



Convention of the Protection and Use of
Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes
Task Force on Water and Climate
Tenth meeting
Geneva, Switzerland, 1 May 2019

ANNOTATED PROVISIONAL AGENDA FOR THE TENTH MEETING

To be held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva,
starting on Wednesday, 1 May 2019 at 9.30 a.m.

I. PROVISIONAL AGENDA

1. Opening
2. Adoption of the agenda
3. Programme of pilot projects and global network of transboundary basins working on adaptation to climate change
4. Water and disasters
5. Water and climate change
6. Financing climate change adaptation in transboundary basins
7. Preparations for the World Water Day 2020 on water and climate, incl. World Water Development Report
8. Future activities on water and climate under the Water Convention
9. Cooperation with partners and other important actors
10. Other business
11. Closing

II. BACKGROUND AND PRACTICAL INFORMATION

Background

The Task Force on Water and Climate under the Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes (Water Convention) serviced by the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) is responsible for activities related to adaptation to climate change in transboundary basins, including flood and drought management, in accordance with the programme of work for 2019-2021 of the Water Convention (programme area 4, see ECE/MP:WAT/54/Add.1). It has the following objectives:

- a) Increase adaptive capacity and improve cooperation in climate change adaptation and mitigation in transboundary basins;
- (b) Increase funding for basin-wide or coordinated climate change adaptation measures in transboundary basins by facilitating access to climate funds and building related capacity;

(c) Increase awareness of the importance of water and transboundary cooperation in climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction at the national and transboundary levels and in intergovernmental global processes, such as UNFCCC, the United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UNISDR) and the 2030 Agenda.

The tenth meeting of the Task Force on Water and Climate aims to discuss, plan and provide guidance to the implementation of the activities on water and climate under the programme of work for 2019-2021 of the Water Convention.

2019 and 2020 provides specific opportunities for highlighting the role of water for climate change adaptation and mitigation, in particular due to the World Water Day 2020 focused on water and climate, as well as the SDG 13 under review by the High-Level Political Forum, the Climate Summit, One Planet Summit etc. These opportunities will be discussed at the meeting.

Practical information

The tenth meeting of the Task Force will start at 9.30 a.m. and end at 5.30 p.m. on Wednesday, 1 May 2019. It will be held in the Palais des Nations, Geneva. The Task Force meeting will be preceded by the international workshop on ecosystem-based adaptation, which will be held on 29-30 April 2019 in Geneva. The working languages will be English, French, Russian and Spanish.

The meeting is open to experts representing governmental authorities, the private sector, non-governmental and international organizations as well as other interested stakeholders. Focal points are requested to disseminate information on the meeting and to facilitate the nomination of relevant representatives of their respective countries.

Eligible participants from countries with economies in transition and developing countries may apply for financial support to facilitate their participation in the meeting using the financial support request form available on the meeting website. Requests for financial support should be submitted to the UNECE secretariat (mayola.lidome@un.org) as soon as possible, but no later than **Monday, 18 March 2019**. No application will be accepted after this deadline.

Participants requiring entry visas should inform the UNECE secretariat as soon as possible. Since Switzerland is part of the Schengen Zone, obtaining a visa might take up to 5 weeks. Participants needing a visa are therefore requested to submit their application as soon as possible and initiate visa procedures at least four weeks before the meeting.

Delegates attending the meeting are requested to register by 22 April 2019 using the following link: <https://uncdb.unece.org/app/ext/meeting-registration?id=iwUKPx>. In case of difficulties, please contact the secretariat by e-mail (mayola.lidome@un.org). On their way to the meeting, participants 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 map on the UNECE website). Please allow enough time for this.

Practical information on the Palais des Nations, as well as on transport and accommodation in Geneva, is available online at: <http://www.unece.org/meetings/practical.htm>

Further information and relevant material will be made available on the following website in due course: <https://www.unece.org/index.php?id=50197>

For the international workshop : <https://www.unece.org/index.php?id=50193>

III. ANNOTATIONS TO THE PROVISIONAL AGENDA

Item 1: Opening (9.30 a.m. - 9.40 a.m.)

1. The co-Chairs will open the meeting and summarize the outcomes of the preceding workshop on ecosystem-based adaptation in transboundary basins.

Item 2: Adoption of the agenda (9.40 a.m. - 9.45 a.m.)

2. The Task Force is expected to adopt its agenda as set out in the present document.

Item 3: Programme of pilot projects and global network of transboundary basins working on adaptation to climate change (9.45 a.m. – 10.45 a.m.)

Background document: Overview of the activities of the basins in the global network of basins working on climate change (TFWC/2019/3)

3. The Task Force will be informed about the outcomes of the last meeting of the global network of basins working on climate change adaptation (Geneva, 14-15 February 2019).

