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

Working Group on Monitoring and Assessment

Eighteenth meeting

Geneva, 17–18 October 2023

Item 2 of the provisional agenda

Adoption of the agenda

Annotated provisional agenda for the eighteenth meeting

**To be held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva, starting on Tuesday,
17 October 2023, at 3 p.m.***

I. Provisional agenda

1. Opening of the session.
2. Adoption of the agenda.
3. Adoption of the report of the previous meeting.
4. Recent developments and processes related to monitoring, assessment and data-sharing at the global level.
5. Reporting on Sustainable Development Goal indicator 6.5.2 and under the Convention.
6. Recent activities related to monitoring and assessment under the Convention:
 - (a) Outcomes of the Global Workshop on Conjunctive Management of Transboundary Surface Water and Groundwater;

* Delegates attending the meeting at the Palais des Nations are requested to register no later than two weeks before the meeting using the electronic procedure. Registration is available through the following link: <https://indico.un.org/event/1002232/registrations/12187/>. For assistance with registration, please see the instructions on the meeting web page (<https://unece.org/environmental-policy/events/eighteenth-meeting-working-group-monitoring-and-assessment>) or contact the secretariat by email (cammile.marcelo@un.org). On their way to the meeting, delegates should obtain an identification badge at the Pass and Identification Unit of the United Nations Office at Geneva Security and Safety Section, located at the Pregny Gate, 14, Avenue de la Paix (see the map on the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe website: www.unece.org/meetings/practical.html). In case of difficulty, please contact the secretariat by telephone at +41 22 917 1606.



- (b) Updated Strategies for Monitoring and Assessment of Transboundary Rivers, Lakes and Groundwaters.
- 7. Gathering feedback on the draft publication “*Good Practices and Lessons Learned in Transboundary Data-sharing*”.
- 8. Projects on the ground and regional events:
 - (a) Projects related to monitoring and assessment under the Convention;
 - (b) Regional events on monitoring and assessment.
- 9. Cooperation with partners.
- 10. Strategic discussion on future work on monitoring and assessment.
- 11. Date and venue of the next meeting of the Working Group.
- 12. Other business.
- 13. Closure of the meeting.

II. Annotations

1. The eighteenth meeting of the Working Group on Monitoring and Assessment under the Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes (Water Convention) will be held at the Palais des Nations in Geneva (hybrid), starting at 3 p.m. on Tuesday, 17 October 2023, and ending at 6 p.m. on Wednesday, 18 October 2023. It will be held back-to-back with the Global Workshop on Conjunctive Management of Transboundary Surface Water and Groundwater (Geneva, 16–17 October 2023). The seventeenth meeting of the Working Group on Monitoring and Assessment was held jointly (fourth joint meeting) with the seventeenth meeting of the Working Group on Integrated Water Resources Management (Tallinn (hybrid), 28–30 June 2022).
2. The main objectives of the eighteenth meeting will be to discuss:
 - (a) The implementation of activities on monitoring and assessment under the Convention in the period 2022–2023, notably completion of the publication *Updated Strategies for Monitoring and Assessment of Transboundary Rivers, Lakes and Groundwaters* (ECE/MP.WAT/70) and preparation of the publication *Good Practices and Lessons Learned in Transboundary Data-sharing*;
 - (b) Future work on monitoring and assessment building on insights from reporting under the Convention and Sustainable Development Goal indicator 6.5.2 and from the Global Workshop on Conjunctive Management of Transboundary Surface Water and Groundwater.
3. The working languages for the meeting will be English, French, Russian and Spanish. All relevant documentation will be made available on a dedicated page of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) Water Convention website.¹

1. Opening of the session

Tentative timing: Tuesday, 17 October, 3–3.10 p.m.

4. The Working Group meeting will be opened by its Co-Chairs, Ms. Anna-Stiina Heiskanen (Finland) and Mr. Niokhor Ndour (Senegal).

¹ See <https://unece.org/environmental-policy/events/eighteenth-meeting-working-group-monitoring-and-assessment>.

2. Adoption of the agenda

Tentative timing: Tuesday, 17 October, 3.10–3.15 p.m.

5. The Co-Chairs will present the main objectives of the meeting (see para. 2 above). They will refer to the programme of work for 2022–2024 adopted by the Meeting of the Parties at its ninth session (Geneva, 29 September–1 October 2021),² as the Working Group will review the status of its implementation with regard to programme area 2 “Supporting monitoring, assessment and information-sharing in transboundary basins”. The Working Group is expected to adopt the agenda as set out in the present document.

