



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

Working Group on Integrated Water Resources Management
Fifteenth meeting

Geneva, 30 September – 2 October 2020

Item 13(b) of the provisional agenda

Implementation of other decisions taken by the eighth session of the Meeting of the Parties: Developing a procedure for proposals to host future sessions of the Meeting of the Parties and call for proposals for hosting the tenth session

Call for proposals to host the tenth session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Water Convention in 2024

Note by the secretariat

Summary

The Working Group at its fourteenth meeting (Geneva, 22–24 October 2019) requested the secretariat to disseminate by electronic means to all focal points of Parties, by 12 June 2020, a call for proposals to host the tenth session of the Meeting of the Parties.

Following consultations with the Convention's Bureau, the secretariat disseminated the letter with the call for proposals on 11 June 2020. The letter and the accompanying template are presented in this document.

The Working Group is invited to make comments and ask questions as needed. Potentially interested Parties are invited to express their preliminary interest in hosting the tenth session of the Meeting of the Parties.

I. Letter

To: Focal points of the Parties to the Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes

Subject: Call for proposals to host the tenth session of the Meeting of the Parties

10 June 2020

Dear colleagues,

I hope this letter finds you safe and healthy in the current difficult circumstances.

As decided by the Working Group on Integrated Water Resources Management at its fourteenth meeting (Geneva, 22–24 October 2019), I would like to invite your country **to consider hosting** the tenth session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes (Water Convention) in autumn 2024. This letter outlines the benefits of and responsibilities associated with the hosting, and describes the procedural steps to be taken to submit a proposal.

Hosting the Meeting of the Parties to the Water Convention brings numerous **benefits** to the host country.

As the Water Convention has grown from a regional to a global instrument, the Meetings of the Parties to the Convention are nowadays among the largest international events driving the transboundary water cooperation agenda at the global level and attract ever-increasing high-level participation. Hosting such a meeting reaffirms the host country's commitment to transboundary water cooperation on the global stage, provides it with a unique opportunity to bring forward its political priorities for international cooperation and allows it to raise its profile by showcasing its achievements to other countries, across the United Nations system more widely and to representatives of the water community from across the world. Moreover, hosting such an event allows the host country to establish new contacts and partnerships and explore new cooperation opportunities.

In addition, hosting the Meeting of the Parties to the Water Convention considerably broadens exposure to and understanding of the Convention among national stakeholders. This helps to promote the multisectoral engagement needed at the national level for the implementation of the Convention and facilitates the implementation of the Convention as well as transboundary water cooperation more broadly in the long run.

Furthermore, the chairmanship of the Water Convention, which comes right after the hosting of the Meeting of the Parties, makes the host country a key actor in international cooperation on transboundary water issues at the global level. The three-year chairmanship allows sufficient time for the host country to play a key role in international cooperation in these areas at the global level and to achieve tangible results.

Last but not least, the benefits of hosting the Meeting of the Parties also include a unique opportunity for the host nation to showcase its city and country to participants from all over the world, who may not have otherwise travelled to the host country.

The **responsibilities** of the host country fall under two major domains: practical arrangements for hosting the meeting and political leadership and support.

Most organizational, planning and other **practical issues** for hosting the meeting are formally defined through a host country agreement (HCA) which has to be signed significantly in advance of the Meeting of the Parties. Such agreement usually describes the procedures for invitation to the meeting,

privileges and immunities, facilities to be made available by the host country, visa support for delegates and other issues.

Although the host country is not expected to cover the entire spectrum of costs related to the event, hosting a session of the Meeting of the Parties entails financial implications in line with United Nations General Assembly Resolutions A/RES/40/243 and A/RES/47/202.

While a different degree of financial engagement is expected from prospective host countries depending on their level of economic development, certain minimum requirements exist and are meant to defray the additional costs directly or indirectly involved due to holding the session of the Meeting of the Parties away from the headquarters.

The minimum costs to be borne by the host country include the travel costs of the secretariat and the United Nations interpreters, fees for interpretation into two additional United Nations languages (Arabic and Spanish) and, if applicable, costs of freight and shipment of documentation. The minimum costs also include local costs linked to the provision of the venue, capable to accommodate at least 500 participants usually in the main meeting room, equipment, supplies, local transport and personnel needed to facilitate the preparation to and conduct of the session.

Additionally, on the practical side of the hosting, a host country is encouraged to make efforts to reduce the environmental footprint of the Meeting of the Parties, in particular with regard to the use of water and energy resources and waste management.

However, the role of the host country extends far beyond the practical arrangements for the meeting, as its leadership is fundamental for the success of the Meeting of the Parties. The **political support and leadership** provided by the host country throughout the entire preparatory process is important for facilitating the outcomes of the meeting, building consensus and support to the different decisions to be adopted at the Meeting of the Parties, as well as ensuring the visibility and impact of the event. Furthermore, since the host country is expected to take the chairmanship of the Convention for the three years following the Meeting of the Parties, its representative elected as the Chair becomes the “face and voice” of the Convention and represents it at all major water-related events and processes. The role of the Chair and of the country holding the chairmanship is fundamental in terms of promotion of and political support to the Convention worldwide, as well as the positioning of transboundary water cooperation on the international agenda. In order to prepare for the chairmanship and to get experience in the work of the Convention’s Bureau, the host country is usually elected as vice-chair of the Bureau in the preceding period.

As decided by the Convention’s Working Group on Integrated Water Resources Management at its fourteenth meeting (Geneva, 22–24 October 2019), interested Parties are invited to **submit proposals to host the tenth session of the Meeting of the Parties by 30 April 2021**. Proposals are to be submitted to the secretariat (water.convention@un.org) using the **template attached**. More information is available in document “Possible procedure for proposing to host future sessions of the Meeting of the Parties” (ECE/MP.WAT/WG.1/2020/4).

The Convention secretariat stands ready to provide clarifications and reply to any questions you may have.

Yours sincerely,

Sonja Koepfel
Secretary to the Convention on the Protection
and Use of Transboundary Watercourses
and International Lakes

II. Template

Template - *Please limit your completed form to 2 pages*

Proposal to host the tenth session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes (Water Convention)

- I. Please describe the motivation of your country to host the tenth session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Water Convention in Autumn 2024 and indicate possible level of representation of your country in case it hosts the Meeting of the Parties (e.g. prime-minister, minister):

...

- II. Please describe any specific ideas on the organization of the tenth session (possibly including relevant side events and back-to-back or side meetings):

...

- III. Please describe the possible venue(s) for the meeting (include only venue(s) with a capacity to accommodate at least 500 participants usually in the main meeting room; when available, provide websites):

...

- IV. Please provide any additional information (e.g. on the potential support your country can provide):

...

Name and title of authorized official:

Signature and date: