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**ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE**

**CONVENTION ON THE PROTECTION AND USE OF TRANSBOUNDARY  
WATERCOURSES AND INTERNATIONAL LAKES**

**MEETING OF THE PARTIES  
TO THE CONVENTION**

**REPORT OF THE SECOND MEETING**

**held at The Hague, Netherlands, from 23 to 25 March 2000  
at the invitation of the Government of the Netherlands**

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## **Introduction**

1. The second meeting of the Parties to the Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes was held at The Hague from 23 to 25 March 2000 at the invitation of the Government of the Netherlands.
2. The meeting was attended by delegations from the following Parties to the Convention: Albania, Austria, Croatia, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Latvia, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Romania, Russian Federation, Slovakia, Slovenia, Sweden, Switzerland, Ukraine and the European Community. It was also attended by the delegations of Poland and Spain, which had ratified the Convention less than 90 days before and so were not yet Parties to the Convention.
3. The meeting was attended by observers from the following ECE countries: Belarus, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Canada, Czech Republic, Georgia, Lithuania, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey and United Kingdom.
4. It was also attended by representatives of the following United Nations organizations and programmes: Economic Commission for Europe (UN/ECE), Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA), International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (ISDR, formerly known as International Strategy for Natural Disaster Reduction (ISNDR)), United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), Regional Office for Europe of the World Health Organization (WHO/EURO) and Global Runoff Data Centre established under the auspices of the World Meteorological Organization (WMO).
5. Representatives of the joint bodies established for the rivers Danube, Meuse and Scheldt participated as observers.
6. Representatives of the following non-governmental organizations also participated as observers: Centre for Transboundary Cooperation (formerly known as NGO Lake Peipsi), European Eco-Forum, Globe International, International Agency for Non-governmental Environmental Assessments "Ecoterra", International Association for Water Law (IAWL), International Lake Environment Committee (ILEC) and the Preparatory Committee for the 2001 World Lake Conference.
7. The list of meeting documents is annexed (annex VIII).
8. During the opening session, Ms. Monique de Vries, Deputy Minister of Transport, Public Works and Water Management (Netherlands), made an opening statement on behalf of the host country. Mr. Kaj BÄRLUND, Director, UN/ECE, made a statement on behalf of UN/ECE, which carries out the secretariat functions for the Convention. Mr. Günter KLEIN, Director, WHO/EURO, addressed the Meeting on behalf of his organization, which carries out, jointly with UN/ECE, the secretariat functions for the Protocol on Water and Health. Mr. F. SCHLINGEMANN, Director, UNEP Regional Office for Europe, Mr. Philippe BOULLE,

Director, ISDR, and Mr. Janusz ZUREK, Chairman of the Meeting of the Signatories to the Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents addressed the Meeting on 24 March.

9. The representatives of the following delegations made opening statements: Albania, Austria, Belgium, Croatia, Czech Republic, France (also on behalf of the Commission for the Protection of the Meuse), Estonia, Finland, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Russian Federation, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Ukraine, United Kingdom, and European Community. Their statements were taken into account when considering the various agenda items, in particular for the finalization of the Declaration of the Peace Palace (annex I) and the 2000-2003 work plan (annex II).

## I. OPENING CEREMONY AND CONSTITUTION

### A. Adoption of the agenda

10. The Meeting of the Parties adopted the agenda as set out in document ECE/MP.WAT/4 with the following amendments and additions. The consideration of item 6 (d) on best agricultural practice was moved to the third meeting of the Working Group on Water Management. The proposal by the delegation of Switzerland to consider responsibility and liability regimes under the Convention (ECE/MP.WAT/4/Add.1) was included as an additional agenda item following the discussion of item 6 (c) on water and industrial accidents.

### B. Opening statements by the host authority and other delegations

11. The Meeting of the Parties welcomed the statements made by the Parties and observers and agreed to take them into account when considering the corresponding items of the agenda.

### C. Constitution of the second meeting of the Parties

12. The second meeting of the Parties was chaired by Mrs. Lea KAUPPI (Finland), who had been elected Chairperson at the end of the first meeting (ECE/MP.WAT/2). Mrs. Liliana MÂRA (Romania) was Vice-Chairperson. The second Vice-Chairperson, Mr. Gert VERWOLF (Netherlands), was unable to participate.

