



Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
7 February 2011

Original: English

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

Twelfth meeting

Geneva, 2–4 May 2011

Item 1 of the provisional agenda

Adoption of the agenda

Annotated provisional agenda for the twelfth meeting

To be held at the Palais des Nations starting on Monday,
2 May 2011 at 3 p.m.*

I. Provisional agenda

1. Adoption of the agenda.
2. Adoption of the reports of previous meetings.
3. Pilot projects on joint monitoring and assessment of transboundary waters, including data management and information exchange.
4. Assistance to parties to the Protocol on Water and Health on issues related to target-setting, indicators and reporting.

* Delegates attending meetings at the Palais des Nations are requested to complete the registration form available on the Working Group's web page at (http://www.unece.org/env/water/meetings/documents_WGMA.htm) and to transmit it to the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) secretariat no later than two weeks before the meeting by e-mail (cammile.marcelo@unece.org). 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 Security and Safety Section, located at the Pregny Gate, 14, Avenue de la Paix (see the map on the UNECE website: <http://www.unece.org/meetings/practical.htm>). In case of difficulty, please contact the secretariat by telephone at +41 22 917 3227.

5. Assessment of the status of transboundary waters in the UNECE¹ region:
 - (a) Assessment of transboundary rivers, lakes and groundwaters in Western and Central Europe;
 - (b) Assessment of transboundary rivers, lakes and groundwaters in Central Asia;
 - (c) Assessment of transboundary rivers, lakes and groundwaters in Eastern and Northern Europe;
 - (d) Assessment of transboundary rivers, lakes and groundwaters in the Caucasus;
 - (e) Assessment of transboundary rivers, lakes and groundwaters in South-Eastern Europe;
 - (f) Maps and graphics for the second Assessment.
6. Assessment of Assessments report for the Seventh “Environment for Europe” Ministerial Conference.
7. Sharing of experiences and capacity-building.
8. Programme of work on monitoring and assessment for 2010–2012 and beyond.
9. Status and finalization of the second Assessment of transboundary rivers, lakes and groundwaters in the UNECE region.
 - (a) Main findings of the second Assessment for all subregions;
 - (b) Executive summary of the second Assessment;
 - (c) Final layout and content of the second Assessment and its finalization;
 - (d) Promotion and dissemination of the second Assessment.
10. Future Assessments under the Convention.
11. Preparations for the Seventh “Environment for Europe” Ministerial Conference.
12. International Water Assessment Centre.
13. Promotion of the Convention and the role of focal points.
14. Dates and venues of the next meetings of the Working Group on Monitoring and Assessment and the Working Group on Integrated Water Resources Management.
15. Other business.
16. Closure of the meeting.

II. Annotations

1. The twelfth meeting of the Working Group on Monitoring and Assessment will be held at the Palais des Nations, in Geneva. It will start at 3 p.m. on Monday, 2 May 2011 and will close at 5.30 p.m. on Wednesday, 4 May. It will be held back to back with the sixth meeting of the Working Group on Integrated Water Resources Management, which will take place in Geneva from 4–5 May 2011. A joint session of the two Working Groups will be held on Wednesday, 4 May from 9.30 a.m. to 5.30 p.m., with the Chairs of both Working Groups presiding.

¹ United Nations Economic Commission for Europe.

2. The working languages will be English, French and Russian.
3. All relevant documentation for the meeting will be available at http://www.unece.org/env/water/meetings/documents_WGMA.htm.

Session of the Working Group on Monitoring and Assessment only

1. Adoption of the agenda

Tentative timing: 3–3.05 p.m., Monday, 2 May 2011

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

2. Adoption of the reports of previous meetings

Tentative timing: 3.05–3.10 p.m., Monday, 2 May 2011

Official documentation: report of the Working Group on Monitoring and Assessment on its eleventh meeting (ECE/MP.WAT/WG.2/2010/2); report of the Working Group on Monitoring and Assessment on its extraordinary meeting (ECE/MP.WAT/WG.2/2010/7)

5. The Working Group is expected to adopt the report of its eleventh meeting (Geneva, 6–7 July 2010), as well as the report of its extraordinary meeting focusing on the assessment of transboundary rivers, lakes and groundwaters in Eastern and Northern Europe (Bratislava, 15–16 December 2010).

