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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

Fourteenth meeting

Geneva, 22–24 October 2019

Item 2 of the provisional agenda

Adoption of the agenda

Annotated provisional agenda for the fourteenth meeting

To be held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva, starting on Tuesday,
22 October 2019, at 10 a.m.*

I. Provisional agenda

1. Opening of the session and election of officers.
2. Adoption of the agenda.
3. Adoption of the report of the previous meeting.
4. Progress in the ratification process and recent accessions.
5. Increasing awareness of and accession to the Convention and application of its principles drawing on the benefits of cooperation:
 - (a) Increasing capacity for implementation of the Convention and supporting national processes towards accession;

* Delegates attending the meeting at the Palais des Nations are requested to register no later than two weeks before the meeting using the new electronic procedure. Registration is available through the following link: <https://uncdb.unece.org/app/ext/meeting-registration?id=IYM5Me>. For assistance with registration, please see the instructions on the meeting web page (www.unece.org/index.php?id=50208) or contact the secretariat by email (mayola.lidome@un.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.



- (b) Implementation of the Strategy for the implementation of the Convention at the global level;
 - (c) Promoting and communicating the benefits of transboundary cooperation;
 - (d) Supporting the development of agreements and the establishment of joint bodies;
 - (e) Implementation Committee.
6. Reporting on Sustainable Development Goal indicator 6.5.2 and under the Convention.
7. Promoting an integrated and intersectoral approach to water management at all levels:
 - (a) Water-food-energy-ecosystems nexus in transboundary basins;
 - (b) Supporting equitable and sustainable water allocation in the transboundary context;
 - (c) Supporting National Policy Dialogues on integrated water resources management under the European Union Water Initiative.
8. Supporting monitoring, assessment and information sharing in transboundary basins:
 - (a) Global workshop on exchange of data and information in transboundary basins;
 - (b) International Water Assessment Centre.
9. Adapting to climate change in transboundary basins.
10. Partnerships, communication and knowledge management:
 - (a) Cooperation with UN-Water, global and regional partners and other multilateral environmental agreements;
 - (b) Exchange of experience of focal points;
 - (c) The application of the United Nations Framework Classification for Resources for the sustainable management of natural resources, including groundwater;
 - (d) Activities of the Joint Ad Hoc Expert Group on Water and Industrial Accidents;
 - (e) Communication and knowledge management;
 - (f) Contribution to global events, including the ninth World Water Forum.
11. Facilitating financing of transboundary water cooperation.
12. Resources for the implementation of the programme of work.
13. Implementation of other decisions taken by the eighth session of the Meeting of the Parties:
 - (a) Developing a more sustainable funding mechanism of the work under the Convention;
 - (b) Developing a procedure for selection of host countries for future sessions of the Meeting of the Parties.
14. Ongoing programme of work for 2019–2021.
15. Date and venue of the next meeting of the Working Group.
16. Other business.
17. Closure of the meeting.

II. Annotations

1. The fourteenth 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, starting at 10 a.m. on Tuesday, 22 October 2019, and ending at 12.30 p.m. on Thursday, 24 October 2019. The working languages for the meeting will be English, French, Russian and Spanish. All relevant documentation will be made available on a dedicated page of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) Water Convention website.¹

2. The meeting will be preceded, on 21 October, by the first meeting of the Expert Group on water allocation, as well as the regional workshop on reporting on Sustainable Development Goal indicator 6.5.2 for the pan-European region.

3. The Working Group will review implementation of the work programme for 2019–2021 of the Water Convention (ECE/MP.WAT/54/Add.1). The meeting aims to: discuss the implementation of decisions taken by the eighth session of the Meeting of the Parties (Nur-Sultan, 10–12 October 2018); prepare for the second reporting exercise under the Convention and on Sustainable Development Goal indicator 6.5.2, including by reviewing the draft guide to reporting under the Convention and as a contribution to Sustainable Development Goal indicator 6.5.2; and discuss the Convention's global opening and ongoing and future activities, for example, on water allocation and financing transboundary water cooperation.

