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Meeting of the Parties to the Convention on
the Protection and Use of Transboundary
Watercourses and International Lakes

Working Group on Integrated Water Resources Management

Twelfth meeting

Geneva, 5 and 6 July 2017

Item 2 of the provisional agenda

Adoption of the agenda

Annotated provisional agenda for the twelfth meeting

To be held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva, starting on Wednesday,
5 July 2017, at 10 a.m.*

I. Provisional agenda

1. Opening of the session.
2. Adoption of the agenda.
3. Adoption of the report of the previous meeting.
4. Progress in the ratification process.

* Delegates attending the meeting at the Palais des Nations are requested to register no later than two weeks before the meeting using the electronic procedure. Registration is available through the following link: <https://www2.unece.org/uncdb/app/ext/meeting-registration?id=XRCT1s>. For assistance with registration, please see the instructions on the web page for the meeting (<http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=43613>) or contact the secretariat by e-mail (mayola.lidome@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 United Nations Economic Commission for Europe website: www.unece.org/meetings/practical.html). In case of difficulty, please contact the secretariat by telephone at +41 22 917 2596.



5. Support for implementation and application of the Convention:
 - (a) Assistance supporting countries' accession to and implementation of the Convention through projects on the ground and capacity development;
 - (b) Implementation Committee;
 - (c) Reporting under the Convention and on Sustainable Development Goal indicator 6.5.2;
 - (d) Development of a concept for a third comprehensive assessment.
6. The global Convention — promotion and partnerships:
 - (a) Promoting accession by raising awareness about the Convention and developing capacity to implement its provisions;
 - (b) Cooperation with partners;
 - (c) Strategy for the implementation of the Convention at the global level.
7. Identifying, assessing and communicating the benefits of transboundary water cooperation.
8. The water-food-energy-ecosystems nexus in transboundary basins.
9. Adapting to climate change in transboundary basins.
10. Water and industrial accidents.
11. European Union Water Initiative and National Policy Dialogues.
12. International Water Assessment Centre.
13. Ongoing programme of work for 2016-2018 and initial discussion on the programme of work for 2019-2021.
14. Date and venue of the next meeting of the Working Group.
15. Other business.
16. Closure of the meeting.

II. Annotations

1. The twelfth meeting of the Working Group on Integrated Water Resources Management under the Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes (Water Convention) will be held at the Palais des Nations in Geneva, Switzerland, starting at 10 a.m. on Wednesday, 5 July, and ending at 5 p.m. on Thursday, 6 July 2017. The meeting will be held back to back with a workshop on recent progress regarding transboundary water cooperation worldwide.

2. The working languages for the meeting will be English, French, Russian and Spanish. All relevant documentation will be available on a dedicated page of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) Water Convention website.¹

¹ See <http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=43613>.

1. Opening of the session

Tentative timing: 10-10.05 a.m., Wednesday, 5 July

3. The Working Group will be opened by its Co-Chairs, Ms. Heide Jekel (Germany) and Ms. Lea Kauppi (Finland).

2. Adoption of the agenda

Tentative timing: 10.05-10.15 a.m., Wednesday, 5 July

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

5. The Co-Chairs will present the background and main objectives of the meeting. In particular, they will refer to the programme of work for 2016-2018 adopted by the Meeting of the Parties at its seventh session (Budapest, 17-19 November 2015), as the Working Group will review the status of its implementation.

Documentation

Annotated provisional agenda for the twelfth meeting (ECE/MP.WAT/WG.1/2017/1)

Programme of work for 2016-2018 (ECE/MP.WAT/49/Add.1)

3. Adoption of the report of the previous meeting

Tentative timing: 10.15-10.25 a.m., Wednesday, 5 July

6. The Working Group will be invited to adopt the report of its eleventh meeting (Geneva, 18-19 October 2016).

Documentation

Report of the Working Group on Integrated Water Resources Management on its eleventh meeting (ECE/MP.WAT/WG.1/2016/2, forthcoming)

4. Progress in the ratification process

Tentative timing: 10.25-10.45 a.m., Wednesday, 5 July

7. The secretariat will inform participants about the status of ratification of the Convention, recalling that the amendments to articles 25 and 26 opening the Convention for accession by non-ECE countries entered into force on 6 February 2013 and became operational on 1 March 2016, turning the Convention into a universally available framework for transboundary water cooperation. Countries will also be invited to inform about steps taken towards accession.