6. The Working Group will be reminded of procedural matters of relevance for decision-making for meetings organized in a hybrid format, as decided by the Working Group at its seventeenth meeting.³

Documentation

Annotated provisional agenda for the eighteenth meeting (ECE/MP.WAT/WG.2/2023/1)

Programme of work for 2022–2024 (ECE/MP.WAT/63/Add.1)

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)

3. Adoption of the report of the previous meeting

Tentative timing: Tuesday, 17 October, 3.15–3.20 p.m.

7. The Working Group will be invited to adopt the report of the Working Group on Integrated Water Resources Management and the Working Group on Monitoring and Assessment on their fourth joint meeting considering the fact that the Working Group on Integrated Water Resources Management already adopted the report at its eighteenth meeting (Geneva, 19–21 June 2023).⁴

Documentation

Report of the Working Group on Integrated Water Resources Management and the Working Group on Monitoring and Assessment on their fourth joint meeting (ECE/MP.WAT/WG.1/2022/2–ECE/MP.WAT/WG.2/2022/2)

4. Recent developments and processes related to monitoring, assessment and data-sharing at the global level

Tentative timing: Tuesday, 17 October, 3.20–3.50 p.m.

8. The Working Group will be briefed on recent major developments related to monitoring, assessment and data-sharing at the global level that are relevant for the work of the Convention.

9. The Working Group will be informed of relevant outcomes of recent events:

- The 2023 United Nations Conference on the Midterm Comprehensive Review of the Implementation of the Objectives of the International Decade for Action, “Water for Sustainable Development”, 2018–2028 (New York, 22–24 March 2023).
- The High-level Political Forum under the auspices of the Economic and Social Council (New York, 10–19 July 2023), where Sustainable Development Goal 6

² ECE/MP.WAT/63, para. 108 (d).

³ See ECE/MP.WAT/WG.1/2022/2–ECE/MP.WAT/WG.2/2022/2, para. 8.

⁴ Unedited list of decisions adopted by the Working Group on Integrated Water Resources Management, para. 1 (b), available at <https://unece.org/environmental-policy/events/18thIWRM>.

(Water) was under in-depth review, and the outcomes of the regional and global preparatory discussions linked to the High-level Political Forum.

- The Sustainable Development Goal Summit (High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development under the auspices of the General Assembly) (New York, 18–19 September 2023).
- Other relevant events at the regional and global levels.

10. The Working Group will be invited to ask questions and discuss how such outcomes might influence the future work of the Convention, especially on monitoring, assessment and data-sharing in transboundary basins.

5. Reporting on Sustainable Development Goal indicator 6.5.2 and under the Convention

Tentative timing: Tuesday, 17 October, 3.50–4.30 p.m.

11. The Working Group will be updated on developments at the global level regarding measurement of progress relating to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, in particular Sustainable Development Goal 6 (Water), including under the UN-Water Integrated Monitoring Initiative for Sustainable Development Goal 6.

12. In March 2023, all countries sharing transboundary waters were invited by ECE and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), as co-custodian agencies, to submit their third report on Sustainable Development Goal indicator 6.5.2 by 30 June 2023. For Parties only, this exercise is combined with the third reporting exercise under the Water Convention. In this regard, the Working Group will be briefed on the status of the third reporting exercise, including any preliminary results.

13. Countries will be invited to share experiences from their national processes to prepare reports in the third reporting exercise. The Working Group will then discuss next steps, in particular with regard to strengthening information exchange in transboundary basins as one of the operationality criteria under Sustainable Development Goal indicator 6.5.2.

Documentation

Decision VIII/1 on reporting under the Convention (ECE/MP.WAT/54/Add.2)

Decision IX/2 on reporting (ECE/MP.WAT/63/Add.2)

Reporting on global SDG indicator 6.5.2: Template of the third reporting exercise⁵

6. Recent activities related to monitoring and assessment under the Convention

(a) Outcomes of the Global Workshop on Conjunctive Management of Transboundary Surface Water and Groundwater

Tentative timing: Tuesday, 17 October, 4.30–4.50 p.m.

14. The Working Group will be informed of key outcomes from the Global Workshop on Conjunctive Management of Transboundary Surface Water and Groundwater.

15. The Working Group will discuss any follow-up actions to the Global Workshop, including possible activities in the framework of the Convention aimed at enabling conjunctive management.

⁵ Available at <https://unece.org/environment/documents/2022/12/informal-documents/reporting-global-sdg-indicator-652-third-exercise>.

(b) **Updated Strategies for Monitoring and Assessment of Transboundary Rivers, Lakes and Groundwaters**

Tentative timing: Tuesday, 17 October, 4.50–5.10 p.m.

