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

Tenth session

Ljubljana, 23–25 October 2024

Item 1 of the provisional agenda

Opening of the session and adoption of the agenda

Annotated provisional agenda for the tenth session

To be held at the Ljubljana Exhibition and Convention Centre, starting
on Wednesday, 23 October 2024, at 10 a.m.*

I. Provisional agenda

High-level segment

1. Opening of the session and adoption of the agenda.
2. Status of ratification of the Convention and its Protocols, report on credentials and celebration of new accessions.
3. Special session: “Our waters, our future: Transboundary water cooperation to power climate resilience”.

General segment

4. Adapting to climate change in transboundary basins.
5. Reporting under the Convention and on indicator 6.5.2 of the Sustainable Development Goals.
6. Increasing awareness of and accession to the Convention and application of its principles drawing on the benefits of cooperation:

* In accordance with United Nations accreditation procedures, participants are requested to complete the online registration procedure available on the web page for the tenth session of the Meeting of the Parties (https://unece.org/MOP10_Water_Convention) as soon as possible, **but not later than 15 September 2024**. Registration is available through the following link: https://indico.un.org/e/MOP10_Water_Convention. For assistance with registration, please see the instructions on the meeting web page or contact the secretariat by email (water.convention@un.org). In case of difficulty, please contact the secretariat by telephone at +41 22 917 1606.

- (a) Increasing capacity for implementation of the Convention and supporting national processes towards accession;
 - (b) Promoting and communicating the benefits of transboundary cooperation;
 - (c) Supporting the development of agreements and the establishment of joint bodies;
 - (d) Implementation Committee.
7. Water-food-energy-ecosystems nexus in transboundary basins.
 8. Supporting equitable and sustainable water allocation in a transboundary context.
 9. Promoting integrated water resources management in transboundary basins:
 - (a) Source-to-sea management of transboundary waters;
 - (b) Conjunctive water management of transboundary surface waters and groundwaters
 10. Water quality in transboundary basins, including water and industrial accidents.
 11. Financing of the Convention.
 12. Election of officers.
 13. National Policy Dialogues on Integrated Water Resources Management.
 14. Facilitating funding and financing of transboundary water cooperation and basin development.
 15. Supporting monitoring, assessment and information-sharing in transboundary basins.
 16. Partnerships and contribution to global processes.
 17. Communication and promotion.
 18. International Water Assessment Centre.
 19. Programme of work for 2025–2027, terms of reference of the bodies established to implement it and resources needed for its implementation.
 20. Date and venue of the eleventh session of the Meeting of the Parties.
 21. Other business.
 22. Presentation of the main decisions.
 23. Closing of the session.

II. Annotations

1. The tenth session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes (Water Convention) will be held from 23 to 25 October 2024 at the Ljubljana Exhibition and Convention Centre, at the invitation of the Government of Slovenia. The session will be preceded by the event “Accelerating transboundary cooperation and the implementation of the Water Convention in new Parties through increased support and partnership”, to be organized on 22 October 2024 under the leadership of the Netherlands and Switzerland (by invitation only). The Meeting of the Parties will be a milestone in the review and acceleration of progress towards achieving target 6.5 of the Sustainable Development Goals and in the development and globalization of the Water Convention; challenges and good practices related to transboundary water cooperation will be discussed.

2. The Meeting will consist of a high-level segment, focusing on the crucial topic of climate change and transboundary cooperation, and a general segment. The high-level segment, dealing with items 1–3 of the provisional agenda, will be held on Wednesday, 23 October, starting at 10 a.m. The general segment, covering items 4–23 of the provisional agenda, will take place from the late afternoon of Wednesday, 23 October, until 6 p.m. on

Friday, 25 October. The working languages will be Arabic, English, French, Russian and Spanish.

3. Additional practical information on the meeting, as well as all relevant documentation, will be posted on a dedicated page of the Convention's website¹ in due course.
4. A number of side events will be organized during the session. A detailed programme of these events will be made available in September 2024.
5. In view of the expected large participation in the meeting, participants are requested to limit the length of their interventions to three minutes during the high-level segment and two minutes during the general segment. Delegations are requested to inform the secretariat by 10 October 2024 if they intend to make a statement and to specify under which agenda item(s). Full statements provided to the secretariat will be posted on the session's web page.

High-level segment

1. Opening of the session and adoption of the agenda

Tentative timing: Wednesday, 23 October, 10–10.50 a.m.

6. Mr. Robert Golob, Prime Minister of Slovenia, will open the meeting.
7. Statements by high-level representatives of the United Nations and the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) will follow.
8. A high-level representative of Estonia will also make opening remarks.
9. Mr. Harry Liiv, Chair of the Meeting of the Parties, Ministry of Climate of Estonia, will invite the Parties to adopt the agenda as set out in the present document.

Documentation

Annotated provisional agenda for the tenth session (ECE/MP.WAT/74)

Rules of procedure of the Meetings of the Parties (ECE/MP.WAT/54/Add.2)

Informal document

Organization of work (ECE/MP.WAT/2024/INF.1)

2. Status of ratification of the Convention and its Protocols, report on credentials and celebration of new accessions

Tentative timing: Wednesday, 23 October, 10.50–11.15 a.m.

10. The secretariat will inform the Meeting of the Parties about the status of ratification of the Convention, the Protocol on Water and Health, the Protocol on Civil Liability and Compensation for Damage Caused by the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents on Transboundary Waters and the amendments to articles 25 and 26 of the Convention.

