



MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
AND AGRICULTURE OF GEORGIA

10th Meeting of the Steering Committee of the National Policy Dialogue on IWRM in Georgia

Date:
17 January 2024

Venue:
Wyndham Grand Tbilisi hotel,
3 Lado Gudiashvili Street, Tbilisi, Georgia

Time:
09:30-18:00

Online link:
<https://theuniversalconsulting-ge.zoom.us/j/87603896351>
meeting ID: 876 0389 6351

AGENDA

Time	Item	Speaker
09 ³⁰ -10 ⁰⁰	Registration and welcome coffee	
10 ⁰⁰ -10 ³⁰	<p>Session 1. Opening and welcoming statements</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Welcoming statements Adoption of Agenda 	<p>Moderator: Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture of Georgia</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ms. Maia Bitadze, Chairperson of the Committee of Environmental Protection and Natural Resources, Parliament of Georgia (5 min) - Ms. Nino Tandilashvili, First Deputy Minister, Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture of Georgia (MEPA) (5 min) - Ms. Sabine Machl, UN Resident Coordinator in Georgia (5 min) - Mr. Nicholas Cendrowicz, Head of Cooperation, EU Delegation to Georgia (5 min) - Mr. Alexander Zinke, EU4Environment Water and Data Programme (5 min)
10 ³⁰ -11 ³⁰	<p>Session 2. Progress and priorities: adopting EU good practice and driving water sector reform</p> <p>High-level round-table policy discussion</p> <p>The high-level panel will include a stocktaking exchange on progress with water policy reforms, upcoming priorities with EU approximation including preparations</p>	<p>Moderator: UNECE and DG NEAR (tbc)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture of Georgia (10 min) - Ministry of Economy and Sustainable Development of Georgia (5 min) - Ministry of Regional Development and Infrastructure of Georgia (5 min)

Implementing partners



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Time	Item	Speaker
	<p>for implementation of the new Law of Georgia on Water Resources Management, progress with SDG 6.5.1 and 6.5.2 reporting and achievement, Water Convention provisions.</p> <p>Interventions from representatives from ministries, the private sector, the European Commission, IFIs and ongoing water sector projects in Georgia are envisaged.</p> <p>Q&A and discussion</p>	<p>- Ministry of Internally Displaced Persons from the Occupied Territories, Labor, Health and Social Affairs of Georgia (5 min)</p> <p>- Ministry of Finance of Georgia (5 min)</p> <p>- European Commission (5 min)</p> <p>Documents supporting the discussion: overview of the implementation of the EU water-related directives</p>
11 ³⁰ - 12 ⁰⁰	Coffee Break	
12 ⁰⁰ -13 ¹⁵	<p>Session 3. Progress on river basin management</p> <p>This session will cover the following points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development, adoption and implementation of river basin management plans • Progress on water accounts • Water pollution – update on current progress and priorities • Transboundary cooperation in the Khrami-Debeda and the Alazani River basins • Progress of work on land cover mapping, waste, air quality and indicators for SOER reporting <p>Guiding policy questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How to ensure implementation of the RBMPs and Programmes of Measures in preparation for the Water Law coming into force? • How can transboundary water cooperation be strengthened? <p>Q&A and discussion</p>	<p>Moderator: Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture of Georgia</p> <p>- EU4Environment Water and Data Programme (15 min)</p> <p>- Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture of Georgia (10 min)</p> <p>- National Environmental Agency (NEA) (7 min)</p>
13 ¹⁵ -14 ¹⁵	Lunch	