3. Pilot projects on joint monitoring and assessment of transboundary waters, including data management and information exchange

Tentative timing: 3.10–4 p.m., Monday, 2 May 2011

Information paper: progress report on the project to strengthen capacity for data administration and exchange for monitoring and assessment of transboundary water resources in Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia

6. The Chair will invite representatives of the International Office for Water and of the International Water Assessment Centre (IWAC) to report on the progress of the project “Strengthening capacity for data administration and exchange for monitoring and assessment of transboundary water resources in Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia”. More specifically, the Working Group will be informed about (a) objectives, partners and activities in the two pilot projects on the Dniester basin and the Aral Sea basin; (b) activities already undertaken in the basins and the next planned steps; and (c) cooperation arrangements between IWAC, the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) secretariat and the International Office for Water concerning the implementation of the project and with other ongoing initiatives in the two pilot basins. The Working Group will be invited to discuss the project and provide comments. In particular, representatives of the pilot basins will be invited to complete the information provided and introduce their perspectives on the project.

4. Assistance to parties to the Protocol on Water and Health on issues related to target-setting, indicators and reporting

Tentative timing: 4.00–4.20 p.m., Monday, 2 May 2011

Official documentation: Regional report on the status of implementation of the Protocol (ECE/MP.WH/2010/2–EUDHP1003944/4.2/1/8)

7. The secretariat will inform the Working Group about the results of the pilot reporting exercise in accordance with article 7 of the Protocol, about the findings of the first regional report on the implementation of the Protocol and about the outcome of the second session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol on Water and Health (Bucharest, 23–25 November 2010), in particular in relation to the future work on target-setting, indicators and reporting under the Protocol for the period 2011–2013. The Working Group will discuss its further assistance to parties to the Protocol on issues related to target-setting, indicators and reporting.

5. Assessment of the status of transboundary waters in the UNECE region

Tentative timing: 4.20–6 p.m., Monday, 2 May 2011; 10 a.m.–1 p.m. and 3–4.40 p.m., Tuesday, 3 May

8. The main task of the twelfth meeting of the Working Group on Monitoring and Assessment is the review and endorsement of the different parts of the second Assessment of Transboundary Rivers, Lakes and Groundwaters in the UNECE region which is being prepared as a major input document for the Seventh “Environment for Europe” Ministerial Conference, scheduled to be held from 21–23 September 2011 in Astana, Kazakhstan. The second Assessment will be first discussed by the Working Group on Monitoring and Assessment under this agenda item, and then jointly with the Working Group on Integrated Water Resources Management under agenda item 9. As the Working Group on Monitoring and Assessment has a leading role in the preparation of the second Assessment, discussion under this item will aim to have an in-depth review of the preliminary assessments prepared for all the subregions, i.e., South-Eastern Europe, the Caucasus, Eastern and Northern Europe, Central Asia and Western and Central Europe. Joint discussions with the Working Group on Integrated Water Resources Management will instead focus on more general issues and on the main findings and messages for the different subregional assessments as well as the executive summary and the finalization of the Assessment.

(a) Assessment of transboundary rivers, lakes and groundwaters in Western and Central Europe

Official documentation: Main findings of the assessment for Western and Central Europe (ECE/MP.WAT/WG.2/2011/8–ECE/MP.WAT/WG1/2011/8); Assessment of transboundary waters discharging into the Mediterranean (ECE/MP.WAT/WG.2/2011/14); Assessment of transboundary waters discharging into the North Sea and Eastern Atlantic (ECE/MP.WAT/WG.2/2011/15); Assessment of transboundary waters discharging into the Baltic Sea (ECE/MP.WAT/WG.2/2011/16)

9. The Working Group will examine and comment on the preliminary assessment of transboundary rivers, lakes and groundwaters in Western and Central Europe prepared on the basis of the outcome of the subregional workshop held in Budapest on 8–10 February 2011, the draft assessments prepared by river and lake commissions, as well as input to the datasheets provided by the countries. In particular, it will be invited to review, comment

and endorse the main findings for the subregion as well as the basin assessments. It will agree on how to revise and finalize this subregional assessment.

