



Working Group on Integrated Water Resources Management

Seventeenth meeting

Working Group on Monitoring and Assessment

Seventeenth meeting

Tallinn, 28-30 June 2022

UNEDITED LIST OF DECISIONS

**ADOPTED BY THE WORKING GROUP ON INTEGRATED WATER RESOURCES MANAGEMENT AND
THE WORKING GROUP ON MONITORING AND ASSESSMENT¹**

Items 1, 2 and 3: Opening of the meeting; Adoption of the agenda; Adoption of the report of the previous joint meeting

1. The working groups

(a) elected the following co-Chairs for the period 2022-2024:

- Heide Jekel (Germany) and Peter Kovacs (Hungary) as co-Chairs of the Working Group on Integrated Water Resources Management
- Niokhor Ndour (Senegal) and Anna-Stiina Heiskanen (Finland) as co-Chairs of the Working Group on Monitoring and Assessment.

(b) Adopted the agenda (ECE/MP.WAT/WG.1/2022/1–ECE/MP.WAT/WG.2/2022/1)

(c) Decided to apply the document “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), mutatis mutandis, to the meetings of the Working Groups in the period until the tenth session of the Meeting of the Parties, should such meetings be organized in a hybrid format.

(d) Adopted the 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).

Item 4: Status of ratifications

2. The working groups:

- (a) Welcomed the growing interest in the Water Convention and significant progress in accession by a large number of countries in various regions;
- (b) Encouraged the countries close to accession to finalize the process as soon as possible;
- (c) Encouraged other countries to start or progress in their national processes of accession.

Item 5: Increasing awareness of and accession to the Convention and application of its principles drawing on the benefits of cooperation

¹ All pre-session documents and presentations are available at: <https://bit.ly/3n1Zhyg>

5(a) Increasing capacity for implementation of the Convention and supporting national processes towards accession

3. The working groups:

- (a) Reaffirmed its commitment to support accession processes through the provision of technical and legal assistance, including by sharing Parties' expertise in implementation;
- (b) Expressed appreciation for the assistance provided by existing Parties to support accession;
- (c) Thanked donors, which provided resources to support activities promoting the Conventions, and lead Parties and the Bureau for providing political leadership;
- (d) Expressed appreciation for the support by global and regional organizations and river basin organizations, including the United Nations system, contributing to awareness raising and increasing capacity for accession to and implementation of the Conventions.
- (e) Invited countries and partners to use and promote the new publication *The Water Convention: 30 Years of Impact and Achievements on the Ground* in their activities, including national processes of accession.

5(b) Supporting the development of agreements and the establishment of joint bodies

4. The working groups:

- (a) Welcomed progress achieved in different projects supporting the development of agreements and the establishment of joint bodies, including through applying the Practical Guide for the Development of Agreements or Other Arrangements for Transboundary Water Cooperation;
- (b) Encouraged countries, interested basins and partners to use and disseminate the Practical Guide for the Development of Agreements or Other Arrangements for Transboundary Water Cooperation to support the development of agreements, in order to support the implementation of the Conventions and achievement of SDG target 6.5.

5(c) Implementation Committee

5. The working groups:

- (a) Welcomed the progress made in the first advisory procedure carried out by the Implementation Committee;
- (b) Encouraged Parties and other stakeholders to seek the Committee's assistance, support and facilitation to address difficulties in implementing and complying with the Convention, for example, by using the advisory procedure;
- (c) Welcomed support provided by the Committee to the secretariat in answering questions from non-Parties interested in learning more about the Convention and acceding to it.

Item 6: Supporting monitoring, assessment and information-sharing in transboundary basins

6. The working groups:

- (a) Invited countries and organizations to provide written comments on the Draft updated strategies for monitoring and assessment of transboundary rivers, lakes and groundwaters (ECE/MP.WAT/WG.1/2022/INF.2-ECE/MP.WAT/WG.2/2022/INF.2) to the secretariat by 31 August 2022;
- (b) Entrusted the secretariat, in consultation with the lead Parties, with the task of integrating comments received, finalizing the publication of updated strategies and translating and printing it in Arabic, English, French, Russian and Spanish;
- (c) Welcomed the Draft outline for a publication on good practices and lessons learned in transboundary data exchange (ECE/MP.WAT/WG.1/2022/INF.3-ECE/MP.WAT/WG.2/2022/INF.3);

- (d) Invited countries and organizations to submit cases according to the template by 31 October 2022;
- (e) Welcomed the interest of IWAC to host a regional workshop for Central Asia to collect good practices and lessons learned in transboundary data exchange;
- (f) Encouraged other countries and regional organizations to express interest in organizing or hosting regional workshops in this programme area.

