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Meeting of the Parties to the Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes

Ninth session

Geneva, 29 September–1 October 2021

Item 1 of the provisional agenda

Opening of the session and adoption of the agenda

Annotated provisional agenda for the ninth session

To be held in the Palais des Nations, starting on Wednesday,
29 September 2021, at 10 a.m.*

I. Provisional agenda

High-level segment

1. Opening of the session and adoption of the agenda.
2. Status of ratification of the Convention and its Protocols and report on credentials. Progress in the global opening of the Convention.
3. Special session: Water and peace.

General segment

4. Increasing awareness of and accession to the Convention and application of its principles drawing on the benefits of cooperation:

* In accordance with United Nations accreditation procedures, participants are requested to complete the online registration procedure available on the web page for the ninth session of the Meeting of the Parties (https://unece.org/MOP9_Water_Convention) as soon as possible, **but not later than 10 September 2021**. Registration is available through the following link: https://indico.un.org/e/MOP9_Water_Convention. For assistance with registration, please see the instructions on the meeting web page or contact the secretariat by email (mayola.lidome@un.org). In case of difficulty, please contact the secretariat by telephone at +41 22 917 2596. Due to coronavirus disease (COVID-19) restrictions, only a limited number of delegates can take part in-person, i.e. in the room. Others will participate online. Specific instructions will be disseminated to registered participants closer to the meeting and will be posted on the meeting web page.



- (a) Progress in national processes towards accession and implementation of the Strategy for the implementation of the Convention at the global level;
 - (b) Launch of the second progress report on implementation of the Convention;
 - (c) Supporting the development of agreements and the establishment of joint bodies;
 - (d) Implementation Committee;
 - (e) Supporting implementation or application of the Convention through projects on the ground and capacity-building.
5. Supporting monitoring, assessment and information sharing in transboundary basins.
 6. Supporting equitable and sustainable water allocation in the transboundary context.
 7. European Union Water Initiative and National Policy Dialogues.
 8. Water-food-energy-ecosystems nexus in transboundary basins.
 9. Facilitating financing of transboundary water cooperation.
 10. Reporting under the Convention and on indicator 6.5.2 of the Sustainable Development Goals.
 11. Financing of the Convention.
 12. Identifying, assessing and communicating the benefits of transboundary cooperation.
 13. Adapting to climate change in transboundary basins.
 14. Water and industrial accidents.
 15. Formalizing the procedure for proposing to host future sessions of the Meeting of the Parties.
 16. Date and venue of the tenth session of the Meeting of the Parties.
 17. International Water Assessment Centre.
 18. Programme of work for 2022–2024, terms of reference of the bodies established to implement it and resources needed for its implementation.
 19. Promotion and partnerships.
 20. Election of officers.
 21. Other business.
 22. Presentation of the main decisions.
 23. Closing of the session.

II. Annotations

1. The ninth session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes (Water Convention) will be held from 29 September to 1 October 2021. Due to infection control measures and travel restrictions related to the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, the meeting will be held in a hybrid format (i.e. with in-person and online participation) at the United Nations Office at Geneva. The meeting is organized in cooperation with the Government of Estonia. It will be a milestone for reviewing and accelerating progress towards achieving target 6.5 of the Sustainable Development Goals and discussing challenges and good practices related to transboundary water cooperation and the role of the Water Convention.

2. The Meeting will consist of a high-level segment and a general segment. The high-level segment, dealing with items 1 to 3 of the provisional agenda, will be held in the morning and early afternoon of Wednesday, 29 September, starting at 10 a.m. The general segment, covering items 4 to 23 of the provisional agenda, will take place from the afternoon of Wednesday, 29 September, until 5 p.m. on Friday, 1 October. The working languages will be Arabic, English, French, Russian and Spanish.

3. Additional practical information on the meeting, as well as all relevant documentation, will be posted on a dedicated page of the Convention's website¹ in due course.

4. Several side events will be organized on 27 and 28 September 2021, i.e. prior to the session. A detailed programme of these events will be available in September 2021.

5. In view of the expected large participation in the meeting and its hybrid format, participants are requested to limit the length of their interventions to three minutes during the high-level segment and two minutes during the general segment. Full statements provided to the secretariat will be posted on the session's web page.

High-level segment

1. Opening of the session and adoption of the agenda

Tentative timing: Wednesday, 29 September, 10–10.45 a.m.

6. Mr. Ardak Zebeshev (Chair of the Meeting of the Parties, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Kazakhstan) will open the meeting.

7. A high-level representative of Estonia and a high-level representative of Kazakhstan will address the Meeting.

8. Statements by high-level representatives of the United Nations and the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) will follow.

9. The Chair will invite the Parties to adopt the agenda as set out in the present document.

10. The Chair will also invite the Parties to take note of the document on procedural matters of relevance for decision-making at the ninth session of the Meeting of the Parties due to the extraordinary circumstances related to the coronavirus disease pandemic and decide to apply it during the session.