4. Considering the expected large participation at the meeting, participants are kindly requested to limit the length of their interventions to a maximum of two minutes. In addition, invited presentations will be limited to eight minutes. The Co-Chairs will strictly enforce these limits. Full statements or presentations provided to the secretariat will be posted on the meeting web page.

1. Opening of the session and election of officers

Tentative timing: Tuesday, 22 October, 10–10.10 a.m.

5. The Working Group will be opened by high-level representatives. Subsequently, the Working Group will elect its Co-Chairs, taking into account the fact that, at its eighth session, the Meeting of the Parties entrusted Ms. Heide Jekel (Germany) and Ms. Lea Kauppi (Finland) to prepare the current session of the Working Group.

2. Adoption of the agenda

Tentative timing: Tuesday, 22 October, 10.10–10.15 a.m.

6. The Co-Chairs will present the background and main objectives of the meeting. The Working Group is expected to adopt the agenda as set out in the present document.

Documentation

Annotated provisional agenda for the fourteenth meeting (ECE/MP.WAT/WG.1/2019/1)

3. Adoption of the report of the previous meeting

Tentative timing: Tuesday, 22 October, 10.15–10.20 a.m.

7. The Working Group will be invited to adopt the report of the Working Group on Integrated Water Resources Management and Working Group on Monitoring and Assessment on their second joint meeting (Geneva, 28–30 May 2018).

¹ See www.unece.org/index.php?id=50208.

Documentation

Report of the Working Group on Integrated Water Resources Management and Working Group on Monitoring and Assessment on their second joint meeting (ECE/MP.WAT/WG.1/2018/2–ECE/MP.WAT/WG.2/2018/2)

4. Progress in the ratification process and recent accessions

Tentative timing: Tuesday, 22 October, 10.20–11 a.m.

8. 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.

9. On 31 August 2018, Senegal presented its instruments of accession to the Water Convention to the United Nations in New York and became the second country from outside the pan-European region to accede to the Water Convention after its global opening.

10. Other countries will be invited to report on their progress regarding accession.

Documentation

Ratification status of the Water Convention, its amendments and protocols (ECE/MP.WAT/WG.1/2019/INF.1)

5. Increasing awareness of and accession to the Convention and application of its principles drawing on the benefits of cooperation

Tentative timing: Tuesday, 22 October, 11 a.m.–1 p.m. and 3–3.30 p.m.

(a) Increasing capacity for implementation of the Convention and supporting national processes towards accession

11. The programme of work for 2019–2021 foresees activities designed to raise awareness and knowledge of and support accession to the Convention (programme area 1, activities 1.1). The Working Group will be informed about activities carried out by the secretariat, Parties and partners to build capacity and raise awareness of the Convention, such as sessions at the first International Symposium of Transboundary Waters in Latin America, organized by Peru (Lima, 8 and 9 November 2018), sessions organized at the seventh Africa Water Week (Libreville, 29 October–2 November 2018), the ceremony organized to celebrate the accession of Chad to the Water Convention and the regional workshop on the Water Convention and the role of international law in transboundary cooperation (N'Djamena, 21 November 2018), the regional workshop for countries members of the Niger Basin Authority (Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire, 11 April 2019) and the regional training on how to use the two global water conventions to advance transboundary cooperation on the ground (Dakar, 18 and 19 June 2019).

12. Furthermore, the Working Group will be informed about the different national workshops on the Water Convention organized at the request of countries, jointly with partners, to support national accession processes; namely in Lebanon (Beirut, 11 April 2019) and Côte d'Ivoire (Abidjan, 15 April 2019). The secretariat will present the *Road map to facilitate accession processes to the Water Convention*, developed to provide guidance and address common questions related to accession processes. The Working Group will then be invited to discuss lessons learned regarding accession processes and provide comments.

13. The Working Group will discuss future activities in this area to further promote and build capacities on the Convention beyond the pan-European region.