16. The Working Group will be informed of the finalization and publication of the *Updated Strategies for Monitoring and Assessment of Transboundary Rivers, Lakes and Groundwaters*. The publication provides strategic guidance on monitoring, assessment and data-sharing in a transboundary context, building on global experience on these issues. Countries will be invited to share experiences and provide feedback on the publication.

Documentation

Updated Strategies for Monitoring and Assessment of Transboundary Rivers, Lakes and Groundwaters (ECE/MP.WAT/70)

7. Gathering feedback on the draft publication “Good Practices and Lessons Learned in Transboundary Data-sharing”

Tentative timing: Tuesday, 17 October, 5.10–6 p.m. and Wednesday, 18 October, 10 a.m.–1 p.m.

17. The Working Group will be informed of progress made in the development of a new publication *Good Practices and Lessons Learned in Transboundary Data-sharing*, including the outcomes of the Expert Meeting on Good Practices and Lessons Learned in Transboundary Data Exchange (Geneva (hybrid), 18–19 April 2023).

18. The Working Group will undertake a chapter-by-chapter review of the draft publication *Good Practices and Lessons Learned in Transboundary Data-sharing*. The Working Group will be invited to provide feedback on the text, lessons learned, case studies and key messages. Interactive discussions will be held to identify and agree upon the key messages for the publication, followed by a panel discussion on the key messages.

19. The Working Group will agree on the next steps in the preparation of the publication, as well as the timeline for its finalization by the tenth session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Water Convention (Ljubljana, 23–25 October 2024).

Documentation

Good Practices and Lessons Learned in Transboundary Data-sharing (Second draft) (ECE/MP.WAT/WG.2/2023/INF.1)

8. Projects on the ground and regional events

(a) **Projects related to monitoring and assessment under the Convention**

Tentative timing: Wednesday, 18 October, 3–3.30 p.m.

20. The Programme of work for 2022–2024 includes tailored assistance and support for developing joint or coordinated monitoring or information and data exchange upon request and subject to availability of dedicated resources. The Working Groups will be informed of such projects and other activities carried out by the secretariat, Parties and partners.

21. The Working Group will discuss relevant activities on the ground, and how the experience under the Convention, and the platforms that the Convention provides can be helpful in implementing such activities, including any follow-up initiatives.

(b) Regional events on monitoring and assessment

Tentative timing: Wednesday, 18 October, 3.30–4 p.m.

22. The programme of work for 2022–2024 includes the organization of up to three training or regional workshops/sessions on monitoring, information and data. The Working Group will be informed of the outcomes of two workshops:

- Regional workshop on monitoring, assessment and information sharing in transboundary basins in Central Asia organized by the International Water Assessment Centre, the German Agency for International Cooperation (GIZ) and ECE (Astana, 1–2 February 2023).
- Regional workshop on strengthening legal and institutional arrangements for transboundary water cooperation and data and information exchange organized by the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia in cooperation with UNESCO and ECE (Beirut, 30–31 May 2023).

23. The Working Group will discuss priority topics and possible opportunities for organizing additional training or regional events on monitoring, assessment and data-sharing. Countries and partners will be invited to express interest in co-organizing or hosting such an event.

9. Cooperation with partners

Tentative timing: Wednesday, 18 October, 4–4.30 p.m.

24. Organizations with relevant expertise and potential partners will be invited to make short interventions highlighting their relevant work, potential cooperation opportunities and synergies with work on monitoring, assessment and data exchange under the Water Convention, in relation to the programme of work for 2022–2024 and beyond.

10. Strategic discussion on future work on monitoring and assessment

Tentative timing: Wednesday, 18 October, 4.30–5.40 p.m.

25. The secretariat will inform the Working Group about the proposed process and milestones for the preparation of the programme of work under the Convention for 2025–2027.

26. The Working Group will be invited to share ideas on priorities for the work on monitoring, assessment and data exchange under the Convention during the next triennium.

Documentation

Programme of work for 2022–2024 (ECE/MP.WAT/63/Add.1)

11. Date and venue of the next meeting of the Working Group

Tentative timing: Wednesday, 18 October, 5.40–5.50 p.m.

27. The Working Group will be informed of the dates and venue for its next meeting.

12. Other business

Tentative timing: Wednesday, 18 October, 5.50–6 p.m.

28. Delegates wishing to raise issues under this item are requested to inform the secretariat as soon as possible.

13. Closure of the meeting

29. The Co-Chairs will close the meeting at 6 p.m. on Wednesday, 18 October 2023.
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