

**No. 54830\***

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**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 (UNESCO) concerning the International Groundwater Resources Assessment Centre in the Netherlands as a centre under the auspices of UNESCO (category 2). Paris, 6 December 2016**

**Entry into force:** *23 August 2017 by notification, in accordance with article 15*

**Authentic text:** *English*

**Registration with the Secretariat of the United Nations:** *Netherlands, 18 December 2017*

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**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 (UNESCO) portant sur le Centre international d'évaluation des ressources en eaux souterraines dans les Pays-Bas placé sous l'égide de l'UNESCO (catégorie 2). Paris, 6 décembre 2016**

**Entrée en vigueur :** *23 août 2017 par notification, conformément à l'article 15*

**Texte authentique :** *anglais*

**Enregistrement auprès du Secrétariat de l'Organisation des Nations Unies :** *Pays-Bas,  
18 décembre 2017*

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

The Kingdom of the Netherlands,  
and

The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization,

Recalling that the General Conference of UNESCO, at its 34<sup>th</sup> session (34 C/Resolution 26) approved the establishment of the International Groundwater Resources Assessment Centre (IGRAC) as a centre under the auspices of UNESCO (category 2) and authorized the Director General to sign the corresponding agreement,

Recalling that the 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 was concluded in Paris on 15 November 2011,

Considering that the Executive Board at its 200<sup>th</sup> session decided to renew to IGRAC the category 2 status under the auspices of UNESCO and authorized the Director General to sign the corresponding agreement (200/EX/Decision 12.1),

Having regard to the Medium-Term Strategy for 2014–2021, approved by UNESCO's General Conference at its 37<sup>th</sup> session (37 C/4),

Underlining that Strategic Objective 4 of the said Strategy is "Strengthening science, technology and innovation systems and policies – nationally, regionally and globally", and that its Strategic Objective 5 is "Promoting international scientific cooperation on critical challenges to sustainable development",

Acknowledging the importance of applying the guidelines and criteria for category 2 institutes and centres adopted by the General Conference in the Integrated Comprehensive Strategy for Category 2 Institutes and Centres under the auspices of UNESCO (37 C/Resolution 93),

Desirous of defining the terms and conditions governing the framework for cooperation with UNESCO that shall be granted to IGRAC in the present 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).
4. "UNESCO-IHP" refers to UNESCO's International Hydrological Programme.

Article 2

*Operation of the Centre*

The Government agrees to take, in the course of the year 2017, any measures that may be required for the continuation of the Centre in the Netherlands as provided for under the present Agreement.

Article 3

*Purpose of the Agreement*

The purpose of this Agreement is to define the terms and conditions governing collaboration between UNESCO and the Government and also the rights and obligations stemming therefrom for the Parties.

Article 4

*Legal Status*

1. The Centre shall be independent of UNESCO, and shall operate and act under Dutch law as an independent organization.
2. The Government shall ensure that the Centre enjoys within its territory the functional autonomy necessary for the execution of its activities and the legal capacity:
  - to contract;
  - to institute legal proceedings; and,
  - 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 for the Centre allowing UNESCO representation within its Governing Board.

Article 6

*Functions/Objectives*

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. The main objectives of the Centre shall be:

1. To contribute to achieving the Strategic Objectives of UNESCO and in particular to the implementation of the UNESCO IHP programme through contribution to availability of relevant information and knowledge on groundwater resources of the world.
2. To promote sustainable groundwater resources utilisation and management by developing tools to facilitate global exchange of knowledge in accordance with UNESCO's Open Access Policy.  
The Centre will continue to pursue in particular the following specific objectives:
  - a) Facilitate and promote groundwater monitoring and assessment, particularly at regional and global level;