





## Background

In June 2000, in recognition of the importance of transboundary aquifer systems as a source of freshwater in certain regions of the world, particularly those located in arid and semi-arid zones, the 14th Session of the Intergovernmental Council of UNESCO's International Hydrological Programme (IHP) adopted Resolution N° XIV-12. By this Resolution, the Council decided to launch an initiative, entitled the Internationally Shared Aquifer Resources Management programme (ISARM), to promote studies into transboundary aquifers. Close cooperation at regional and international institutions. The first phase of the programme was dedicated to compiling global inventory of transboundary aquifers.

Since December 2008, the UN General Assembly (UNGA) adopted the Resolution (A/RES/63/124)<sup>1</sup> on the 'Law of Transboundary Aquifers'. Every three years, the UNGA debated on the topic of transboundary aquifers until November 2019 when last resolution adopted by the assembly (A/C.6/74/L.11)<sup>2</sup>, 2023 to consider studying management.

ISARM was established by the International Hydrological Programme (IHP) of UNESCO, substantial efforts have been made to identify transboundary aquifers or aquifer systems (TBAs) in world regions, and to raise awareness of their societal and environmental importance.

UNESCO organized 1st ISARM in 2010 under the theme of 'Transboundary Aquifers Management'. As a follow up in 2015, UNESCO & its C2C IGRAC published the map of transboundary aquifers. The 2021 conference wish to evaluate the progress made in the last 10 years by the international communities and countries looking at new challenges and debating about lessons learnt, and to meet the expectations of groundwater resources users in terms of water security.

The debates taking place during the conference are expected to guide stakeholders in the management of 'invisible' but essential groundwater resources and to meet the expectations of groundwater resources users in terms of water security. This event consider the challenges and i Ske Xad SdV required for the sustainable management S' V Wf of transboundary aquifers.

*More information on ISARM Programme:* <https://en.unesco.org/events/isarm2021>

Text of UNGA Resolution 2008<sup>1</sup>: <https://undocs.org/en/A/RES/63/124>

Text of UNGA Resolution 2019<sup>2</sup>: <https://undocs.org/en/A/C.6/74/L.11>

## Objectives

ISARM 2021 is devoted to relating work of groundwater and transboundary aquifers. The conference objectives are:

- Provide the opportunity to present an updated overview of the world inventory of transboundary aquifers, as the most recent UNESCO world map of transboundary aquifers was published in 2015.
- Bring together transboundary aquifer management experts to discuss concepts and approaches for sound management within various contexts, in both developed and developing countries;
- Exchange of ideas for new directions in transboundary aquifer management, as well as the drawing of recommendations for the formulation of new strategies and implementation elements such as guidelines and educational tools;
- Consider the contribution of international law principles to the sustainable management of transboundary aquifers and dependent ecosystems as well as evaluate the legal and institutional advances/issues arising from modern practices of formal/informal agreements between countries.
- Emphasize on the efforts exerted and showing the progress with monitoring the transboundary aquifers cooperation within the framework of tracking SDG 6 indicator 6.5.2 through its first and second reporting cycles.
- Support development of educational initiatives on transboundary water cooperation and develop sustainable practices and guidance tools on shared water resources management and negotiations.



## Topics

### TBA's: Challenges, Opportunities and Into a Way Forward

#### **1 The contribution of TBA to Sustainable Development in the framework of Global and Regional Agendas**

Agenda 2030 and SDGs (Including Indicator 6.5.2); Paris Agreement; Sendai Framework; Agenda 2063; SDG 6 Accelerator; Etc..