Documentation

Procedural matters of relevance for decision-making at the ninth session of the Meeting of the Parties due to the extraordinary circumstances related to the coronavirus disease pandemic (ECE/MP.WAT/2021/1)

Informal document

Organization of work (ECE/MP.WAT/2021/INF.1)

¹ See https://unece.org/MOP9_Water_Convention. Please note that documents with symbols ending in "INF." followed by a number are informal documents and are available only from the meeting web page (not from the Official Documents System of the United Nations (ODS)).

2. Status of ratification of the Convention and its Protocols and report on credentials. Progress in the global opening of the Convention

Tentative timing: Wednesday, 29 September, 10.45–11 a.m.

11. The secretariat will inform the Meeting about the status of ratification of the Convention, the Protocol on Water and Health, the Protocol on Civil Liability and Compensation for Damage Caused by the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents on Transboundary Waters and the amendments to articles 25 and 26 of the Convention.

12. In accordance with rules 14 and 15 of the rules of procedure (ECE/MP.WAT/54/Add.2), the Bureau will examine the credentials² submitted by Parties and submit its report to the Meeting. Parties to the Convention are requested to submit the credentials or a copy of them to the secretariat in advance of the session, preferably by 10 September 2021.

13. New Parties will be invited to report on their accession, followed by a small celebration.

Documentation

Informal document

Status of ratification of the Water Convention, its Protocols and amendments (ECE/MP.WAT/2021/INF.2)

3. Special session – Water and peace

Tentative timing: Wednesday, 29 September, 11 a.m.–1 p.m. and 3–4 p.m.

14. Water knows no borders, so cooperation among sectors, communities and countries is of vital importance for its management. The growing scarcity of water in many regions increases the competition between the needs of various water uses, including for human consumption, industry, energy production, agriculture and the environment. This can lead to tensions between different sectors, between different users of a watershed or between riparian States. In many areas, not being the sole source of dispute, competition over water has been a dispute intensifier. Disputes are already taking place in some regions, and pressures are increasing due to climate change, population growth, etc. However, water much more frequently represents a source of cooperation.

15. Governing transboundary waters in a cooperative, equitable and sustainable manner is thus critical for sustainable development, climate resilience, conflict prevention and peace. Implementation of the Water Convention shows that legal and institutional frameworks contribute to preventing and reducing the risks of conflict.

16. The high-level special session on “Water and Peace” will provide an opportunity to highlight and discuss the role of transboundary water cooperation in fostering trust, stability and peace. It will offer a high-level platform for an open dialogue on the role of water in sustainable development, regional integration, cooperation and peace in transboundary basins and beyond.

² Credentials are required for all Parties to the Convention (countries that are not Parties to the Convention do not need credentials). Credentials are normally issued by the Head of State or Government, the Minister for Foreign Affairs or, in the case of a regional economic integration organization, the competent authority of the organization, and must indicate the composition of the delegation, including the head of delegation, and state that the delegation is empowered to participate in the Meeting of the Parties and to take decisions on behalf of the respective Government or organization under the applicable rules of procedure. The credentials should list all official representatives of Parties, whether intending to participate in-person or online/remotely.

17. The session will present concrete experiences of Parties to the Water Convention and other countries and basins that will illustrate how transboundary water cooperation helps to prevent conflicts and promote and sustain peace. It will reflect on how accession to the Convention and its implementation can contribute to peace, and how to make best use of the Convention.

18. On the basis of the findings of the second reporting exercise on indicator 6.5.2 of the Sustainable Development Goals, the session will also debate how to accelerate progress to tackle persisting challenges in transboundary water cooperation to achieve Sustainable Development Goals 6, on water, and 16, on peace, and in particular target 6.5 of the Sustainable Development Goals, on the implementation of integrated water resources management, including through transboundary cooperation, in line with the SDG 6 Global Acceleration Framework.

19. The special session will provide an opportunity for a strategic discussion between Parties, other States – including prospective Parties from all regions, international organizations, non-governmental organizations, international financial institutions and other stakeholders. It will consist of two thematic parts:

- (a) Transboundary water cooperation: a catalyst for peace;
- (b) Accelerating progress on transboundary water cooperation to achieve sustainable development.

20. The special session will be organized as a combination of discussions in the form of moderated thematic panels and high-level contributions from the floor. A provisional programme of the high-level segment will provide further details on the themes and speakers.

21. Panellists and high-level interventions from the floor³ will focus on the following questions:

- (a) What can we learn from experiences of basins and regions where water has become a catalyst for peace between neighbours?
- (b) How can we promote effective water cooperation in order to strive for peace in transboundary basins, especially those affected by tensions and conflicts?
- (c) How does accession to the Water Convention and its implementation in countries and basins help to prevent disputes and sustain peace and stability?
- (d) How can the development of operational arrangements and the establishment of joint bodies for transboundary water resources management contribute?
- (e) How can the best use be made of the Water Convention and its tools and bodies in the prevention and resolution of water-related disputes?
- (f) What is needed to accelerate progress towards achieving Sustainable Development Goal 6, and in particular its target 6.5, a requirement for sustainable development and a key to ensuring peace and stability?
- (g) What is needed to support States Members of the United Nations in acceding to, implementing and complying with the two global United Nations water conventions?

