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Economic Commission for EuropeMeeting of the Parties to the Convention on
the Protection and Use of Transboundary
Watercourses and International Lakes**Working Group on Integrated Water
Resources Management**

Sixteenth meeting*

Working Group on Monitoring and Assessment

Sixteenth meeting*

Geneva, 26–28 April 2021

Item 14 of the provisional agenda

Financing of the Water Convention**Provisional report on contributions and expenditures from
January until December 2020****Note by the secretariat***Summary*

The present document reports on the contributions and provisional expenditures related to the implementation of the programme of work for 2019–2021 for the Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes (Water Convention) (ECE/MP.WAT/54/Add.1), adopted at the eighth session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention (Nur-Sultan, 10–12 October 2018). The document contains detailed contributions and expenditures from 1 January to 31 December 2020 for all Water Convention-related trust funds, including for the Convention's global opening, the reporting on indicator 6.5.2 of the Sustainable Development Goals and the European Union Water Initiative Plus National Policy Dialogues in Eastern Partnership countries and Central Asia. This document is complementary to the Report on the implementation of activities under the Water Convention in 2020 (ECE/MP.WAT/WG.1/2021/3–ECE/MP.WAT/WG.2/2021/3).

* Third joint meeting of the two working groups.



I. Approximate balance as at 31 December 2019

1. The approximate provisional of the Water Convention's trust funds as at 31 December 2019 was \$4,173,536 (ECE/MP.WAT/WG.1/2020/5, para. 4).

II. Contributions received from 1 January to 31 December 2020¹

2. A breakdown of contributions (not considering interest income) received from 1 January to 31 December 2020 is set out in table 1 below.

Table 1
Breakdown of contributions

Contributor	Date received	Currency	Amount		Earmarked/explanation
			Amount	(in US dollars) ^a	
GWP-Med	6 Feb. 2020	EUR	77 000	84 895	Water cooperation in the Mediterranean
UN-Water	11 Feb. 2020	USD	15 219	15 219	Reporting on SDG indicator 6.5.2
Luxembourg	9 Mar. 2020	EUR	2 000	2 198	Unearmarked
UN-Water	10 Mar. 2020	USD	30 701	30 701	Reporting on SDG indicator 6.5.2
Germany	19 Mar. 2020	EUR	30 000	33 937	Workshop on legal frameworks (28-29 Jul. 2020)
European Union	24 Mar. 2020	EUR	447 461	506 178	EUWI+ 4 EaP
Austria	27 Mar. 2020	EUR	10 000	11 312	Unearmarked
Bulgaria	3 Apr. 2020	EUR	3 000	3 311	Unearmarked
OSCE	15 Apr. 2020	EUR	41 610	45 927	Dniester River basin project
Kazakhstan	15 Apr. 2020	USD	74 000	74 000	Unearmarked
Hungary	19 May 2020	USD	12 000	12 000	Unearmarked
Sweden	4 Jun. 2020	SEK	860 000	89 911	Unearmarked
European Union	17 Jun. 2020	EUR	25 000	28 441	Unearmarked
OSCE	13 Jul. 2020	EUR	41 610	46 596	Dniester River basin project
UNESCO	23 Jul. 2020	USD	5 000	5 000	GEF IW: Learn 4
France	7 Aug. 2020	EUR	70 000	82 353	Opening of the Convention
Switzerland (SDC)	19 Aug. 2020	USD	549 975	549 975	Unearmarked
Switzerland (FOEN)	26 Aug. 2020	CHF	75 000	82 327	WGIWRM, Task Force on water and climate, publication Frequently Asked Questions

¹ This includes contributions to the Water Convention trust fund, the UN-Water trust fund, the opening of the Convention project trust fund, the European Union Water Initiative Plus National Policy Dialogues for Eastern Partnership countries trust fund and the National Policy Dialogues in Central Asia trust fund. Some contributions received to fund projects supporting implementation of the Convention according to sub programme area 1.3, in particular those by OSCE for the project in the Dniester River basin and by the European Union for the project in the Senegal Mauritania Aquifer basin, were included, whereas contributions to fund the following projects were not: project on dam safety; and the network of Eastern Europe water management organizations funded from the Russian Federation contribution to the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe.

Contributor	Date received	Currency	Amount		Earmarked/explanation
			Amount	(in US dollars) ^a	
Switzerland (FOEN)	26 Aug. 2020	CHF	53 000	58 178	Reporting under the Water Convention and on SDG indicator 6.5.2
Luxembourg	28 Aug. 2020	EUR	9 000	10 601	Unearmarked
UN-Water	10 Sep. 2020	USD	9 900	9 900	Reporting on SDG indicator 6.5.2
UN-Water	16 Sep. 2020	USD	30 701	30 701	Reporting on SDG indicator 6.5.2
European Union	30 Sep. 2020	EUR	1 054 605	1 226 296	Promoting accession to the Water Convention
UN-Water	1 Oct. 2020	USD	85 046	85 046	Reporting on SDG indicator 6.5.2
Germany	14 Oct. 2020	EUR	27 500	32 277	Study on financing of cooperation, reporting
Finland	29 Oct. 2020	EUR	20 000	23 474	Unearmarked
Finland	17 Nov. 2020	EUR	200 000	235 018	Unearmarked
UN-Water	1 Dec. 2020	USD	20 193	20 193	Reporting on SDG indicator 6.5.2
Germany	7 Dec. 2020	EUR	30 000	35 842	Publications and translations
Netherlands	8 Dec. 2020	EUR	200 000	238 949	Climate change activities
Finland	11 Dec. 2020	EUR	11 000	13 142	Unearmarked
Finland	23 Dec. 2020	EUR	14 916	17 821	Water allocation
Azerbaijan	29 Dec. 2020	USD	1 000	1 000	Unearmarked
European Union	29 Dec. 2020	EUR	184 113	219 968	EUWI NPDs in Central Asia
Total				3 962 687	