11. In accordance with rules 14–15 of the rules of procedure (ECE/MP.WAT/54/Add.2), the Bureau will examine the credentials² submitted by Parties and submit its report to the

¹ See https://unece.org/MOP10_Water_Convention. Please note that documents with symbols ending in "INF." followed by a number are informal documents and are available only from the meeting web page (not from the Official Documents System of the United Nations (ODS)).

² All Parties to the Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes (Water Convention) must submit their credentials to the secretariat. Credentials, which are issued either by the Head of State, the Head of Government or the Minister for Foreign Affairs, should indicate the composition of the delegation, including the head of delegation, and should state that the respective delegation is empowered to participate in the meeting and take

Meeting of the Parties. Parties to the Convention are requested to send a scanned copy of their credentials by 1 October 2024 to the secretariat by email, with a copy to their permanent mission to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva. Originals of credentials should be presented to the secretariat upon arrival in Ljubljana and before the start of the tenth session.

12. New Parties will be invited to report on their accession, followed by a small celebration.

Documentation

Informal document

Status of ratification of the Water Convention, its Protocols and amendments (ECE/MP.WAT/2024/INF.2)

3. Special session: “Our waters, our future: Transboundary water cooperation to power climate resilience”

Tentative timing: Wednesday, 23 October, 11.15 a.m.–1 p.m. and 3–5 p.m.

13. Water is at the heart of climate change and most climate impacts on society, economy and environment are felt through the water cycle. Recent years have seen extreme weather events such as floods, low flows, droughts, heatwaves and associated wildfires, causing widespread loss of life, economic damage and disruption to water, food and energy security on all continents. These events also cause large-scale harm to ecosystems.

14. Climate impacts cross international borders: 153 countries and around 40 per cent of the world’s population share water resources in transboundary basins including rivers, lakes and aquifers. This shared water accounts for approximately 60 per cent of fresh water available globally. Effective transboundary cooperation across water-dependent sectors is crucial to reduce disaster risk and build climate resilience, avoiding maladaptation. Furthermore, transboundary water cooperation can make adaptation and mitigation, and thus resilience, more effective and efficient at the regional level, for example by preserving and restoring ecosystems and biodiversity, while contributing to sustainable development, peace and economic integration.

15. The sixth assessment report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change and the decisions of the twenty-eighth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) (Dubai, United Arab Emirates, 30 November–12 December 2023) recognize that climate change impacts are often transboundary in nature and involve complex risks that can be addressed through climate-informed transboundary management. They also emphasize the importance of water, inland water ecosystems and the benefits of transboundary cooperation. For over thirty years, the Water Convention, serviced by ECE, has facilitated transboundary cooperation and, for over a decade, has helped countries jointly adapt to climate change and improve intersectoral cooperation.

16. The high-level special session on “Our waters, our future: Transboundary water cooperation to power climate resilience” aims to discuss how transboundary cooperation can accelerate climate action and enhance climate resilience in shared basins, thereby reducing the risk of water conflicts and contributing to sustainable development, peace and regional integration. It will provide a high-level platform to advance the emerging discussions on the role of transboundary cooperation for climate change mitigation, which requires, among other things, a transformation of the energy and agriculture sectors – both highly dependent on the availability of fresh water.

17. Panellists will discuss how transboundary cooperation can contribute to climate resilience, how the water-food-energy-ecosystem nexus approach helps to promote

decisions on behalf of the respective Government, following the applicable rules of procedure. The credentials should list all official representatives of the corresponding Party.

intersectoral coherence and how transboundary water allocation as a method supports coping with extremes, such as floods, low flows and droughts. They will also share insights into how transboundary cooperation can facilitate adaptation at the national level and build resilience of ecosystems and biodiversity, for example by preserving, protecting or restoring inland surface water and groundwater ecosystems, wetlands and mountain “water towers.”

18. The session will highlight concrete experiences of Parties to the Water Convention, other countries and transboundary basins in building climate resilience. It will provide a space for reflecting on the Convention as a tool for climate resilience, both regionally and globally.

19. Moreover, the session will review best practices, achievements and gaps in climate resilience in transboundary basins, based on the findings from the third reporting exercise on indicator 6.5.2 of the Sustainable Development Goals (see *Progress on Transboundary Water Cooperation: Mid-term status of SDG Indicator 6.5.2, with a special focus on Climate Change, 2024* (ECE/MP.WAT/76)), which will be presented at the beginning of the session. It will provide recommendations for climate-informed transboundary management to achieve Sustainable Development Goals 6, on water, and 13, on climate.

20. The session is a milestone on the road to the twenty-ninth session of the Conference of the Parties to UNFCCC (Baku, 11–22 November 2024). Outcomes of the session will also feed into other global processes such as those under the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction, the Convention on Biological Diversity and the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification.

21. The special session will consist of three thematic interactive panels, focusing on the following topics (see Provisional programme of the high-level segment (ECE/MP.WAT/2024/INF.4) for more details):

- (a) Panel 1: Transboundary water cooperation for climate adaptation;
- (b) Panel 2: Transboundary and intersectoral cooperation for climate mitigation: implementing the water-food-energy-ecosystems nexus;
- (c) Panel 3: Building climate resilience through ecosystem and biodiversity preservation and restoration in transboundary settings.

22. Each panel discussion will be composed of high-level representatives from Parties, other States – including prospective Parties from all regions – international organizations, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), international financial institutions and other stakeholders, introduced by a moderator. Every panel discussion will be followed by high-level contributions from the floor. Representatives of Parties, prospective Parties and other States, international organizations, NGOs, international financial institutions and academia will be invited to contribute to the thematic discussion from the floor. Priority will be given to interventions by high-level representatives of Member States of the United Nations and United Nations organizations.