Documentation

Informal documents

Concept note of the high-level segment (ECE/MP.WAT/2021/INF.3)

³ Given the limited time available, interventions from the floor should not exceed three minutes. In order to facilitate the running of the special session, delegations planning to make a high-level statement are invited to inform the secretariat (water.convention@un.org) by 10 September 2021.

Provisional programme of the high-level segment (ECE/MP.WAT/2021/INF.4)

Progress on transboundary water cooperation: Global status of SDG indicator 6.5.2 and acceleration needs 2021 (ECE/MP.WAT/65)

Progress on transboundary water cooperation under the Water Convention: Second report on implementation of the Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes (ECE/MP.WAT/67)

General segment

22. During the general segment, the Meeting of the Parties will review achievements under the current programme of work for 2019–2021, the implementation of which was affected by the pandemic, and examine proposals for future activities under the programme of work for 2022–2024. (A more detailed discussion of the overall programme of work for 2022–2024 will take place under agenda item 18.).

Documentation for all the following agenda items

Report on the implementation of the programme of work for 2019–2021 (ECE/MP.WAT/2021/2)

Draft programme of work for 2022–2024 (ECE/MP.WAT/2021/3)

Overview of contributions and expenditures in 2019–2021 (ECE/MP.WAT/2021/7)

Programme of work for 2019–2021 (ECE/MP.WAT/54/Add.1)

Report of the Working Group on Integrated Water Resources Management on its fourteenth meeting (ECE/MP.WAT/WG.1/2019/2)

Report of the Working Group on Integrated Water Resources Management on its fifteenth meeting (ECE/MP.WAT/WG.1/2020/2)

Report of the third joint meeting of the Working Group on Integrated Water Resources Management and the Working Group on Monitoring and Assessment (ECE/MP.WAT/WG.1/2021/2-ECE/MP.WAT/WG.2/2021/2, forthcoming)

4. Increasing awareness of and accession to the Convention and application of its principles drawing on the benefits of cooperation

Tentative timing: Wednesday, 29 September, 4–6 p.m., and Thursday, 30 September, 10–10.50 a.m.

23. The Meeting will review progress made in fostering the application of the principles of the Convention and support provided to countries to this end in the context of the global opening of the Convention and discuss further action in this area of work.

(a) Progress in national processes towards accession and implementation of the Strategy for the implementation of the Convention at the global level

Tentative timing: Wednesday, 29 September, 4–5 p.m.

24. The triennium 2019–2021 was marked by increased progress in accession processes in countries in Africa, as well as in other regions. New Parties and countries in the process of accession will be invited to inform the Meeting about their progress and lessons learned from the accession process, as well as plans for implementing the Convention. Partners having supported these processes will be invited to comment.

25. The Meeting will be informed about: activities carried out by the secretariat, the Bureau, countries and partners in 2019–2021 to implement the Strategy for the

implementation of the Convention at the global level (ECE/MP.WAT/54/Add.2); the publication *Frequently Asked Questions on the 1992 Water Convention, with the Road map to facilitate accession processes*, prepared to support the global opening; and efforts to raise awareness of the Water Convention and the Convention on the Law of the Non-navigational Uses of International Watercourses at the national, basin, regional and global levels, including the UN-Water policy brief *The United Nations global water conventions: Fostering sustainable development and peace* published to support these efforts.

26. Participants will discuss future activities designed to support national processes towards accession to and implementation of the Water Convention, as well as how to promote further implementation of the Strategy for the implementation of the Convention at the global level, to be carried out during the period 2022–2024.

Documentation

Strategy for the implementation of the Convention at the global level (ECE/MP.WAT/54/Add.2)

Review of the implementation of the Strategy for the implementation of the Convention at the global level (ECE/MP.WAT/2021/4)

Frequently Asked Questions on the 1992 Water Convention, with the Road map to facilitate accession processes (ECE/MP.WAT/59)

*The United Nations global water conventions: Fostering sustainable development and peace*⁴

The Global Opening of the 1992 Water Convention (ECE/MP.WAT/43/Rev.1)

The Water Convention: responding to global water challenges (ECE/MP.WAT/52)

(b) Launch of the second progress report on implementation of the Convention

Tentative timing: Wednesday, 29 September, 5–5.30 p.m.

27. At its seventh session (Budapest, 17–19 November 2015), through decision VII/2 (see ECE/MP.WAT/49/Add.2), the Meeting of the Parties introduced a regular reporting mechanism under the Convention. In 2020–2021, as part of the second reporting exercise on indicator 6.5.2 of the Sustainable Development Goals and under the Water Convention, all Parties to the Convention have submitted their national reports. In 2021, in line with decision VIII/1 on reporting under the Convention (see ECE/MP.WAT/54/Add.2), the secretariat prepared the publication “Progress on transboundary water cooperation under the Water Convention: Second report on implementation of the Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes” (ECE/MP.WAT/67) based on the information contained in the national reports of the Parties. The report will be presented and launched.

