

No. 50538

**Netherlands (for the European part of the Netherlands)
and
United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization**

Agreement between the Kingdom of the Netherlands and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, concerning the Establishment and Operation of the International Groundwater Resources Assessment Centre in the Netherlands as a category 2 Centre under the Auspices of UNESCO. Paris, 15 November 2011

Entry into force: *22 August 2012 by notification, in accordance with article 15*

Authentic text: *English*

Registration with the Secretariat of the United Nations: *Netherlands, 19 March 2013*

**Pays-Bas (pour la partie européenne des Pays-Bas)
et
Organisation des Nations Unies pour l'éducation, la science et la culture**

Accord entre le Royaume des Pays-Bas et l'Organisation des Nations Unies pour l'éducation, la science et la culture relatif à la création et au fonctionnement du Centre international d'évaluation des ressources en eaux souterraines aux Pays-Bas en tant que centre de catégorie 2 placé sous l'égide de l'UNESCO. Paris, 15 novembre 2011

Entrée en vigueur : *22 août 2012 par notification, conformément à l'article 15*

Texte authentique : *anglais*

Enregistrement auprès du Secrétariat de l'Organisation des Nations Unies : *Pays-Bas,
19 mars 2013*

[ENGLISH TEXT – TEXTE ANGLAIS]

Agreement between the Kingdom of the Netherlands and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, concerning the establishment and operation of the International Groundwater Resources Assessment Centre in the Netherlands as a category 2 centre under the auspices of UNESCO

The Kingdom of the Netherlands,
and

the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization,

Having regard to the decision of the General Conference at its 34th session to establish the International Groundwater Resources Assessment Centre (IGRAC) as a category 2 centre under UNESCO's auspices, in response to the proposal by the Government of the Netherlands;

Having regard to the decision of the Executive Board at its 186th Session whereby it approves the establishment of the centre;

Having considered the resolution XIV-11 of the UNESCO Intergovernmental Council of the International Hydrological Programme (IHP) in June 2000 that seeks to favour through the centre international cooperation on groundwater resources in support of Member States and contribute to the MDG (Millennium Development Goal) on water;

Considering that, at the Fifth UNESCO/World Meteorological Organization (WMO) International Conference on Hydrology (Geneva, 8-12 February 1999) it was recommended that consideration be given to the feasibility of setting-up a global groundwater resources assessment centre under the auspices of UNESCO and WMO;

Bearing in mind that the Netherlands National Committee for UNESCO IHP offered its support in the process leading to the establishment of the Centre;

Considering that the Netherlands has contributed and stands ready to contribute further to the establishment and operation of the Centre in its territory;

Bearing in mind that the Netherlands has already taken effective steps to provide the necessary infrastructure and facilities for the Centre;

Desirous of defining the terms and conditions governing the framework for cooperation with UNESCO that shall be granted to the International Groundwater Resources Assessment Centre in this Agreement;

Have agreed as follows:

Article 1

Definitions

1. In this Agreement, "UNESCO" refers to the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization.
2. "Government" means the Government of the Netherlands.
3. "Centre" means the International Groundwater Resources Assessment Centre (IGRAC).

Article 2

Establishment

The Government agrees to take, in the course of the years 2011-2012, any measures that may be required for the setting up in the Netherlands, as provided for under this Agreement, of the Centre, under the auspices of UNESCO.

Article 3

Purpose of the Agreement

The purpose of this Agreement is to define the terms and conditions governing cooperation between UNESCO and the Government and also the rights and obligations of the parties.

Article 4

Legal status

1. The Centre shall operate and act under Dutch law as an independent organization.

2. The Centre shall be independent of UNESCO and it shall enjoy within the territory of the Netherlands the functional autonomy necessary for the execution of its activities and the

legal capacity:

- to contract;
- to institute legal proceedings;
- to acquire and dispose of movable and immovable property.

Article 5

Constitutive Act

The constitutive act of the Centre shall include provisions describing precisely:

a) the legal status granted to the Centre, within the national legal system, the legal capacity necessary to exercise its functions and to receive funds, obtain payments for services rendered, and acquire all means necessary for its functioning;

b) a governing structure allowing UNESCO representation in the Governing Board of the Centre established under UNESCO's auspices in accordance with Article 7.

Article 6

Functions/objectives

1. The mission of the Centre is to contribute to world-wide availability of relevant information and knowledge on the groundwater resources of the world, with particular emphasis on developing countries, in order to support sustainable utilisation and management of the groundwater

resources, to promote the role of groundwater in integrated water resources planning and to elucidate the impact of groundwater on the ecosystems of the Earth.

2. Under the general objective of promoting sustainable groundwater resources utilisation and management by means of global exchange of knowledge, the Centre will pursue in particular the following specific objectives:

- a) Develop standard procedures for collection and processing of comparable basic data on the aquifer systems of the world;
- b) Compile metadata information leading to the creation of a global information system for groundwater assessment accessible by internet and a web site;
- c) Support UNESCO IHP National Committees and the activities of the United Nations World Water Assessment Programme and promote data compilation at regional and global level;
- d) Increase public awareness on groundwater resources sustainable use, including technical support in the area of media communication

3. The Centre shall pursue the above objectives and perform the above-mentioned functions in close coordination with UNESCO IHP.

Article 7

Governing Board

1. The Centre shall be guided and overseen by a Governing Board
2. The Governing Board shall:
 - a) approve the long-term and medium-term programmes of the Centre;
 - b) approve the annual work plan of the Centre, including the staffing table;
 - c) examine the annual reports submitted by the director of the Centre, including a biennial self assessment of the Centre's contribution to UNESCO's programme objectives;
 - d) adopt the rules and regulations and determine the financial, administrative and personnel management procedures for the Centre in accordance with the laws of the Netherlands;
 - e) decide on the participation of regional intergovernmental organizations and international organizations in the work of the Centre.
3. The Governing Board shall be composed of:
 - a) The representative of the Government who will be the Chairperson of the Governing Board;