



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

Expert Meeting on Monitoring, Assessment and Data Exchange

Agenda

13(pm)–14 April 2022, Geneva (Palais des Nations, room XVIII) and virtual

Background

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). Supporting monitoring, assessment and data exchange was therefore among the very first activities under the Convention in the early 2000s, including the establishment of a dedicated Working Group on this topic which developed the *Strategies for Monitoring and Assessment of Transboundary Rivers, Lakes and Groundwaters* (2006).

The programme of work for 2022-2024 under the Water Convention, *Programme area 2: Supporting monitoring, assessment and information sharing in transboundary basins*, aims to support countries in initiating or further developing joint or coordinated monitoring and assessment of transboundary surface waters and groundwaters, covering both water quantity and quality aspects, and improving exchange of information and data between riparian countries.

Among other activities, the programme of work for 2022-2024 envisages:

- Updating the publication *Strategies for Monitoring and Assessment of Transboundary Rivers, Lakes and Groundwaters* (2006) as a global edition;
- Preparing a new publication *Good practices and lessons learned in transboundary data exchange*.

Selected technical transboundary monitoring and assessment guidelines, previously developed under the Convention, will be used to strengthen the *Strategies* publication with specifics of different waters (groundwaters, lakes and rivers), references to other guidelines, etc. and global data sources; and provide input to the good practices publication to be produced.

Objectives

The Expert Meeting on Monitoring, Assessment and Data Exchange will discuss:

- 1) First draft of updated Strategies for Monitoring and Assessment of Transboundary Rivers, Lakes and Groundwaters. This first draft builds on the [2006 Strategies for Monitoring and Assessment of Transboundary Rivers, Lakes and Groundwaters](#) and the UNECE Guidelines on monitoring and assessment of transboundary [rivers](#), [groundwaters](#) and [lakes](#) developed under the Water Convention as well as a [review](#) performed in 2019-2021 to assess the pertinence of the 2006 Strategies. The draft takes into account the written comments provided by countries and partners, as well as the outcomes of discussions at the [Global Workshop on Monitoring, Assessment and Data Exchange in December 2019](#) and the [Expert Meeting on Monitoring, Assessment and Data Exchange held in April 2021](#).
- 2) Outline of the new publication to be developed “Good practices and lessons learned in transboundary data exchange”.

The objectives of the Expert Meeting are to:

- (i) Review and provide comments to the first draft of the updated *Strategies for Monitoring and Assessment of Transboundary Rivers, Lakes and Groundwaters*;
- (ii) Discuss and provide input to the outline of the new publication on *Good practices and lessons learned in transboundary data exchange* and discuss the process on how to collect specific examples;
- (iii) Discuss next steps to develop these two publications.

Languages of work: English, French, Russian and Spanish

Three sessions are envisaged: 13 April afternoon: 15:00–18:00 CET; 14 April morning: 10:00–13:00 CET; and 14 April afternoon: 15:00–17:00 CET.

Wednesday, 13 April 2022, 15:00–17:00 CET	
Time	Agenda Item
15:00 – 15:15	Opening of the meeting
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Welcome on behalf of the lead Parties – Finland and Senegal, <i>Mr. Niokhor Ndour, Senegal</i> - Introduction to activities on monitoring and data exchange in the programme of work for 2022–2024, <i>Ms. Anna-Stiina Heiskanen, Finland</i> - Objectives and structure of the Expert meeting, <i>Ms. Sonja Koepfel, Secretary of the Water Convention</i>
15:15 – 17:00	Updated Strategies for Monitoring and Assessment of Transboundary Rivers, Lakes and Groundwaters
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Why data and information are important for transboundary water cooperation? And Overview of the first draft of the updated Strategies for Monitoring and Assessment of Transboundary Rivers, Lakes and Groundwaters, <i>Mr. Jos Timmerman, The Netherlands</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Questions and answers, general comments - Chapters 3, 4, 5 (Legislation and commitments; Establishing institutional framework; Securing funding for monitoring and assessment) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Introduction to updates made (5 min) – <i>Iulia Trombitcaia, Water Convention Secretariat</i>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Comments by participants - Chapters 6 and 7 (Developing step-by-step approaches; Implementing monitoring programmes) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Introduction to updates made (5 min) - <i>Sara Datturi, Water Convention Secretariat</i> ○ Comments by discussants: (5-7 min) - <i>Mr. Samo Groselj and Mr. Mirza Sarač, International Sava River Basin Commission secretariat</i> ○ Comments by participants
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17:00 – 18:00	Small group discussions
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Small groups (by language, in WebEx): English, French, Spanish

Questions for discussion will be provided in the groups.

Thursday, 14 April 2022, 10:00–12:00 CET

10:00 – 12:00	Updated Strategies for Monitoring and Assessment of Transboundary Rivers, Lakes and Groundwaters (continued)
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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Feedback from small group discussions - Chapter 8 (Managing and exchanging data and making assessments) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Introduction to updates made (5 min), <i>Mr. Jos Timmerman, The Netherlands</i> ○ Comments by discussant (5-7 min), <i>Mr. Paul HAENER, International Office for Water</i> ○ Comments by participants - Chapter 9 (Reporting and using information) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Introduction to updates made (5 min), <i>Mr. Jos Timmerman, The Netherlands</i> ○ Comments by discussant (5-7 min), <i>Mr. Niokhor Ndour, Senegal</i> ○ Comments by discussant (5-7 min), <i>Ms. Martina Bussettini, Italian Focal Point of the Water Convention on behalf of the Ministry of Ecological Transition</i> ○ Comments by participants - Annex 1 (Specific aspects of groundwater monitoring) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Introduction to the annex prepared to synthesize the technical guidelines on groundwater monitoring (5 min), <i>Mr. Jos Timmerman, The Netherlands</i> ○ Comments by discussant (5-7 min), <i>Mr. Arnaud Sterckx, IGRAC</i> ○ Comments by participants - Annex 2 (Specific aspects of lake monitoring) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Introduction to the annex prepared to synthesize the technical guidelines on lakes monitoring (5 min), <i>Mr. Jos Timmerman, The Netherlands</i> ○ Comments by discussant (5-7 min), <i>Ms. Radmila Bojkovska, North Macedonia</i> ○ Comments by participants - Annex 3 (Specific aspects of river monitoring) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Introduction to the annex prepared to synthesize the technical guidelines on river monitoring (5 min), <i>Mr. Jos Timmerman, The Netherlands</i> ○ Comments by discussant (5-7 min), <i>Mr. Kandas Conde, OMVS</i> ○ Comments by discussant (5-7 min), <i>Mr. Mohamad Kayyal, UNEP/MAP</i> ○ Comments by participants

12:00 – 13:00	Small group discussions
<p>Small groups (by language, in WebEx): English, French, Russian</p> <p>Questions for discussion will be provided in the groups.</p>	
Thursday, 14 April 2022, 15:00–17:00 CET	
15:00 – 17:00	New publication “Good practices and lessons learned in transboundary data exchange”
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Presentation of the outline of the “Good Practices and lessons learned in transboundary data exchange”, <i>Mr. Jos Timmerman, The Netherlands</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o <i>Questions and answers, general comments</i> - Possible contributions by countries and partners on good practices and lessons learned <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o <i>Discussion on the process how to collect good examples</i> o <i>Expressions of interest to contribute to the publication</i> o <i>Next steps</i> - Conclusions 	