23. Questions for discussion are listed below:³

- (a) Could you share concrete examples of how transboundary water cooperation contributes to climate resilience, adaptation and mitigation in your country, basin or region?
- (b) Which legal, institutional and other instruments can be used to make ecosystems, people and economies more resilient to climate change in transboundary basins?
- (c) How has the Water Convention helped countries and basins to build climate resilience and reduce flood and drought risk?
- (d) How is your country integrating water and transboundary water cooperation into development and implementation of Nationally Determined Contributions, National Adaptation Plans and other national climate policies?

³ Specific questions for the respective panels and for each panellist will be defined and sent to confirmed participants/ speakers closer to the meeting date.

(e) What strategies have proven effective in engaging local communities and Indigenous groups in building resilience in transboundary basins?

(f) Could you share best practices and lessons learned in conserving and restoring biodiversity and ecosystems and/or applying nature-based solutions for climate adaptation or mitigation in shared basins?

(g) What role do sectoral policies (notable energy and agriculture) play in improving the sustainability of transboundary water management? What is the potential for climate resilience through regional cooperation and trade in these sectors?

(h) What actions are needed to ensure that climate change does not increase risks and tensions in shared basins? What can be done in this regard within the framework of the Water Convention and of global water processes, such as the 2026 United Nations Water Conference?

(i) What are your recommendations for mainstreaming water and transboundary cooperation into global climate processes such as under UNFCCC and its Paris Agreement in order to contribute to climate resilience?

Documentation

Mainstreaming transboundary water cooperation into Nationally Determined Contributions and National Adaptation Plans (ECE/MP.WAT/2024/3)

Progress on Transboundary Water Cooperation: Mid-term status of SDG Indicator 6.5.2, with a special focus on Climate Change, 2024 (ECE/MP.WAT/76)

Informal documents

Concept note of the high-level segment (ECE/MP.WAT/2024/INF.3)

Provisional programme of the high-level segment (ECE/MP.WAT/2024/INF.4)

General segment

24. During the general segment, the Meeting of the Parties will review achievements under the current programme of work for 2022–2024 and examine proposals for future activities under the programme of work for 2025–2027 (a more detailed discussion of the overall programme of work for 2025–2027 will take place under agenda item 19).

Documentation for all the following agenda items

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

Report on the implementation of activities under the Water Convention in 2022–2024 (ECE/MP.WAT/2024/1)

Draft programme of work for 2025–2027 (ECE/MP.WAT/2024/2)

Overview of contributions and expenditures in 2022–2024 (ECE/MP.WAT/2024/7)

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)

Report of the Working Group on Integrated Water Resources Management on its eighteenth meeting (ECE/MP.WAT/WG.1/2023/2)

Report of the Working Group on Integrated Water Resources Management and the Working Group on Monitoring and Assessment on their fifth joint meeting (ECE/MP.WAT/WG.1/2024/2-ECE/MP.WAT/WG.2/2024/2, forthcoming)

4. Adapting to climate change in transboundary basins

Tentative timing: Wednesday, 23 October, 5–5.30 p.m.

25. The Meeting will review the work on adaptation to climate change in transboundary basins carried out since 2022 under the overall guidance of the Task Force on Water and Climate. It will review progress made in the programme of pilot projects on water and adaptation to climate change, the Global network of basins working on climate change adaptation and the outcomes of the Global workshop on water, agriculture and climate change (Geneva (hybrid), 17–18 October 2022) and the Global workshop on droughts in transboundary basins (Geneva, 26–27 February 2024). Representatives of the pilot basins and other participants will be invited to comment.

26. Participants will discuss input to global processes on climate change and disasters, such as the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, UNFCCC and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, and efforts to mainstream transboundary aspects of water management into national climate-related documents. In this regard, the document Mainstreaming transboundary water cooperation and water, sanitation and hygiene into Nationally Determined Contributions and National Adaptation Plans (ECE/MP.WAT/2024/3) will be presented and discussed.

27. Lastly, the Meeting will discuss proposed future activities in this area of work in 2025–2027.

Documentation

Report on the implementation of activities under the Water Convention in 2022–2024 (ECE/MP.WAT/2024/1)

Mainstreaming transboundary water cooperation into Nationally Determined Contributions and National Adaptation Plans (ECE/MP.WAT/2024/3)

Informal documents

Outcomes of the Global workshop on droughts in transboundary basins, 26–27 February 2024⁴

Decisions of the fourteenth meeting of the Task Force on Water and Climate, 28 February 2024⁵

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

Tentative timing: Wednesday, 23 October, 5.30–6 p.m., and Thursday, 24 October, 10–10.15 a.m.

28. Target 6.5 of the Sustainable Development Goals calls for countries to implement integrated water resources management at all levels, including through transboundary cooperation as appropriate. For Parties only, the reporting exercise on Sustainable Development Goal indicator 6.5.2 (Proportion of transboundary basin area with an operational arrangement for water cooperation) is combined with the third reporting exercise under the Water Convention.

29. The Meeting will be briefed by the secretariat on the outcomes of the third reporting exercise under the Water Convention conducted for Parties in the period 2023–2024. In the third round, all Parties reported under the Convention. The report *Progress on Transboundary Water Cooperation under the Water Convention: Third Report on Implementation of the Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes (2020–2023)* (ECE/MP.WAT/77), prepared based on the information contained in the national reports of the Parties, will be presented and

⁴ Available at <https://unece.org/info/Environmental-Policy/Water-Convention/events/386479>.

⁵ Available at <https://unece.org/info/events/event/386480>.

launched. Parties will be invited to discuss progress identified in the third progress report and the way forward.