(b) Assessment of transboundary rivers, lakes and groundwaters in Central Asia

Official documentation: Main findings of the assessment for Central Asia (ECE/MP.WAT/WG.2/2011/4–ECE/MP.WAT/WG1/2011/4); Assessment of transboundary waters discharging into the White Sea, the Barents Sea and the Kara Sea (ECE/MP.WAT/WG.2/2011/9); Assessment of transboundary waters discharging into the Sea of Okhotsk and the Sea of Japan (ECE/MP.WAT/WG.2/2011/10); Assessment of transboundary waters discharging into the Aral Sea and other transboundary waters in Central Asia (ECE/MP.WAT/WG.2/2011/11)

10. The Working Group will examine and comment on the preliminary assessment of transboundary rivers, lakes and groundwaters in Central Asia prepared on the basis of information presented in the subregional workshop held in Almaty on 13–15 October 2010 and the input received through the datasheets from the countries. In particular, it will be invited to review, comment and endorse the main findings for the subregion as well as the basin assessments. It will agree on how to revise and finalize this subregional assessment.

(c) Assessment of transboundary rivers, lakes and groundwaters in Eastern and Northern Europe

Official documentation: Main findings of the assessment for Eastern and Northern Europe (ECE/MP.WAT/WG.2/2011/6–ECE/MP.WAT/WG1/2011/6); Assessment of transboundary rivers, lakes and groundwaters discharging into the Baltic Sea (ECE/MP.WAT/WG.2/2011/16); Assessment of transboundary rivers, lakes and groundwaters discharging into the Black Sea (ECE/MP.WAT/WG.2/2011/13); Assessment of transboundary waters discharging to the White Sea, the Barents Sea and the Kara Sea (ECE/MP.WAT/WG.2/2011/9)

11. The Working group will examine the subregional assessment for Eastern and Northern Europe, revised following the comments made during and after the extraordinary session of the Working Group (Bratislava, 15–16 December 2011). In particular, it will be invited to review, comment and endorse the main findings for the subregion as well as the basin assessments.

(d) Assessment of transboundary rivers, lakes and groundwaters in the Caucasus

Official documentation: Main findings of the assessment for the Caucasus (ECE/MP.WAT/WG.2/2011/5–ECE/MP.WAT/WG1/2011/5); Assessment of transboundary rivers, lakes and groundwaters discharging into the Caspian Sea (ECE/MP.WAT/WG.2/2011/12); Assessment of transboundary rivers, lakes and groundwaters discharging into the Black Sea (ECE/MP.WAT/WG.2/2011/13)

12. The Working group will examine the subregional assessment for the Caucasus, revised following the comments made during and after the last meeting of the Working Group. In particular, it will be invited to review and endorse the main findings for the subregion as well as the basin assessments.

(e) **Assessment of transboundary rivers, lakes and groundwaters in South-Eastern Europe**

Official documentation: Main findings of the assessment for South-Eastern Europe ECE/MP.WAT/WG.2/2011/7–ECE/MP.WAT/WG1/2011/7; Assessment of transboundary waters discharging to the Mediterranean (ECE/MP.WAT/WG.2/2011/14); Assessment of transboundary rivers, lakes and groundwaters discharging into the Black Sea (ECE/MP.WAT/WG.2/2011/13)

13. The Working group will examine the final version of the subregional assessment for South-Eastern Europe, revised following the comments made during and after the last meeting of the working group. In particular, it will be invited to review and endorse the main findings for the subregion as well as the basin assessments.

(f) **Maps and graphics for the second Assessment**

Information paper: Maps and graphics to be included in the second Assessment

14. The secretariat will present to the Working Group the maps and graphics to be included in the second Assessment. Participants will be invited to discuss them, to endorse and verify the maps, to the extent possible, and to agree on steps for their finalization.

6. Assessment of Assessments report for the Seventh “Environment for Europe” Ministerial Conference

Tentative timing: 4.40–5.10 p.m., Tuesday, 3 May 2011

15. The Working Group will be informed on the plans and progress achieved in the preparation of the Assessment of Assessments report to be prepared for the Seventh “Environment for Europe” Conference to be held in Astana in September 2011. The Working Group will discuss cooperation relating to this process.

