

EGU Election Autumn 2017



Candidacy statement from Maria-Helena Ramos

I am a candidate for the EGU Division President (2018-2020) for the Division on Hydrological Sciences. EGU members can vote until **30 November 2017**: <https://www.egu.eu/elections/egu-election-autumn-2017/candidates/>

You can visit my website: <http://www.irstea.fr/en/ramos>

It is always a challenging decision to commit oneself for a community volunteer work, especially when it is a big community like EGU!

I have had the opportunity to chair other groups, such as the HEPEX international community and the EGU sub-division on Hydrological Forecasting, and I really enjoy listening to people and doing my best to open up doors to let them communicate and share their ideas. I think this has motivated me to run for HS Division president, together with the willingness to make the science of hydrology even stronger and influential in water applications, policy and decision making.

Early this year, I volunteered to be deployed as associate environmental expert within the UN Disaster Assessment and Coordination (UNDAC) team, mobilized through the European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (ECHO). It was an emergency support mission sent to Peru, following the exceptional flood events on its north coast. This mission helped me to better understand how our research work can be useful in the field, during emergencies, to save lives and contribute to organizing assistance to the community in water and sanitation issues, as well as in health, housing and protection.



Past and current presidents, officers and active members of the HS Division have put a lot of their time and energy to make it a strong division at EGU. This has created a fruitful basis to move forward and face new paradigms in a changing world. Climate and river catchment change impacts, mitigation and adaptation strategies to reduce risks from extreme hydrological events, floods and droughts, as well as our capacity to develop integrative frameworks linking hydrology to social systems and ecosystems services are challenging our views, our models and approaches. More than ever we need to be together in a strong community to be proactive in policy and decision-making in the water sector.

I would like to enhance this role of the HS Division: to foster the participation of the hydrological sciences in evidence-based decision-making in water management and hydrological risk reduction. With the involvement of the community, including the younger generation of early career scientists, we can put forward our achievements and proposed solutions.

Here is my statement for the EGU elections:

Your vote is essential to enhance science and application in hydrology!

Many water-related goals for sustainable development (e.g., hazards assessment, risk reduction, aquatic environment protection, ecological restoration or water economy) invite us to strengthen our ability to come up with strong solutions and become active actors in participatory water management and policy-making. Challenges in hydrological sciences and applications call for innovative ways for observing and modelling physical process, but also for interacting with society and stakeholders to promote knowledge co-building and achieve evidence-based policies. In this context, opportunities for learning, exchanging ideas, meeting and connecting with people of diverse backgrounds and experience are key to foster innovation and scientific research.

Like a lively science lab, EGU contributes to meet such a favourable networking environment, where senior researchers, young career scientists and practitioners can find answers (and questions!) to their queries in different fields. The Division on Hydrological Sciences is a strong community within EGU. For several years, I have been a member, session convener and, since 2015, sub-division chair within the division. Great advances have been accomplished and I am keen to contribute to further strengthen the HS community's responsiveness to society and policy needs in hydrology-related areas. The Division can act as a facilitator for HS members to be connected to opportunities for contributing to the Union's activities of outreach, communication, and research-policy interface.

This stimulus to take action can expand our capacity to make a difference. For this, I would like to foster diversity and inclusiveness, as every experience, every point of view is valuable to jointly support a continuous process of exchange and feedback between science and practice, users and providers of hydrological services, researchers and policy makers.