

Economic Commission for Europe

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

Meeting of the Parties

Tenth session

Ljubljana, Slovenia, 23–25 October 2024

Membership of the Implementation Committee

Note prepared by the secretariat

Summary

The present note on the membership of the Implementation Committee under the Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes (Water Convention) was prepared pursuant to Decision VI/1 (ECE/MP.WAT/37/Add.2) of the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention, and further to the elections of the members of the Committee at the sixth (Rome, 28–30 November 2012), seventh (Budapest, 17–19 November 2015), eighth (Astana, 10–12 October 2018) and ninth (Geneva, 29 September – 1 October 2021) sessions of the Meeting of the Parties (ECE/MP.WAT/37, ECE/MP.WAT/49, ECE/MP.WAT/54 and ECE/MP.WAT/63, respectively). It was prepared by the secretariat for the information of the Parties to the Convention so as to facilitate the nomination and election of members of the Implementation Committee at the tenth session of the Meeting of the Parties, which is scheduled to take place from 23 to 25 October 2024 in Ljubljana, Slovenia.

Introduction

1. The Implementation Committee under the Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes (Water Convention) was established at its sixth session of the Meeting of the Parties (Rome, 28–30 November 2012), with the aim to facilitate, promote and safeguard the implementation and application of and compliance with the Convention. The Committee consists of nine members, who serve in their personal capacity. Members of the Committee include legal and technical professionals with recognised expertise. The structure, functions and procedures of the Committee are defined in Decision VI/1 on support to implementation and compliance (ECE/MP.WAT/37/Add.2).¹

2. At its tenth session, scheduled to take place in Ljubljana, Slovenia, from 23 to 25 October 2024, the Meeting of the Parties to the Water Convention will consider the future composition of its Implementation Committee. The procedure for this is set out in Decision VI/1.

3. When the Implementation Committee was established, based on Decision VI/1, at its sixth session in 2012, the Meeting of the Parties elected five members of the Committee for a full term of office (six years) and four members for a half term of office (three years). Subsequently, starting from the seventh session in 2015, the Meeting of the Parties elected for a full term of office new members to replace those whose term has expired or re-elected existing members for a full term or for a half term.

4. A full term of office commences at the end of an ordinary session of the Meeting of the Parties and runs until the second ordinary session thereafter. In accordance with Decision VI/1, members shall not serve for more than two consecutive terms, unless the Meeting of the Parties decides otherwise.

I. Situation with the membership of the Implementation Committee at the time of the tenth session of the Meeting of the Parties

5. The situation with the membership of the Implementation Committee at the time of the tenth session of the Meeting of the Parties is summarized in table 1.

6. The following three members of the Implementation Committee – Mr. Kari Kinnunen, Mr. Stephen McCaffrey and Mr. Ivan Zavatsky – were re-elected for a full term of office at the eighth session of the Meeting of the Parties in 2018.² Their second term of office runs until the tenth session of the Meeting of the Parties in 2024. By the time of the tenth session of the Meeting of the Parties, they would have served two consecutive terms. These members are normally not eligible for re-election at the tenth session.

7. Mr. Attila Tanzi, the current Chair of the Committee, was elected for half term of office at the sixth session of the Meeting of the Parties in 2012 and subsequently re-elected for a full term of office at the seventh session of the Meeting of the Parties in 2015³ and for a half term of office at the ninth session of the Meeting of the Parties in 2021⁴. By the time of the tenth session of the Meeting of the Parties, this member would have served two consecutive terms. He is normally not eligible for re-election at the tenth session.

¹ More information about the Implementation Committee, including Decision VI/1, is available at <https://unece.org/environment-policy/water/about-the-convention/convention-bodies/implementation-committee>

² See ECE/MP.WAT/54, para. 57.

³ See ECE/MP.WAT/49, para 36.

⁴ See ECE/MP.WAT/63, para. 39.

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8. Mr. Martins Paporinskis and Mr. Pedro Cunha Serra were elected for their first term of office at the eighth session of the Meeting of the Parties in 2018.⁵ Their first term of office runs until the tenth session of the Meeting of the Parties. There is a need for re-election or substitution of these members at the tenth session of the Meeting of the Parties.

9. Ms. Dinara Ziganshina was re-elected for her second term of office at the ninth session of the Meeting of the Parties in 2021.⁶ Her second term of office runs until the eleventh session of the Meeting of the Parties in 2027. There is no need for substitution or re-election of this member at the tenth session of the Meeting of the Parties.