Time	Item	Speaker
14 ¹⁵ -15 ³⁰	<p>Session 4. Water and health agenda</p> <p>This session will cover the following points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protocol on Water and Health – benefits of accession and working in its framework • Assessing the equity of access to water and sanitation in line with EU requirements – introduction to UNECE self-assessment methodology • Wastewater-based Epidemiology Monitoring • Upcoming project “Water and Health Georgia” <p>Guiding policy questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What are the current water and health related challenges and how to address them? • What are the benefits and challenges of accession to the Protocol on Water and Health, and next steps? <p>Q&A and discussion</p>	<p>Moderator: UNECE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - EU4Environment Water and Data Programme (UNECE, UBA) (20 min) - Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture of Georgia (8 min) - Ministry of Internally Displaced Persons from the Occupied Territories, Labor, Health and Social Affairs of Georgia (8min) - Expertise France, Groupe AFD (5 min)
15 ³⁰ -16 ⁰⁰	Coffee Break	
16 ⁰⁰ -17 ¹⁵	<p>Session 5. Water management towards sustainable agriculture</p> <p>This session will cover the coordination of ongoing initiatives, on the following topics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Developments in the agriculture sector • Integration of modern irrigation practices and other water efficient technologies in agriculture • Addressing water pollution from agriculture • Progress with investments in irrigation infrastructure including policy-based loans <p>Guiding policy questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How are water and agriculture sectors interlinked, considering climate change impacts? • What are priority needs for the future? • How can intersectoral coordination be improved? <p>Q&A and discussion</p>	<p>Moderator: Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture of Georgia</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture of Georgia (8 min) - FAO (8 min) - EU4Environment Water and Data Programme (OECD) (5 min) - ADB (5 min) - NIRAS (5 min)
17 ¹⁵ -18 ⁰⁰	<p>Session 6. Concluding session:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meeting summary • Decisions and recommendations • Feedback questionnaire on the NPD and next steps • An introductory overview of workshops on 18 January 2024 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture of Georgia - EU4Environment Water and Data Programme
18 ⁰⁰ -19 ³⁰	Networking Cocktail	

Background

This is the 10th meeting of the Steering Committee of the National Policy Dialogue on Integrated Water Resources Management in Georgia. NPD facilitates policy discussions where stakeholders meet to advance water policy reforms. NPDs are driven by the demand from the host countries and are usually chaired by heads of respective government agencies. A variety of stakeholders participate in the meetings, such as ministries and government agencies and institutions, as well as non-governmental organisations, the business community, parliamentary bodies, academia. Participants typically include international organisations and EU Member States active in water policy reforms in each country. Under the EU-funded EU4Environment Water Resources and Environmental Data Programme, NPDs are supported in the five countries of the Eastern Partnership and facilitated by UNECE and OECD.

Meeting objectives, expected outputs and outcomes:

- To provide an update on recent developments in the water sector and other water-using sectors.
- To provide an update on the implementation of the road map of the EU water-related directives and the Water Convention in Georgia under the Association Agreement with the European Union.
- To discuss challenges in the integrated water resources management, solutions and next steps to address them.
- To discuss progress and next steps in implementing the EU4Environment – Water and Data programme in Georgia and to receive feedback from the national stakeholders.
- To provide a platform for discussion of donor activities in the water sector in Georgia and to enhance the international cooperation with partner organisations.

Participants

The meeting will gather over 50 participants from ministries, agencies, donors and international projects with an interest in water management in Georgia.

About EU4Environment – Water Resources and Environmental Data

This programme aims at improving people's wellbeing in EU's Eastern Partner Countries and enabling their green transformation in line with the European Green Deal and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The programme's activities are clustered around two specific objectives: 1) support a more sustainable use of water resources and 2) improve the use of sound environmental data and their availability for policy-makers and citizens. It ensures continuity of the Shared Environmental Information System Phase II and the EU Water Initiative Plus for Eastern Partnership programmes.

The programme is implemented by five Partner organisations: Environment Agency Austria (UBA), Austrian Development Agency (ADA), International Office for Water (OiEau) (France), Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE). The action is principally funded by the European Union, and co-funded by the Austrian Development Cooperation and the French Artois-Picardie Water Agency based on a budget of EUR 12,75 million (EUR 12 million EU contribution). The implementation period is 2021-2024.