13. The Meeting of the Parties took note of the report of the officers of the meeting that the credentials of the Parties to the Convention were in good order. Following the proposal by the delegation of the Russian Federation, the Meeting of the Parties requested the Working Group on Legal and Administrative Aspects to reconsider rule 16 of the rules of procedure in the light of experience gained with the consideration of the credentials by the officers of the meeting and practices adopted under other environmental conventions.

14. The Meeting of the Parties established two ad hoc groups: one on the draft work plan, chaired by Mr. Th. STRATENWERTH (Germany), and the other on the draft declaration, chaired by Mr. C. de VILLENEUVE (Netherlands).

## **II. PROTOCOL ON WATER AND HEALTH**

15. Following the successful drawing-up and adoption of the Protocol on Water and Health to the 1992 Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes (MP.WAT/2000/1) at the Third Ministerial Conference on Environment and Health (London, 16-18 June 1999), the Parties to the Convention considered ways and means of involving themselves actively in the interim implementation of the Protocol.

16. The Meeting of the Parties:

(a) Took note with appreciation of the work initiated by the task force on water and health with Hungary as lead country, and undertaken together with the UN/ECE and WHO/EURO secretariats, in particular the preparations for the first meeting of the Signatories to the Protocol on Water and Health and for pilot projects in a number of countries Signatories to the Protocol;

(b) Transformed the task force into an open-ended Working Group on Water and Health, chaired by Hungary, as proposed in document MP.WAT/2000/12;

(c) Requested the Signatories to assist the Working Group on Water and Health in its further preparations for the Signatories' meeting to be held, at the invitation of the Government of Hungary, in Budapest on 2-3 November 2000.

## **III. SHARING EXPERIENCE ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CONVENTION**

### **A. Bilateral and multilateral cooperation on transboundary waters: the role of joint bodies**

17. The Meeting examined the note by the secretariat on bilateral and multilateral cooperation and joint bodies (MP.WAT/2000/2), compiled on the basis of delegations' replies to a questionnaire finalized at the first meeting of the Working Group on Water Management. It also considered the outcome of the workshop on the theme "From dispute to consensus - the role of bi-national and multi-national commissions on transboundary waters", held in Bonn (Germany) on 13-14 September 1999.

18. The Meeting of the Parties:

(a) Took note of the review of activities on bilateral and multilateral cooperation under the Convention as contained in document MP.WAT/2000/2 as well as the outcome of the workshop on bilateral and multilateral cooperation (Bonn, Germany, 13-14 September 1999);

(b) Welcomed the many activities undertaken by the Parties to comply with the Convention, and encouraged the other Parties to do likewise before its third meeting;

(c) Adopted the conclusions and recommendations, duly revised during the debate, as a further basis for finalizing the 2000-2003 work plan;

(d) Invited Parties and non-Parties to provide further information on the activities of the joint bodies and requested the secretariat to update the review and submit it to the Working Group on Water Management for consideration at its third meeting.

B. Legal and administrative aspects of implementing and further developing the Convention and its Protocol

19. The Meeting examined the activities undertaken by the task force on legal and administrative aspects, with Greece as lead country, to study the implications of United Nations conventions and other relevant environmental conventions, agreements and arrangements for the work under the Convention. It also examined a proposal for amending the rules of procedure (MP.WAT/2000/3 and Corr.1).

20. The Meeting of the Parties:

(a) Took note with appreciation of the comparative study on the Convention and the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Non-Navigational Uses of International Watercourses (background paper), and requested the secretariat to publish it as a special issue in the Water Series;

(b) Invited the Parties and non-Parties to the Convention to take this study into account when deciding on the ratification and implementation of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Non-Navigational Uses of International Watercourses;

(c) Adopted the revised rules of procedure proposed as alternative A in document MP.WAT/2000/3 and Corr.1 (see annex III below);

(d) Commended the members of the task force and the invited expert for their excellent work;

(e) Expressed its gratitude to the Government of Greece for the financial support that it had given to the task force;

(f) Transformed the task force into an open-ended Working Group on Legal and Administrative Aspects, chaired by Greece, as proposed in documents MP.WAT/2000/12;

(g) Took note of the information of the International Association for Water Law (IAWL) about the convening of an international conference on the legal aspects of sustainable water management in Bosnia and Herzegovina in spring 2001.