30. The Meeting will be presented with, and invited to discuss, the outcomes of the third reporting exercise on indicator 6.5.2 carried out in 2023–2024 by ECE and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), as co-custodian agencies for said indicator 6.5.2, as detailed in the report *Progress on Transboundary Water Cooperation: Mid-term status of SDG Indicator 6.5.2, with a special focus on Climate Change, 2024* (ECE/MP.WAT/76) introduced under agenda item 3. In the third round, 129 of the 153 countries worldwide sharing transboundary waters provided replies.

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

32. Based on the outcomes of the reporting under the Convention and on indicator 6.5.2 of the Sustainable Development Goals in the third reporting cycle, participants will share how they plan to use the results of reporting to enhance transboundary cooperation and support the achievement of target 6.5 of the Sustainable Development Goals, in line with the Sustainable Development Goal 6 Global Acceleration Framework. Partners will be invited to share ideas on their plans to make use of the information collected through the third reporting cycle.

33. Lastly, the Meeting will discuss proposed future activities in this area of work in 2025–2027.

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)

Progress on Transboundary Water Cooperation under the Water Convention: Third Report on Implementation of the Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes (2020–2023) (ECE/MP.WAT/77)

Progress on Transboundary Water Cooperation: Mid-term status of SDG Indicator 6.5.2, with a special focus on Climate Change, 2024 (ECE/MP.WAT/76)

Guide to Reporting under the Water Convention and as a Contribution to SDG Indicator 6.5.2 (ECE/MP.WAT/60)

6. Increasing awareness of and accession to the Convention and application of its principles drawing on the benefits of cooperation

Tentative timing: Thursday, 24 October, 10.15 a.m.–12.40 p.m.

34. The Meeting will review progress made in fostering the application of the principles of the Convention and support provided to countries to that end in the context of the global opening of the Convention, and discuss further action in this area of work.

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

Tentative timing: Thursday, 24 October, 10.15–11.25 a.m.

6.a.1. *Progress in national processes towards accession and implementation of the Strategy for the implementation of the Convention at the global level*

35. The triennium 2022–2024 was marked by significant momentum towards accession in countries in various regions, with seven new Parties⁶ from Africa, Latin America and the Middle East. In addition, numerous countries are advancing in the process of accession: they will be invited to inform the Meeting about their progress in that regard and priorities for subsequently implementing the Convention.

36. The Meeting will be informed about activities carried out by the secretariat, the Bureau, countries and partners in 2022–2024 to promote accession to the Water Convention and the Convention on the Law of the Non-navigational Uses of International Watercourses at the national, basin, regional and global levels.

37. Parties and partners having supported accession by new Parties or ongoing efforts by countries in the process of accession will be invited to share their experience and views.

38. The Meeting will also discuss the progress made in the implementation of the Strategy for the implementation of the Convention at the global level (ECE/MP.WAT/54/Add.2) and possible ways to make the Water Convention’s implementation more effective and to accelerate its impact at the global level.

39. Lastly, the Meeting will discuss proposed future activities in this area to be carried out in 2025–2027.

6.a.2. *Supporting implementation and application of the Convention through twinning, projects on the ground and capacity-building*

40. In order to facilitate implementation of the Convention in new Parties, different mechanisms have been developed at their request, namely twinning initiatives between experienced and new Parties, and support to development of implementation plans in new Parties. The Meeting will be informed about the establishment of twinning initiatives.

41. New Parties that have developed, or are in the process of developing, implementation plans for the Convention will be invited to report on their progress and participants will be invited to comment. The outcomes of the event “Accelerating transboundary cooperation and the implementation of the Water Convention in new Parties through increased support and partnership” (Ljubljana, 22 October 2024), aiming to enable the mobilization of support from partners for the acceleration of transboundary water cooperation and the implementation of the Convention by new Parties, will be presented.

42. Lastly, the Meeting will discuss proposed future activities to be carried out in 2025–2027.

Documentation

Strategy for the implementation of the Convention at the global level (ECE/MP.WAT/54/Add.2)

Review of the implementation of the Strategy for the implementation of the Convention at the global level (ECE/MP.WAT/2024/4)

Frequently Asked Questions on the 1992 Water Convention, with the Road Map to Facilitate Accession Processes (ECE/MP.WAT/59)

⁶ In chronological order of accession, Cameroon (2022), Nigeria, Iraq, Namibia, Panama, the Gambia (2023), Cote d’Ivoire (2024) – as of 15 July 2024.

(b) Promoting and communicating the benefits of transboundary cooperation

Tentative timing: Thursday, 24 October, 11.25–11.40 a.m.

43. In 2022, the thirtieth anniversary of the Water Convention adoption was celebrated, including through a special event (Tallinn (hybrid), 30 June). The Meeting will review the outcomes of the celebrations, including the publication developed for the anniversary *The Water Convention: 30 Years of Impact and Achievements on the Ground* (ECE/MP.WAT/69 and ECE/MP.WAT/69/Corr.1), showcasing impacts and benefits of the implementation of the Convention in the past 30 years.

Documentation

The Water Convention: 30 Years of Impact and Achievements on the Ground (ECE/MP.WAT/69 and ECE/MP.WAT/69/Corr.1)

(c) Supporting the development of agreements and the establishment of joint bodies

Tentative timing: Thursday, 24 October, 11.40 a.m.–12.10 p.m.

44. The Meeting will review work on the development of agreements and the establishment of joint bodies in transboundary basins carried out since 2022. It will discuss progress made in promoting the use of the *Practical Guide for the Development of Agreements or Other Arrangements for Transboundary Water Cooperation*,⁷ including through global⁸ and regional workshops.

