



**Economic and Social
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**ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE
ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE**

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

Seminar on flood prevention, protection and mitigation
(Berlin, 21-22 June 2004)

PROVISIONAL AGENDA FOR THE SEMINAR

to be held at the Press and Information Office of the German Federal Government
(Berlin), starting on Monday, 21 June 2004, at 10 a.m.

1. Opening of the Seminar.
2. Adoption of the agenda.
3. Election of officers.
4. Topic I - National and local action.
5. Topic II - Joint and coordinated action at the UNECE-region-wide level, the subregional level and the transboundary river basin level.
6. Topic III - Recommendations for future action.
7. Conclusions and recommendations of the Seminar.
8. Other business.
9. Closure.

EXPLANATORY NOTES TO THE PROVISIONAL AGENDA

The Seminar was prepared by the task force on flood prevention, protection and mitigation, with Germany as lead country, at its meetings in Berlin (19-20 January 2004) and Budapest (26-27 April 2004).

The host authorities will provide simultaneous interpretation into English, French, German and Russian throughout the work sessions of the Seminar.

Item 1: Opening of the Seminar

A representative of the Government of Germany will open the Seminar and make a statement on behalf of the host country. The secretariat will also address the Meeting participants.

Item 2: Adoption of the agenda

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

Item 3: Election of officers

Following the Convention's rules of procedure, the Chairman of the task force, Mr. Otto MALEK (Germany), will chair the meeting. The Meeting may wish to elect three representatives of the participating countries as Vice-Chairpersons.

Item 4: Topic I - National and local action

To introduce this Seminar topic, representatives of Azerbaijan, France and Romania will present keynote lectures on national and local action taken in their countries.

The Chairperson and a Vice-Chairperson will lead the discussion on the topic, following the items for discussion contained in document MP.WAT/SEM.3/2004/1.

Seminar participants who have submitted discussion papers will be invited to share their experience.

Item 5: Topic II - Joint and coordinated action at the UNECE-region-wide level, the subregional level and the transboundary river basin level

To introduce this Seminar topic, the Chairman of the task force will report on the experience gained in the implementation of the Guidelines on Sustainable Flood Prevention and present document MP.WAT/SEM.3/2004/4, prepared by the task force.

The Chairperson and a Vice-Chairperson will lead the discussion on the topic, following the items for discussion as contained in document MP.WAT/SEM.3/2004/1, and invite the delegations of Hungary, the Netherlands, Poland and the Russian Federation to make keynote presentations, including a presentation on the "Budapest initiative on strengthening international cooperation on sustainable regional development."

Seminar participants who have submitted discussion papers will be invited to share their experience.

Item 6: Topic III - Recommendations for future action

To facilitate the discussion, the secretariat will introduce Seminar document MP.WAT/SEM.3/2004/5 on possible options, including the possibility of drawing up a legal instrument under the Convention, to further develop and strengthen a common framework for flood protection, prevention and mitigation.

The Chairperson and a Vice-Chairperson will lead the discussion on the topic, following the items for discussion contained in document MP.WAT/SEM.3/2004/1 and invite the delegations of the European Community and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) to make keynote presentations.

Item 7: Conclusions and recommendations of the Seminar

Based on inputs by the task force and the outcome of the discussion on the previous agenda items, the Chairman will present a conference room paper that contains draft conclusions and recommendations.

The Seminar will provide guidance to the task force in the follow-up to the Seminar to further develop and strengthen a common framework for flood protection, prevention and mitigation, for submission to the Working Group on Integrated Water Resources Management at its next meeting (Geneva, 14-15 December 2004).

The Seminar will also agree on the modalities for the preparation of the Seminar report by the secretariat (MP.WAT/SEM.3/2004/3) as well as the printing of the proceedings.

Item 8: Other business

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

Item 9: Closure

A representative of Germany will close the meeting on 22 June around 4 p.m.

Annex I

VENUE OF THE SEMINAR AND REGISTRATION OF PARTICIPANTS

At the invitation of the Government of Germany, the UNECE Seminar on flood prevention, protection and mitigation will take place on 21-22 June 2004 in Berlin at:

Press and Information Office of the German Federal Government
(Presse- und Informationsamt der Bundesregierung)
Dorotheenstrasse 84
D-10117 Berlin
Tel.: +49 1888/272-0

Each duly accredited participant should complete the registration form (see annex II) and return it to the following address not later than 14 June 2004:

UNECE Seminar on flood prevention, protection and mitigation
Ms.Marita Meissner
Ministry for Environment, Nature Conservation
and Nuclear Safety
Letter Box 120629
D-53048 Bonn
Tel.: +49 228 305 3191
Fax: +49 228 305 2396
E-mail: marita.meissner@bmu.bund.de

At the same time, a copy of the registration form should be sent to:

United Nations Economic Commission for Europe
Environment and Human Settlements Division
Ms. Evelina Rioukhina
Palais des Nations
CH-1211 GENEVA 10 (Switzerland)
Fax: + 41 22 917 0107

The secretariat can also be contacted by telephone (+ 41 22) 917 23 73, 917 1499 and 917 2463 and by electronic mail (water.convention@unece.org).

Participants are urged to complete the registration forms as soon as possible. If a Government has not yet selected its delegation by 14 June 2004, it should at least notify the host country and the UNECE secretariat of the number of persons in its delegations.

Annex II

**REGISTRATION FOR THE SEMINAR ON FLOOD PREVENTION,
PROTECTION AND MITIGATION**

(Berlin, 21-22 June 2004)

Please send this registration form by Fax or e-mail to the two addresses indicated below no later than 14 June 2004. Pre-registered participants are kindly requested to confirm their participation.

Name of participant:

Country/organization:

Address:

Telephone:

Telefax:

E-mail address:

Please send this registration form no later than **14 June 2004** to:

Ms.Marita Meissner (Fax: +49 228 305 2396; e-mail: marita.meissner@bmu.bund.de)
and to

Ms. Evelina Rioukhina (Fax: +41 22 917 0107; e-mail: water.convention@unece.org)