#### **2 The Science/Policy interface of TBA: the role of science in the management of TBA**

#### **3 Education, Capacity Development and Raising Awareness**

#### **4 Governance of TBA: Strengthening Cooperation**

#### **5 Assessment, Mapping and Hydro-geological technical advances**

# Conference Chairperson

**A. Amani** (Director, a.i., UNESCO Division of Water Sciences)

## Organizing Committee

### Chair of the Organizing Committee

**A. Aureli** (UNESCO-IHP)

### Co-Chairs of the Organizing Committee

**J. Ellis De Luca** (Education for Collaboration)

**R. Gift** (PCCP)

**S. Grego** (Groundwater)

**A. Makarigakis** (UNESCO-IHP)  
(UNESCO-IHP)

**S. Grego**

**G. Arduino** (UNESCO-IHP) **A. Mishra** (UNESCO-IHP)

**S. Zandaryaa** (UNESCO-IHP) **A. Otte** (UNESCO-IHP)

**M. Radwan** (UNESCO-IHP)

**A. Maduekwe** (Dakar)

**H. Thulstrup** (Jakarta)

**B. Imam** (Cairo)

**M. De Franca Doria** (Montevideo)

**K. Verbist** (Harare)

**K. Tovmasyan** (Almaty)

**M. Plea** (Addis Ababa)

**M. Biedler** (Brussels)

**J. Baker** (Venice)

**P. Pypaert** (Beijing)

**B. Boer** (Bangkok)

### Main Conference Partners: GEF IW-LEARN and IAH

The conference is a contribution to the UN Global Accelerator Framework and it is organized in coordination with UNECE as contribution to the achievement of SDG6 indicator 6.5.2

**UNECE LOGO**

With the technical and scientific contribution of the UNESCO IGRAC centre



## Technical Programme Committee

### Scientific Committees

#### Co-Chair of the Scientific Committee

**A. Rivera** (Chair of IAH, Transboundary Aquifers Commission)

#### Co-Chair of the Scientific Committee S. Puri

(Former Secretary General of IAH)



# Submission of Abstracts

Deadline: **30 December 2020**

Participants should register **Filling the form** at

**ISARM2021@unesco.org**

## Information to be provided in the registration form

Title	<input type="checkbox"/> I plan to present under topic number...
Author(s) Name	<input type="checkbox"/> I plan to attend the Conference
Affiliation	<input type="checkbox"/> I wish to submit a poster that will also be available as an electronic file (for inclusion in the Conference Proceedings)
E-mail Address	
Telephone	
Abstracts in English only (Less than 400 words)	

**No Registration Fees Will be Required to Participate in this Conference**

## Call for Participation and Submission of Abstracts

Experience shows that a multidisciplinary approach is essential to tackle the management of transboundary systems. Scientists, academics, civil servants, social scientists, development economists, managers, decision-makers and governmental officers dealing with transboundary aquifers issues, wishing to make a presentation at the Conference, are invited to participate and submit abstracts. The abstracts should be in **English only** (Less than 400 words) and include author's name, affiliation, address and keywords. It should address a subject on one of the topics of the Conference.

The Scientific Advisory Committee will select the abstracts. The selected author will be requested to prepare full-length papers. The proceedings will include keynote lectures and accepted papers and will be published online by UNESCO-IHP.

Authors of accepted contributions will be notified by end of March 2021. There is a limit of 6 pages (320 words each page) for each paper, and 3 pages for each poster, including figures, tables and references.

The participants are kindly requested to submit their abstracts by 30 December 2020 to the following E-mail Address:

[ISARM2021@unesco.org](mailto:ISARM2021@unesco.org)

## Venue

- The Conference will be held at UNESCO Headquarters in Paris (France), 6–8 December 2021
- The language of the Conference will be English and French

## Important Dates

- Submission deadline for abstracts: **30 Dec 2020**
- Letters of acceptance: **30 March 2021** Second announcement: **30 June 2021** "With full detailed programme"
- Full Papers Submission: **1 October 2021**
- Final Program: **28 October 2021**

All measures and precautions have been taken for ISARM 2021 to remain operational in the context of COVID-19 situation

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More information  
will soon be available at  
UNESCO-IHP website:  
<http://www.unesco.org/water/ihp>

### Contact information

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In Partnership with



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Educational, Scientific and  
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Hydrological  
Programme



International Groundwater Resources Assessment Centre

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AIDA and IWRA