Documentation

Ratification status of the Water Convention, its amendments and protocols (WG.1/2017/INF.1)

5. Support for implementation and application of the Convention

Tentative timing: 10.45 a.m.-1 p.m. and 3-3.45 p.m., Wednesday, 5 July

(a) Assistance supporting countries' accession to and implementation of the Convention through projects on the ground and capacity development

8. The Working Group will be informed of the progress achieved in different projects supporting implementation of the Convention in countries of Eastern and South-Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia carried out with the support of the ECE Regional Adviser on Environment. The Working Group will provide comments as needed, including on the future development of such projects.

(b) Implementation Committee

9. The Working Group will be informed about the outcome of the seventh and eighth meetings of the Implementation Committee (respectively, Budapest, 1-2 December 2016 and Haparanda, Sweden, 23-24 May 2017), and the future plans of the Committee.

Documentation

Report of the seventh meeting of the Implementation Committee (ECE/MP.WAT/IC/2016/4)

Report of the eighth meeting of the Implementation Committee (ECE/MP.WAT/IC/2017/2, forthcoming)

Decision VI/1 on support to implementation and compliance (see ECE/MP.WAT/37/Add.2)

Decision VII/1 on general issues of implementation (see ECE/MP.WAT/49/Add.2)

(c) Reporting under the Convention and on Sustainable Development Goal indicator 6.5.2

10. At its seventh session, the Meeting of the Parties adopted decision VII/2 (see ECE/MP.WAT/49/Add.2), introducing a reporting mechanism under the Convention. In accordance with decision VII/2, reporting started with a pilot exercise in 2017 to test the reporting template. Decision VII/2 encouraged all Parties and non-Parties, especially those sharing basins with Parties and those considering accession to the Convention, to participate in the pilot reporting exercise by submitting to the secretariat their filled out reporting forms and their comments on the reporting template. On the basis of the reports submitted, the secretariat was asked to prepare a synthesis report providing an overview of the Convention's implementation and the advancement of transboundary water cooperation.

11. The introduction of the reporting under the Convention coincided with the adoption of target 6.5 of the Sustainable Development Goals in 2015. Target 6.5 calls for countries to implement integrated water resources management at all levels, including through transboundary cooperation as appropriate. To measure progress, indicator 6.5.2 was agreed by the United Nations Statistical Commission in March 2016. The indicator is defined as the "percentage of transboundary basin area with an operational arrangement for transboundary cooperation". ECE and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) have led the development of the step-by-step methodology to calculate indicator 6.5.2 and have been proposed as "custodian agencies" for the indicator.

12. At the Working Group's eleventh meeting (Geneva, 18-19 October 2016), it was decided to combine the reporting under the Convention and the reporting on indicator 6.5.2 and to send only one template to all Parties to gather this information.

13. Similarly, all other countries in the world sharing transboundary waters were invited to report on indicator 6.5.2 through a questionnaire which, in addition to a section on the

calculation of 6.5.2, includes three other sections based on the Convention's reporting template.

14. All Parties were invited to report by 15 May 2017 and all other countries by 15 June 2017, as the sending out of the questionnaires was staggered. Countries were requested to send their reports to both ECE and UNESCO.

15. The Working Group will be informed about the initial outcomes of the reporting on the Convention and the reporting on indicator 6.5.2. Progress on the integrated monitoring of water and sanitation-related Sustainable Development Goal targets initiative (GEMI),² operating under the UN-Water umbrella, will also be presented.

16. The Working Group will discuss experiences in all countries from the pilot reporting exercise and will provide feedback on the process, the questionnaire and explanations provided.

17. Subsequently, the Working Group will discuss whether to revise the reporting template (namely sections I and II of the template for Parties and sections II and III of the template for non-Parties). Countries will agree on the procedure and timeline for the revision of the template, if revisions are needed, and on the preparation of a decision on reporting for the next Meeting of the Parties.

18. The Working Group will then discuss the next steps for reviewing progress on the Convention's implementation and indicator 6.5.2, in particular with regard to analysing, storing and displaying the data and preparing the report for the Meeting of the Parties and the relevant inputs to the high-level political forum on sustainable development.

