



Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses
and International Lakes

Core Group on Reporting
First meeting
Geneva, 15–16 December 2014

Annotated provisional agenda for the first meeting

**To be held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva, starting at 10 a.m.
on Monday, 15 December 2014***

I. Provisional agenda

1. Adoption of the agenda and election of officers
2. Introduction of a possible reporting mechanism under the Water Convention
 - a) Background and mandate for the Core Group
 - b) Results of a questionnaire sent to Parties, other States and organizations in late 2013
 - c) Other reporting mechanisms of relevance to the Water Convention
 - d) Discussion on a possible reporting mechanism under the Water Convention
 - e) Next steps for further development of the mechanism
3. Other business
4. Closing of the meeting

II. Annotations

1. The first meeting of the Core Group on Reporting will be held in the Palais des Nations, Geneva, in Room XI. It will start at 10 a.m. on Monday 15 December and end at noon on Tuesday 16 December 2014.
2. The working languages will be English, French and Russian.
3. All relevant documentation for the meeting of the Core Group on Reporting will be available at http://www.unece.org/env/water/1st_core_group_reporting_dec.2014.html.

1. Adoption of the agenda and election of officers

Tentative timing: 10–10.15 a.m., Monday 15 December 2014

* Delegates attending the meetings are requested to complete the registration form available on the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) website (http://www.unece.org/env/water/1st_core_group_reporting_dec.2014.html) and to transmit it to the UNECE secretariat **by 5 December 2014 using the online system**. On their way to the meeting, delegates should obtain an identification badge at the Pass and Identification Unit of the United Nations Office at Geneva's Security and Safety Section, located at the Pregny Gate, 14, Avenue de la Paix (see the map on the UNECE website, www.unece.org/meetings/UN_Map.pdf). In case of difficulty, please contact the secretariat by telephone at +41 22 917-1606.

4. The Core Group on Reporting is expected to adopt its agenda as set out in the present document. Subsequently, the Core Group is invited to select a chair and vice-chair.

2. Introduction of a possible reporting mechanism under the Water Convention

a) Background and mandate for the Core Group

Tentative timing: 10.15–10.25 a.m., Monday 15 December 2014

5. The secretariat will introduce the mandate for the Core Group, as given by the Meeting of the Parties through the Working Group on Integrated Water Resources Management. At its sixth session (Rome, 28–30 November 2012), the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention had mandated the Working Group, in consultation with the Implementation Committee, to carry out an analysis on the needs for reporting under the Convention, taking into account the capacity of countries and other relevant reporting mechanisms. Such an analysis was to serve as the basis for the possible elaboration of the scope and modalities of a reporting mechanism to be submitted for consideration and possible adoption by the Meeting of the Parties at its seventh session.

6. The Working Group decided to establish a Core Group that would develop a proposal for a mechanism for reporting, for consideration at its tenth meeting in June 2015 and possible adoption by the Meeting of the Parties at its seventh session in November 2015. Such a reporting mechanism should be simple, smart and based on and taking into account, to the extent possible, already existing reporting requirements under European Union (EU) directives and other relevant multilateral environmental agreements.

b) Results of a Questionnaire sent to Parties, other States and organizations in late 2013

Tentative timing: 10.25–10.45 a.m., Monday 15 December 2014

7. A questionnaire was developed by the Bureau to support the elaboration of the analysis and was sent to the Parties, other States and interested partner organizations. Forty-seven completed questionnaires were submitted, with 30 of the 39 Parties replying. The results of the questionnaire were compiled in the document ECE/MP.WAT/WG.1/2014/3. The secretariat will present the outcomes of the questionnaire as well as the results of the discussions on this topic at the ninth meeting of the Working Group on IWRM held on 25–26 June 2014 in Geneva.

c) Other reporting mechanisms of relevance to the Water Convention

Tentative timing: 10.45 a.m.–noon, Monday 15 December 2014

8. The majority of the respondents to the questionnaire supported the introduction of reporting under the Convention, provided that the reporting mechanism would be designed taking into account the preferences and different suggestions put forward in the completed questionnaires. Generally, respondents considered that the introduction of reporting would contribute to strengthening the effectiveness of the Convention and would enhance its implementation, as well as cooperation and information exchange between the Parties to the Convention and other States. The EU member States reiterated the need to avoid duplication and to prevent placing an extra burden on government officials.

9. An overview will be presented of existing reporting requirements that relate to the obligations of the Water Convention and topics covered by it, in particular those under the different relevant water-related EU directives (including European Environment Agency reporting), other related multilateral environmental agreements (Ramsar Convention, etc.) and EUROSTAT, as well as for river basin commissions, e.g. International Commission for the Protection of the Danube River. An update on the plans for the pan-European Shared Environmental Information System (SEIS) will also be presented. The Core Group will discuss how these reporting requirements could be linked to a possible reporting mechanism under the Convention and how synergies could be maximized.

10. Reporting mechanisms under other UNECE multilateral environmental agreements will be presented, in particular those for the Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context (Espoo Convention) and the Water Convention's Protocol on Water and Health. The Core Group will discuss relevant lessons learned (see also document: Multilateral environmental agreements: overview of national implementation reporting ECE/CEP/2014/16).

11. The Core Group will discuss possible linkages and synergies with these existing reporting mechanisms.

d) Discussion on a possible reporting mechanism under the Water Convention

Tentative timing: noon–1p.m. and 3–6 p.m., Monday 15 December 2014 and 9.30 –11.15 a.m., Tuesday 16 December 2014

12. The Core Group will start its deliberation on a possible reporting mechanism under the Water Convention with a general exchange of views on the topic among the participants. Subsequently, the Core Group will discuss in details and partly in small working groups the following aspects of the possible reporting mechanism:

- a) Scope and purpose;
- b) Frequency;
- c) Content;
- d) Format and linkages with other reporting mechanisms, including the regular assessments under the Convention and the reporting on a possible future water sustainable development goal.

f) Next steps for development of the mechanism

13. The following morning, the results of the first day will be reviewed and any remaining issues tackled. In addition, the Core Group will discuss possible procedures for introducing reporting and the next steps for the development of the mechanism, including any additional virtual or face-to-face meetings that are needed.

3. Other business

Tentative timing: 11.15–11.30 a.m., Tuesday 16 December 2014

14. At the time of writing, the secretariat had no points to propose under this item.

4. Closing of the meeting

Tentative timing: 11.30 a.m.–noon, Tuesday 16 December 2014

15. The Chair will summarize the major outcomes of the meeting and will formally close the meeting on Tuesday, 16 December 2014 at noon.