28. The Meeting will be invited to discuss key achievements, including the signature of new agreements, and challenges for implementation of the Convention identified in the second progress report and the way forward to strengthen implementation of the Convention and transboundary water cooperation.

Documentation

Progress on transboundary water cooperation under the Water Convention: Second report on implementation of the Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lake (ECE/MP.WAT/67)

⁴ UN-Water (Geneva, 2020). Available at www.unwater.org/publications/the-united-nations-global-water-conventions-fostering-sustainable-development-and-peace/.

(c) Supporting the development of agreements and the establishment of joint bodies

Tentative timing: Wednesday, 29 September, 5.30–6 p.m.

29. The Meeting will review the publication “Practical guide on the development of agreements or other arrangements for transboundary water cooperation” (ECE/MP.WAT/68), prepared by a dedicated drafting group following the virtual workshop on designing legal frameworks for transboundary water cooperation (28 and 29 July 2020) and subsequently finalized based on comments and inputs provided by countries and stakeholders. The Meeting will be invited to endorse the publication. It will also discuss how to promote the use of the tool and further develop it in the next triennium.

30. The Meeting will discuss future activities to support the development of agreements and the establishment of joint bodies promoting different tools developed under the Convention and facilitating the exchange of experiences.

Documentation

Practical guide for the development of agreements or other arrangements for transboundary water cooperation (ECE/MP.WAT/68)

Principles for Effective Joint Bodies for Transboundary Water Cooperation under the Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes (ECE/MP.WAT/50)

(d) Implementation Committee

Tentative timing: Thursday, 30 September, 10–10.20 a.m.

31. The Chair of the Implementation Committee will present the Committee’s work over the past three years and its report to the Meeting of the Parties.

32. The Meeting will discuss the report and be invited to adopt the draft decision on general issues of implementation contained therein.

33. Parties will be invited to elect four members of the Implementation Committee.

Documentation

Report of the Implementation Committee to the Meeting of the Parties and draft decision on general issues of implementation (ECE/MP.WAT/2021/5)

Report of the Implementation Committee on its tenth meeting (ECE/MP.WAT/IC/2019/2)

Report of the Implementation Committee on its eleventh meeting (ECE/MP.WAT/IC/2020/2)

Report of the Implementation Committee on its twelfth meeting (ECE/MP.WAT/IC/2021/1)

Report of the Implementation Committee on its thirteenth meeting (ECE/MP.WAT/IC/2021/3)

Decision VI/1 on support to implementation and compliance (see ECE/MP.WAT/37/Add.2)

Informal document

List of candidates for the Implementation Committee (ECE/MP.WAT/2021/INF.5)

(e) **Supporting implementation or application of the Convention through projects on the ground and capacity-building**

Tentative timing: Thursday, 30 September, 10.20–10.50 a.m.

34. The Meeting will discuss progress achieved in supporting implementation or application of the Convention through projects on the ground and capacity-building in different basins such as the Drin, Dniester, Chu-Talas, Kura and Neman River basins and the Senegal-Mauritanian Aquifer basin and at the regional level, for example in Central Asia.

35. The Meeting will discuss possible future activities to support the development of agreements and strengthening of institutions, building on the benefits of transboundary cooperation.

5. Supporting monitoring, assessment and information sharing in transboundary basins

Tentative timing: Thursday, 30 September, 10.50–11.20 a.m.

36. The Meeting will discuss the monitoring and assessment activities carried out under the Convention in 2019–2021, including several activities on information exchange, monitoring and assessment in specific basins, the outcomes of the global workshop on exchange of data and information in transboundary basins (Geneva, 4 and 5 December 2019), the Expert Group Meeting on Monitoring, Assessment and Data Exchange (online, 1 April 2021) and other activities under the auspices of the Working Group on Monitoring and Assessment.

37. Participants will discuss future activities beyond 2021 to support countries in initiating or further developing joint or coordinated monitoring and assessment of transboundary waters and improving exchange of information and data.

Documentation

Report of the Working Group on Monitoring and Assessment on its fifteenth meeting (ECE/MP.WAT/WG.2/2019/2)

6. Supporting equitable and sustainable water allocation in the transboundary context

Tentative timing: Thursday, 30 September, 11.20 a.m.–12.10 p.m.

38. Following the decision of the Meeting of the Parties at its eighth session (Nur-Sultan, 10–12 October 2018) to develop a handbook on water allocation in the transboundary context (see ECE/MP.WAT/54/Add.1), a publication “Handbook on water allocation in a transboundary context” (ECE/MP.WAT/64) was prepared in 2019–2021 with support from an Expert Group and subsequently finalized based on comments and inputs provided by countries and other stakeholders. The Meeting will review and endorse the publication.

39. The Meeting will discuss how to promote the use of the handbook and discuss future activities on water allocation in a transboundary context beyond 2021.

Documentation

Handbook on water allocation in a transboundary context (ECE/MP.WAT/64)

7. European Union Water Initiative and National Policy Dialogues

Tentative timing: Thursday, 30 September, 12.10–1 p.m.

