



**Economic and Social
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ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

**MEETING OF THE PARTIES TO THE CONVENTION
ON THE PROTECTION AND USE OF TRANSBOUNDARY
WATERCOURSES AND INTERNATIONAL LAKES**

Working Group on Monitoring and Assessment

**First meeting,
Makkum, Netherlands, 21-22 September 2000**

PROVISIONAL AGENDA FOR THE FIRST MEETING */
to be held at the Hotel "De Vigilante" in Makkum, Netherlands,
starting on 21 September at 9.30 a.m.

1. Opening of the meeting.
2. Adoption of the agenda.
3. Character of guidelines: strategic and/or technical?

*/ This document has not been formally edited.

4. Monitoring and assessment of lakes:
 - (a) Technical guidelines on lakes;
 - (b) Background report on international lakes;
 - (c) Future activities.
5. Laboratory quality management:
 - (a) Guidelines on laboratory quality management;
 - (b) Future activities.
6. Monitoring and assessment of rivers:
 - (a) Revised guidelines on monitoring and assessment of transboundary rivers;
 - (b) Evaluation of the pilot project programme;
 - (c) Future activities.
7. Monitoring and assessment of transboundary groundwaters:
 - (a) Guidelines on monitoring and assessment of transboundary groundwaters;
 - (b) Preparation of pilot projects;
 - (c) Future activities.
8. Transboundary Aquifer Resources Management (TARM): Cooperation between UN/ECE, FAO and UNESCO.
9. Sampling: more than technical aspects.
10. Work plan of the Working Group and activities of the International Water Assessment Centre (IWAC).
11. Election of officers.
12. Other business.

13. Closing of the meeting.

EXPLANATORY NOTES

The first meeting of the Working Group on Monitoring and Assessment will be held at the Hotel “De Vigilante” in Makkum on 21-22 September 2000 at the invitation of the Government of the Netherlands. The meeting will be held in conjunction with the inauguration of the International Water Assessment Centre (IWAC), which will take place in the Hotel Restaurant “Galama Dammen” in Koudum, Netherlands, on 23 September 2000. For further information on organizational matters on both events, delegations are invited to contact the host authorities at the address given in the annex.

The explanatory notes have been prepared by the Chairman of the former task force on monitoring and assessment in consultation with the secretariat.

Item 1: Opening of the meeting

A representative of the Netherlands will open the meeting and make a statement on behalf of the host country.

Item 2: Adoption of the agenda

The Meeting is expected to adopt its agenda as set out in the present document. The discussion on items 4 and 5 of the provisional agenda is scheduled to take place on 21 September 2000.

Item 3: Character of guidelines: strategic and/or technical?

In the guidelines on monitoring and assessment of transboundary rivers and groundwaters, drawn up by the former task force on monitoring and assessment, much attention was given to strategic aspects (e.g. identification of issues, information needs, assessment strategies, quality management, institutional aspects). The Core Group on Lakes proposes the drawing up of both technical and strategic guidelines. It also proposes that in the future, strategic guidelines on monitoring and assessment of rivers, lakes and groundwaters are assembled in one document, whereas technical guidelines on rivers, lakes and groundwaters would be presented in three separate documents.

Item 4: Monitoring and assessment of lakes

(a) Technical guidelines on lakes

The Working Group will examine draft technical guidelines drawn up by Finland on the basis of the outcome of the first Core Group meeting (Helsinki, 18-19 May 2000). The draft will be circulated as note (WGMA/2000/1).

(b) Background report on international lakes

The Working Group will discuss a draft background report on major international lakes in the UN/ECE region. The report, circulated as note (WGMA/2000/2), is based on information provided by Core Group members.

(c) Future activities on lakes

The Working Group will examine its future work on lakes.

Item 5: Laboratory quality management

(a) Guidelines on laboratory quality management

The Working Group will examine draft technical guidelines prepared by the lead country of the Core Group on laboratory quality management and accreditation, Hungary, which will be available at the meeting. The note WGMA/2000/3 gives a summary of these draft guidelines.

(b) Future activities

The Working Group will examine its future work on laboratory quality management and accreditation.

Item 6: Monitoring and assessment of rivers

(a) Revised guidelines on monitoring and assessment of transboundary rivers

The Working Group will have before it the Guidelines on Monitoring and Assessment of Transboundary Rivers, adopted by the Parties at their second meeting (The Hague, Netherlands, 23-25 March 2000) and kindly printed by the Netherlands Institute for Inland Water Management and Waste Water Management (RIZA) on behalf of the Meeting of the Parties (WGMA/2000/4).

(b) Evaluation of the pilot project programme

On the basis of the note WGMA/2000/5, the Working Group will examine the progress made in the implementation of the pilot project programme on transboundary rivers. It will make arrangements, if need be, to adapt the objectives of the pilot programme to changing circumstances and needs. Representatives of countries participating in the pilot project programme are expected to provide written replies to the questions raised in the above note. The Working Group will formulate conditions for further work on the pilot projects.

(c) Future activities

The Working Group will examine its future work on transboundary rivers. In particular, it will draw up a procedure for reporting (by countries and joint bodies) on the experience gained with the implementation of the Guidelines.

Item 7: Monitoring and assessment of transboundary groundwaters

(a) Guidelines on Monitoring and Assessment of Transboundary Groundwaters

The Working Group will have before it the Guidelines on Monitoring and Assessment of Transboundary Groundwaters, adopted by the Parties at their second meeting (The Hague, Netherlands, 23-25 March 2000), and kindly printed by the Netherlands Institute for Inland Water Management and Waste Water Management (RIZA) on behalf of the Meeting of the Parties (WGMA/2000/6).

(b) Preparation of pilot projects

The Working Group will examine progress made with the preparation of pilot projects on transboundary groundwaters.

(c) Future activities

The Working Group will discuss its future activities on transboundary groundwaters. Country representatives are invited to submit their proposals.

Item 8: Transboundary Aquifer Resources Management (TARM): Cooperation between UN/ECE, FAO and UNESCO

On the basis of the note WGMA/2000/7 and supplementary statements by representatives of the UN/ECE and UNESCO secretariats, the Working Group will examine its contribution to the

implementation of TARM. It will also consider its contribution to other possible inter-secretariat programmes on transboundary groundwaters involving UN/ECE, the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), and the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA).

Item 9: Sampling: more than technical aspects

On the basis of the note WGMA/2000/8, the Working Group will consider the drawing up of more elaborated sections on sampling. So far, the Guidelines only deal with this issue from a technical point of view.

Item 10: Work plan of the Working Group and activities of the International Water Assessment Centre (IWAC)

The Working Group will take note of decisions of the second meeting of the Parties to the Convention, such as the relevant parts of the 2000-2003 work plan under the Convention, the terms of reference of the Working Group, and the terms of reference of IWAC. On the basis of these documents and note WGMA/2000/9, the Working Group will elaborate its specific activities until its second meeting in autumn 2001. It will also further specify the work plan of IWAC. Country representatives are invited to submit written proposals.

Item 11: Election of officers

The Meeting will elect a Chairperson and a Vice-chairperson.

Item 12: Other business

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

Item 13: Closing of the meeting

A representative of the host country, Netherlands, will close the meeting.

Annex

VENUE OF THE MEETING AND FOCAL POINTS

Venue of the second meeting

Hotel De Vigilante and Apartments Zuiderzee State

Holle Poarte 10

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