

**Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary
Watercourses and International Lakes**



BUREAU/2009/1

BUREAU OF THE MEETING OF THE PARTIES

Twelfth meeting
Geneva, 6 – 7 July 2009

ANNOTATED PROVISIONAL AGENDA FOR THE TWELFTH MEETING

Prepared by the secretariat

The twelfth meeting of the Bureau will take place in the Palais des Nations in room S-4 (third floor, former room F3). It will start on 6 July 2006 at 10 a.m. and finish on 7 July at 4 p.m. The meeting will be held in English.

Bureau members should be in possession of a long-duration badge to enter the Palais des Nations, valid until September 2009. If this is not the case please contact: olga.carlos@unece.org.

The meeting will be held back-to-back with the fourth meeting of the Working Group on Integrated Water Resources Management, scheduled for 8-9 July for which information and documents are available on: http://www.unece.org/env/water/meetings/documents_WGIWRM.htm.

- 1. Adoption of the agenda**
(6 July, 10.00 - 10.10)
- 2. Implementation of the work plan**
(10.10 - 13.00 and 14.00 – 15.30)

The chairpersons of the Working Group on Monitoring and Assessment and of the Working Group on Integrated Water Resources Management together with the secretariat will brief the Bureau about recent developments in the implementation of the current work plan, with a special focus on:

- The second assessment of transboundary rivers, lakes and groundwaters in the UNECE region (Lea)
- The project proposal to strengthen capacity for data administration for monitoring and assessment of transboundary water resources in EECCA (secretariat)
- The Guide to implementing the Convention and the proposed follow-up activity to support implementation and compliance with the Convention (secretariat)
- Water and adaptation to climate change in transboundary basins, including flood and

drought risk management and the proposed follow-up activities on pilot projects (secretariat);

- Ecosystem services and payments for such services in integrated water resources management (Sibylle);
- Joint Ad Hoc Expert Group on Water and Industrial Accidents (Heide and Massimo);
- Protocol on Civil Liability (secretariat and Maria).
- European Union Water Initiative and National Policy Dialogues (secretariat)
- Transboundary water cooperation and integrated water resources management in Central Asia (secretariat);
- Promotion of the Convention (Heide).

3. Preparations for the fifth Meeting of the Parties to the Convention (MOP-5)

(a) Agenda and documentation (15.30 - 17.00)

The Bureau will consider a draft agenda prepared by the secretariat and make arrangements, as appropriate, to ensure the smooth, efficient and successful running of the meeting.

It will also examine a list of official documents to be submitted for the fourth Meeting of the Parties and make arrangements for their preparation.

(b) Organization of a special high-level event during the fifth meeting of the Parties (17.00 - 17.30)

The Bureau will discuss the possibility to organize a high-level event - at the Ministerial level - during the meeting of the Parties.

Considering that the theme of the event should be closely related to the work under the Convention and attract high level participation from a number of countries, a possible focus of the event could be transboundary water cooperation in Central Asia and the role of the Convention.

The Bureau will discuss this and other options and provide its guidance to the secretariat and to the host country on the substantial and practical aspects of the organization.

(c) Practical arrangements (17.30 – 18.30 and 7 July 9.00 - 12.30)

- **Chairing the fifth meeting**

The Bureau may wish to agree on who will chair the fifth meeting, taking into account Rules 17 and 18 of the Rules of Procedure, adopted at the fourth meeting of the Parties.

- **Invitations to Parties and non-Parties (including representatives of international governmental and non-governmental organizations)**

Given that the UNECE Executive Secretary will notify Parties and competent non-Parties about the meeting, the Bureau may wish to recommend that the Government of Switzerland should consider writing a letter to the environment ministers and other important stakeholders inviting them to designate senior officials to participate in the meeting of the Parties.

The Bureau will also discuss and agree on which international organizations and non-governmental organizations should be invited.

Given the amendment adopted at the third meeting opening the Convention to countries outside the UNECE region, the Bureau might wish to discuss whether and which non-ECE countries should be invited to the MOP and make arrangements to support their participation, if needed.

