

Liaison with UN Activities Networks (LUNA) Activity Report

LUNA promote the development and exchange of scientific, technical and other information with organisations in the United Nations (UN) family and with other intergovernmental and non-governmental organisations relevant to the United Nations. LUNA was established and approved by the IAH Executive on 08 September 2024.

Workshop

A workshop was held at the Davos Congress to introduce LUNA to the broader IAH audience.

Participation at the Tenth session of the Meeting of the Parties (MOP) to the Water Convention, UNECE, 23 - 25 October 2024, Ljubljana, Slovenia

Karin Villholth represented IAH at the MOP with Alice Aureli. The meeting reaffirmed the fundamental role of transboundary water cooperation for peace and sustainable development. It was noted that groundwater is often used to compensate for the lack of surface water without much planning, and the IAH is willing to share its expertise. The meeting welcomed the progress made in raising awareness of the benefits of the conjunctive management of surface waters and groundwaters, including in transboundary basins, through activities under the Convention and welcomed the outcomes of the workshop held in October 2023. IAH members mostly drove the workshop agenda and content. The MOP decided to include "Promoting conjunctive management of transboundary surface waters and groundwaters" in the work programme for 2025–2027.

UN World Water Day and International Year of Glaciers Preservation

LUNA supports the coordination of IAH activities with UN World Water Day and the International Year of Glaciers Preservation. The theme of World Water Day 2025 is "Glacier Preservation". The IAH members involved include Masaki Hayashi (University of Calgary), Saumitra Mukherjee (Jawaharlal Nehru University) and Sophie Violette (ENS - PSL Université). Professor Sophie Violette represented IAH in the webinar organised by UNESCO-WMO on 21 January 2025 as part of the programme of the launch of the 2025 UN Year of Glaciers. On 21 February, IAH sent the IAH online side event programme on Glaciers and "Groundwater Interactions: Challenges in a Changing Climate" to UNESCO. The online side event will be organised on 21 March as part of the UNESCO events for the UN World Water Day on Water and Glaciers celebrations. The UNESCO Groundwater Youth Network organised a side event called "Groundwater in Glacier Regions and Youth Participation," held on 17 January 2025, and Alice Aureli participated.

Celebration of the 50th anniversary of IHP and 60 years of water sciences at UNESCO

LUNA is facilitating IAH's participation in the event planned for June 2025. It is planned that the IAH President will be invited to the event. The President will be invited to give a statement about the past and future cooperation of their association with IHP. A joint IAH/UNESCO IHP webinar in September 2025 on groundwater and transboundary aquifers/cooperation is in planning.

World Water Week, August 2026

The focus of the Stockholm Water Week is on Climate Action. We are currently discussing the role of IAH in this event. It is costly, as are the fees to participate and stay in Stockholm, so partnership arrangements are being investigated.

UN-Water 2026 Conference

The 2026 UN Water Conference will be co-hosted by Senegal and the United Arab Emirates (UAE). The conference is planned for UAE from 2-4 December 2026. The conference aims to accelerate the achievement of Sustainable Development Goal 6 and reaffirm internationally agreed water-related goals and targets. LUNA is preparing an IAH position paper to share with IAH members at the Congress in Melbourne, Australia.

Contributing to the World Water Development Report (WWDR) 2026

Professor Viviana Re, a member of the Luna core team, is the IAH focal point to follow the UN WWDR 2026 report focusing on "Water and Gender".

The addition of new members to the LUNA core team

Marie-Amélie Pétré from the Geological Survey was added to the core team.

Liaison with other Commissions and Networks

In the spirit of assuring the best coordination between the IAH and the UN System, LUNA asked the IAH Groundwater Quality Commission about the status of the UN-Water Quality Alliance.

Website and email group

A LUNA email group and email address were created. The website page for LUNA was established.

LUNA meeting

A LUNA planning meeting was held on 7 February 2025. The following actions emanated from the meeting: (i) establishment of the Web Page and its content, (ii) prepare a short background

about LUNA, (iii) our involvement in the WWDR, (iii) organisation of the IAH Webinar UN Day of Glaciers and World Water Day 2025 and (iv) IAH position paper for the UN Conference 2026.

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