



**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

UNEDITED LIST OF DECISIONS

ADOPTED BY THE WORKING GROUP ON MONITORING AND ASSESSMENT

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

1. The Working Group:
 - a. Adopted the agenda (ECE/MP.WAT/WG.2/2023/1);
 - b. Adopted the 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).

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

2. The Working Group:
 - a. Welcomed accessions to the Water Convention during and after the 2023 Water Conference by Nigeria, Iraq, Namibia, Panama and the Gambia and encouraged those new Parties to fully engage in the activities of the Working Group on Monitoring and Assessment;
 - b. Called upon Parties and other countries and partners to follow up on the implementation of commitments in the Water Action Agenda related to transboundary water cooperation and data and information;
 - c. Called upon Parties and other countries and partners to promote transboundary water cooperation in the process towards the United Nations Water Conference in 2026.

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

3. The Working Group:
 - a. Invited all countries sharing transboundary waters who have not yet submitted their third reports on the SDG indicator 6.5.2 to UNESCO and UNECE to do so by 1 November 2023;
 - b. Called on countries to make use of their national reports in order to improve their transboundary cooperation, including by focusing on regular exchange of data and information, as relevant;
 - c. Called on river basin organizations, regional economic communities and other partners to make use of data collected through the national reports in order to support

transboundary water cooperation, including by focusing on regular exchange of data and information, as relevant.

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

6 (a) Outcomes of the Global Workshop on Conjunctive Management of Transboundary Surface Water and Groundwater (see Item 10)

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

4. The Working Group invited countries and partners to use and promote the new publication *Updated Strategies for Monitoring and Assessment of Transboundary Rivers, Lakes and Groundwaters* in their national, regional and global activities in support of transboundary water cooperation.

Item 7: Gathering feedback on the draft publication: Good Practices and Lessons Learned in Transboundary Data Sharing

5. The Working Group:
 - a. Invited countries and organizations to provide additional inputs to the draft publication *Good Practices and Lessons Learned in Transboundary Data-sharing* (Second draft) (ECE/MP.WAT/WG.2/2023/INF.1) to the Water Convention secretariat in writing no later than 15 November 2023;
 - b. Entrusted the secretariat, in cooperation with the lead Parties, to finalize the Good practices publication based on the comments made at the meeting and additional inputs received, and to present its key messages for final review by the Fifth Joint meeting of the Working Group on Integrated Water Resources Management and Working Group on Monitoring and Assessment (Geneva, 6-8 May 2024) so that the publication could be launched at the tenth session of the Meeting of the Parties (Ljubljana, 23-25 October 2024);
 - c. Thanked the Netherlands for expert support provided to the development of the publication.

Item 8: Projects on the ground and regional events

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

8 (b) Regional events on monitoring and assessment

6. The Working Group:
 - a. Welcomed the work relevant for monitoring and information exchange carried out in projects on the ground;
 - b. Thanked IWAC and GIZ for co-organizing the regional workshop in Central Asia and ESCWA and UNESCO for co-organizing the regional workshop in the Arab region to support the use and development of guidance materials on monitoring and assessment under the Water Convention in respective regions;
 - c. Invited interested countries and partners to organize similar regional workshops, subject to available resources.

Item 9: Cooperation with partners

7. The Working Group welcomed the work by partners in the area of monitoring and assessment and encouraged the partners to coordinate with the Water Convention secretariat for synergies in developing activities, to refer to the Convention in their work and, where possible, to implement joint activities.

Item 10: Strategic discussion on future work on monitoring and assessment

8. The Working Group:
 - a. Welcomed the organization of the Global Workshop “Conjunctive Management of Surface Water and Groundwater: National to Transboundary Level” (16-17 October 2023), recognized the successful collaboration with partners, and took note of the workshop’s preliminary conclusions;
 - b. Entrusted the secretariat, together with the co-lead Parties Slovenia and Estonia and partners, to finalize the workshop’s conclusions and submit them for attention of the Fifth Joint meeting of WGIWRM and WGMA (6-8 May 2024);
 - c. Requested the secretariat together with the co-lead Parties Finland and Senegal to ensure that the results of the strategic directions proposed are considered in the development of the programme of work for 2025-2027.