4. Representatives of the pilot projects and other basins of the global network of basins working on climate change adaptation will briefly inform about their activities, challenges and lessons learned, followed by questions and comments.

Item 4: Water and disasters (10.45 a.m. - 11.40 a.m.)

Background publication: Words into action guide: Implementation Guide for Addressing Water-Related disasters and transboundary cooperation (ECE/MP.WAT/56)¹

5. The Task Force will be updated by the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction on the latest developments with implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015 – 2030.

6. Subsequently, the Task Force will be informed about the *Words into Action-Implementation Guide for Addressing Water-Related Disasters and Transboundary Cooperation*, prepared under the Water Convention in 2017-2018 together with UNISDR. The Task Force will be invited to discuss how to promote its implementation and use. It will also discuss inputs to global processes on water and disasters, such as in relation to the High-Level Experts and Leaders Panel on Water and Disasters².

Item 5: Water and climate change (11.40 a.m.-12.30 p.m.)

7. The Task Force will be informed about the latest developments with regards to water and climate under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the Paris agreement, namely the outcomes of the 24th UNFCCC Conference of the Parties (Katowice, 2-15 December 2018), the Nairobi Work Programme, the Adaptation Committee etc. It will also be briefed about related processes such as the Marrakech Partnership, the Global Alliances for Water and Climate etc.

¹ See <https://www.unece.org/index.php?id=50093&L=0>

² See <http://www.wateranddisaster.org/>

8. The Task Force will discuss how it can provide input to the UNFCCC processes. In particular, participants will discuss how they can raise attention to the importance of water, regional and transboundary cooperation when preparing Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), adaptation communications and in the global Stocktake.

9. The Task Force will also discuss possible input to other global events on the topic, such as the High-Level Political Forum, the United Nations climate summit (23 September 2019) etc.

Item 6: Financing climate change adaptation in transboundary basin (2:30 p.m. - 3.15 p.m.)

Background publication: Financing climate change adaptation in transboundary basins: preparing bankable projects ³

10. The Task Force will be informed about the recently launched publication on financing climate change adaptation in transboundary basins, the trainings carried out on preparing bankable projects in November 2018 and more broadly the cooperation with multilateral development banks in this field. Participants will then discuss possible follow-up activities such as plans for a training workshop envisaged for the Eastern Europe and Asia regions in autumn 2019.

11. Task Force members will also discuss the cooperation with global climate funds such as the Green Climate Fund and the Adaptation Fund.

Item 7: Preparations for the World Water Day 2020 on water and climate, incl. World Water Development Report (3.15 p.m. – 4.00 p.m.)

12. In 2020, the World Water Day (22 March) and World Meteorological day (21 March) will be focused on water and climate change as well as the World Water Development Report. In this regard, the status of preparations of the afore-mentioned report will be presented as well as the plans for the World Water Day 2020 and for the new UN-Water policy brief on water and climate. The Task Force will be invited to provide comments.

13. Subsequently, participants will exchange on how to use the above-mentioned events and processes at national and global level to raise attention to water and climate issues.

Item 8: Future work on climate change in transboundary basins under the Water Convention (4.00 p.m. - 4.30 p.m.)

Background document: Strategy for future work on climate change adaptation in transboundary basins under the Convention (ECE/MP.WAT/2015/4)

14. The Task Force will also discuss potential future activities in particular the next global workshop, next meeting of the global network of basins and the platform to exchange experience.

Item 9: Cooperation with partners and other important actors (4.30 p.m. - 5.15 p.m.)

15. The Task Force will discuss cooperation with important actors in the field of water and climate, such as the European Commission, the Alliance for Global Water Adaptation (AGWA), the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN), the International Network of Basin

³ See <https://openknowledge.worldbank.org/handle/10986/31224>

Organizations (INBO), the Stockholm International Water Institute (SIWI), the Global Water Partnership (GWP), the United Nations Educational and Scientific Organization (UNESCO), the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the Global Environment Facility, WWF and others. These and other partners will be invited to inform about their ongoing activities on water and adaptation to climate change and to present their suggestions for cooperation.

16. The Task Force will also discuss linkages with other related activities under the Water Convention, such as on water allocation in the transboundary context and on the water-food-energy-ecosystems nexus.

Item 10: Other business (5.15 p.m. - 5.30 p.m.)

17. At the time of writing, the secretariat had no points to propose under this item. Delegates wishing to propose points under this item should inform the secretariat as soon as possible.

Item 11: Closing

18. The co-Chairs will close the meeting at 5.30 p.m. on Wednesday, 1 May 2019.
