



**Economic and Social
Council**

Distr.
GENERAL

MP.WAT/WG.2/2001/1

27 July 2001
ENGLISH ONLY

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

Second meeting,
Vääksy (Finland), 5-7 September 2001

PROVISIONAL AGENDA FOR THE SECOND MEETING */

to be held at Vääksy (Finland), Hotel Tallukka,
starting at 9.30 a.m. on Wednesday, 5 September 2001

1. Opening statements.
2. Adoption of the agenda.
3. Adoption of the report of the first meeting (MP.WAT/WG.2/2001/2).

*/ This document has not been formally edited.

4. Guidance on monitoring and assessment of transboundary waters:
 - (a) Guidelines on monitoring and assessment of lakes;
 - (b) Guidelines on monitoring and assessment of estuaries;
 - (c) Laboratory quality management;
 - (d) Quality assurance of ecological assessments;
 - (e) Sampling.
5. Pilot projects:
 - (a) Pilot projects on transboundary rivers;
 - (b) Pilot projects on transboundary groundwaters;
 - (c) Pilot projects on transboundary/international lakes;
 - (d) Pilot project on rapid environmental and health risk assessment.
6. The second generation of guidelines.
7. Status of major transboundary rivers in Europe.
8. International Water Assessment Centre.
9. Evaluation of the effectiveness of the Convention's work on monitoring and assessment.
10. Partners in cooperation:
 - (a) Workshops and conferences under the Convention's work plan;
 - (b) Cooperation with UNESCO's TARM programme;
 - (c) International Conference on Hydrological Challenges in Transboundary Water Resources Management;
 - (d) International Conference on Freshwater;
 - (e) Kiev Ministerial Conference;
 - (f) World Water Development Report and World Water Assessment Programme.
11. Work plan.

12. Election of officers.
13. Other business.
14. Closure

EXPLANATORY NOTES

The second meeting of the Working Group on Monitoring and Assessment will be held at Vääksy at the invitation of the Government of Finland. The Working Group meeting will start on 5 September 2001 at 9.30 a.m. and close on 7 September at 5 p.m. On 8 September, a full-day field trip will be organized.

The Working Group meeting will be chaired by Mr. W. Cofino (Netherlands) and Ms. Zs. Buzas (Hungary), Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson of the Working Group, respectively. The working language will be English.

For technical information, delegations may wish to refer to annex I and contact the host authorities. The registration form is given in annex II and should be returned by 24 August 2001 at the latest.

The working papers (WGMA/2001/1 – 14) will be communicated by the lead Party, the Netherlands, to the pre-registered participants.

Item 1: Opening statements

A representative of Finland and the Chair of the Working Group will make opening statements. A representative of the secretariat will also address the Working Group.

Item 2: Adoption of the agenda

The Working Group is expected to adopt its agenda as set out in the present document.

Item 3: Adoption of the report of the first meeting

The Working Group is expected to adopt the report of its first meeting (MP.WAT/WG.2/2001/2).

Item 4: Guidance on monitoring and assessment of transboundary waters

(a) Guidelines on monitoring and assessment of lakes

The Working Group will examine two working documents prepared by the lead Party, Finland: (i) a technical working document with selected strategic aspects related to the monitoring and assessment of lakes and reservoirs (WGMA/2001/1); and (ii) a background document that contains information on international lakes and describes monitoring activities (WGMA/2001/2).

(b) Guidelines on monitoring and assessment of estuaries

The Working Group will make arrangements to draw up draft guidelines on monitoring and assessment of estuaries.

(c) Laboratory quality management

The Working Group will examine working document WGMA/2001/3 prepared by the lead Party, Hungary, which will contain the revised draft version of the guidelines on laboratory quality management. As decided by the Working Group at its first meeting, the working document will also include a section on laboratory accreditation.

(d) Quality assurance of ecological assessments

The Working Group will examine working document WGMA/2001/4 on quality assurance of ecological assessments prepared by the delegation of the Netherlands.

(e) Sampling

The Working Group will examine a technical note (WGMA/2001/5) on sampling, including sampling for water-quantity characteristics in relation to monitoring of transboundary waters drawn up by the International Water Assessment Centre (IWAC).

Item 5: Pilot projects

(a) Pilot projects on transboundary rivers

The delegation of the Netherlands, lead Party, will present a working document (WGMA/2001/6) to inform the Working Group about progress made in the implementation of the pilot projects in 8 river basins in the region, and on follow up activities.

(b) Pilot projects on transboundary groundwaters

The delegation of the Netherlands, lead Party, will inform the Working Group about the draft work plan to implement the Guidelines on monitoring and assessment of transboundary groundwaters (working documents WGMA/2001/7 and 8). The Netherlands will also report on activities to study the feasibility of pilot projects regarding groundwaters shared with Belgium and groundwaters shared with Germany.