40. The Meeting will discuss progress on the European Union Water Initiative (EUWI+) National Policy Dialogues on Integrated Water Resources Management in supporting water sector reforms and the achievement of Sustainable Development Goals in countries of Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia.

41. Participants will examine lessons learned from the Dialogues and discuss future development of the Dialogues beyond 2021 within the framework of the follow-up action to the European Union Water Initiative Plus programme for the Eastern Partnership countries, implemented jointly by ECE, the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, Environment Agency Austria and the International Office for Water of France, and a regional project in Central Asia, funded by the European Union within the regional European Union - Central Asia Cooperation on Water, Environment and Climate Change programme, including links with other programme areas under the Convention.

8. Water-food-energy-ecosystems nexus in transboundary basins

Tentative timing: Thursday, 30 September, 3–3.45 p.m.

42. The Meeting will be informed of the work carried out in the transboundary basins, applying the methodology for assessing the water-food-energy-ecosystems nexus in transboundary basins, namely in the Drina River basin (follow-up), the North-Western Sahara Aquifer System and the Drin River basin, and the activities of the Task Force on the Water-Food-Energy-Ecosystems Nexus. Two publications will be presented: Toolkit publication *Towards sustainable renewable energy investment and deployment: Trade-offs and opportunities with water resources and the environment*, developed in 2020 in cooperation with the ECE Sustainable Energy Division; and a synthesis publication “Solutions and investments in the water-food-energy-ecosystems nexus: synthesis of nexus solutions” (ECE/MP.WAT/66), which will be launched at the meeting.

43. Participants will discuss future work in this area beyond 2021 to further promote the methodology for assessing the water-food-energy-ecosystems nexus in transboundary basins and to operationalize nexus solutions.

Documentation

Methodology for assessing the water-food-energy-ecosystems nexus in transboundary basins and experiences from its application: synthesis (ECE/MP.WAT/55)

Solutions and investments in the water-food-energy-ecosystems nexus: a synthesis of experiences in transboundary basins (ECE/MP.WAT/66)

Towards sustainable renewable energy investment and deployment: Trade-offs and opportunities with water resources and the environment (ECE/ENERGY/127)

Policy Brief: Improving sustainable development in the North-Western Sahara Aquifer System through a transboundary nexus approach (ECE/MP.WAT/NONE/15)

Reconciling resource uses: Assessment of the water-food-energy-ecosystems nexus in the North-Western Sahara Aquifer System – Part A – “Nexus Challenges and Solutions” (ECE/MP.WAT/NONE/16)

9. Facilitating financing of transboundary water cooperation

Tentative timing: Thursday, 30 September, 3.45–4.30 p.m.

44. Participants will review the activities under the programme area on financing of transboundary water cooperation, as a part of which the publication “Funding and financing of transboundary water cooperation and basin development” (ECE/MP.WAT/61) was developed through a consultative process, and a virtual workshop on financing transboundary water cooperation and basin development was organized on 16 and 17 December 2020 in cooperation with the Netherlands, Senegal, Switzerland, the African Development Bank, the Asian Development Bank, the European Investment Bank, the Global Environment Facility and its International Waters Learning Exchange and Resource Network (IW:LEARN), the Inter-American Development Bank, OECD, the United Nations Capital Development Fund, the World Bank Group and the World Wildlife Fund. The publication will be presented. Participants, in particular, international financial institutions and other partner organizations, will discuss how to use this publication to raise awareness on financing of transboundary water cooperation and basin development, as well as to support mobilization of funding and financing in shared basins.

45. The Meeting will discuss future activities beyond 2021 to: raise awareness and facilitate knowledge-sharing on the importance of enhancing the financial sustainability of transboundary water cooperation and management; and support national authorities and joint bodies in shaping their strategies for mobilizing financial resources.

Documentation

Funding and financing of transboundary water cooperation and basin development (ECE/MP.WAT/61)

10. Reporting under the Convention and on indicator 6.5.2 of the Sustainable Development Goals

Tentative timing: Thursday, 30 September, 4.30–5.25 p.m.

46. The introduction of reporting under the Convention coincided with the adoption of the Sustainable Development Goals and their targets in 2015. Target 6.5 calls for countries to implement integrated water resources management at all levels, including through transboundary cooperation as appropriate. In order to measure progress, indicator 6.5.2 (Proportion of transboundary basin area with an operational arrangement for water cooperation) was agreed by the United Nations Statistical Commission in March 2016⁵ and subsequently adopted by the General Assembly in July 2017 as part of the global indicator framework for the Sustainable Development Goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.⁶ ECE and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) have led the development of the step-by-step methodology for calculating indicator 6.5.2 and have been entrusted as “custodian agencies” for the indicator.

47. In order to maximize synergies and efficiencies, at the eleventh meeting of the Working Group on Integrated Water Resources Management (Geneva, 18 and 19 October 2016), it was decided to combine reporting under the Convention and reporting on indicator 6.5.2 and to send all Parties a single template for the provision of this information.⁷ Similarly, all countries sharing transboundary waters were invited to report on indicator 6.5.2 through a questionnaire which, in addition to a section on calculation of the indicator, includes three other sections that provide descriptive information, help substantiate whether the

⁵ See E/2016/24–E/CN.3/2016/34, decision 47/101.