Documentation

Road map to facilitate accession processes to the Water Convention (ECE/MP.WAT/WG.1/2019/INF.2)

(b) Implementation of the Strategy for implementation of the Convention at the global level

14. The Bureau will recall the Strategy for the implementation of the Convention at the global level (ECE/MP.WAT/54/Add.2), adopted by the Meeting of the Parties at its eighth session, and present the steps taken to implement it so far. The Strategy aims to strengthen cooperation and partnerships for the management of transboundary waters worldwide in order to promote sustainable development and peace. The Working Group will provide comments and discuss how to further strengthen the strategy's implementation, through individual and collective actions.

Documentation

Strategy for the implementation of the Convention at the global level (ECE/MP.WAT/54/Add.2)

(c) Promoting and communicating the benefits of transboundary cooperation

15. The programme of work for 2019–2021 foresees activities to promote and communicate the benefits of transboundary water cooperation (programme area 1, activities 1.2). The Working Group will be provided with an update on progress made in the activities regarding promoting and communicating the benefits of transboundary cooperation in a number of basins worldwide, on the basis of the *Policy Guidance Note on the Benefits of Transboundary Water Cooperation: Identification, Assessment and Communication* (ECE/MP.WAT/47), in particular in the Cubango-Okavongo and the Sio-Malaba-Malakisi River basins, as well as at the national level. The Working Group will discuss lessons learned from such processes and consider further expressions of interest in applying the Policy Guidance Note.

Documentation

Identifying, assessing and communicating the benefits of transboundary water cooperation: Lessons learned and recommendations (ECE/MP.WAT/NONE/11)

(d) Supporting the development of agreements and the establishment of joint bodies

16. The programme of work for 2019–2021 foresees activities to support countries in developing and revising agreements and arrangements in transboundary basins (programme area 1, activities 1.3). The Working Group will be informed about the progress achieved in different projects supporting the development of agreements and the establishment of joint bodies in countries of Eastern and South-Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia, carried out together with partners. The Working Group will also be updated about similar activities in Africa, such as the organization of the round table on transboundary cooperation on the Senegalese-Mauritanian Aquifer (Versoix, Switzerland, 6 and 7 February 2019).

17. On 1 and 2 April 2020, a global workshop on the development of transboundary water cooperation agreements and arrangements will be held under the Convention and, subsequently, a checklist for developing such agreements will be prepared. In this regard, preliminary ideas for the scope, topics, partners and outcomes of the workshop and checklist will be presented and the Working Group will be invited to provide comments for the organization of the workshop.

(e) Implementation Committee

18. At its eighth session, the Meeting of the Parties re-elected the following members of the Implementation Committee: Mr. Kari Kinnunen, Mr. Stephen McCaffrey and Mr. Ivan Zavadsky. It also elected new members of the Committee: Mr. Martins Paporinskis and Mr. Pedro Cunha Serra, in addition to the four members elected at the seventh session. The Working Group will be informed about the Committee, as well as its past and future activities.

6. Reporting on Sustainable Development Goal indicator 6.5.2 and under the Convention

Tentative timing: Tuesday, 22 October, 3.30–4.50 p.m.

19. In 2015, a regular reporting mechanism was introduced under the Convention, coupled with reporting on Sustainable Development Goal indicator 6.5.2, for which ECE and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) are custodian agencies. The Working Group will be updated about the developments at the global level with regard to measuring progress relating to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, in particular Sustainable Development Goal 6 (water), including under the UN-Water Sustainable Development Goal 6 Integrated Monitoring Initiative, and the second data collection in 2020. In addition, the Working Group will be briefed on coordination and integration efforts at all levels, and on capacity building and outreach, including the Sustainable Development Goal 6 Data Portal.

20. In its eighth session, the Meeting of the Parties adopted a revised version of the template for reporting under the Convention and decided that subsequent reporting exercises would take place triennially, with deadlines on 30 June. Additionally, and with a view to improving the overall quality and comparability of national reports, the Meeting of the Parties entrusted the Working Group on Integrated Water Resources Management, with the support of the secretariat, to develop a Guide for reporting under the Water Convention and as a contribution to Sustainable Development Goal indicator 6.5.2, in time for the next reporting cycle (see ECE/MP.WAT/54/Add.2, decision VIII/1).

