

Strategic workshop on the future work under the UNECE Water Convention: Building on the findings of the Second Assessment and other results achieved

**Geneva, 14-15 February 2012
Palais des Nations, room VII**

Annotated Agenda

Objectives of the workshop:

1. Discuss and recommend future objectives for the work under the Convention (up to 2020).
2. Discuss and recommend prioritized activities for the 2013-2015 programme of work
3. Discuss the implications of the opening of the Convention to non-UNECE countries
4. Review and analyze the past and current work under the Convention
5. Revisit the needs and current challenges for transboundary water management and cooperation — recalling the findings of the Second Assessment of Transboundary Rivers, Lakes and Groundwaters — and discuss potential future needs, challenges and opportunities.
6. Discuss the role of partners in promoting transboundary water cooperation and in implementing the Convention and its programme of work
7. Discuss the content and process related to future assessments (a full assessment is planned in 8-10 years time and a “special focus” assessment planned for 2015)

Day 1. 14 February, 10.00-18.30

10.00: Welcome and introduction

- Presentation of the objectives of the strategic workshop and of the overall process within which it is organized (Sibylle Vermont, Chair of the Bureau of the Water Convention)
- Presentation of the agenda and of the method of work (Johan Kuylenstierna, Stockholm Environment Institute, workshop facilitator)
- Presentation of participants.

10.40: How the work under the Water Convention has evolved in a changing environment

A presentation of the Water Convention and its work by Francesca Bernardini, Secretary to the Convention

11.00: Areas of work under the Convention: achievements, challenges and opportunities — facilitated discussion with stakeholders

The leaders of the main areas of work or the secretariat will provide a brief overview and analysis of the on-going activities (presentations of 5 minutes, followed by 5 minutes questions/comments). The presentations will all have the same structure/format and address the following topics:

1. What has been done in this area of work, what were the main achievements (since 2009)?
2. What are the main challenges and lessons learnt?
3. What are the ideas for the future work in this area?

The following areas of work will be presented:

1. Implementation Committee (Attila Tanzi, Legal Board)
2. Promoting implementation of the Convention through capacity-building and projects on the ground (Sonja Koeppel, UNECE secretariat)
3. Monitoring and Assessment (Lea Kauppi, Finland)
4. Water and Adaptation to Climate Change (Joost Buntma, Netherlands)
5. Groundwater (Annukka Lipponen, UNECE secretariat)
6. Water and ecosystems (Sibylle Vermont, Switzerland)
7. Industrial accidents (Maria Galambos, Hungary)
8. National Policy Dialogues (Ana Drapa, Romania)
9. Opening the Convention (Massimo Cozzone, Italy)
10. The International Water Assessment Centre (Boris Minarik, Slovakia)

13.00: Lunch

14.00: The changing environment

What are the trends and drivers affecting water management and transboundary cooperation and what can be the response of the Convention.

A presentation by Jeremy Bird, independent adviser, former CEO of the Mekong River Commission

14.15-14.30: Introduction to breakout sessions – explanation of tools

14.30- 16.45: Breakout session 1: Setting the stage and priorities for the objectives and areas of work under the Convention

First part, workshop questions:

- What are the challenges and opportunities for the work on transboundary water cooperation (both at the regional and global level)?
- How can the work under the Water Convention respond to the identified challenges and exploit opportunities (in the UNECE region and beyond)?

Short plenary discussion on the first two questions (15.15-15.45)

Second part, workshop questions:

- What do you consider to be the future key objectives for the work under the Convention (up to 2020)? List between three and five.
- What should be the areas of work under the Convention for the 2013-2015 programme of work in order to make progress towards the identified key objectives?

16.45 Coffee break

17.15: Plenary session: Summarizing key objectives, prioritizing areas of work

- The secretariat will present the key objectives identified by the groups
- A facilitated discussion will identify potential areas of work. These will be listed and participants will be invited to vote in order to prioritize them.

18.15: Short evaluation and an introduction to the programme for day 2

18.30 Cocktail reception

Day2. 15 February, 09.00-17.00

09.00: Introduction and recap from day 1

The secretariat will present the result of the prioritization (vote) and the facilitator will introduce the agenda of day 2

9.30 Break-out session 2: Moving to action in areas of work

Groups will be formed around 5-8 identified priority areas of work. They will discuss: activities and outputs, actors/partners, desired outcomes and sources of funding.

Three consecutive rounds of group discussions (30 minutes each) will be held so that each participant will have a chance to contribute to three different areas of work.

11.00 Coffee

11.30: Reporting back / plenary discussion from breakout session “Moving to Action”

13.00: Lunch

14.00: Plenary session: Future assessments

Finland and the secretariat will give an overview of the lessons learned from the preparation of the Second Assessment together with the decisions so far concerning future assessments of transboundary waters under the Water Convention.

14.15: Facilitated discussion: Future assessments

Open brainstorming to identify options for the thematic focus of the future special edition of the transboundary water assessment. The themes should be linked to those identified in the discussion under the future programme of work as it has been agreed that the special edition of the Assessment should be closely integrated in the programme of work and support other activities.

14.45: Voting to identify three “high priorities” for possible themes of the future special edition of the transboundary water assessment

15.00: Breakout session 3: From idea to action

Three facilitated groups to discuss (one for each of the three identified potential areas): Actors and partners, sources of information, potential geographical scope, necessary resources, and key components of the process to compile the assessment

16.00: Report back to plenary and discussion

16.45: Plenary: workshop conclusions and the process ahead

17.15: End of Workshop