⁶ See General Assembly resolution 71/313 on the work of the Statistical Commission pertaining to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (A/RES/71/313).

⁷ See ECE/MP.WAT/WG.1/2016/2, paras. 22, 24 and 26 (a).

operationality criteria are met and provide the opportunity to report on informal forms of cooperation. This makes it possible to gain a full picture of the status of transboundary water cooperation, track progress more closely beyond the indicator value and establish the current baseline with greater accuracy. Two reporting exercises have been carried out to date, in 2017–2018 and in 2020–2021. In the second round, 129 replies were received out of the 153 countries worldwide sharing transboundary waters.

48. The Meeting will be informed about progress and future planned activities on the integrated monitoring of water- and sanitation-related targets of the Sustainable Development Goals under the Integrated Monitoring Initiative for SDG 6, operating under the aegis of UN-Water, and the findings of the *Summary Progress Update 2021: SDG 6 – water and sanitation for all*.

49. The Meeting will be presented with and will discuss the outcomes of the second reporting exercise on indicator 6.5.2 of the Sustainable Development Goals and under the Convention for Parties conducted in the period 2020–2021. It will be informed of the guidance tools developed and support provided to the countries in the second reporting exercise by ECE and UNESCO as co-custodian agencies. Representatives of ECE and UNESCO will present activities to support reporting on indicator 6.5.2.

50. Building on the findings of the report “Progress on transboundary water cooperation: Global status of SDG indicator 6.5.2 and acceleration needs 2021”, presented during the high-level segment, and the report “Progress on transboundary water cooperation under the Water Convention: Second report on implementation of the Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes”, launched under agenda item 4 (b), participants will engage in a forward-looking discussion on how to use the results of reporting to enhance transboundary cooperation and support the achievement of target 6.5 of the Sustainable Development Goals, in line with the SDG 6 Global Acceleration Framework.

51. The Meeting will then discuss the establishment of an online reporting mechanism and be invited to review and adopt the draft decision on reporting (ECE/MP.WAT/2021/6).

52. Lastly, the Meeting will discuss future work in this area beyond 2021.

Documentation

Draft decision on reporting (ECE/MP.WAT/2021/6)

Guide to reporting under the Water Convention and as a contribution to SDG indicator 6.5.2 (ECE/MP.WAT/60)

Progress on transboundary water cooperation: Global status of SDG indicator 6.5.2 and acceleration needs 2021 (ECE/MP.WAT/65)

Progress on transboundary water cooperation under the Water Convention: Second report on implementation of the Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes (ECE/MP.WAT/67)

*Summary Progress Update 2021: SDG 6 – water and sanitation for all*⁸

11. Financing of the Convention

Tentative timing: Thursday, 30 September, 5.25–6 p.m.

53. The secretariat will inform the Meeting about the status of the different trust funds related to the Convention, including financial contributions and expenditures in the period 2019–2021.

⁸ Available at www.unwater.org/new-data-on-global-progress-towards-ensuring-water-and-sanitation-for-all-by-2030/.

54. At its eighth session, the Meeting of the Parties requested the secretariat to take all necessary measures, including the provision of additional human and financial resources from the regular budget, to ensure the effective management and full implementation of the programme of work.⁹ Participants will be informed of steps taken by the secretariat and the Bureau in response to this request, the outcomes and proposed steps ahead.

55. The Meeting will then review and be invited to adopt the draft decision on targets for a more sustainable and predictable funding of the work under the Convention (ECE/MP.WAT/2021/8). The draft decision was prepared by the secretariat in consultation with the Bureau in response to the request made by the Meeting of the Parties at its eighth session.¹⁰

Documentation

Overview of contributions and expenditures in 2019–2021 (ECE/MP.WAT/2021/7)

Draft decision on targets for a more sustainable and predictable funding of the work under the Convention (ECE/MP.WAT/2021/8)

12. Identifying, assessing and communicating the benefits of transboundary cooperation

Tentative timing: Friday, 1 October, 10–10.20 a.m.

56. The Meeting will be informed of the activities carried out since 2019 in the Cubango-Okavango River basin and the North-Western Sahara Aquifer System basin to apply the Policy Guidance Note on the Benefits of Transboundary Water Cooperation: Identification, Assessment and Communication and promote the conclusions of the benefits assessments performed in these basins.

57. Participants will then discuss future activities beyond 2021 and how promoting and communicating the benefits of cooperation can support other activities implemented under the Water Convention, such as accession processes and the negotiation of basin agreements.

Documentation

Policy Guidance Note on the Benefits of Transboundary Water Cooperation: Identification, Assessment and Communication (ECE/MP.WAT/47)

Policy Brief Summary and Policy Report Realizing the Benefits of Transboundary Water Cooperation in the Cubango-Okavango River Basin¹¹

Policy brief: The benefits of transboundary water cooperation in the North Western Sahara Aquifer System Basin¹²

⁹ See ECE/MP.WAT/54, para. 103 (j).