21. On the basis of the above-mentioned decision, the secretariat established an intergovernmental drafting group that brought together around 30 experts from Africa, Central Asia, Europe, the Middle East, North and South America and South-East Asia. Two meetings of the drafting group took place in Geneva, on 9 and 10 May 2019, and on 3 and 4 September 2019, during which the drafting group reviewed an outline and, subsequently, a full first draft of the guide. In addition, the draft guide was circulated to countries sharing transboundary waters and other experts for comments. The text was subsequently revised. The Working Group will be presented with the guide and will be invited to provide comments on the final draft before the publication of the final version in December 2019.

22. The Working Group will be also informed about the regional events organized by ECE and UNESCO that took place or are planned in order to raise awareness to reporting, build capacity and foster harmonization for the next reporting exercise, including the Pan-European regional workshop on Sustainable Development Goal indicator 6.5.2, scheduled for 21 October 2019. In addition, experiences of how different basins harmonized their data in the first reporting exercise will be shared. A brief presentation will be made to show discrepancies in answers in the reports of riparian countries of the same basin and to encourage riparian countries to cooperate in the second reporting exercise with a view to understanding and addressing these discrepancies. The Working Group will be invited to discuss how to improve such cooperation in future reporting exercises.

23. Finally, the Working Group will be informed about the future reporting exercise under the Convention and on Sustainable Development Goal indicator 6.5.2, which will be carried out in collaboration with UNESCO, as well as related materials, namely the template for the second reporting exercise and the revised Step-by-step monitoring methodology for indicator 6.5.2. Invitations for the second reporting exercise will be sent in December 2019. The Working Group will provide comments and participants may ask questions.

Documentation

Decision VIII/I on reporting under the Convention (see ECE/MP.WAT/54/Add.2)

Reporting template of the second cycle for reporting (ECE/MP.WAT/WG.1/2019/INF.3)

Draft Guide to reporting under the Water Convention and as a contribution to Sustainable Development Goal indicator 6.5.2 (ECE/MP.WAT/WG.1/2019/INF.4)

Step-by-step monitoring methodology for indicator 6.5.2 (ECE/MP.WAT/WG.1/2019/INF.5)

7. Promoting an integrated and intersectoral approach to water management at all levels

Tentative timing: Tuesday, 22 October, 4.50–6 p.m., and Wednesday, 23 October, 10–10.50 a.m.

(a) Water-food-energy-ecosystems nexus in transboundary basins

24. The programme of work for 2019–2021 foresees support for intersectoral dialogues and assessments through the application of the water-food-energy-ecosystems nexus approach (programme area 3, activities 3.2). The eighth session of the Meeting of the Parties endorsed the *Methodology for assessing the water-food-energy-ecosystems nexus in transboundary basins and experiences from its application: synthesis*. The Working Group will be informed about the progress achieved in the following ongoing activities of the nexus programme area:

- the Drina River Basin nexus assessment follow-up;
- the North-Western Sahara Aquifer System nexus assessment;
- the Drin River Basin nexus assessment.

25. The secretariat will present the Working Group with a checklist document, developed in cooperation with the ECE Sustainable Energy Division, that establishes the basis for the development of a tool to sustainably deploy renewable energy by accounting for nexus and transboundary considerations. The Working Group will be invited to make comments.

26. The Working Group will also discuss future activities of this programme area, including the development of a synthesis document summarizing the proposed solutions to the water-food-energy-ecosystems nexus issues, to be developed by 2020 as requested by the Parties.

Documentation

Methodology for assessing the water-food-energy-ecosystems nexus in transboundary basins and experiences from its application: synthesis (ECE/MP.WAT/55)

A nexus approach to transboundary cooperation: The experience of the Water Convention (ECE/MP.WAT/NONE/12)

Sustainable renewable energy investments and development: accounting for water resources and the environment with a nexus approach (ECE/MP.WAT/WG.1/2019/5-ECE/ENERGY/GE.7/2019/5)

Deployment of Renewable Energy: The Water-Energy-Food-Ecosystem Nexus Approach to Support the Sustainable Development Goals (ECE/MP.WAT/NONE/7)

(b) Supporting equitable and sustainable water allocation in the transboundary context

27. The programme of work for 2019–2021 foresees support to the development of equitable and sustainable transboundary arrangements on water allocation (programme area 3, activities 3.3). The Working Group will be informed about the status of preparation of the handbook on water allocation in the transboundary context, including the outcomes of the first meeting of the Expert Group on Water Allocation (Geneva, 21 October 2019). The Working Group will discuss the outline of the handbook, provide comments and discuss the next steps in the process of its development.