45. In particular, the Meeting will be informed about progress achieved in the negotiation of agreements and in supporting implementation or application of the Convention through projects on the ground and capacity-building in different basins, such as the Drin, Dniester, Chu-Talas River basins, the Luapula River and Lake Mweru basin, the Senegal-Mauritanian Aquifer basin, and at the regional level, for example in Central America, with the support of the Convention and its partners.

46. Lastly, the Meeting will discuss proposed future activities to be carried out in 2025–2027.

Documentation

Practical Guide for the Development of Agreements or Other Arrangements for Transboundary Water Cooperation (ECE/MP.WAT/68)

(d) Implementation Committee

Tentative timing: Thursday, 24 October, 12.10–12.40 p.m.

47. The Chair of the Implementation Committee will present the Committee's work over the past three years – including information on progress in advisory procedure WAT/IC/AP/1 (Montenegro and Albania) and on the Committee's efforts to support the Convention's globalization – and its report to the Meeting of the Parties.

48. The Meeting will discuss the report and will be invited to adopt the draft decision on general issues of implementation contained therein.

49. Parties will be invited to elect members of the Implementation Committee, in conformity with decision VI/1 on support to implementation and compliance.

⁷ United Nations publication, ECE/MP.WAT/68.

⁸ Global workshop on the development of transboundary water cooperation agreements or other arrangements (Budapest, 7–8 November 2023).

Documentation

Report of the Implementation Committee to the Meeting of the Parties and draft decision on general issues of implementation (ECE/MP.WAT/2024/5)

Report of the Implementation Committee on its fourteenth meeting (ECE/MP.WAT/IC/2022/2)

Report of the Implementation Committee on its fifteenth meeting (ECE/MP.WAT/IC/2022/4)

Report of the Implementation Committee on its sixteenth meeting (ECE/MP.WAT/IC/2023/2)

Report of the Implementation Committee on its seventeenth meeting (ECE/MP.WAT/IC/2024/2)⁹

Decision VI/1 on support to implementation and compliance (ECE/MP.WAT/37/Add.2)

Informal document

List of candidates for the Implementation Committee (ECE/MP.WAT/2024/INF.5)

7. Water-food-energy-ecosystems nexus in transboundary basins

Tentative timing: Thursday, 24 October, 12.40–1 p.m. and 3–3.10 p.m.

50. The Meeting will review work on the water-food-energy-ecosystems nexus in transboundary basins carried out since 2022 under the guidance of the Task Force on the Water-Food-Energy-Ecosystems Nexus. It will discuss efforts made to: promote the methodology for assessing the water-food-energy-ecosystems nexus in transboundary basins; promote other policy support tools available under the Convention; and support the operationalization of nexus solutions and investments through basin- and regional-level processes and projects. Representatives of the transboundary basins involved in intersectoral nexus dialogues and supporting partners will be invited to comment.

51. The Meeting will discuss proposed future activities in this area to be carried out in 2025–2027.

Documentation

Methodology for Assessing the Water-Food-Energy-Ecosystems Nexus in Transboundary Basins and Experiences from its Application: Synthesis (ECE/MP.WAT/55)

Solutions and Investments in the Water-Food-Energy-Ecosystems Nexus: A Synthesis of Experiences in Transboundary Basins (ECE/MP.WAT/66)

Towards Sustainable Renewable Energy Investment and Deployment: Trade-offs and Opportunities with Water Resources and the Environment (ECE/ENERGY/127)

Informal documents

Report of the seventh meeting of the Task Force on the Water-Food-Energy-Ecosystems Nexus (TFWFEEN/2022/2)

Leaflet “Transboundary Nexus Assessment (TBNA) Methodology: A participatory approach to facilitate cross-sectoral cooperation in transboundary basins”¹⁰

⁹ Available at https://unece.org/sites/default/files/2024-06/ECE_MP.WAT_IC_2024_2_17thICreport_advance_copy.pdf.

¹⁰ Available at <https://unece.org/environment-policy/water/areas-work-convention/nexus-methodology>.

8. Supporting equitable and sustainable water allocation in a transboundary context

Tentative timing: Thursday, 24 October, 3.10–3.40 p.m.

52. The Meeting will review work to support equitable and sustainable water allocation in a transboundary context carried out since 2022. It will discuss progress made in promoting the use of the *Handbook on Water Allocation in a Transboundary Context* (ECE/MP.WAT/64), including through the development and promotion of its summary version *Summary Handbook on Water Allocation in a Transboundary Context* (ECE/MP.WAT/71) and regional workshops.

53. The Meeting will discuss proposed future activities in this area to be carried out in 2025–2027.

Documentation

Handbook on Water Allocation in a Transboundary Context (ECE/MP.WAT/64)

Summary Handbook on Water Allocation in a Transboundary Context (ECE/MP.WAT/71)

9. Promoting integrated water resources management in transboundary basins

Tentative timing: Thursday, 24 October, 3.40–4.25 p.m.

54. The Meeting will review work to promote integrated water resources management in transboundary basins carried out since 2022 through the organization of thematic sessions and workshops.

(a) Source-to-sea management of transboundary waters

Tentative timing: Thursday, 24 October, 3.40–4.05 p.m.

55. Good freshwater governance, transboundary cooperation and pollution prevention are crucial for ocean health. Therefore, a Global workshop on source-to-sea management (Geneva, 14–16 December 2022) was organized under the Convention with numerous partners. The workshop concluded that, in order to effectively address challenges “from source to sea”, transboundary and intersectoral cooperation must be strengthened. Increased awareness, capacity-building and adequate financing were identified as priorities. The Meeting will review the concrete outcomes of the workshop, including the need for specific guidance on implementing the source-to-sea approach in a transboundary context. At its eighteenth meeting (Geneva, 19–21 June 2023), the Working Group on Integrated Water Resources Management decided to develop a guidance note on the topic.

