Linking the **International Water Security Network (IWSN)** and **AQUASEC Center of Excellence for Water Security** to the UNESCO proposed initiatives, “Enhancing Climate Services for Improved Water Resources Management…” (CliMWaR-LAC) and “Addressing Water Security: Climate Impacts and Adaptation Responses in Africa, Asia and LAC”

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January 12, 2016

The activities of IWSN in the Americas build very substantially on those supported by the Inter-American Institute for Global Change Research (IAI). Together with support garnered from UNESCO-IHP and Flemish program support in Chile, the U.S. National Science Foundation, USAID-supported PEER project collaboration in Peru, nationally-funded work within Chile, and activities funded by other sponsors, these efforts comprise the ongoing activities of the AQUASEC network. Additionally, South Asia efforts supported by the CGIAR and ICIMOD constitute a broader network of networks approach in which IWSN plays a pivotal role.

To expand IWSN’s links with UNESCO, especially with Flemish government support, we propose the following four key programmatic opportunities.

**CliMWaR-LAC** outlines a series of measures to project and prepare for future climate extremes, especially drought, through enhancing resilience and undertaking mitigation and response measures. IWSN supports ongoing initiatives of this kind with partners in Chile and Peru. Linked hydrologic and climate analyses of river-basin water scarcity, the implications for irrigated agriculture, urban supply, and ecosystem services, as well as social vulnerability and institutional capacity assessments in the Maipo and Elqui basins in Chile, and the Ica and Piura basins in Peru, will enhance scientific and managerial capacity. IWSN proposes to marshal and leverage resources (scientific studies and science-policy engagement efforts) that provide case-study basins for CliMWaR-LAC, and to further integrate stakeholders and research partners Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile and Universidad Nacional Mayor de San Marcos and Universidad Agraria Nacional of Peru. The proposed 36-month CliMWaR-LAC project meshes well with IWSN and IAI-supported activities that we propose to leverage. Additionally, UNESCO/Flemish financial support to Chilean and Peruvian partner organizations would allow IWSN to provide value-addition through improving stakeholder consultation and enhancing science-policy coproduction of these proposed investments.

**Addressing Water Security**, with a broader global coverage, has similar, very tangible links with work in South Asia, directly supported by or leveraged by IWSN. Specifically, we have an ICIMOD-supported Univ. Arizona PhD student soon to be working on farmer-managed irrigation in the Gandaki Basin of Nepal and India. Additionally, our CGIAR-supported “Irrigation-Hydropower Nexus” HI-NEX project in the Indian Himalayas is explicitly geared toward security of the water-energy-food nexus. We propose that UNESCO/ Flanders, via Addressing Water Security, provide additional financial support to partners ICIMOD, People’s Science Institute, and University of Delhi’s Shaheed Bhagat Singh College to field local study teams and provide access to decision-makers, with IWSN playing a role to enhance stakeholder engagement and science-policy dialogues in support of water security.

**Training Workshop on Water Security and Demand Management in the Arid Americas.**

In July 2015 the University of Arizona (represented by the IAI and IWSN teams comprising AQUASEC) and the Mendoza Departamento General de Irrigación (DGI, the water authority for the province of Mendoza, Argentina) signed a Memorandum of Understanding. The agreement, signed at the request of the DGI, provides for mutual exchanges and collaboration on issues relating to water management and water security in the Mendoza region and other areas with analogous conditions. Among the important areas of cooperation is capacity building. With this in mind, the UA AQUASEC team and the DGI have agreed to conduct a training workshop in Mendoza, between August 3 and 6, 2016. The workshop, which emphasizes “soft-path” modes of water governance, is titled, “Good Water Governance Practices: Adapting Successful Approaches to Address Water Security in Mendoza, Argentina.” The event will be hosted and partly supported by the DGI, and partly supported by IWSN. The organizers are seeking additional cosponsors to help support the participation of water professionals from across the Americas.

**Science Diplomacy and Water Security**. Proceeding along separate tracks, each concept—science diplomacy on the one hand, and water security on the other—has gained momentum and acceptance. UNESCO IHP is attempting to unite the two in a new initiative that seeks to promote opportunities for international cooperation via the science of water security. At the same time, and independently, the University of Arizona has teamed with the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) to host a conference in Tucson, Arizona, on November 16-18, 2016. Both of these initiatives are in early stages of development and support from the Flemish Government and UNESCO would be instrumental in designing mutually desirable activities and programs to promote acceptance of the twinning of the two concepts.