Documentation

Decision VII/2 on reporting under the Convention (see ECE/MP.WAT/49/Add.2)

Reporting under the Convention and on Sustainable Development Goal indicator 6.5.2 (ECE/MP.WAT/WG.1/2017/3)

Template for Parties for reporting under the Water Convention and for global Sustainable Development Goal indicator 6.5.2 (WG.1/2017/INF.2)

Template for non-Parties for reporting on the global Sustainable Development Goal indicator 6.5.2 (WG.1/2017/INF.3)

(d) Development of a concept for a third comprehensive assessment

19. Under the Convention, two comprehensive assessments of the status of transboundary rivers, lakes and groundwaters in the European and Asian parts of the ECE region were prepared, in 2007 and 2011.³ At its seventh session, the Meeting of the Parties entrusted the Working Group on Integrated Resources Management and the Working Group on Monitoring and Assessment to develop a proposal for a third comprehensive assessment, including the thematic and geographical scope (taking into account the Convention's global opening), modalities and partners for implementation, financing options and links with other ongoing processes, such as the reporting under the Convention and the Transboundary Waters Assessment Programme. At its eleventh meeting, the Working Group decided to establish a group of experts from national authorities, river or

² For more information, see <http://www.unwater.org/gemi/en/> and <http://www.sdg6monitoring.org/>.

³ *Our Waters: Joining Hands Across Borders — First Assessment of Transboundary Rivers, Lakes and Groundwaters* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.07.II.E.19), available from <http://www.unece.org/env/water/publications/pub76.html>; and *Second Assessment of Transboundary Rivers, Lakes and Groundwaters* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E. 11.II.E.15), available from <http://www.unece.org/?id=26343>.

lake basin commissions and international organizations to develop the concept for the third assessment. The Working Group will discuss and comment the preliminary proposal on the scope, content and process prepared on the basis of the first meeting of the expert group (Geneva, 9-10 May 2017) and will discuss and agree on the next steps for the further development of the concept.

Documentation

Preliminary proposal on the scope, content and process for the third assessment of transboundary waters (WG.1/2017/INF.4)

6. The global Convention — promotion and partnerships

Tentative timing: 3.45 p.m.-5.15 p.m. Wednesday, 5 July

(a) Promoting accession by raising awareness about the Convention and developing capacity to implement its provisions

20. Countries from outside the ECE region will present their efforts towards acceding to the Water Convention.

21. The Working Group will also hear about activities carried out by the secretariat, Parties and partners to build capacity and raise awareness on the Convention, such as the national workshop “The Water Convention: Opportunities and Perspectives for Sustainable Management of Transboundary Waters in Chad” organized at the request of the Government (N’Djamena, 29-30 March 2017), the training session “From Practitioner to practitioner: training on how to use the two global Water Conventions” (Geneva, 20-21 October 2016), and other initiatives at the regional and global levels to build capacity on and awareness of the Convention.

22. The Working Group will discuss future activities in this area to further promote and build capacities on the Convention beyond the ECE region.

(b) Cooperation with partners

23. At its seventh session, through decision VII/4, the Meeting of the Parties emphasized the importance of partnerships with international organizations, in particular regional commissions and other UN-Water members, financing institutions, joint bodies, non-governmental organizations, academia and the business sector, to strengthen transboundary water cooperation, support the Convention’s implementation on the ground and ensure the execution of the programme of work. It decided to continue and further enhance cooperation with existing partners and to seek new partnerships, in particular in the light of the global opening of the Convention, and the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and other global commitments. It also decided to regularly review progress and gaps in the development of partnerships — also in connection with the development of the strategies for the implementation of the Convention at the global level and its contribution to the achievement of the water-related Sustainable Development Goals — at the meetings of the Working Group on Integrated Water Resources Management.

24. Partners will be invited to present their activities to strengthen transboundary cooperation, accession and implementation of the Convention and their future plans in this respect. The Working Group will discuss how to create synergies and strengthen coordination and cooperation with the relevant work of partners. The Working Group will also be informed about the preparations for the Eighth World Water Forum (Brasilia, 18-23 March 2018).

25. Finally, the Working Group will be informed about the outcomes of the fourth session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol on Water and Health (Geneva, 14-16 November 2016) and its programme of work for 2017-2019, and will discuss areas of cooperation between the Convention and the Protocol.

