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Towards a benchmark report on Predictions in Ungauged Basins (PUB)

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The PUB initiative (www.pub.iwmi.org) is planning to produce, over the next 2 years, a benchmark report that will assess, on a comprehensive, objective, open and transparent basis, the state of hydrological predictions in the absence of data and identify what are the prediction challenges for the future. The report will serve as a reference to gauge future achievements, specifically, to quantify the degree to which uncertainty in hydrological predictions can be reduced in clearly specified contexts. Disparate views for which there is significant support will be clearly identified together with relevant arguments. One of the challenges will be to identify suitable criteria for measuring the performance, which likely will depend on the nature of the variability represented. The style of the benchmark report will be similar to the IPCC reports, albeit at a smaller scale. Unlike conference proceedings and special journal issues, emphasis will be given on coherence and the collective message. Unlike a typical monograph, emphasis will be given on a quantitative assessment of the state of research, based on an endorsement by the wider hydrological science community. This paper will present thoughts on the philosophy, contents and structure of the assessment report.