21. Having considered document MP.WAT/2000/13 on the terms of reference of the advisory service on legal instruments, the Meeting of the Parties:

(a) Endorsed the terms of reference of the Advisory Network on Legal Instruments under the Convention (annex IV below);

(b) Invited the Parties to nominate national experts and institutions experienced in both legal affairs and water management, and to make other contributions, as appropriate, to the future work under the Advisory Network.

C. Strategies and frameworks for monitoring compliance with the Convention and guidelines on public participation in water management

22. The Meeting examined a proposal for a strategy and framework for monitoring compliance with agreements on transboundary waters and draft guidelines on public participation in water management (MP.WAT/2000/4, 5 and Add.1, 6 and Add.1) drawn up by a group of invited experts, led by the Netherlands and assisted by the UN/ECE secretariat and the UNEP Regional Office for Europe.

23. The Meeting of the Parties:

(a) Took note of the general strategy and framework for compliance review and the draft guidelines for public participation in water management;

(b) Invited Governments in the European region participating in international river basin or lake agreements to consider applying the general strategy and framework for compliance review and the draft guidelines for public participation in water management to their respective agreements;

(c) Offered its assistance -- through the Working Group on Legal and Administrative Aspects -- to the Meeting of the Signatories to the Protocol on Water and Health to draw up multilateral arrangements of a non-confrontational, non-judicial and consultative nature for reviewing compliance for the first meeting of the Parties to the Protocol (article 15 of the Protocol);

(d) Requested the Working Group on Water Management to further develop the guidance document on public participation in water management to make the relevant provisions of the Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters (Aarhus, Denmark, 1998) operational in water management;

(e) Recommended that UN/ECE Committee on Environmental Policy should consider public participation as an additional agenda item for the forthcoming consultation between it and the Bureaux of the UN/ECE environmental conventions scheduled to take place on 27 September 2000;

(f) Commended the consultants and the other experts for their excellent work;



(g) Expressed its gratitude to the Government of the Netherlands for its financial assistance to the joint UN/ECE-UNEP project.

#### **IV. MANAGEMENT OF TRANSBOUNDARY WATERS AND CONTROL OF LAND-BASED POLLUTION**

##### **A. Management of transboundary watercourses and international lakes**

24. The Meeting considered the outcome of the 1999 workshop on management and sustainable development of international lake basins in Europe (MP.WAT/WG.1/1999/5), held in Tartu (Estonia). It also considered the proposals prepared under the auspices of the host country for possible follow-up.

25. The Meeting of the Parties:

(a) Expressed its gratitude to the Government of Estonia and to the Centre for Transboundary Cooperation for the organization of the workshop on management and sustainable development of international lake basins;

(b) Adopted the conclusions and recommendations for future work drawn up at the workshop, and decided to take them into account in the implementation of the two work-plan elements on monitoring and assessment of international lakes and on their management (annex II);

(c) Took note of the ongoing work of the International Lake Environment Committee, in particular the preparations for the ninth International Conference on the conservation and management of lakes (Shiga, Japan, 11-16 November 2001), and invited the International Lake Environment Committee to share its experience on best management practices with the Parties to the Convention.

##### **B. Flood prevention and protection**

26. The Meeting considered the two main activities of the task force on flood prevention and protection, with Germany as lead country: the preparation of the UN/ECE-IDNDR-WHO/EURO-WMO Seminar on flood prevention and protection (Berlin, 7-8 October 1999), and the drafting of guidelines on sustainable flood prevention (MP.WAT/2000/7, MP.WAT/SEM.2/3 and MP.WAT/SEM.2/4).