56. In this regard, the Meeting will discuss the ongoing development, by a dedicated drafting group, of the guidance note for the implementation of the source-to-sea approach in transboundary basins. Participants will be invited to provide comments on the draft annotated outline.

57. The Meeting will discuss proposed future activities in this area to be carried out in 2025–2027.

Documentation

Draft annotated outline of the guidance note for the implementation of the source-to-sea approach in transboundary basins (ECE/MP.WAT/2024/6)

Key outcomes of the Global workshop on source-to-sea management (ECE/MP.WAT/WG.1/2023/5)

(b) Conjunctive water management of transboundary surface waters and groundwaters

Tentative timing: Thursday, 24 October, 4.05–4.25 p.m.

58. The Meeting will review work in this area, including the key outcomes of the Global workshop on conjunctive management of surface water and groundwater: National to transboundary level (Geneva (hybrid), 16–17 October 2023). The workshop highlighted the need to: increase awareness of the benefits of the conjunctive management approach, especially for climate change adaptation; move from spontaneous to planned conjunctive water management; and create enablers for conjunctive water management, including at the transboundary level.

59. The Meeting will discuss proposed future activities in this area to be carried out in 2025–2027, including the development of policy guidance to provide advice on conjunctive management of surface waters and groundwaters, with a focus on transboundary basins.

Documentation*Informal document*

Conclusions and key outcomes of the Global workshop on conjunctive management of surface water and groundwater: National to transboundary level (Geneva (hybrid), 16–17 October 2023)¹¹

10. Water quality in transboundary basins, including water and industrial accidents

Tentative timing: Thursday, 24 October, 4.25–4.50 p.m.

60. The Meeting will review the activities of the Joint Ad Hoc Expert Group on Water and Industrial Accidents under the Water Convention and the Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents (Industrial Accidents Convention) in order to support work in the area of accidental water pollution.¹² The Co-Chairs of the Group will present its achievements and lessons learned.

61. The Meeting will discuss proposed future activities to be carried out in 2025–2027 to support countries in improving water quality in transboundary basins, including through pollution prevention and control.

Documentation

Report of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents on its twelfth meeting (ECE/CP.TEIA/44)

Report of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents on its twelfth meeting: Addendum – Decisions taken (ECE/CP.TEIA/44/Add.1)

11. Financing of the Convention

Tentative timing: Thursday, 24 October, 4.50–6 p.m.

62. The secretariat will inform the Meeting about the status of the different trust funds related to the Water Convention, including financial contributions and expenditures in the period 2022–2024.

63. The Meeting will also review progress with implementing decision IX/3 on targets for a more sustainable and predictable funding of the work under the Convention

¹¹ Available at <https://unece.org/info/Environmental-Policy/Water-Convention/events/374652>.

¹² See <https://unece.org/joint-expert-group-water-and-industrial-accidents>.

(ECE/MP.WAT/63/Add.2) adopted at its ninth session (Geneva, 29 September–1 October 2021).

64. Given that, despite some limited progress, the targets have not been met and the funding of the Water Convention work remains unstable, the Working Group on Integrated Water Resources Management and the Working Group on Monitoring and Assessment, at their fifth joint meeting (Geneva, 6–8 May 2024), entrusted the Bureau to develop a draft decision defining a process towards a more sustainable and predictable financing mechanism of the Water Convention's work, entailing a mandatory financing scheme for consideration by the Meeting of the Parties at its tenth session.¹³ Such a decision should include the establishment of an open-ended financing group mandated to prepare the proposal for the financing mechanism, including a mandatory contribution scheme, for consideration and possible adoption at the eleventh session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Water Convention in 2027.

65. The Meeting will discuss and be invited to adopt the draft decision defining a process towards a more sustainable and predictable financing mechanism of the Water Convention's work, prepared by the Bureau in response to the Working Groups' request (ECE/MP.WAT/2024/8).

66. In addition, considering the global scope of the Convention, with recent Parties from the Middle East and Latin America, translation and interpretation into Arabic and Spanish has become indispensable for ensuring equal and effective participation of all Parties, and greater efficiency and better outcomes of the Convention's meetings. The Meeting of the Parties will consider the issue of translation and interpretation services for its sessions and other meetings under the Convention and will be invited to adopt a draft decision on this issue.

Documentation

Overview of contributions and expenditures in 2022–2024 (ECE/MP.WAT/2024/7)

Draft decision on a process towards a more sustainable and predictable financing mechanism of the Water Convention's work (ECE/MP.WAT/2024/8)

Decision IX/3 on targets for a more sustainable and predictable funding of the work under the Convention (ECE/MP.WAT/63/Add.2)

Draft decision on promoting equal and effective participation of all Parties in sessions of the Meeting of the Parties and other meetings under the Convention through translation and interpretation into Arabic and Spanish (ECE/MP.WAT/2024/9)

12. Election of officers

Tentative timing: Friday, 25 October, 10–10.20 a.m.

67. In accordance with rules 17 (2)–(3) and 20 (1) of its rules of procedure, Parties will be invited to elect officers (Bureau members), who will be in office from the end of the tenth session until the next elections at the eleventh session of the Meeting of the Parties. In particular, the Meeting is expected to elect a Chair, two Vice-Chairs and additional officers, as it deems necessary, considering that the Bureau must be composed of no fewer than eight persons. A call for nominations for Bureau members was sent out in June 2024 to all focal points.

