



Convention of the Protection and Use of
Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes
Expert Group on Transboundary Assessment
First meeting

Geneva, Switzerland, 9 and 10 May 2017

**FINAL PROGRAMME FOR THE FIRST MEETING
OF THE EXPERT GROUP ON TRANSBOUNDARY ASSESSMENT**

Geneva, 9-10 May 2017

Held at the room VIII, Palais des Nations, starting at 1 p.m.

**DAY 1: WHICH NEEDS THE ASSESSMENT SHOULD RESPOND TO?
WHAT SHOULD BE THE SUBSTANTIVE SCOPE AND POSSIBLE INPUTS?**

<i>Time</i>	<i>Agenda item</i>	<i>Presenter/ Moderator/ Facilitator</i>
13.00-13.20	Session 1: Background to the assessment, the context and the added value	
	<i>Objectives: Establish a common understanding regarding previous assessments and provide a summary of the preliminary reflections on what the Third Assessment could entail.</i>	
	Opening	Seppo Rekolainen (Chair, Finland)
	Background to the assessment under the Water Convention: the scope of the Second Assessment, lessons learned and the preliminary thinking about the Third Assessment	Seppo Rekolainen (Chair, Finland)
13.20-15.30	Session 2: Purpose of the Third Assessment and possible scope	
	<i>Objectives:</i>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Establish an understanding of the context of the Third Assessment including in relation to the monitoring of SDG6 and monitoring of transboundary water cooperation.</i> • <i>Define what would be the added value, purpose and objectives of the Third Assessment from the countries' (national administrations') and other key stakeholders' perspectives</i> 	
	The context – Monitoring of SDG6	William Reidhead, UN-Water
	The context – Monitoring transboundary cooperation and the role of the Water Convention	Francesca Bernardini (UNECE Secretariat)

<i>Time</i>	<i>Agenda item</i>	<i>Presenter/ Moderator/ Facilitator</i>
	Panel discussion on: - Needs for the assessment? - How can the assessment best serve the strengthening of transboundary water cooperation and the Convention's implementation?	Mariam Makarova (Georgia) Dragana Milovanovic (Serbia) Mr. Mohsen Nagheeby, (IR Iran) Callist Tindimugaya (Uganda) Moderator: Francesca Bernardini (UNECE Secretariat)
	Group discussions on the purpose and objectives of the Third Assessment and how this influence its content and process of preparation	
	Reporting back from the groups	Rapporteurs for the work in groups
15.30-16.00	Coffee break	
16.00-17.30	Session 3: Review of some relevant initiatives. What experiences and opportunities for the Third Assessment?	
	<i>Objectives: Share lessons learned from other assessment exercises and identify relevant gaps at the transboundary level that could be covered by the Third Assessment.</i>	
	Global Environment Facility's (GEF) Transboundary Waters Assessment Project (TWAP)	Hartwig Kremer (UNEP)
	Assessment of transboundary waters in the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) region	Carol Chouchani Cherfane (ESCWA)
	European Environment Agency's State of Water assessment activities and water data collection	Anita Kuenitzer (European Topic Centre on Inland, Coastal and Marine Waters)
	Lessons learned from monitoring and assessment of transboundary aquifers	Neno Kukuric (IGRAC, also on behalf of UNESCO-IHP)
	Global water quality assessment of UNEP/GEMS	Philip Saile and Hartwig Kremer (UNEP)
	Hydrological and climate monitoring by WMO	Tommaso Abrate (WMO)
	Moderated discussion on links to other monitoring and assessment processes, possibilities of complementing	

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	official data from other sources	
17.30-18.00	Session 4: Possible scope of the Third Assessment	
	<i>Objectives:</i>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Explore different options related to the substantial scope of the Third Assessment.</i> • <i>Build on the lessons learned from previous exercises to set appropriate ambitions</i> • <i>Agree on how to strike a balance between qualitative and quantitative information and the needs for harmonization and flexibility reflecting different realities of data availability.</i> 	
	Recalling the approach to specific elements and components in the Second Assessment and introduction to the group discussions	Annukka Lipponen (UNECE Secretariat)
	Plenary discussion	
18.00	End of the day	
19.00	Dinner (self-paid, restaurant La Romana)	

DAY 2: SCOPE, PROCESS AND NEXT STEPS

<i>Time</i>	<i>Agenda item</i>	<i>Presenter/ Moderator/ Facilitator</i>
9.00-10.30	Session 4: Possible substantial scope of the Third Assessment (continued)	Governance and intersectoral (nexus) issues: Carol Chouchani Cherfane (ESCWA)
	Groups discussion on the scope of the Assessment and what kind of information the Assessment should gather.	Driving forces and pressures: Tobias Salathe (Ramsar Convention)
	The discussions will follow the logic of the DPSIR (Driving force, Pressure, Status, Impact and Response) framework and also address specific questions such as intersectoral issues and future trends	Status and (transboundary) impacts: Nelson Gomoda (AMCOW)
	Reporting back from the groups	Trends and responses: Saroj Srisai (ASEAN)
10.30-11.00	Coffee break	
11.00-12.00	Session 5: Possible geographic scope and process of preparation	
	<i>Objective:</i>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Outline a possible geographic scope of the</i> 	

<i>Time</i>	<i>Agenda item</i>	<i>Presenter/ Moderator/ Facilitator</i>
	<p><i>Assessment, including approaches to basin selection</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Outline approaches to the modality of working with countries to ensure joint assessment by riparian countries</i> • <i>Outline options for data collection</i> • <i>Clarifying the interest and possible role of potential partners</i> 	
	The current thinking about the assessment process	Annukka Lipponen (UNECE Secretariat)
	<p>Moderated discussion based on specific questions/issues:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Geographic scope of the assessment - Approach to basin selection - The modality of working with countries and how to support the dialogue on the joint assessment - Devoted information collection (use of questionnaires) vs. using existing data sources - The role of partners (river basin commissions, global and regional intergovernmental organizations) - Format in which the information/results would need to be made available: a printed publication, e-book, an interactive on-line version etc. 	
12.00-12.45	Session 6: Resource requirements	
	<p><i>Objectives:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Discuss resource requirements and develop ideas about possible funding options.</i> • <i>Understand interest of partners to cooperate in the process and hear their related proposals to resource mobilization.</i> • <i>Detail and clarify the forthcoming milestones in developing the concept for consideration by the governing bodies of the Water Convention.</i> 	
	Plenary discussion on the resources requirements, ideas for possible funding options and on the interest of partners to cooperate/support the process	
	Preliminary timeline and next steps in the process under the Convention for the development of the concept on the Third Assessment	UNECE secretariat
12.45-13.00	Chairman summary of decisions and next steps	