10. The following two members of the Committee – Mr. Makane Moïse Mbengue and Ms. Jovanka Ignjatovic – were elected for their first term of office at the ninth session of the Meeting of the Parties in 2021.⁷ Their first term of office runs until the eleventh session of the Meeting of the Parties in 2027. There is no need for substitution or re-election of these members at the tenth session of the Meeting of the Parties.

11. Thus, at the tenth session of the Meeting of the Parties, four members of the Committee are normally not eligible for re-election and therefore need to be replaced, and two members of the Committee can be re-elected or substituted. Three members of the Committee continue their mandates until 2027.

Table 1: Membership of the Implementation Committee (as at 31 May 2024)

	MOP6-MOP7 (2012-2015)	MOP7-MOP8 (2015-2018)	MOP8-MOP9 (2018-2021)	MOP9-MOP10 (2021-2024)	MOP10-MOP11 (2024-2027)
Ms. Vanya Grigorova (nominated by Bulgaria)	Elected for full term at MOP6				
Mr. Kari Kinnunen (nominated by Finland)	Elected for full term at MOP6		Re-elected for full term at MOP8		
Mr. Stephen McCaffrey (nominated by Switzerland)	Elected for full term at MOP6		Re-elected for full term at MOP8		
Mr. Aliaksandr Stankevich (nominated by Belarus)	Elected for full term at MOP6				
Mr. Ivan Zavadsky (nominated by Slovakia)	Elected for full term at MOP6		Re-elected for full term at MOP8		
Mr. Johan Gerrit Lammers (nominated by the Netherlands)	Elected for half term at MOP6	Re-elected for full term at MOP7			
Mr. Saghit Ibatullin (nominated by Kazakhstan)	Elected for half term at MOP6				
Ms. Anne Schulte-Wülver-Leidig (nominated by Germany)	Elected for half term at MOP6	Re-elected for full term at MOP7			
Mr. Attila Tanzi (nominated by Italy)	Elected for half term at MOP6	Re-elected for full term at MOP7		Re-elected for half term at MOP9	
Ms. Dinara Ziganshina (nominated by Uzbekistan)		Elected for full term at MOP7		Re-elected for full term at MOP9	
Mr. Martins Paporinskis (nominated by Latvia)			Elected for full term at MOP8		Eligible for re- election at MOP10
Mr. Pedro Cunha Serra (nominated by Portugal)			Elected for full term at MOP8		Eligible for re- election at MOP10
Mr. Makane Moïse Mbengue (nominated by Senegal)				Elected for full term at MOP9	
Ms. Jovanka Ignjatovic (nominated by Serbia)				Elected for full term at MOP9	

⁵ See ECE/MP.WAT/54, para. 57.

⁶ See ECE/MP.WAT/63, para. 39.

⁷ See ECE/MP.WAT/63, para. 39.

II. Nominations for the election of Committee members at the tenth session of the Meeting of the Parties

12. In accordance with Decision VI/1, Committee members shall be elected by the Meeting of the Parties from among candidates nominated by the Parties. To that end, Parties may take into consideration any proposal for candidates made by Signatories or by non-governmental organizations (NGOs) qualified or having an interest in the fields to which the Convention relates.

13. Committee members shall be persons with experience and recognized expertise in the fields related to the Convention, including legal and/or scientific and technical expertise. Members shall serve in their personal capacity, i.e. they should be independent experts not working for a government. The Committee works in English language.

14. Nominations shall be sent by Parties to the secretariat in at least one of the official languages of the Convention **not later than 30 July 2024**, i.e. 12 weeks before the opening of the tenth session of the Meeting of the Parties. Each nomination shall include the curriculum vitae of the candidate (not exceeding 600 words) and may include supporting material. The secretariat will distribute the nominations and the curricula vitae with the supporting material, if any, as soon as they become available, by uploading them on the webpage of the tenth session of the Meeting of the Parties.

15. In accordance with Decision VI/1, in the election of the Committee members, consideration shall be given to the geographical distribution of membership and to the diversity of experience and expertise. As at 31 May 2024, the Convention has 52 Parties, including nine Parties from Africa, one from Latin America and one from Middle East.

16. Parties are encouraged to take into account gender considerations when nominating candidates and deciding on the composition of the Committee.

17. The elections of the Committee members will be governed by the rules of procedure for meetings of the Parties (ECE/MP.WAT/54/Add.2). In the past, decisions on the composition of the Committee were taken by consensus.