¹⁰ See ECE/MP.WAT/54, para. 103 (h).

¹¹ Available at, respectively,

https://unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/env/water/activities/Benefits_cooperation/OKACOM_Policy_Summary_June_2020.pdf and

https://unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/env/water/activities/Benefits_cooperation/OKACOM_Policy_Document_June_2020.pdf.

¹² Available at

https://unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/env/water/activities/Benefits_cooperation/ENG_NWSAS_Brief_BenefitsTransbWatCoop_2020_Web.pdf.

13. Adapting to climate change in transboundary basins

Tentative timing: Friday, 1 October, 10.20–11 a.m.

58. The Meeting will be informed of the work on adaptation to climate change in transboundary basins carried out since 2019 under the overall guidance of the Task Force on Water and Climate. It will be informed of progress made in the programme of pilot projects on water and adaptation to climate change, the global network of basins working on climate change adaptation and the platform for exchanging experience on adaptation to climate change in the transboundary context, including the global workshop on ecosystem-based adaptation in transboundary basins (Geneva, 29 and 30 April 2019) and the global workshop on building climate resilience through improving water management and sanitation at national and transboundary levels (Geneva and hybrid, 29–31 March 2021). Representatives from the pilot basins will be invited to comment.

59. Participants will discuss input to global processes on climate change and disasters, such as the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the International Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction, and efforts to mainstream transboundary aspects of water management into national climate-related documents.

60. Lastly, the Meeting will discuss proposed future activities in this area of work beyond 2021.

Documentation

Strategy for future work on climate change adaptation in transboundary basins under the Convention (ECE/MP.WAT/2015/4)

Words into Action Guidelines: Implementation Guide for Addressing Water-Related Disasters and Transboundary Cooperation – Integrating Disaster Risk Management with Water Management and Climate Change Adaptation (ECE/MP.WAT/56)

*The United Nations World Water Development Report 2020: Water and Climate Change*¹³

*Climate Change and Water: UN-Water Policy Brief*¹⁴

14. Water and industrial accidents

Tentative timing: Friday, 1 October, 11–11.15 a.m.

61. The Meeting will be informed of the activities of the Joint Ad Hoc Expert Group on Water and Industrial Accidents under the Water Convention and the Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents (Industrial Accidents Convention) in order to support work in the area of accidental water pollution.¹⁵ The Co-Chairs of the Group will present its achievements, products and lessons learned, as well as the call for nomination of experts for the Group.

62. The Meeting will discuss future activities planned by the Expert Group beyond 2021.

Documentation

Report of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents on its eleventh meeting (ECE/CP.TEIA/42)

Report of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents on its eleventh meeting – Addendum (ECE/CP.TEIA/42/Add.1)

¹³ Available at <https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf0000372985.locale=en>.

¹⁴ Available at www.unwater.org/publications/un-water-policy-brief-on-climate-change-and-water/.

¹⁵ See <https://unece.org/joint-expert-group-water-and-industrial-accidents>.

Safety guidelines and good practices for the management and retention of firefighting water
(ECE/CP.TEIA/40–ECE/MP.WAT/58)

15. Formalizing the procedure for proposing to host future sessions of the Meeting of the Parties

Tentative timing: Friday, 1 October, 11.15–11.25 a.m.

63. At its eighth session, the Meeting of the Parties requested the secretariat, in consultation with the Bureau, to formalize the procedure for proposals to host future sessions of the Meeting of the Parties.¹⁶ The Meeting will review and be invited to adopt the draft decision on the procedure for proposing to host future sessions of the Meeting of the Parties.

64. The meeting will also discuss lessons learned in the application of the new procedure to solicit proposals for hosting the tenth session of the Meeting of the Parties and future developments.

Documentation

Draft decision on the procedure for proposing to host future sessions of the Meeting of the Parties (ECE/MP.WAT/2021/9)

16. Date and venue of the tenth session of the Meeting of the Parties

Tentative timing: Friday, 1 October, 11.25–11.40 a.m.

65. The Meeting of the Parties will be invited to set indicative dates and the venue for its tenth ordinary session taking into account the proposals received.

66. The Meeting of the Parties will be informed of the planned event to celebrate the thirtieth anniversary of the adoption of the Water Convention in 2022, to be organized by Estonia in cooperation with Finland.

Documentation

Informal document

Overview of proposals to host the tenth session of the Meeting of the Parties (ECE/MP.WAT/2021/INF.6)

17. International Water Assessment Centre

Tentative timing: Friday, 1 October, 11.40–11.55 a.m.

67. The International Water Assessment Centre, hosted by Kazakhstan since 2017, will inform the Meeting about the activities implemented in the period 2019–2021 in accordance with its programme of work.

68. The Meeting will then discuss and be invited to adopt the draft programme of work of the International Water Assessment Centre for 2022–2024, prepared in consultation with the secretariat and the Bureau.

Documentation

Programme of work of the International Water Assessment Centre for 2019–2021 (ECE/MP.WAT/54/Add.2)

¹⁶ See ECE/MP.WAT/54, para. 105 (c).