27. The Meeting of the Parties:

(a) Adopted the guidelines on sustainable flood prevention (MP.WAT/2000/7, annex);

(b) Invited the Parties and non-Parties to the Convention to apply these guidelines in the framework of their cooperation on transboundary water management and, as far as appropriate, in the national context;

- (c) Decided to assess the experience with the application of the guidelines at its fourth meeting (see annex I, para. 12) on the basis of a reporting scheme to be drawn up by the Working Group on Water Management;
- (d) Commended the task force led by Germany for the excellent work;
- (e) Requested the secretariat to publish these guidelines in the UN/ECE Water Series;
- (f) Expressed its gratitude to the Government of Germany for having supported the joint UN/ECE-IDNDR-WMO-WHO/EURO activity.

### C. Water and industrial accidents

28. The Meeting considered the outcome of its joint activities, with Germany as lead country, with the Meeting of the Signatories to the Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents. This included the workshop on prevention and limitation of industrial accidents with effects on transboundary waters (MP.WAT/WG.1/1998/6 and 7), held in Berlin (7-9 May 1998), and the Seminar on the prevention of chemical accidents and limitation of their impact on transboundary waters (MP.WAT/SEM.1/3), held in Hamburg, Germany (4-6 October 1999). The Meeting also considered document MP.WAT/2000/17.

29. The Meeting of the Parties:

- (a) Adopted the conclusions and recommendations of the Seminar on water and industrial accidents (Hamburg, 4-6 October 1999) as set out in the Seminar report (MP.WAT/SEM.1/3), and underlined the importance of the recommendations being implemented by the Parties to both Conventions, and, when applicable, by joint bodies;
- (b) Expressed its appreciation to the Government of Germany for hosting and organizing the Seminar;
- (c) Entrusted the existing joint ad hoc group of experts with further elaborating the short-term programme for the joint activities on water and industrial accidents, at its meeting in Budapest on 6-7 April 2000 so that the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents, might adopt it in November 2000; and took note that ISDR, UNEP and WHO/EURO were ready to assist in the further programme specification;
- (d) Agreed, in principle, to participate actively in the implementation of a programme element on water and industrial accidents, through the existing joint ad hoc group of experts on water and industrial accidents, provided that the Conference of the Parties to the Convention at its first meeting in November 2000 on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents took a favourable decision regarding the joint implementation of this programme element;<sup>1/</sup>
- (e) Agreed to nominate, where not already done so, experts for the existing joint ad hoc group of experts on water and industrial accidents by 1 December 2000, and entrusted the

secretariat with informing the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents accordingly;

(f) Invited representatives of countries that were not Parties to the Conventions, particularly those with significant problems related to water and industrial accidents, to participate in the joint ad hoc group of experts on water and industrial accidents;

(g) Decided to assess the experience with the application of the recommendations on the prevention and limitation of the effects of industrial accidents on transboundary waters at its fourth meeting (see annex I, para. 12) on the basis of a reporting scheme to be drawn up by the Working Group on Water Management.

30. The Meeting of the Parties, when discussing work on liability (see section D below), decided not to include the consideration of safety standards under the programme element on liability to be carried out under the auspices of the Working Group on Legal and Administrative Aspects. Following this decision, the Parties agreed that possibilities for developing further guidance to Parties and joint bodies for improving procedures and response measures as well as safety standards should be examined by the Working Group on Water Management as part of programme element 2.8.1 on water and industrial accidents (annex II).

#### D. Responsibility and liability

31. The Meeting of the Parties considered document MP.WAT/2000/16 prepared by the secretariat in consultation with Switzerland on a possible approach to drawing up a protocol on responsibility and liability.

32. The Meeting of the Parties entrusted an open-ended group of experts under the auspices of the Working Group on Legal and Administrative Aspects with:

(a) Assessing the relevant rules on liability, and relevant UN/ECE and other international instruments and proposals;

(b) Identifying gaps in rules on liability, which action within the framework of the Convention could help to bridge;

(c) Drawing up options for developing possible tools, including options for non-binding or legally-binding instruments, taking into account developments in other forums, particularly within the framework of UNEP;

(d) Submitting a draft report to the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents for consideration at its first meeting (Brussels, 22-24 November 2000);<sup>1/</sup>

(e) Including as appropriate the outcome of the discussion at this meeting in the final version of the report.

