

Session 1: Introduction

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TRANSBOUNDARY WATER ALLOCATION HANDBOOK
Third Meeting of the Expert Group
(Virtual, 20-21 October 2020)



Programme of Work 2019-21



Eighth Meeting of the Parties in Nur-Sultan, Kazakhstan 10-12 October 2018

- Agreed on the Water Convention's Programme for 2019-2021 (ECE_MP.WAT_54_Add.1_ENG)

Programme area 3:

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

3.3 Supporting equitable and sustainable water allocation in the transboundary context (Lead Party: Hungary)

3.3.1 Development of a handbook on water allocation in the transboundary context

A handbook based on existing practices will be developed covering the key aspects of equitable and sustainable allocation of water in the transboundary context, addressing both surface waters and groundwaters, and also environmental flows.

Programme of Work 2019-21



3.3.2 Organization of regional workshops on water allocation

Two regional workshops on water allocation were organized.

*A third was potentially planned to be held but due to COVID19 this was not possible in 2020.

Final publication to be launched

The manual will be translated into French, Russian and Spanish and published.

Launched at the ninth Meeting of the Parties at end of October, start of November 2021.

Expert Group



Mandate

- Programme of Work designated a *Drafting Group* would guide the Handbook development
- For practical purposes, was renamed *Expert Group* to reflect its function as an advisory group

Role

- To provide general technical oversight, advice & inputs on the Handbook structure & content
- Propose case studies for inclusion that are illustrative of specific elements of water allocation

Expectations & responsibilities

- Participation in Expert Group meetings
- Review and feedback on documents submitted to the Expert Group (can be specific sections)
- Provide inputs & assist with resources on topics / case studies based on your expertise/region
- Assist with recommending and/or contacting relevant experts to join the regional workshops
- Promote the publication with stakeholders and in forums relevant to water allocation issues

Composition of Expert Group



Selection & Invitations

- Secretariat & Hungary consulted together to create a set of minimum criteria & list of experts
- Draft list of 35 experts invited to join based on meeting criteria & for balanced representation

Addressing gaps

- Last Expert Group meeting & via written feedback: gaps & areas to strengthen were identified
- Secretariat researched, reviewed & invited a few experts in these specific fields/regions to join

Members & Guests

- Given interest in the topic since the start, several countries/experts have requested to join
- **Members:** invited to join and meet minimum criteria, may be financially supported if it applies
- **Guests:** requested to join and meet minimum criteria, not able to be financially supported
- *Participation* – no difference: participate in meetings, email distribution list, provide feedback
- *Distinction* was done to reflect the strategically targeted balance of representation within the Expert Group sought via invitations. As distinct from further additions in certain fields/regions via guests

'Tour de table' to introduce each expert



Please introduce yourself one by one to the call.

20 seconds maximum:

- Name
- Position
- Country/Institution
- *If this is your first EG meeting: outline your area(s) of expertise / region

Please everyone turn off your videos & microphones afterwards.

During sessions: Primary way to indicate that you would like to remark is to put an exclamation mark in Chat box. Chair or moderator will then ask you to speak.

Objectives of the 3rd Expert Group Meeting



- Update on progress and status of the Handbook's development
- Update on regional processes, including projects for Central Asia and regional workshops
- Update on rationale, structure and content of each of the Chapters
- Discuss & collect feedback on main Chapter content and order of sub-sections in each Chapter
- Discussion & guidance on the main messages to be distilled out of the overall Handbook
- Discuss water allocation possible inputs into Water Convention's next Program of Work
- Clarify the roles of the secretariat, Handbook drafting team and Expert Group for major tasks and clear lines of communication moving forward
- Revisit case studies list, updates on progress and agree on follow up actions & coordination
- Reiterate project schedule and main milestones moving forward to the launch at 9th MoP
- **SHARING DIFFERENT APPROACHES & PERSPECTIVES**
 - It's a technical and informal meeting, please be transparent, honest, concise & specific!
 - Respectful exchange of ideas: lessons & recommendations to address common challenges

Technical logistics & online protocols



Interventions

- **Discussion & feedback remarks:** maximum 2-3 minutes. Please be considerate of the tight schedule & limit your remarks.

To ask Chair / Moderator to make a remark

- Primary method - put Exclamation Mark “!” in chat box.
- If still not asked to remark, you can turn video on (mic muted – until asked to speak). Turn off video after.

Respectfully sharing different approaches & perspectives

- It’s a technical / informal meeting where we need your candid feedback so please be transparent, honest, concise & specific!
- Respectful exchange of ideas: lessons & recommendations to address common challenges

Technical difficulties & ZOOM as an alternative

- Message Remy on +41799440913 who will try to resolve them urgently.
- If Webex crashes for everyone, a ZOOM link will be sent via email for you to click on.

Recording of the meeting

- Will be kept confidential. Used only by secretariat & drafting team to follow up on inputs and feedback from Expert Group

AGENDA – DAY 1 (20 October)



- 10:30 – 11:00 Online platform open for login & testing
- 11:00 – 11:15 Session 1: Introduction
- 11:15 – 11:45 Session 2: Overall status of Handbook & regional process
- 11:45 – 12:30 Session 3: Discussion of Preface & Chapter 1
- 12:30 – 13:00 LUNCH
- 13:00 – 15:30 Session 4: Discussion of Chapter 2-5
 - COFFEE BREAK @ 14.15 – 14.30
- 15:30 – 15:45 Session 5: Next steps tomorrow, remaining Chapters

OPTIONAL SESSION (the Americas timezones or who missed earlier sessions)

- 15:45 – 17:00 *Session 6: Recap on Chapters 1-5 feedback & Handbook development including regional processes*
- 17:00 END OF DAY 1

AGENDA – DAY 2 (21 October)



- 09:30 – 10:00 Online platform open for login & testing
- OPTIONAL SESSION (Asia-Pacific timezones or who missed earlier sessions)*
- 10:00 – 11:00 *Session 7: Recap on Chapters 2-5 feedback*
- 11:00 – 11:15 Session 8: Introduction and Agenda Day 2
- 11:15 – 12:00 Session 9: Structure & content development: Knowledge Base for Transboundary Water Allocation
- 12:00 – 12:30 Session 10: Explanation of Flow Chart on “Operationalising Transboundary Water Allocation” and Feedback
- 12:30 – 13:00 LUNCH
- 13:00 – 13:30 Session 11: Structure & content development: Operationalising Transboundary Water Allocation

AGENDA – DAY 2 (21 October) continued



- 13:30 – 14:30 Session 12: Structure & content development: Main Messages
- 14:30 – 14:45 COFFEE BREAK
- 14:45 – 15:30 Session 13: Next steps, responsibilities and concluding remarks

OPTIONAL SESSION (the Americas timezones or who missed earlier sessions)

- 15:30 – 17:00 *Recap on Chapters 6-9 feedback & next steps, roles and responsibilities*
- 17:00 END OF DAY 2 & Close of Workshop

Questions & Feedback?

Additional information on the Water Convention's work on transboundary water allocation:
<https://www.unece.org/environmental-policy/conventions/water/areas-of-work-of-the-convention/water-allocation-in-a-transboundary-context.html>

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