Draft programme of work of the International Water Assessment Centre for 2022–2024 (ECE/MP.WAT/2021/10)

18. Programme of work for 2022–2024, terms of reference of the bodies established to implement it and resources needed for its implementation

Tentative timing: Friday, 1 October, 11.55 a.m.–12.40 p.m.

69. The secretariat will recall the development of the programme of work for 2022–2024 through a consultative process, which included and considered suggestions brought forward by different intergovernmental bodies, outcomes of activities under the Convention and a survey among countries and partners on priorities of work under the Convention for 2022–2024. On the basis of the discussions under previous agenda items, the Meeting is expected to discuss, finalize and adopt the programme of work for 2022–2024. To that end, the Meeting will discuss the activities in the draft programme of work and will:

(a) Agree on the structure of the programme of work, future activities and lead countries;

(b) Agree on the intergovernmental bodies, with their respective mandates, to be established or extended in order to guide implementation of the programme of work;

(c) Make arrangements related to the financial and human resources needed for implementing the activities in the programme of work and indicate funding for these activities according to their priority. Parties and other interested States and organizations are invited to inform the secretariat in advance of the session of their intention to contribute financially to the implementation of the programme of work. The secretariat will make the information received available to participants, and delegations will be invited to provide any supplementary information.

70. Parties and other interested States and organizations will be invited to inform the Meeting of their intention to contribute financially to the implementation of the programme of work.

Documentation

Draft programme of work for 2022–2024 (ECE/MP.WAT/2021/3)

Overview of contributions and expenditures in 2019–2021 (ECE/MP.WAT/2021/7)

19. Promotion and partnerships

Tentative timing: Friday, 1 October, 12.40–1 p.m. and 3–3.40 p.m.

71. In accordance with decision VII/4 on cooperation with partners for the implementation of the Convention (see ECE/MP.WAT/49/Add.2), the Meeting will review existing partnerships and foster the establishment of new ones.

72. Representatives of global and regional organizations will be invited to inform the Meeting about their ongoing and planned activities in support of implementation of the Convention and opportunities to cooperate with the Convention within the framework of the Strategy for the implementation of the Convention at the global level.

73. The Chair of the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol on Water and Health will provide an update on progress achieved under the Protocol and past and planned cooperation between the Convention and the Protocol.

74. A representative of the Global Environment Facility will be invited to report on Global Environment Facility activities with regard to international waters and cooperation with ECE, in accordance with decision VI/4 (see ECE/MP.WAT/37/Add.2).

75. A representative of the World Water Forum secretariat will be invited to present the status of preparations of the Ninth World Water Forum (Diamniadio, Senegal, 21–26 March 2022). A representative of UN-Water will report on recent relevant activities, including under the SDG 6 Global Acceleration Framework.

76. The Meeting will be informed about the secretariat's cooperation with and contributions to relevant global processes, including UN-Water, World Water Week, the International Decade for Action on Water for Sustainable Development, 2018–2028, and other relevant international processes. In particular, the preparations of the United Nations Conference on the Midterm Comprehensive Review of the Implementation of the Objectives of the International Decade for Action, "Water for Sustainable Development" (New York, 22–24 March 2023) will be discussed, including how to highlight transboundary water cooperation in that process and the regional preparatory process.

77. The Meeting will review and be invited to comment on the draft decision on partnerships for the global implementation of the Water Convention.

Documentation

Draft decision on partnerships for the global implementation of the Water Convention (ECE/MP.WAT/2021/11)

Strategy for the implementation of the Convention at the global level (ECE/MP.WAT/54/Add.2)

Review of the implementation of the Strategy for the implementation of the Convention at the global level (ECE/MP.WAT/2021/4)

Decision VII/4 on cooperation with partners for the implementation of the Convention (ECE/MP.WAT/49/Add.2)

The United Nations global water conventions: Fostering sustainable development and peace

Informal document

GEF and the Water Convention (ECE/MP.WAT/2021/INF.7)

20. Election of officers

Tentative timing: Friday, 1 October, 3.40–4.05 p.m.

78. In accordance with rules 17, paragraphs 2 and 3, and 20, paragraph 1, of its rules of procedure, the Meeting will elect its officers, who will remain in office until the next elections at the tenth session of the Meeting of the Parties. In particular, the Meeting is expected to elect a Chair, two Vice-Chairs and additional officers, as it deems necessary, considering that the Bureau must be composed of no fewer than eight persons.

21. Other business

Tentative timing: Friday, 1 October, 4.05–4.10 p.m.

79. Delegates wishing to propose points under this item are requested to inform the secretariat as soon as possible.

22. Presentation of the main decisions

Tentative timing: Friday, 1 October, 4.10–4.40 p.m.

80. The Chair will present the main decisions taken by the Meeting of the Parties. The Meeting will be invited to entrust the secretariat, in consultation with the Bureau, with the task of finalizing the report on its ninth session.

23. Closing of the session

Tentative timing: Friday, 1 October, 4.40–5 p.m.

81. High-level representatives of Kazakhstan and Estonia will be invited to make final statements. The Chair will then officially close the session.