28. The Working Group will also be informed about plans for the organization of regional workshops on water allocation.

Documentation

Concept and outline for the handbook on water allocation in the transboundary context (ECE/MP.WAT/WG.1/2019/INF.6)

(c) **Supporting National Policy Dialogues on integrated water resources management under the European Union Water Initiative**

29. 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 (OECD)), including with respect to progress in the implementation of the European Union Water Initiative Plus programme (EUWI+) for the Eastern Partnership countries (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine) and the start of a new project for the countries of Central Asia, funded by the European Union. The Working Group will be invited to provide comments.

8. Supporting monitoring, assessment and information sharing in transboundary basins

Tentative timing: Wednesday, 23 October, 10.50–11.20 a.m.

(a) **Global workshop on exchange of data and information in transboundary basins**

30. The Working Group will be informed about the global workshop on exchange of data and information in transboundary basins (Geneva, 4 and 5 December 2019), to be organized in cooperation with partners with the aim of reviewing relevant experiences, discussing good practices and developing recommendations on the exchange of information on transboundary basins and aquifers, taking into account, among others, new information technologies. The Global workshop will be held back-to-back with the fifteenth meeting of the Working Group on Monitoring and Assessment (Geneva, 6 December 2019), which will discuss the monitoring and assessment guidelines under the Convention, as well as ongoing and future work, including projects on the ground. The Working Group will be invited to provide comments on the global workshop and the Working Group on Monitoring and Assessment meeting.

Documentation

Concept Note of the global workshop on information exchange (ECE/MP.WAT/WG.1/2019/INF.7)

Provisional agenda of the fifteenth meeting of the Working Group on Monitoring and Assessment (ECE/MP.WAT/WG.2/2019/1, forthcoming)

(b) **International Water Assessment Centre**

31. The Meeting of the Parties adopted the 2019–2021 work programme of the International Water Assessment Centre hosted by Kazakhstan (see ECE/MP.WAT/54/Add.2). The Working Group will be informed about the implementation of International Water Assessment Centre activities, including its role as regional partner in strengthening intersectoral cooperation.

9. Adapting to climate change in transboundary basins

Tentative timing: Wednesday, 23 October, 11.20 a.m.–12.10 p.m.

32. The Working Group will be informed about the outcomes of the fourth meeting of the Global network of basins working on climate change adaptation (Geneva, 14 and 15 February 2019), the global workshop on ecosystem-based adaptation in transboundary basins (Geneva, 29 and 30 April 2019), the tenth meeting of the Task Force on Water and Climate (Geneva, 1 May 2019) and the progress of the pilot projects and other activities within the framework of the Global network of basins.

33. The Working Group will also be informed about the support to countries and basins in financing climate change adaptation in transboundary basins, namely the publication by the World Bank in cooperation with ECE and others, on preparing bankable projects and the different workshops organized for basins in this regard, namely for the Lake Chad and Drin

River basins (N'Djamena, 19 and 20 November 2018, and Tirana, 25 and 26 November 2018, respectively). Participants will be invited to provide comments and discuss the next steps.

34. The period 2019–2020 provides a special opportunity to highlight the role of water and transboundary cooperation in climate change adaptation, given that World Water Day 2020 will focus on water and climate change and several high-level events on climate change are scheduled to take place in the near future, including the United Nations Climate Action Summit (New York, 23 September 2019). The Working Group will be informed about input to these global processes on climate change and disaster risk reduction, including the twenty-fourth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (Katowice, Poland, 2–14 December 2018) and future sessions of that Conference of the Parties as well as the sixth session of the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction (Geneva, 13–17 May 2019) organized by the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction. Participants will also be briefed about the ECE contribution to the UN-Water Expert Group on Water and Climate, in particular the preparation of the new UN-Water Policy Brief on Climate and Water.