Documentation

Rules of procedure of the Meeting of the Parties (ECE/MP.WAT/54/Add.2)

Informal document

List of candidates for the Bureau of the Water Convention (ECE/MP.WAT/2024/INF.6)

¹³ See ECE/MP.WAT/WG.1/2024/2–ECE/MP.WAT/WG.2/2024/2 (forthcoming)

13. National Policy Dialogues on Integrated Water Resources Management

Tentative timing: Friday, 25 October, 10.20–10.50 a.m.

68. The Meeting will review work carried out since 2022 to strengthen water governance through National Policy Dialogues in countries of Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia, in particular in the framework of the “EU4Environment in the Eastern Partnership: Water Resources and Environmental Data” project – implemented jointly with the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, the Environment Agency Austria, the International Office for Water of France and the Austrian Development Agency – and the “European Union Water Initiative National Policy Dialogues in Central Asia” project, both funded by the European Union.

69. The Meeting will discuss proposed future activities in this area to be carried out in 2025–2027.

14. Facilitating funding and financing of transboundary water cooperation and basin development

Tentative timing: Friday, 25 October, 10.50–11.20 a.m.

70. The Meeting will review work carried out since 2022 to facilitate funding and financing of transboundary water cooperation and basin development. It will review progress made in strengthening partnerships and collaboration with key technical and financial partners and in promoting the use of the publication *Funding and Financing of Transboundary Water Cooperation and Basin Development* (ECE/MP.WAT/61), including through the development and promotion of its summary version *How to Accelerate the Funding and Financing of Transboundary Water Cooperation and Basin Development? Opportunities and Challenges* (ECE/MP.WAT/72). The Meeting will also review the main outcomes and key messages of the Global workshop on funding and financing transboundary water cooperation and basin development (Geneva, 5–6 December 2023), organized in partnership with international financial institutions and other partner organizations.

71. The Meeting will discuss proposed future activities in this area to be carried out in 2025–2027.

Documentation

How to Accelerate the Funding and Financing of Transboundary Water Cooperation and Basin Development? Opportunities and Challenges (ECE/MP.WAT/72)

Funding and Financing of Transboundary Water Cooperation and Basin Development (ECE/MP.WAT/61)

Informal document

Main outcomes and key messages: Global workshop on funding and financing transboundary water cooperation and basin development, 5–6 December 2023 - Geneva and online¹⁴

15. Supporting monitoring, assessment and information-sharing in transboundary basins

Tentative timing: Friday, 25 October, 11.20–11.50 a.m.

72. The Meeting will review the activities under the programme area on monitoring, assessment and information-sharing carried out in 2022–2024, under the auspices of the Working Group on Monitoring and Assessment, in particular the update and development of guidance documents and organization of regional workshops. The publication *Good*

¹⁴ Available at <https://unece.org/info/events/event/374657>.

Practices and Lessons Learned in Data-sharing in Transboundary Basins (ECE/MP.WAT/73) will be launched.

73. The Meeting will discuss proposed future activities in this area to be carried out in 2025–2027.

Documentation

Report of the Working Group on Monitoring and Assessment on its eighteenth meeting (ECE/MP.WAT/WG.2/2023/2)

Good Practices and Lessons Learned in Data-sharing in Transboundary Basins (ECE/MP.WAT/73)

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

16. Partnerships and contribution to global processes

Tentative timing: Friday, 25 October, 11.50 a.m.–12.30 p.m.

74. In recent years, the Water Convention secretariat, Chair and Bureau have been increasingly called upon to contribute to global processes, such as the 2023 United Nations Water Conference (New York, 22–24 March 2023). In turn, such contributions and increased partnerships have supported the Convention’s globalization and its recognition at the global level, as also foreseen in the Strategy for the implementation of the Convention at the global level (ECE/MP.WAT/54/Add.2).

75. The Meeting will be informed about the secretariat’s cooperation with and contributions to relevant global processes, including UN-Water and the United Nations system-wide strategy on water and sanitation, the Transboundary Water Cooperation Coalition, as well as the World Water Forum, World Water Week, the International Decade for Action, “Water for Sustainable Development”, 2018–2028, and other relevant international processes. The Meeting will also discuss plans to contribute to major upcoming global water events, such as the One Water Summit and the 2026 United Nations Water Conference, and how transboundary water cooperation can be reflected in such events.

76. In accordance with decision IX/5 on partnerships for the global implementation of the Water Convention (ECE/MP.WAT/63/Add.2), the Meeting will review progress and gaps in the development of partnerships, invite partners to report on their related efforts with regard to transboundary water cooperation – including how they support awareness-raising and implementation of the Convention and its principles – and discuss the need and ways to foster the establishment of new partnerships.

77. In particular, with a view to supporting implementation of the Convention in new Parties, partnerships with international financial institutions have been strengthened. Representatives of international financial institutions will be invited to share information about their cooperation with the Convention and its activities. A representative of the Global Environment Facility will be invited to report on the Facility’s activities with regard to international waters and cooperation with the Water Convention, in accordance with decision VI/4 on cooperation with the Global Environment Facility (ECE/MP.WAT/37/Add.2). A representative of the World Bank will be invited to share information about synergetic activities supporting transboundary water cooperation and implementation of the Convention.

78. The Meeting will then review and be invited to adopt the draft decision on cooperation with international financial institutions.

79. Representatives of institutions supporting transboundary water cooperation at the regional level, including regional commissions and regional organizations, will be invited to report on joint efforts and synergies with the Water Convention to support a better understanding and implementation of the Convention and its activities in different regions.