7. Sharing of experiences and capacity-building

Tentative timing: 5.10–5.30 p.m., Tuesday, 3 May 2011

16. The Chair will invite delegates to share their ideas with regard to possible activities to be organized in 2011–2012 on the joint monitoring and assessment of transboundary waters at the national, subregional, and regional levels aimed at strengthening the capacity of parties and non-parties to implement the Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes (Water Convention) and the different guidance documents developed within its framework. The role of IWAC in these activities will also be discussed.

8. Programme of work on monitoring and assessment for 2010–2012 and beyond

Tentative timing: 5.30 p.m.–6 p.m., Tuesday, 3 May 2011

Documentation: Workplan for 2010–2012 (ECE/MP.WAT/29/Add.1)

17. The Working Group will review progress made on the implementation of the Convention's workplan on monitoring and assessment for 2010–2012, and revise it, if necessary.

18. Moreover, in order to facilitate the discussion at its thirteenth meeting on the future priority areas of work for the period 2013–2015 and the related activities, the Working Group will exchange views on this issue and entrust its Chair, in cooperation with the Convention Bureau, with preparing a proposal for the future programme of work 2013–2015 for the next meeting.

Joint session with the Working Group on Integrated Water Resources Management

9. Status and finalization of the second Assessment of transboundary rivers, lakes and groundwaters in the UNECE region

Tentative timing: 9.40 a.m.–12.30 p.m. and 2.30–2.45 p.m., Wednesday 4 May 2011

Official documentation: Main findings of the Assessment for Central Asia (ECE/MP.WAT/WG.2/2011/4–ECE/MP.WAT/WG1/2011/4); Main findings of the Assessment for the Caucasus (ECE/MP.WAT/WG.2/2011/5–ECE/MP.WAT/WG1/2011/5); Main findings of the Assessment for Eastern and Northern Europe (ECE/MP.WAT/WG.2/2011/6–ECE/MP.WAT/WG1/2011/6); Main findings of the Assessment for South-Eastern Europe (ECE/MP.WAT/WG.2/2011/7–ECE/MP.WAT/WG1/2011/7); Main findings of the Assessment for Western and Central Europe (ECE/MP.WAT/WG.2/2011/8–ECE/MP.WAT/WG1/2011/8)

19. During the joint session, the two Working Groups will discuss strategic issues related to the preparation and finalization of the second Assessment, as well as the main findings and messages from the different subregional assessments.

20. The Chair of the Working Group on Monitoring and Assessment and the secretariat will update the two Working Groups on developments related to the second Assessment since the last joint session of both Working Groups (Geneva, 7 July 2010), specifically focusing on the outcomes of the subregional workshops for Central Asia (Almaty, 13–15 October 2010) and Western and Central Europe (Budapest, Hungary, 8–10 February 2011).

(a) Main findings of the second Assessment for all subregions

21. The two working groups will be invited to comment on the draft main findings from the assessment for all subregions: Caucasus, Northern and Eastern Europe, Central Asia, Western and Central Europe and South-Eastern Europe. They will be invited to endorse them and to agree on steps for their finalization.

(b) Executive summary of the second Assessment

Official documentation: Assessment on the status of transboundary waters in the UNECE region — executive summary (ECE/MP.WAT/WG.2/2011/3–ECE/MP.WAT/WG1/2011/3)

22. The Chair will present a draft of the executive summary of the second Assessment of transboundary waters in the UNECE region, targeted at policymakers. The Working Groups will be invited to comment on the draft executive summary, to add and revise important messages and to agree on the next steps for its finalization.

(c) Final layout and content of the second Assessment and its finalization

Information paper: Note on the final layout and content of the second Assessment and road map for its finalization

23. The Working Groups will discuss and agree on the final layout and content of the second Assessment on the basis of the outline that it endorsed at its eleventh session (presented in informal document WGMA/2010/Inf.3–WGIWRM/2010/Inf.2).

24. The two Working Groups will be invited to discuss and agree on future steps to be taken for the timely finalization and printing of the second Assessment for the Astana Ministerial Conference in September 2011.