35. The Working Group will provide comments, as needed, on the work accomplished and will discuss future activities in this area, including contributions to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction, the Global Commission on Adaptation/Global Centre on Adaptation, UN-Water and such events as World Water Day 2020: Water and Climate Change.

Documentation

*Financing Climate Change Adaptation in Transboundary Basins: Preparing Bankable Projects*²

Words into Action Guidelines: Implementation Guide for Addressing Water-Related Disasters and Transboundary Cooperation (ECE/MP.WAT/56)

UN-Water Policy Brief on Climate Change and Water³

10. Partnerships, communication and knowledge management

Tentative timing: Wednesday, 23 October, 12.10–1 p.m. and 3–4.40 p.m.

(a) Cooperation with UN-Water, global and regional partners and other multilateral environmental agreements

36. The Meeting of the Parties reaffirmed that cooperation with partners was a great strength of the work under the Convention, enhancing the quality of products, the impact of actions at the local, national and international levels and the effectiveness of activities, and emphasized that partnerships should continue and be further expanded, among others, with regional and subregional organizations, joint bodies, international organizations – in particular UN-Water members – and non-governmental organizations. One of the objectives of the Strategy for the implementation of the Convention at the global level (see ECE/MP.WAT/54/Add.2) is thus to increase partnership and synergies with other actors.

37. The Working Group will discuss cooperation with different global and regional partners. Such partners will be invited to describe how they view the benefits of the Convention's globalization for their activities and how they could support the promotion, application and implementation of the Convention at the global level.

38. In particular, representatives of the United Nations regional economic commissions and regional organizations will share information on their past, ongoing and planned activities in support of implementation of the Convention. The Working Group will be

² World Bank, *Financing Climate Change Adaptation in Transboundary Basins: Preparing Bankable Projects* (Washington, D.C., 2019). Available at <http://documents.worldbank.org/curated/en/172091548959875335/Financing-Climate-Change-Adaptation-in-Transboundary-Basins-Preparing-Bankable-Projects>.

³ See www.unwater.org/policy-brief-on-climate-change-and-water/.

informed about the progress in developing a memorandum of understanding between ECE and the Organization of American States on support for transboundary water cooperation in Latin America and the Caribbean, and promotion efforts, as well as cooperation with the Union for the Mediterranean on strengthening synergies between activities implemented under the Union for the Mediterranean Water Agenda and the Convention in the Mediterranean region.

39. Finally, the Working Group will be informed about the ongoing preparations for the fifth session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol on Water and Health (Belgrade, 19–21 November 2019) and the Protocol's draft programme of work for 2020–2022. The Working Group will be invited to discuss options for strengthening cooperation between the Convention and the Protocol.

Documentation

Draft programme of work for 2020–2022 under the Protocol on Water and Health (ECE/MP.WH/2019/3-EUPCR/1611921/2.1/2019/MOP-5/03, forthcoming)

Annotated provisional agenda for the fifth session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol on Water and Health (ECE/MP.WH/18-ECE/MP.WH/2019/3-EUPCR/1611921/2.1/2019/MOP-5/01, forthcoming)

(b) Exchange of experience of focal points

40. The Meeting of the Parties adopted decision VIII/2 on the designation and responsibilities of focal points (see ECE/MP.WAT/54/Add.2). The Co-Chairs will recall the main points included in the decision and invite the focal points present to report on their activities.

41. The Working Group will be informed that, while the majority of Parties and other countries sharing transboundary waters have officially nominated their focal points for the Convention, a significant number of nominations are still missing. With a view to promoting an exchange among focal points on innovative ways to carry out their assigned duties, the Co-Chairs will invite all participants, in particular the focal points, to participate in an interactive discussion.