Documentation

Report of the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol on Water and Health on its fourth session (ECE/MP.WH/13–EUPCR/1611921/2.1/2016/MOP-4/06, forthcoming)

Programme of work for 2017–2019
(ECE/MP.WH/13/Add.1–EUPCR/1611921/2.1/2016/MOP-4/06/Add.1 forthcoming)

(c) Strategy for the implementation of the Convention at the global level

26. At its seventh session, through its decision VII/3 on Establishing a framework for the implementation of the Convention at the global level, the Meeting of the Parties entrusted the Bureau and the Working Group on Integrated Water Resources Management, in cooperation with non-Parties, key partners and the secretariat, to develop a strategy for the implementation of the Convention at the global level, including the relationship with the Convention on the Law of the Non-navigational Uses of International Watercourses and the role of key partners, for adoption at its next session.

27. The Working Group will discuss a draft revised strategy prepared by the Bureau with the support of the secretariat. The revised strategy was developed on the basis of the discussions at the Working Group's eleventh meeting and the comments received on the first draft after the meeting. The Working Group will discuss and agree on the next steps towards the strategy's finalization and how to prepare for its implementation.

Documentation

Draft strategy for implementation of the Convention at the global level
(ECE/MP.WAT/WG.1/2017/5)

7. Identifying, assessing and communicating the benefits of transboundary water cooperation

Tentative timing: 5.15-6 p.m., Wednesday, 5 July

28. At its seventh session, the Meeting of the Parties decided to support Parties and other States, at their request, in improving cooperation on their transboundary waters: (a) by highlighting the potential to generate a broad range of significant benefits for cooperating countries, on the basis of the *Policy Guidance Note on the Benefits of Transboundary Water Cooperation*; and (b) by providing a forum to assess and communicate such benefits in order to support the strengthening of ongoing cooperation.

29. The Working Group will be briefed about the application of the Policy Guidance Note in a number of basins worldwide, such as the Okavango, Sio-Malaba-Malakisi and Drina River Basins. The Working Group will also be informed about similar initiatives by partners. The Working Group will consider further expressions of interest in applying the Policy Guidance Note and discuss future activities in this area of work, including the organization of a global workshop on this topic in 2018.

Documentation

*Policy Guidance Note on the Benefits of Transboundary Water Cooperation: Identification, Assessment and Communication (ECE/MP.WAT/47)*⁴

8. The water-food-energy-ecosystems nexus in transboundary basins

Tentative timing: 10-11.30 a.m., Thursday, 6 July

30. At its seventh session, the Meeting of the Parties adopted the methodology for the assessment of the water-food-energy-ecosystems nexus developed in the triennium 2013-2015, encouraged its further use and decided to undertake further nexus assessments and promote the findings and solutions identified. The progress achieved in this area of work will be presented and discussed, in particular the completed assessment for the Drina, the ongoing assessment on the North-Western Sahara Aquifer System, the planned assessment on the Niger and the follow-up to the assessments on the Alazani/Ganykh, Sava and Syr Darya, as well as numerous publications and policy briefs⁵ that have been published on the subject. Other actors engaged in similar undertakings may also share their experiences.

31. The Working Group will also discuss the outcomes of the Global Workshop on the Water-Food-Energy-Ecosystem Nexus (Geneva, 6-7 December 2016) and future work in this area.

32. Under this area of work, the Meeting of the Parties also decided to collect good practices and examples of water allocation, water sharing and benefits sharing. To this end, a global workshop on water allocation in the transboundary context is planned for autumn 2017 (Geneva, 17-18 October 2017). To inform the workshop's preparation, the Working Group will be invited to share examples of water allocation arrangements in transboundary basins from their country or region and discuss the possible scope and objectives of the workshop.

Documentation

*Reconciling resource uses in transboundary basins: assessment of the water-food-energy-ecosystems nexus (ECE/MP.WAT/46)*⁶

Reconciling resource uses in transboundary basins: assessment of the water-food-energy-ecosystems nexus in the Syr Darya River Basin (ECE/MP.WAT/NONE/2)

Reconciling resource uses in transboundary basins: assessment of the water-food-energy-ecosystems nexus in the Sava River Basin (ECE/MP.WAT/NONE/3)

Increasing welfare in the Sava countries through a transboundary nexus approach: Policy Brief (ECE/MP.WAT/NONE/4)

Reconciling resource uses in transboundary basins: assessment of the water-food-energy-ecosystems nexus: Policy Brief (ECE/MP.WAT/NONE/5)

Assessment of the water-food-energy-ecosystems nexus and the benefits of transboundary cooperation in the Drina River Basin: Policy Brief (ECE/MP.WAT/NONE/6)

Draft concept note for the global workshop on water allocation (WG.1/2017/INF.5)

⁴ Available from <http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=41340&L=0>.