- **Organization of work at the meeting and creation of ad hoc groups**

As in previous meetings, it is suggested to have an ad hoc group on the draft work plan.

In accordance with previous discussions, it has been decided not to prepare a declaration of the Meeting of the Parties. Therefore there will not be a specific ad hoc group on that.

The Bureau will advise on the need to foresee any additional ad hoc groups, in particular in relation to the draft guide to implementing the Water Convention, in case comments to the guide are too many that they cannot be managed in plenary and/or on the second assessment of transboundary waters in SEE.

- **ECE donors meeting**

As already done at the last meeting, a donor's meeting will be convened at lunchtime on Wednesday 11 November to raise funds to implement relevant items of the programme of work. The Bureau may wish to advise the secretariat on the countries and donor organizations that should be invited to the donor's meeting and on the practical arrangements.

- **Side events during the fifth meeting of the Parties**

There would be the possibility to invite some partner organizations to organize lunch side events (2 or more if in parallel) during the meeting of the Parties. The Bureau should advise on whether this should be pursued and what could be the themes of such side events and who should be invited to organize them.

- **Hospitality and social events**

The Bureau will make some suggestions on the social events to be organized during the fifth meeting of the Parties.

- **Promotion of the fifth meeting of the Parties**

The Bureau will discuss and make arrangements on the steps to be taken in order to broadly disseminate information on the meeting of the Parties.

- **Budget for the fifth meeting of the Parties**

On the basis of information from the host county, the Bureau will discuss and make arrangements related to possible additional resources needed for the fifth meeting of the Parties.

4. Implementation of the Convention between the fifth and the sixth meeting of the Parties (7 July, 12.30- 13.00 and 14.00- 15.30)

- **Bureau**

The Bureau will exchange views on potential new candidates for the Bureau, including chairpersons of working groups to be elected at the fifth meeting.

The chairperson of the Bureau will share her views on the need to strengthen the role of the Bureau and on possible ways and means to do so.

- **IWAC**

Mr. Minarik, director of IWAC, will inform the Bureau about the future plans for IWAC and how the Center plans to support implementation of the Convention and its workplan, including the financial resources available to this end.

- **Work plan for 2010-2012**

The Bureau will examine a draft work plan for 2010-2012 prepared by the secretariat and the chairpersons of the two working groups. It may wish to discuss and make arrangements on the following subjects:

- Terms of reference of Working Groups and other subsidiary bodies, possible composition and terms of reference of the Bureau;
- Lead parties;
- Ways and means to finalization the draft work plan for submission to the fifth meeting of the Parties.

- **Resources needed to implement the draft work plan, including options for a new funding mechanism**

The Bureau will make arrangements to submit to the fifth meeting of the Parties a tentative budget for the implementation of the draft work plan 2010-2012 reflecting the decisions of the two Working Groups.

It will also discuss and make arrangement on how to raise the needed resources. In particular it will address the human resource needs of the secretariat and discuss how to ensure that the current capacity is maintained and strengthened to be able to face to the increasing demand.

Finally the Bureau will consider the recent discussions within the framework of the Protocol on Water and Health, and in particular at the second meeting of the Working Group on Water and Health, on the options to establish “stable and predictable sources of funding and a fair sharing of

the burden". The Bureau will discuss the opportunity to also table similar discussions in the framework of the Water Convention.

- **Date and venue of the sixth meeting of the Parties**

The Bureau will discuss possibilities for the date and venue of the sixth meeting of the Parties.

5. Cooperation with the Protocol on Water and Health
(7 July, 15.30-15.50)

The Bureau will be informed about progress made in the implementation of the programme of work under the Protocol on Water and Health and about the preparations for the 2nd meeting of the Parties to the Protocol on Water and Health, to be held in 2010 in Romania. The Bureau will consider ways and means how to strengthen cooperation on work and activities under the Convention and the Protocol.

6. Other business

At the time of writing, the secretariat had no points to propose under this agenda item.

7. Closing

The Chairman will close the meeting on 7 July 2009 at 4 p.m.