(c) The application of the United Nations Framework Classification for Resources for the sustainable management of natural resources, including groundwater

42. The ECE Committee on Sustainable Energy Expert Group on Resource Management has made significant efforts in the areas of resource classification and management aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals. At its eighth session (Geneva, 25–28 April 2017), the Expert Group requested a mandate to develop documentation that would allow the United Nations Framework Classification (UNFC) to classify and manage other resources, including groundwater. At the tenth session of the Expert Group on Resource Management (Geneva, 29 April–3 May 2019), the Groundwater Working Group was established.

43. Recognizing the key role of integrated and indivisible management of all natural resource endowments in the realization of the Sustainable Development Goals, the Expert Group, in its tenth session, recommended the expansion and development of the United Nations Resource Management System. This activity is also aligned with the ECE nexus on sustainable use of natural resources.

44. The Working Group will be informed about these developments, provide comments and discuss opportunities for future cooperation.

Documentation

United Nations Framework Classification for Resources supporting the attainment of Sustainable Development Goals. Transforming our world's natural resources: A step change for the United Nations Framework Classification for Resources? (ECE/ENERGY/GE.3/2018/7)

United Nations Resource Management System: Concept and design (ECE/ENERGY/GE.3/2019/10)

(d) Activities of the Joint Ad Hoc Expert Group on Water and Industrial Accidents

45. The Working Group will be informed of the activities of the Joint Ad Hoc Expert Group on Water and Industrial Accidents (JEG), including the finalization, printing and dissemination of the *Safety Guidelines and Good Practices for the Management and Retention of Firefighting Water*. In addition, the newly prepared communication material of the Joint Expert Group, such as postcards and a brochure, will be presented. Participants will discuss how to disseminate and use the developed material in their work.

Documentation

Safety Guidelines and Good Practices for the Management and Retention of Firefighting Water (ECE/CP.TEIA/40–ECE/MP.WAT/58)

Joint Expert Group on Water and Industrial Accidents - Addressing the risk of accidental transboundary water pollution (ECE/CP.TEIA/NONE/2019/1–ECE/MP.WAT/NONE/2019/1)

Various postcards on Joint Expert Group products

(e) Communication and knowledge management

46. The programme of work for 2019–2021 foresees the dissemination of information on the Convention's activities and results through a broad range of communication tools (programme area 7, activities 7.3). The Working Group will be informed about communication efforts made by the secretariat on social media and through the newsletter of the Water Convention and its Protocol on Water and Health issued every three months. The secretariat will present ways to multiply outreach through most active communication channels, including the Twitter account @UNECE_Water.

(f) Contribution to global events, including the ninth World Water Forum

47. The Working Group will be briefed on the Water Convention's contribution to global events on water, such as World Water Week 2019 (Stockholm, 25–30 August 2019), the Budapest Water Summit (15–17 October 2019) and the ninth World Water Forum (Dakar, March 2021).

48. The Working Group will discuss how to promote transboundary water cooperation and the Water Convention at such events, in particular the ninth World Water Forum.

11. Facilitating financing of transboundary water cooperation

Tentative timing: Wednesday, 23 October, 4.40–6 p.m.

49. In its eighth session, the Meeting of the Parties decided to include a new programme area on facilitating the financing of transboundary water cooperation, considering the challenges that basins and countries face in funding the different stages of transboundary basin development. The first activity under this new programme area was the High-level Workshop on Financing Transboundary Basin Development (Nur-Sultan, 9 October 2018), organized by ECE in cooperation with Switzerland, the Netherlands, Kazakhstan, the Asian Development Bank (ADB), the European Investment Bank (EIB), the Global Environment Facility International Waters Learning Exchange and Resource Network (GEF IW:LEARN) and the World Bank. The main conclusions of the High-Level Workshop will be recalled.

50. The Working Group will be informed about the main outcomes of activities carried out since then, such as the session on mobilizing financial resources for transboundary water resources management and cooperation organized at the World Water Week 2019 (Stockholm, 28 August 2019) in partnership with Switzerland, the Netherlands, the African Development Bank (AfDB), ADB, the European Investment Bank, the Global Environment Facility International Waters Learning Exchange and Resource Network (GEF IW: LEARN), OECD and the World Bank.