Item 7: Promoting an integrated and intersectoral approach to water management at all levels

7 a) Water-food-energy-ecosystems nexus in transboundary basins

7. The working groups:

- (a) Encourage countries participating in nexus projects to make use of the nexus assessment results in developing policies and interventions and to explore operationalizing nexus and investments, and mobilizing resources for implementing them, in collaboration with other sectors;
- (b) Encourage partners to apply the methodology for assessing the water-food-energy-ecosystems nexus in transboundary basins;
- (c) Invited countries to use and disseminate the publications *Solutions and investments in the water-food-energy-ecosystems nexus: a synthesis of experiences in transboundary basins* (ECE/MP.WAT/66) and *Towards sustainable renewable energy investment and deployment: Trade-offs and opportunities with water resources and the environment* (ECE/ENERGY/127)

7 b) Promoting integrated water resources management in transboundary basins

8. The working groups:

- (a) Welcomed the initiatives taken to promote the conjunctive management of transboundary surface waters and groundwaters;
- (b) Entrusted the secretariat, together with the co-lead Parties Slovenia and Estonia, to organize the Global workshop on Source-to-Sea in December 2022, and welcomed cooperation with partners to further collaborate on its planning and organization;
- (c) Also recognizing the concurrent organization of the United Nations Oceans Summit, encouraged closer collaboration with the oceans' community, including their involvement at the aforementioned workshop.

7 c) Supporting National Policy Dialogues on Integrated Water Resources Management under the European Union Water Initiative

9. The working groups:

- (a) Welcomed the progress in the National Policy Dialogues (NPDs) in Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia;
- (b) Expressed appreciation and gratitude for the support provided by the European Union, in particular the new programme EU4environment in the Eastern Partnership: Water Resources and environmental data";
- (c) Encouraged the European Union and other donors to continue supporting financially the work of the National Policy Dialogues particularly in Central Asia.

Item 8: Adapting to climate change in transboundary basins

10. The working groups:

- (a) Welcomed the outcomes of the sixth meeting of the Global Network of Basins Working on Climate Change Adaptation (Geneva, 25 April 2022);
- (b) Appreciated the progress within the Global network and encouraged more transboundary basins to join the network;

- (c) Welcomed the organization of the next Global Workshop focused on climate change adaptation and agriculture in transboundary basins (Geneva, 16-17 October 2022) followed by the thirteenth meeting of the Task Force on Water and Climate (Geneva, 19 October 2022);
- (d) Encouraged countries to mainstream water and transboundary cooperation into climate change and disaster risk reduction at national level, e.g. in implementing nationally determined contributions and national adaptation plans, at the COP27 and other processes under UNFCCC and UNDRR.

Item 9: Reporting on Sustainable Development Goal indicator 6.5.2 and under the Convention

11. The working groups:

- (a) Called on countries to make use of their national reports in order to improve their transboundary cooperation, for example by setting national or basin-wide targets, including in advance of and for the 2023 United Nations Water Conference;
- (b) Welcomed the regional reports for Arab States by ESCWA and the drafts for Ibero-America by CODIA and for Africa by ECA; and invited partners, such as Regional Economic Commissions, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations or basin organisations, to capitalize on the reporting of SDG indicator 6.5.2 in order to continue building capacity on SDG indicator 6.5.2 and for possible joint analysis of the reports at regional level;
- (c) Entrusted the secretariat and UNESCO to establish an online reporting system, if possible, for pilot testing at the third reporting exercise;
- (d) Entrusted the secretariat, in cooperation with UNESCO, in consultation with the Bureau, to make minor revisions to the reporting template for the third reporting exercise to integrate a gender perspective, in line with decision IX/2, and to clarify certain questions, based on experiences from the second reporting exercise;
- (e) Requested all Parties to submit their national reports in the third reporting exercise by 30 June 2023 and invited all countries sharing transboundary waters to submit their third reports on the SDG indicator 6.5.2 by the same date to UNESCO and UNECE;
- (f) Encouraged countries to coordinate their responses to their national report at basin level with riparian countries, in the framework of joint bodies or regional organisations.

Item 10: Partnerships, communication and knowledge management

10 a) Preparations for the United Nations 2023 Water Conference

12. The working groups:

- (a) Invited countries to promote transboundary water cooperation in the preparatory process to and during the United Nations 2023 Water Conference, including its outcomes, and to highlight, in this respect, the role of the Water Convention as an essential intergovernmental platform and a forum within the United Nations system for dealing with transboundary water issues;
- (b) Encouraged countries to submit voluntary commitments and concrete actions on transboundary water cooperation at the United Nations 2023 Water Conference.

10 b) Cooperation with UN-Water, global and regional partners and other multilateral environmental agreements; and c) Communication and knowledge management

13. The working groups:

- (a) Requested Parties that had not yet officially nominated a focal point to do so in accordance with decision VIII/2 as soon as possible;
- (a) Encouraged non-Parties that had not yet officially nominated a focal point to do so as soon as possible;

- (b) Encouraged countries and partners to promote the Water Convention whenever possible or appropriate;
- (c) Invited countries and organizations to attend the sixth session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol on Water and Health (16-18 November 2022, Geneva and online) and encouraged further cooperation between the Convention and Protocol.

Item 11: International Water Assessment Center

14. The working groups:

- (a) Welcomed the activities carried out by the International Water Assessment Centre in 2021–2022 and thanked Kazakhstan for the support provided to the Centre.

Item 12: Resources for the implementation of the programme of work

15. The working groups:

- (a) Expressed gratitude to all donors supporting the implementation of the Conventions programme of work;
- (b) Invited Parties, non-Parties and other donors to provide financial resources for the implementation of the programme of work, if possible unearmarked, in line with decision IX/3 on Targets for a more sustainable and predictable funding of the work under the Convention.

Item 14: Dates and venue of the next meetings of the Working Groups

16. The working groups:

- (a) Thanked Estonia, in particular the Ministry of Environment, for hosting the meeting and for the great hospitality extended to all delegates.