5 in 2018; UNESCO's Recommendation concerning the Protection and Promotion of Museums and Collections, their Diversity and their Role in Society (2015) which promotes the use of museums for the benefit of society; the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and in particular SDG 6 which promotes sustainable water management; the IHP-VIII Strategic Programme which promotes international cooperation in favour of water security; and the Independent External Evaluation (185 EX/18 Add.), which promotes synergies between the different sectors of UNESCO to strengthen its impact,
- Recognizing** that water museums worldwide are unique repositories of different water civilizations and of humanity's multifaceted water heritage, both tangible and intangible, as well as important promoters for water awareness education and science, linking ancient knowledge to contemporary agendas that can help develop sustainable solutions to the global water crisis, and thereby also contribute to sustainable management models that support the emergence of a 'new water culture',
- Acknowledging** the success and growth of WAMUNET since its establishment in 2017, that functions on financial contributions from its members, that is coordinated by a Secretariat located in Italy, that has already organized two international conferences in Italy in 2017 and in the Netherlands in 2018, as well as a global digital art youth exhibition 'The Water We Want' in 2019,
- Cognizant** of the regional initiatives to make WAMUNET a truly global initiative and recognizing the regional efforts to promote the network, including by the UNESCO Chair of Water and Culture for Latin America and the Caribbean (PHI-LAC) in Montevideo, Uruguay,
- Bearing in mind** that Covid-19 has placed museums and cultural centers under threat and duress and the International Council of Museums has called upon policy and decision-makers to urgently allocate relief funds and salvage museums and their professionals,
- Commends** the generous efforts by both the IHP Secretariat and WAMUNET to support the dissemination of water-related knowledge to worldwide audiences, thereby contributing to the preservation of water heritage and the effectiveness of water related education and science;
- Invites** the IHP Secretariat to send out a call to Member States for new water museums to join WAMUNET by directly requesting the IHP Secretariat to liaise with the WAMUNET Secretariat and oversee their admission to the network;
- Requests** the IHP Secretariat to compile an inventory of the different water museums across the world, and encourages Member States and IHP National Committees to support the Secretariat in this effort by communicating to the IHP Secretariat information on their existing water museums;
- Invites** Member States to enable UNESCO IHP's support of the WAMUNET by supporting the IHP Secretariat financially with additional funding for instance through extrabudgetary contributions, secondment of staff or contributions to the Special Account.