

Resolution XTR-IV-3

ON THE PREPARATION FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE “UNESCO ECOMED¹ Academy Network”

Adopted as amended

The Intergovernmental Council of the Intergovernmental Hydrological Programme (IHP) of UNESCO

- Noting** that the MENA² (Middle-East and North Africa) region and Africa are facing, as many other regions, the consequences of climate change, water stress and sustainability of the ecosystem of the Mediterranean coast,
- Further noting** that these phenomena along with the massive population displacements cause Governments at all levels in this region to face an increasing scarcity of water resources, lack of sufficient treatment infrastructure for wastewater discharged into the sea as well as adequate urban drainage systems,
- Recalling** the UN General Assembly resolution declaring access to clean water and sanitation a human right in July 2010 (“Resolution 64/292 - The human right to water and sanitation”, adopted by the General Assembly on 28 July 2010) and the COP21 ‘Paris Agreement’ in December 2015, calling for a Mediterranean Dialogue on climate change adaptation strategies facing severe impacts on fast depleting water resources, environmental hazards and growing public health risks,
- Further recalling** The Union for the Mediterranean (UfM) strategy recommendations for the implementation of prioritized programs for establishing minimum quality requirements for wastewater treatment effluents and securing adequate treatment of wastewaters and the provisions of the Barcelona Convention (The Convention for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea Against Pollution, adopted on 16 February 1976) whereby all agglomerations have to ensure treatment of their urban wastewaters before discharging to the environment,
- Considering** that the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development includes a dedicated goal on water and sanitation (SDG 6) that aims to “ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all” and that UNESCO has been designated to co-lead along with UNDESA the Capacity development Accelerator of the UN SDG 6 Global Acceleration Framework and that UNESCO is the only UN Organization with Intergovernmental bodies on water and ocean sciences,
- Also considering** the objectives of the IHP-IX and its five priority areas as they were approved by the IHP Council at its 24th session, as well as the relevant C/4 and C/5 and its water related output,

¹ Environmental Coastal co-Operation for Metropolitan Eco-sustainable Development

² For the purposes of ECOMED, the MENA region’s countries initially identified as members of the task force are Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Palestine, Syrian Arab Republic, Tunisia

Recognising	the need for a regional platform to facilitate knowledge exchange by sharing best practices and inspire research projects on innovative solutions in the countries concerned as well as education, societal awareness and professional training programs of future managers and engineers of urban services facing the climatic challenges of sustainable development of the region,
Welcomes	The proposal submitted by the Lebanese IHP National Committee to initiate the “ECOMED (Environmental Coastal Cooperation for Metropolitan Eco-sustainable Development)” Academy, with a secretariat based at W-SMART, an official UNESCO partner NGO, with the aim to: a) provide capacity building through its Network Members; b) support coastal ecosystem monitoring and c) share knowledge to support local research, education, and professional development programs of the countries concerned facing the ever-growing climate impacts;
Requests	the IHP Secretariat to: facilitate establishing a Task Force to explore the feasibility of the ECOMED Academy, including possible cooperation with UfM, UNEP MED POL and the Mediterranean Action Plan and other UN agencies, especially UN ESCWA, in view of developing an implementation plan of the network,
Further requests	The Task Force to report back on its findings to the 62 nd IHP Bureau session;
Encourages	Member States to actively participate in this initiative.