(d) Promotion and dissemination of the second Assessment

25. The Working Groups will discuss how to ensure an effective dissemination of the results of the second Assessment at the national and international level, including through the launch at the Astana Conference, as well as through events or promotion at other European and international events. They will also discuss the need and options for a user-friendly online version of the second Assessment.

10. Future Assessments under the Convention

Tentative timing: 2.45–3.15 p.m., Wednesday 4 May 2011

26. The Working Groups will discuss the opportunity to develop a third Assessment of transboundary waters under the Convention. It will evaluate the pros and cons of the exercise and, if so decided, the possible future characteristics of the third Assessment, including the timeline for its production, its scope and objectives, differences compared to the first two editions, methods of work, etc., as well as the need for a mandate from the Astana Ministerial Conference.

11. Preparations for the Seventh “Environment for Europe” Ministerial Conference

Tentative timing: 3.15 p.m.–4.30 p.m., Wednesday, 4 May 2011

Official documentation: report of the Committee on Environmental Policy at its seventeenth session (ECE/CEP/161)

27. The UNECE Committee on Environmental Policy (CEP), mandated to serve as the convening body for the preparatory process of the “Environment for Europe” (EfE) Ministerial Conferences, agreed at its sixteenth session (Geneva, 20–23 October 2009) on the two main themes for the Astana Ministerial Conference: (a) sustainable management of water and water-related ecosystems and (b) greening the economy: mainstreaming the

environment into economic development. At its seventeenth session, held on 2–5 November 2010 in Geneva, the CEP agreed on the structure of the Seventh EfE Ministerial Conference, including the sessions and issues to be discussed.

28. As background for the ministers' discussions, an official substantive document on water and water-related ecosystems is being prepared by the Water Convention secretariat in cooperation with numerous international and non-governmental organizations. In addition, a toolbox for action is being developed under the Water Convention Bureau by a drafting group composed of nominated members as one of the possible outcomes of the Astana Conference. Participants are invited to participate in the preparation of these documents. Both documents will be submitted to the CEP at its next session (Geneva, 24–27 May 2011).

29. The Working Groups will discuss how they can contribute to the preparations for the Astana Ministerial Conference and to the water theme. In particular they will discuss how they can promote the work of the Water Convention at the Astana Conference, for example, through ministerial statements, organizing side events and other means. In this regard, the Working Groups will discuss cooperation with the CEP.

12. International Water Assessment Centre

Tentative timing: 4.30–4.50 p.m., Wednesday, 4 May 2011

30. Mr. Boris Minarik, director of IWAC, will update the Working Groups on the work of the Assessment Centre since the last joint session of the Working Groups, and on its future plans. The working groups will be invited to discuss how IWAC can work most effectively for the benefit of parties and non-parties alike.

13. Promotion of the Convention and the role of focal points

Tentative timing: 4.50–5.15 p.m., Wednesday, 4 May 2011

Official documentation: How to better promote the Convention and its Protocol on Water and Health: a guide for focal points (ECE/MP.WAT/2009/13)

31. The Working Groups will continue to exchange experiences on ways and means to promote the Convention and its achievements based on the guide for focal points for promoting the Water Convention and the Protocol on Water and Health (ECE/MP.WAT/2009/13).

32. The Working Groups will also be invited to discuss and provide comments for promoting the Convention, for example at international events such as the World Water Week and the sixth World Water Forum, to be held in Marseille in 2012. In this respect, the secretariat will inform the Working Groups about the regional preparatory process of the World Water Forum and about the Water Convention's role in it.

33. Finally, the Working Groups will discuss the opportunity to organize a special event or develop specific products in connection with the twentieth anniversary of the adoption of the Water Convention in 2012.

14. Dates and venues of the next meetings of the Working Group on Monitoring and Assessment and the Working Group on Integrated Water Resources Management

Tentative timing: 5.15–5.30 p.m., Wednesday, 4 May 2011

34. The Working Groups will determine preliminary dates and venues of their next meetings.

15. Other business

35. Delegates wishing to propose points under this item are requested to inform the secretariat as soon as possible.

16. Closure of the meeting

36. The Chairs will close the meeting at 5.30 p.m. on Wednesday, 4 May 2011.
