



Expert Meeting on Monitoring, Assessment and Data Exchange

Geneva, Switzerland/virtual

Draft agenda

1 April 2021

Initiating information exchange is fundamental for developing transboundary water cooperation. Comparable information across a transboundary basin or aquifer is necessary to form a common basis for management and related decision-making. In practice, this requires harmonized and comparable methods for monitoring and assessment. Joint monitoring and assessment of transboundary waters and information exchange are therefore among the key obligations of the Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes (Water Convention).

In Spring 2021, the future programme of work of the Water Convention for 2022-2024 is being developed taking into account the outcome of the survey for the next Programme of Work 2022-2024 of the Water Convention and the outcome of the discussion at relevant intergovernmental bodies under the Convention, namely the Fifteenth meeting of the Working Group on Monitoring and Assessment and Global workshop on Data Exchange and information (4-6 December 2019). This expert group meeting on Monitoring and Assessment will discuss in detail the proposed activities on monitoring, assessment and data for 2022-24, notably the proposed update of existing guidelines on monitoring and assessment, developed in the framework of the Water Convention- It will review and discuss different options, hear about relevant experiences and needs to consider, orient the work and agree about the next steps.

Languages of work: English, French, Russian and Spanish

Morning: (10 a.m. – 12 p.m. CEST)

Afternoon: (2 p.m. – 4 p.m. CEST)

Time	Agenda item
10.00 – 12.00	Opening
	Session 1: Introduction
	Presentation: Work on Monitoring and assessment under the Water Convention
	Presentation: Outcome of the survey of the Programme of Work 2022-2024 for Programme Area 2 and the general lines of the proposed activities
	Questions and Answers
	Session 2: Overview of the existing guidelines on monitoring and assessment of transboundary rivers, lakes and groundwaters
	Presentation: Overview of the existing guidelines developed under the Water Convention
	Presentation: Different options for updating the guidelines

	Interventions from countries and partners on existing guidelines and other documents that might be relevant for future work. Partners' updates about their possible related initiatives and cooperation potential
	Recapitulation of the morning session
Lunch break	
14.00-16.00	Session 3: Needs and interest, potential for application of guidelines and good practice
	Presentation: Introduction by recalling the regional strategic discussions at the WGMA 2019
	Presentation: The greater Drin Basin and data exchange and monitoring (current situation and the Strategic Action Programme)
	Presentation: Monitoring and Assessment in the Senegal-Mauritanian Aquifer (overview of the status and the joint action plan developed)
	Invited brief interventions about situations with monitoring cooperation and data exchange. How international guidance and good practice add value?
	Discussion
	Session 4: Conclusions for the programme of work 2022-24 under the Water Convention
	Presentation of conclusions for the programme of work 2022-24; discussion
	Closure