(c) Pilot projects on transboundary/international lakes

The Working Group will examine opportunities for implementing pilot projects on the monitoring and assessment of transboundary/international lakes based on a working document (WGMA/2001/9) drawn up by Finland.

(d) Pilot project on rapid environmental and health risk assessment

A representative of the Regional Office for Europe of the World Health Organization (WHO/EURO) will inform the Working Group on the progress of the pilot project on rapid environmental and health risk assessment, with Italy as lead country, and supported by WHO/EURO and UNECE. This project was initiated by the European Environment and Health Committee, following industrial accidents in the lower Danube basin, and became part of the work plan in programme area IV (Water and Health) carried out under the auspices of the Working Group on Water and Health.

Item 6: The second generation of guidelines

The Working Group will draw lessons learned from the drafting and implementation of the guidelines on monitoring and assessment of transboundary waters. The character of these guidelines was strategic rather than technical, and the target group comprised decision makers in ministries and representatives of joint bodies rather than technical (field) experts. Technical details were provided in background reports that also referred to technical documentation by international organizations, such as WMO, WHO and ISO, and in the technical reports about the implementation of the pilot projects. This strategy proved to be efficient in the first phase of work under the Convention linked to monitoring and assessment of transboundary rivers and transboundary groundwaters.

In the future, there may be a need for a different approach: (a) the Protocol on Water and Health is not limited to transboundary waters and addresses, *inter alia*, drinking water and waste waters; (b) the use of guidelines on monitoring and assessment of waters that fall under the Protocol on Water and Health will not be limited to a target group representing the water management sector, but to a broader group of users that includes the health sector; (c) guidelines will also be drawn up to cover international lakes and transboundary estuaries; and (d) the EC Water Framework Directive and its consequences on monitoring should also be taken into consideration.

The Working Group agreed to consider at its second meeting ways and means of producing a "second generation of guidelines" (see working document WGMA/2001/10). The Working Group will also address the following issues: (a) how can the above developments be best taken into account in the future work on guidelines under the Convention; (b) is a possible synthesis of guidelines for rivers, groundwaters, lakes and estuaries recommendable; and (c) how to best strike a balance between strategic and technical aspects to be dealt with in the guidelines. The Working Group, based on, will examine these issues and agree on elements of a long-term work programme.

Item 7: Status of major transboundary rivers in Europe

The delegation of the Netherlands will inform the Working Group about achievements to prepare an assessment of major transboundary waters in Europe. Currently, a draft report is being drawn up that covers the following river basins: Bug, Danube, Daugava, Elbe, Meuse, Morava, Oder, Rhine, Tagus and Tisza. The working document WGMA/2001/11 will provide information on the expected results, taking into account the

outcome of an informal workshop (Prague, 9-10 April 2001) that was attended by the authors of the draft report, countries' representatives, representatives of the respective joint bodies, and staff of the International Water Assessment Centre (IWAC) established under the Convention.

The Working Group may wish to make suggestions regarding the finalization of this report for submission to the Parties to the Convention for consideration at their third meeting (Spain, 2003).

Item 8: International Water Assessment Centre (IWAC)

The Director of IWAC will inform the Working Group about achievements of the Centre and the priority of its work until the third meeting of the Parties (see working document WGMA/2001/12). This information will be based on the outcome of the first meeting (Lelystad, 7-9 June 2001) of the International Core Group that acts as IWAC's steering committee. It will describe the network of European institutions and organizations that make up the International Water Assessment Centre, hosted by the Netherlands Institute for Inland Water Management and Waste Water Treatment. It will include a proposal regarding IWAC's role in the overall implementation of the Convention's work plan and assistance to the secretariat to contribute to the implementation of global programmes that are linked to water management in a transboundary context. It will also include an evaluation of workshops organized under IWAC's auspices in 2000, and suggestions for additional workshops and training events.

The Working Group may wish to make suggestions regarding IWAC's role and its anticipated activities.

Item 9: Evaluation of the effectiveness of the Convention's work on monitoring and assessment

The Parties to the Convention at their second meeting requested "Riparian Parties to report jointly, preferably through their joint bodies, to the Working Group on Monitoring and Assessment and to the third meeting of the Parties in 2003 on their experience with the implementation of the guidelines on monitoring and assessment of transboundary rivers and transboundary groundwaters" (ECE/MP.WAT/5, paragraph 37 (e)).

At the first meeting of the Working Group, the delegation of the Netherlands proposed a possible reporting procedure, and agreed to compile a preliminary draft paper (see working document WGMA/2001/13) for consideration and follow-up decision by the Working Group at its second meeting.

Item 10: Partners in cooperation

(a) Workshops and conferences under the Convention's work plan

The Working Group will be informed by the secretariat of workshops and conferences about the tentative programmes of workshops and conferences and other

arrangements made. These include the following events: (i) workshop on public participation in water management (Netherlands, 18 September 2001); (ii) international workshop and exercise: industrial safety and water protection in transboundary river basins (Tiszaújváros, Hungary, 3-5 October 2001); (iii) workshop on approaches and tools for river basin management: experience drawn from the implementation of the EC Water Framework Directive (Bratislava, 15-16 October 2001); (iv) workshop on the protection of groundwaters used as a source of drinking water supply (Budapest, 8-10 November 2001); (v) second international conference on sustainable management of transboundary waters in Europe (Miedzyzdroje, Poland, 21-24 April 2002); and (vi) conference on sustainable water management and health (Moscow, May/June 2002).

Working Group members, if they are not already involved in the preparations for these events, may wish to make suggestions regarding their inputs into these activities.

(b) Cooperation with UNESCO's TARM programme

The Working Group at its first meeting made arrangements for participation in the joint and multi-disciplinary programme aiming to improve the understanding of the scientific, socio-economic, legal, institutional and environmental aspects of regional groundwater resources management (TARM) which is supported by UNESCO, FAO, UNECE and the International Association on Hydrology (IAH).

The Working Group will consider the achievements under TARM (see working document WGMA/2001/14) and make further arrangements for programme support, as appropriate.

(c) International Conference on Hydrological Challenges in Transboundary Water Resources Management

The secretariat will inform the Working Group about the final programme for the Conference (Koblenz, Germany, 25-27 September 2001) including the conference contributions by members of the Working Group, IWAC and the secretariat. For easy reference, Working Group members can download information from the relevant web site < www.bafg.de >.

(d) International Conference on Freshwater

With their declaration, the Parties at their second meeting committed themselves to contributing to the periodical review of the implementation of chapter 18 of Agenda 21 on freshwater resources, using appropriate forums, including the International Conference on Freshwater that will be held in Bonn (Germany) on 3-7 December 2001 (see www.water-2001.de).

The Working Group members may wish to consider preparing conference contributions.

(e) Kiev Ministerial Conference

The Working Group will take note of the preparatory process for the Kiev Ministerial Conference “Environment for Europe” (21-23 May 2003). It will, in particular, be informed by IWAC about its involvement in the preparation of assessments of Europe’s environment.

The Working Group members may wish to make suggestions regarding their input into this activity.

(f) World Water Development Report and World Water Assessment Programme

The Working Group will be informed about the activities of UN system organizations to draw up (as part of the World Water Assessment Programme) the World Water Development Report for consideration at the Third World Water Forum (Tokyo, spring 2003). It will also be informed by the secretariat and the International Water Assessment Centre (IWAC) about the regional input into the report.

The Working Group members may wish to make suggestions regarding their input into this activity.

Item 11: Work plan

The Working Group will consider its work plan (ECE/MP.WAT/5, annex II, programme area II as updated at its first meeting and approved by the Bureau of the Meeting of the Parties, see MP.WAT/WG.2/2001/2), and update it, if need be, taking also into account information by the Chairpersons of the three other working groups (Working Group on Legal and Administrative Aspects, Monitoring and Assessment, and Water and Health) and/or the secretariat regarding activities of relevance to the work plan of the Working Group. Amendments to the work plan are subject to approval by the Bureau of the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention.

Item 12: Election of officers

The Working Group will elect a Chairman and a Vice-Chairman.

Item 13: Other business

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

Item 14: Closure

A representative of the host country will close the meeting of Working Group.

Annex I

TRAVEL ARRANGEMENTS

Participants are expected to arrive at Helsinki airport on 4 September 2001.

Transport to and from the meeting place in Vääksy will be organized by the host country according to the arrival and departure schedules of participants to be submitted with the registration form (annex II).

Pre-registered participants will be informed by the host country about details of their travel to and from Vääksy.

For help on organizational matters, Mrs. Sirkka Haunia may be contacted at the following address:

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Annex II

Registration form
for the second meeting of the Working Group on Monitoring and
Assessment (Vääksy, Finland, 5 – 8 September 2001)

Each participant should complete this form in duplicate and send one copy to each of the addresses below as soon as possible, but **no later than 24 August 2001**:

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Mr. Mrs.

Surname:

First Name:

Country or international organization which you will represent at the meeting:

Professional address:

Tel: Fax:

E-mail:

Arrival date/time and flight No

Departure date/time and flight No

Request for transfer by host authorities from Helsinki airport to Vääksy:

yes no

Date:Signature:.....