⁵ Publications, including policy briefs, on the nexus are available from <http://www.unece.org/env/water/publications/pub.html>.

⁶ Available from <http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=41427>.

9. Adapting to climate change in transboundary basins

Tentative timing: 11.30-12.10 p.m., Thursday, 6 July

33. The Working Group will be briefed on the outcomes of the training on how to prepare bankable project proposals for financing climate change adaptation in transboundary basins (Dakar, 21-23 June 2017) and the preparations for a global workshop on climate change adaptation with a focus water scarcity and drought management (Geneva, 11-12 December 2017), a joint activity under the Water Convention and the Protocol on Water and Health. The Working Group will provide comments as needed.

34. The Working Group will review progress on the pilot projects and other activities on climate change adaptation under the Convention, including those within the framework of the Global Network of Basins Working on Climate Change.

35. The Working Group will also discuss input to global processes on climate change and disaster risk reduction, such as the ongoing preparation of a “Words into Action” guide on river basin management and transboundary water cooperation, aimed at providing direction for implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030. The Working Group will provide comments, as needed, on the work accomplished and will discuss future activities in this area.

10. Water and industrial accidents

Tentative timing: 12.10- 12.30 p.m., Thursday, 6 July

36. The Working Group will review progress in the implementation of the workplan for 2017-2018 of the Joint Ad Hoc Expert Group on Water and Industrial Accidents, especially the progress in the preparation of a guidance on firewater retention.

Documentation

Draft extended outline of the guidance on firewater retention (WG.1/2017/INF.6)

11. European Union Water Initiative and National Policy Dialogues

Tentative timing: 12.30-1 p.m., Thursday, 6 July

37. The Working Group will be informed about recent developments in the European Union Water Initiative National Policy Dialogues on Integrated Water Resources Management (facilitated by ECE) and Water Supply and Sanitation (facilitated by the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development), including the outcomes of the European Union Water Initiative Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia’s first regional Steering Committee meeting (Brussels, 15-16 May 2017).

38. The Working Group will examine the progress and lessons learned from the dialogues.

12. International Water Assessment Centre

Tentative timing: 3-3.30 p.m., Thursday, 6 July

39. At the seventh session of the Meeting of the Parties Kazakhstan offered to host the International Water Assessment Centre, the Convention’s collaborative centre, as of 2017. A representative of Kazakhstan will brief the Working Group on progress achieved towards hosting the Centre, the signature of the memorandum of understanding between Kazakhstan and ECE, the Centre’s terms of reference, its opening and planned activities.

Documentation

Terms of reference of the International Water Assessment Centre (ECE/MP.WAT/WG.1/2017/4)

13. Ongoing programme of work for 2016-2018 and initial discussion on the programme of work for 2019-2021

Tentative timing: 3.30 p.m.-4.45 p.m., Thursday, 6 July

40. The Working Group will review overall progress made in the implementation of the Convention's programme of work for 2016-2018, and make minor adjustments, if necessary. The Working Group will also be informed about the financial situation of the Convention's trust fund.

41. The Working Group will start discussions on the preparations for the eighth session of the Meeting of the Parties, scheduled to be held in October 2018 in Astana. In particular, to facilitate the discussion at its thirteenth meeting on the future priority areas of work for the period 2019-2021 and the related activities, the Working Group will exchange views on the future programme of work. The Working Group is expected to entrust its Co-Chairs, in cooperation with the Bureau, with preparing a proposal for the future programme of work for consideration at its next meeting.

Documentation

Programme of work for 2016-2018 (ECE/MP.WAT/49/Add.1)

Report on contributions and expenditures for the implementation of the programme of work (WG.1/2017/INF.7)

14. Date and venue of the next meeting of the Working Group

Tentative timing: 4.45-4.50 p.m., Thursday, 6 July

42. The Working Group will discuss the preliminary date and venue for its next meeting. It will also be informed of the schedule of other meetings under the Convention and its Protocol on Water and Health.

15. Other business

Tentative timing: 4.50-5 p.m., Thursday, 6 July

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

16. Closure of the meeting

44. The Co-Chairs will close the meeting at 5 p.m. on Thursday, 6 July 2017.