51. The eighth session of the Meeting of the Parties welcomed the recently started cooperation between the Convention and financial institutions and banks and invited such institutions to support transboundary water cooperation and the implementation of the

Convention through their projects, including in relation to the new programme area on facilitating financing of transboundary water cooperation. Representatives from such institutions, for example the Global Environment Facility, AfDB, the Inter-American Development Bank and the World Bank, will be invited to share their perspectives on financing transboundary water cooperation, including on how they perceive the benefits of implementing the Convention for their interventions in transboundary basins.

52. The Working Group will be informed about the global workshop on financing transboundary water cooperation and basin development, to be held in Geneva on 16–18 December 2020, including the background study to be developed for the event. Subsequently, participants will be invited to take part in an interactive discussion on the issues and topics to be covered by the background study and to be discussed during the global workshop in 2020.

Documentation

Co-Chairs' summary, High-level workshop: Financing transboundary basin development (ECE/MP.WAT/WG.1/2019/INF.8)

12. Resources for the implementation of the programme of work

Tentative timing: Thursday, 24 October, 10–10.45 a.m.

53. The Working Group will be informed about the status of the financial resources for implementing the programme of work for 2019–2021, in particular the status of the different trust funds related to the Convention, including financial contributions, expenditures and financial needs. The Working Group will be invited to provide comments.

54. Parties and other interested States and organizations will be invited to inform the Working Group of their intention to contribute financially to the programme of work's implementation.. Unearmarked contributions are especially welcome.

55. At the eighth session of the Meeting of the Parties, countries had requested the secretariat to take all necessary measures, including the provision of additional human and financial resources from the regular budget, to ensure the effective management and full implementation of the programme of work (ECE/MP.WAT/54). The Working Group will be informed about the latest developments regarding this request and will discuss the next steps.

56. Lastly, the Working Group will discuss financial reporting under the Water Convention, encouraging donors to use the overall aggregated financial report prepared annually for the Working Group instead of individual reports for each contribution.

Documentation:

Report on contributions and expenditures from June until December 2018 (ECE/MP.WAT/WG.1/2019/INF.9)

13. Implementation of other decisions taken by the eighth session of the Meeting of the Parties

Tentative timing: Thursday, 24 October, 10.45–11.30 a.m.

(a) Developing a more sustainable funding mechanism of the work under the Convention

57. The Meeting of the Parties, at its eighth session, requested the secretariat, in cooperation with the Bureau, to prepare options for a more sustainable and predictable funding of the work under the Convention for discussion at the ninth session of the Meeting of the Parties. The Bureau decided to develop potential targets for a more sustainable funding of the Convention. This proposal will be discussed and participants will be invited to comment.

(b) **Developing a procedure for selection of host countries for future sessions of the Meeting of the Parties**

58. The Meeting of the Parties at its eighth session requested the secretariat, in cooperation with the Bureau, to formalize the procedure for proposals to host future sessions of the Meeting of the Parties and to disseminate this on time at the next session of the Meeting of the Parties. A proposal for this procedure will be presented, for discussion by the Working Group.

Documentation

Proposed procedure for proposing and selecting host countries for future sessions of the Meeting of the Parties (ECE/MP.WAT/WG.1/2019/INF.10)

14. Ongoing programme of work for 2019–2021

Tentative timing: Thursday, 24 October, 11.30–12 p.m.

59. The Working Group will review overall progress made in the implementation of the Convention's programme of work for 2019–2021 and make minor adjustments, if necessary.

Documentation

Report on the implementation of activities under the Water Convention (ECE/MP.WAT/WG.1/2019/INF.11)

Programme of work for 2019–2021 (ECE/MP.WAT/54/Add.1)

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

Tentative timing: Thursday, 24 October, 12.00–12.10 p.m.

60. The Working Group will determine 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.

16. Other business

Tentative timing: Thursday, 24 October, 12.10 a.m.–12.20 p.m.

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

17. Closure of the meeting

62. The Co-Chairs will close the meeting at 12.30 p.m. on Thursday, 24 October 2019.