



**Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary
Watercourses and International Lakes**

BUREAU/2015/8

BUREAU OF THE MEETING OF THE PARTIES

Twenty-second meeting
Geneva, 26 June 2015

ANNOTATED PROVISIONAL AGENDA FOR THE TWENTY-SECOND MEETING

Prepared by the secretariat

The 22nd meeting of the Bureau will take place in the Palais des Nations in room IV on 26 June 2015, from 9 a.m. to 4.00 p.m. back-to-back with the tenth meeting of the Working Group on IWRM on 24-25 June. The meeting will be held in English without interpretation.

Bureau members should be in possession of a long-duration badge to enter the Palais des Nations. If this is not the case please contact: cammile.marcelo@unece.org.

The main objectives of the Bureau meeting will be:

- To finalize discussions on the draft programme of work for 2016–2018 of the Convention.
- To discuss the preparation of the seventh session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention (MOP7), to be held in Budapest from 17 to 19 November 2015.

1. Adoption of the agenda (09.00-09.05)

2. Opening of the Water Convention beyond the UNECE region and establishment of strategic partnerships (9.05-10.00)

In view of the entry into force on 6 February 2013 of the amendments to the Water Convention, the Bureau will discuss how to ensure ratification of the amendments by the remaining Parties as soon as possible (namely Ukraine; Belgium and Kazakhstan only need to deposit their instruments of ratification), given that the deadline contained in the decision on accession by non-UNECE countries adopted at the sixth session of the Meeting of the Parties passed on 31 December 2013.

Subsequently, the Bureau will discuss how to deal with the matter at the Meeting of the Parties, in particular how to reinforce the message of the importance of the Convention's opening and encouragement to the non-UNECE countries present to prepare for accession and in any case participate in the Convention's activities.

The Bureau will also discuss how to shape the future infrastructure for the implementation of the soon-to-be global Water Convention, e.g. in relation to the GEF, the New York Convention and other partners such as UNESCO.

3. International Water Assessment Centre (10.00-10.15)

A representative of Kazakhstan will inform about the latest developments regarding the plans for the country's possible offer to host the International Water Assessment Centre. The Bureau will discuss the offer, if any, and make related arrangements.

4. Discussion on the future programme of work for 2016–2018 (10.15-11.30)

The Bureau will discuss issues not resolved by the meeting of the Working Group on Integrated Water Resources Management related to the draft programme of work for 2016-2018, and will agree on the way forward for finalizing it for submission to the Meeting of the Parties. In discussing these items, the Bureau will consider the institutional structure of intergovernmental bodies under the Convention, lead parties, resources and potential partners for the different activities.

The Bureau will also discuss how to raise the needed resources for the programme of work, including for extrabudgetary staff members, in particular steps to be undertaken by the Bureau and the secretariat before the MOP7.

The Chair of the Bureau will share the conclusions of the UNECE conventions' chairs meeting that was held on 13 April 2015 and subsequently, UNECE management will make an update on its initiative related to making funding of the UNECE MEAs more sustainable. The Bureau will discuss the issue.

5. Preparations for the seventh session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention (MOP7) and implementation of the Convention in 2016–2018 (11.30-12.30, 13.30-15.30)

(a) Agenda and documentation

The Bureau will consider the draft agenda prepared by the secretariat and make arrangements, as appropriate, to ensure the smooth, efficient and successful running of the meeting. It will also examine the list of official documents and publications to be submitted to MOP7 and make arrangements for their preparation. In particular, it will consider the decisions to be taken at the Meeting of the Parties, such as, depending on the developments at the Working Group on IWRM, with regards to the possible introduction of a reporting mechanism under the Convention.

(b) Organization of a high-level segment and special event during or back-to-back with the MOP7

The Bureau will discuss the high-level segment and special event(s) to be held back-to-back or during MOP7 in terms of topic, format, questions for discussion, possible speakers and practical aspects of the organization. Other opportunities to raise the political profile of the MOP7 will be discussed, including the invitation of high-level speakers and the signing of agreements.

(c) Future Bureau and Implementation Committee

The Bureau will exchange views on the possible composition of the future Bureau of the Convention and the Implementation Committee, including potential new candidates. The Bureau will also discuss how to organize the elections, if needed.

(d) Practical arrangements

- Chairing the MOP7

The Bureau may wish to agree on who will chair MOP7, taking into account Rules 17 and 18 of the Rules of Procedure.

- Invitations

The Bureau will be informed about the planned/ proposed procedure for sending out invitations by host countries and the secretariat. The Bureau will consider a list of international and non-governmental organizations to be invited.

- Side events during MOP7

The Bureau will discuss and decide on the themes of such side events and who should be invited to organize them

- Organization of work at the MOP7 and creation of ad hoc groups

The Bureau will discuss and agree on the need and opportunity to establish specific ad hoc groups during MOP7, as was done for example in previous sessions, for the reporting mechanism.

- Donors' meeting

As already done at previous sessions, a donors' meeting could be convened to raise funds to implement relevant items of the programme of work. The Bureau may wish to advise the secretariat on whether to organize such an event and, if so, on how to structure it in the most effective way and otherwise, how to ensure pledges at the Meeting of the Parties.

- Hospitality

The host country will inform about tentative plans related to hospitality at MOP7.

- Promotion of MOP7

The Bureau will discuss and make arrangements on the steps to be taken in order to broadly disseminate information on MOP7.

- Budget of MOP7

In the light of the previous discussions and on the basis of information from the host country and of a draft budget prepared by the secretariat, the Bureau will discuss and make arrangements related to possible additional resources needed for MOP7. In this regard, the secretariat will inform about the introduction of a new software for all aspects of work of the United Nations (named "UMOJA") on 1 November 2015 and the possible implications for the Meeting of the Parties.

6. Promotion and 20th anniversary (15.30- 15.45)

Based on the discussions at the WGIWRM, the Bureau will discuss promotion of the Convention, in particular how to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the Convention's entry into force in 2016.

7. Next Bureau meeting (15.45- 15.50)

The Bureau will discuss possible dates of its next meeting, possibly to be held back-to-back with the Meeting of the Parties.

8. Other business (15.50-15.55)

9. Closing (15.55-16.00)