



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

BUREAU/2016/1

**BUREAU OF THE MEETING OF THE PARTIES**

Twenty-third meeting  
Geneva, 8 April 2016

**ANNOTATED PROVISIONAL AGENDA FOR THE TWENTY-THIRD MEETING**

Prepared by the secretariat

The 23rd meeting of the Bureau will take place in the Palais des Nations in room S4 on 8 April 2016, from 9 a.m. to 4.00 p.m. 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: [mayola.lidome@unece.org](mailto:mayola.lidome@unece.org).

The main objectives of the Bureau meeting will be:

- To discuss the implementation of the programme of work for 2016-2018 of the Water Convention, in particular the preparation of a strategy for the implementation of the Convention at the global level;
- To discuss the establishment and workplan of the International Water Assessment Centre (IWAC) which Kazakhstan offered to host;
- To discuss the celebrations of the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the entry into force of the Convention in 2016.

**1. Adoption of the agenda (09.00-09.05)**

**2. Opening of the Water Convention beyond the UNECE region and establishment of strategic partnerships (9.05-11.00)**

As of 1 March 2016, the opening of the UNECE Water Convention became operational and countries from outside the UNECE region can now accede to the Convention. At and after the seventh Meeting of the Parties, numerous requests were received by the secretariat for capacity-building and awareness-raising events from interested countries and regional organizations outside the UNECE region. The secretariat will provide an update in this regard, including proposals for how to address these requests. The secretariat will also inform about exchanges with partners such as IUCN, WWF, GWP, Green Cross, Dundee University and others on the promotion of the two Conventions. The Bureau will discuss and agree on future activities linked to the opening of the Convention and its implementation outside the UNECE region, including division of responsibilities between Bureau members.

Subsequently, the Bureau will discuss the preparation of the strategy for the implementation of the Convention at the global level, in terms of content, timeline, partners to be involved in the preparation and steps and responsibilities for its further development.

**3. Implementation of the programme of work for 2016-2018, status of funding and resources needed (11.00-12.30)**

On the basis of an overview document prepared by the secretariat the Bureau will discuss the implementation of the programme of work for 2016-2018.

The Bureau will in particular discuss the implementation of the pilot reporting exercise in 2016-2017. In this regard, the secretariat will provide an overview on the discussions on indicators for the SDG on water and in particular target 6.5. The Bureau will discuss possible linkages with the reporting under the Convention.

Subsequently, the secretariat will present an updated overview of contributions, pledges, expected contributions and remaining financial gaps to support the programme of work's implementation. The secretariat will also explain implications of UMOJA, the new administrative system of the United Nations, in particular with regards to reporting to donors. In light of this information, the Bureau will discuss resources needed to implement the programme of work for 2016-2018, will exchange information on their countries' perspective for financing future work, and make arrangements to raise the missing resources, especially resources for extrabudgetary staff.

**4. International Water Assessment Centre (13.30-14.30)**

At the seventh session of the Meeting of the Parties, Kazakhstan had offered to host the International Water Assessment Centre IWAC as of 2016/2017. A representative of Kazakhstan will inform about the location, resources, proposed thematic and geographic focus, working modalities etc. of the Centre, as well as its proposed work programme for 2017-2018. The Bureau will discuss these issues and next steps.

**5. Promotion and 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Convention's entry into force (14.30- 15.45)**

The Bureau will discuss promotion of the Convention, in particular the celebration of the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Convention's entry into force in 2016. In this regard, the chair will present his country's plans to organize the second Budapest Water Summit in November 2016 in Budapest.

Moreover, Bureau members will discuss opportunities to promote the Convention linked with other global processes such as the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and other global commitments adopted in 2015, the newly created high-level panels (The High-Level Panel on Water and Peace, the High-Level Panel on Water, the High-level Experts and Leaders Panel on Water and Disasters (HELP)) etc.

**6. Next Bureau meeting (15.45- 15.50)**

The Bureau will discuss the dates of its next meeting, possibly on 20 October back-to-back with Working Group on IWRM.

**7. Other business (15.50-15.55)**

**8. Closing (15.55-16.00)**