

Briefing on the 9th session of the Meeting of Parties to the Water Convention

21 June 2021, 14:00-15:30 CET

Room XXIV, Palais des Nations and virtual, via WebEx

Since more than 60% of freshwater globally flows in shared basins, transboundary cooperation is crucial for peace, sustainable development and human well-being. The Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes (Water Convention) is a unique global multilateral environmental agreement aiming to ensure protection and sustainable use of transboundary water resources by facilitating cooperation.

The ninth session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Water Convention will take place in Geneva, Switzerland, in the form of a hybrid meeting (by the means of video conferencing and in-person participation) from 29 September to 1 October 2021. The meeting is organized by the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) in cooperation with the Government of the Republic of Estonia.

It will be a milestone for reviewing and accelerating progress towards achieving SDG target 6.5, discussing challenges and good practices related to the management of transboundary water resources worldwide and the role of the Convention in promoting cooperation. The high-level segment on “Water and Peace”, on 29 September 2021, will focus on the contribution of transboundary water cooperation to peace, including how accession to and implementation of the Water Convention can contribute to it.

The Convention’s global opening will be discussed, and the meeting will adopt the programme of work for 2022-2024 and important decisions. Several publications will be launched, for example on water allocation, developing legal frameworks for transboundary cooperation, intersectoral cooperation (nexus solutions), financing transboundary water cooperation, etc.

PROGRAMME

Moderator: Mr. Marco KEINER, Director of the Environment Division, UNECE

Ms. Olga ALGAYEROVA, Executive Secretary, UNECE

Recent developments and contribution of the Water Convention to the global water agenda

H.E. Ms. Katrin SAARSALU-LAYACHI, Ambassador, Permanent representative of the Republic of Estonia to the United Nations Office in Geneva

Priorities and expectations of the upcoming 2022-2024 Estonian Presidency of the Water Convention

Mr. Ardak ZEBESHEV, Chair of the Bureau of the Water Convention, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Kazakhstan

Main outcomes of the 2019-2021 Kazakh Presidency of the Water Convention

Mr. Harry LIIV, Vice-Chair of the Bureau of the Water Convention, Ministry of the Environment of Estonia
Introduction to the 2022-2024 programme of work of the Water Convention

Ms. Sonja KOEPPPEL, Secretary of the Water Convention, UNECE

Issues to be discussed by the Meeting of the Parties, decisions to be taken, expected outcomes, session format and practical information

Moderated questions and answers

Closing remarks by Ms. Olga ALGAYEROVA, Executive Secretary, UNECE



9th session of the

MEETING OF THE PARTIES TO THE WATER CONVENTION

29 September – 1 October 2021 Geneva & Hybrid

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Registration is required. Please register by 18 June 2021 at:

https://indico.un.org/e/MOP9_Briefing_Water_Convention

Documents of the Briefing: <https://unece.org/environmental-policy/events/MOP9-briefing>

More information about the 9th session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Water Convention:

https://unece.org/MOP9_Water_Convention

Website of the Water Convention: <https://unece.org/environment-policy/water>