80. The Meeting will then review and be invited to adopt the draft decision on cooperation with regional organizations for the implementation of the Convention.

81. The Chair of the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol on Water and Health will provide an update on progress achieved under the Protocol and past and planned cooperation between the Convention and the Protocol.

Documentation

Draft decision on cooperation with international financial institutions (ECE/MP.WAT/2024/10)

Draft decision on cooperation with regional organizations for the implementation of the Water Convention (ECE/MP.WAT/2024/11)

Review of the implementation of the Strategy for the implementation of the Convention at the global level (ECE/MP.WAT/2024/4)

Decision IX/5 on partnerships for the global implementation of the Water Convention (ECE/MP.WAT/63/Add.2)

Decision VI/4 on cooperation with the Global Environment Facility (ECE/MP.WAT/37/Add.2)

Strategy for the implementation of the Convention at the global level (ECE/MP.WAT/54/Add.2)

Informal document

GEF and the Water Convention (ECE/MP.WAT/2024/INF.7)

17. Communication and promotion

Tentative timing: Friday, 25 October, 12.30–1 p.m.

82. The Meeting will review the impact of communication efforts, such as through social media and regularly issued press releases, news stories and the newsletter of the Water Convention and its Protocol on Water and Health.

83. The secretariat will present efforts undertaken to make publications and materials developed under the Convention more accessible.

84. The Chair will recall the key role of focal points in promoting and implementing the Convention, as outlined in the Strategy for the implementation of the Convention at the global level (ECE/MP.WAT/54/Add.2) and the Meeting will review the status of nominations of focal points, by Parties and non-Parties.

Documentation

Strategy for the implementation of the Convention at the global level (ECE/MP.WAT/54/Add.2)

Decision VIII/2 on the designation and responsibilities of focal points (ECE/MP.WAT/54/Add.2)

18. International Water Assessment Centre

Tentative timing: Friday, 25 October, 3–3.30 p.m.

85. The Director of the International Water Assessment Centre, hosted by Kazakhstan since 2017, will inform the Meeting about the activities implemented in the period 2022–2024 in accordance with its programme of work.

86. The Meeting will then discuss and be invited to adopt the draft programme of work of the International Water Assessment Centre for 2025–2027, prepared in consultation with the secretariat and the Bureau.

Documentation

Draft programme of work of the International Water Assessment Centre for 2025–2027 (ECE/MP.WAT/2024/12)

Programme of work of the International Water Assessment Centre for 2022–2024 and decisions (ECE/MP.WAT/63/Add.2)

Report on the implementation of activities by the International Water Assessment Centre in 2022–2024 (ECE/MP.WAT/2024/INF.8)

19. Programme of work for 2025–2027, terms of reference of the bodies established to implement it and resources needed for its implementation

Tentative timing: Friday, 25 October, 3.30–5 p.m.

87. The secretariat will recall the development of the programme of work for 2025–2027 through a consultative process, which included and considered suggestions brought forward by different intergovernmental bodies, outcomes of activities under the Convention and a survey among countries and partners on priorities of work under the Convention for 2025–2027. On the basis of the discussions under previous agenda items, the Meeting is expected to discuss, finalize and adopt the programme of work for 2025–2027. To that end, the Meeting will discuss the activities in the draft programme of work and will:

- (a) Agree on the structure of the programme of work, future activities and lead countries;
- (b) Also agree on the intergovernmental bodies, with their respective mandates, to be established or extended in order to guide implementation of the programme of work;
- (c) Make arrangements related to the financial and human resources needed for implementing the activities in the programme of work and indicate funding for those activities according to their priority.

88. Parties and other interested States and organizations will be invited to inform the Meeting of their intention to contribute financially to the implementation of the programme of work, in line with decision IX/3 on targets for a more sustainable and predictable funding of the work under the Convention (ECE/MP.WAT/63/Add.2).

Documentation

Draft programme of work for 2025–2027 (ECE/MP.WAT/2024/2)

Decision IX/3 on targets for a more sustainable and predictable funding of the work under the Convention (ECE/MP.WAT/63/Add.2)

20. Date and venue of the eleventh session of the Meeting of the Parties

Tentative timing: Friday, 25 October, 5–5.10 p.m.

89. The Meeting will review the proposals received for hosting the eleventh session of the Meeting of the Parties, in accordance with decision IX/4 on the procedure for proposing to host future sessions of the Meeting of the Parties (ECE/MP.WAT/63/Add.2), adopted by the Meeting of the Parties at its ninth session.

90. The Meeting of the Parties will be invited to decide on the approximate date and venue for its eleventh ordinary session, taking into account the proposals received.

Documentation

Decision IX/4 on the procedure for proposing to host future sessions of the Meeting of the Parties (ECE/MP.WAT/63/Add.2)

Informal document

Overview of proposals to host the eleventh session of the Meeting of the Parties (ECE/MP.WAT/2024/INF.9)

21. Other business

Tentative timing: Friday, 25 October, 5.10–5.20 p.m.

91. Delegates wishing to propose points under this item are requested to inform the secretariat as soon as possible.

22. Presentation of the main decisions

Tentative timing: Friday, 25 October, 5.20–5.50 p.m.

92. The Chair will present the main decisions taken by the Meeting of the Parties. The Meeting will be invited to entrust the secretariat, in consultation with the Bureau, with the task of finalizing the report on its tenth session.

23. Closing of the session

Tentative timing: Friday, 25 October, 5.50–6 p.m.

93. Representatives of Estonia and Slovenia will be invited to make final statements. The Chair will then officially close the session.