Abbreviations: EUWI NPDs, European Union Water Initiative National Policy Dialogues; EUWI+ 4 EaP, European Union Water Initiative Plus for the Eastern Partnership; FOEN, Federal Office for the Environment; GEF IW: Learn 4, Global Environment Facility International Waters: Learning Exchange and Resource Network; GWP-Med, Global Water Partnership – Mediterranean; OSCE, Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe; SDC, Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation; SDG, Sustainable Development Goal; UNESCO, United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization; WGIWRM, Working Group on Integrated Water Resources Management.

^a United States dollars. Exchange rate from currency of contribution to dollars is calculated on the date of funds transfer. Figures are rounded.

III. Provisional expenditures in 2020

3. Total provisional expenditures from 1 January to 31 December 2020 were \$2,974,093. At the time of preparing this report, the 2020 United Nations accounts had not been closed. Amounts listed below are therefore provisional and might be subject to changes at the time of closure of United Nations accounts. A breakdown of costs by programme area is set out in table 2 below.

Table 2

Breakdown of costs by programme area

Description ^a	Amount in US dollars
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(a) Official meetings (Working Group and Bureau meetings)

<i>Description^a</i>	<i>Amount in US dollars</i>
Staff and personnel costs ^b	88 161
Contract service ^c	19 081
Operating and other direct costs ^d	9 850
Equipment, vehicles and furniture (Travel ^e)	8 950 (4 686)
Subtotal (a)	121 357
(b) Programme area 1: Increasing awareness of and accession to the Convention and application of its principles drawing on the benefits of cooperation^f	
Staff and personnel costs	563 946
Contract service	48 916
Operating and other direct costs	38 008
Equipment, vehicles and furniture	713
Travel	32 750
Subtotal (b)	684 334
(c) Programme area 2: Supporting monitoring, assessment and information-sharing in transboundary basins	
Staff and personnel costs	52 263
Operating and other direct costs	2 004
(Travel) ^g	(6 814)
Subtotal (c)	47 453
(d) Programme area 3: Promoting an integrated and intersectoral approach to water management at all levels^h	
Staff and personnel costs	1 300 247
Contract service	35 776
Operating and other direct costs	40 553
Grants ⁱ	11 592
Travel	16 282
Subtotal (d)	1 404 477
(e) Programme area 4: Adapting to climate change in transboundary basins	
Staff and personnel costs	232 742
(Contract service)	(1 226)
Operating and other direct costs	5 478
(Travel)	(56)
Subtotal (e)	236 937
(f) Programme areas 5: Facilitating financing of transboundary water cooperation	
Staff and personnel costs	123 362
Contract service	33 102
Operating and other direct costs	7 649
Subtotal (f)	164 113
(g) Programme area 6: Reporting on Sustainable Development Goal indicator 6.5.2 and under the Convention	
Staff and personnel costs	210 274

<i>Description^a</i>	<i>Amount in US dollars</i>
Contract service	22 316
Operating and other direct costs	15 238
Travel	2 437
Subtotal (g)	250 265
(h) Programme area 7: Partnerships, communication and knowledge management	
Staff and personnel costs	56 089
Contract service	4 068
Operating and other direct costs	1 733
Travel	3 267
Subtotal (h)	65 157
Total ((a)–(h))	2 974 093ⁱ

Note: All figures include 13 per cent United Nations standard programme support costs. For contributions from the European Union and UN-Water, programme support costs are 7 per cent.

^a Categories of expenditures in the present report follow the categories in the Umoja administrative and financial system. The footnotes below explain the different categories.

^b This includes staff costs, consultancies costs and consultants' travel costs.

^c This includes costs for individual contractors, for example, for: outsourced translations; procurement, for example for catering services for conferences and events, etc.

^d This includes all logistics costs, for example, for events organized outside Geneva, and costs for translation, layout and printing of publications by the United Nations Office at Geneva, as well as extrabudgetary interpretation costs.

^e This includes staff travel costs, as well as travel support to eligible participants.

^f Expenses reported under programme area 1 include some expenses for projects on the ground implemented under subprogramme area 1.3. Such costs were not incorporated into the budget of the programme of work adopted by the Meeting of the Parties at its eighth session, as these are project-driven activities dependent on the availability of funds.

^g This corresponds to refunds of costs related to previous travels, which had been cancelled.

^h Expenses reported under programme area 3 reflect all expenditures related to the contributions from the European Union for Eastern Neighbourhood countries (in the framework of the European Union Water Initiative Plus project) and for Central Asia. However, it should be noted that the two projects funded activities beyond the Convention's programme of work. In particular, approximately 15 per cent of the expenditures are related to the implementation of the Protocol on Water and Health to the Water Convention and its programme of work.

ⁱ This includes costs for grants for not-for-profit organizations to carry out activities under specific projects.

^j The year 2020 was special due to the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, which significantly affected the implementation of activities under the Convention. It led to the cancellation of all travels from early March 2020 and the postponement of several activities. Expenses are therefore lower than in previous years, but this is not representative of the evolution of costs and activities under the Convention.

IV. Approximate provisional balance as at 31 December 2020

4. The approximate provisional balance of the various trust funds as at 31 December 2020 was \$5,162,130.