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Организация
Объединенных Наций по
вопросам образования,
науки и культуры

منظمة الأمم المتحدة
للتربية والعلم والثقافة

联合国教育、
科学及文化组织

The Assistant Director-General for Natural Sciences

To the Observers of the Council of the
Intergovernmental Hydrological Programme
(IHP)

5 August 2020

Ref: SC/HYD/20/53

Dear IHP Council Observers, Dear esteemed Colleagues,

I trust that you and your families are keeping safe during these challenging times.

I regret very much that it was not possible to welcome you all personally to UNESCO earlier on this year for the 24th IHP Council session which was postponed due to the pandemic.

COVID-19 has shown us the importance of access to safe drinking water and sanitation in controlling the spread of the pandemic and the urgency to accelerate the implementation of SDG6 so that no one is left behind.

The UNESCO Intergovernmental Hydrological Programme (IHP) has a key role to play in improving the knowledge base and re-enforcing capacities of Member States for sustainable management of water resources towards a water secure world. Water is 'the connector for all the SDGs' and access to water will be crucial in building back better after the pandemic.

It is in this spirit, that I have the pleasure to invite you to an Informal meeting for the Members and Observers of the IHP Council on **7-8 September 2020**.

Noting the sanitary restrictions on travel, the meeting will be held online, from 13:00 to 15:00 Paris time, in order to accommodate different time zones.

The objective of the meeting will be to discuss and consult with the Members of the IHP Council and the other participants the points below:

- IHP Governance and how to improve communication and processes, especially in the absence of physical meetings;
- Overview of the proposed revision of the Rules of Procedure (RoP) of the IHP Council;
- The ongoing preparations of the 24th session of the IHP Council and key issues that IHP Council Members may wish to propose for the Council session's agenda;
- Update from the IHP Secretariat on the drafting and preparation of the IHP-IX strategy;
- Explore possible dates for the 24th IHP Council meeting.

I would greatly appreciate if you could please confirm your participation by email to Mr Abou Amani (a.amani@unesco.org) and Mr Alexander Otte (a.otte@unesco.org), by 28 August 2020. The IHP Secretariat will inform you in due course about the technical modalities of your participation.

I am looking forward to welcoming you to this informal meeting.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Shamila Nair-Bedouelle .". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'S' and a period at the end.

Shamila Nair-Bedouelle