33. The Meeting of the Parties also:

(a) Accepted with appreciation the offer of the Chairman of the Meeting of the Signatories to the Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents as well as UNEP and WHO/EURO to assist in this activity;

(b) Invited delegations, international organizations and NGOs to nominate experts for the open-ended group.

34. Furthermore, the Meeting of the Parties decided that the report of the open-ended expert group, finalized by the Working Group on Legal and Administrative Aspects, should be submitted to the Bureau at its meeting in 2001 for consideration so that a decision could be prepared on possible ways and means of following up the activities proposed by the Working Group on Legal and Administrative Aspects. The Bureau should further proceed on the subject as part of the preparations for the Ministerial Conference "Environment for Europe" (Kiev, 2002), and develop a procedure which ensured the involvement of all the Parties to the Convention in taking decisions.

#### E. Best agricultural practice

35. The Meeting of the Parties, when adopting the agenda, decided to entrust the Working Group on Water Management with considering at its third meeting the outcome of the activity on best agricultural practice (ECE/MP.WAT/2, annex II, element 4.2 of the 1997-2000 work plan) including the secretariat note on this subject (MP.WAT/2000/8).

### V. **MONITORING AND ASSESSMENT OF TRANSBOUNDARY WATERS**

#### A. Guidelines on monitoring and assessment of transboundary rivers and groundwaters

36. The Meeting of the Parties took note of the report of the Chairman of the task force on monitoring and assessment of transboundary waters, with the Netherlands as lead country, on its activities in the 1997-2000 period including the drafting -- with the assistance of expert groups -- of: Guidelines on monitoring and assessment of transboundary groundwaters (MP.WAT/2000/9); background reports on transboundary groundwater monitoring; and Guidelines on monitoring and assessment of transboundary rivers (MP.WAT/2000/10), which update the 1996 Guidelines on water-quality monitoring and assessment of transboundary rivers (ECE/CEP/11). The Meeting noted that the task force at its seventh meeting (Bled, Slovenia, 4-6 November 1999) had thoroughly examined these documents, and had recommended them for endorsement by the Parties at their second meeting.

37. The Meeting of the Parties:

(a) Transformed the task force into an open-ended Working Group on Monitoring and Assessment, chaired by the Netherlands, as proposed in document MP.WAT/2000/12;

- (b) Endorsed the Guidelines on monitoring and assessment of transboundary groundwaters and welcomed the four background reports on: (i) inventory of transboundary groundwaters; (ii) problem-oriented approach and use of indicators, (iii) application of models; and (iv) state of the art of monitoring and assessment;
- (c) Endorsed the Guidelines on monitoring and assessment of transboundary rivers;
- (d) Invited the Parties and non-Parties to the Convention to apply these Guidelines in the framework of cooperation on transboundary water management and, as far as appropriate, in the national context;
- (e) Requested Riparian Parties to report jointly, preferably through their joint bodies, to it at its third meeting and to the Working Group on Monitoring and Assessment on their experience with the implementation of these Guidelines;
- (f) Invited non-Parties to inform it at its third meeting and the Working Group on Monitoring and Assessment about experience with in the implementation of these Guidelines;
- (g) Requested the Working Group on Monitoring and Assessment to take these reports into account when considering the need for updating the Guidelines;
- (h) Decided to assess the experience with the application of the Guidelines at its fourth meeting (see annex I, para. 12) on the basis of a reporting scheme to be drawn up by the Working Group on Monitoring and Assessment;
- (i) Requested the International Water Assessment Centre (see para. 40) to assist the Working Group on Monitoring and Assessment as well as relevant joint bodies in their efforts to provide training on issues dealt with in the Guidelines;
- (j) Requested the secretariat to issue these Guidelines in the Water Series in all UN/ECE working languages;
- (k) Commended the members of the expert groups and the other members of the task force for their excellent work;
- (l) Expressed its gratitude to the Government of the Netherlands for the provision of human and financial resources to support the activities of the task force.

#### B. Pilot programme on transboundary waters

##### 38. The Meeting of the Parties:

- (a) Took note of the report of the Chairman of the task force on monitoring and assessment on the status of implementation of the pilot projects on monitoring and assessment of eight transboundary rivers including the Bug (Belarus, Poland, Ukraine), Ipoly (Hungary, Slovakia), Kura (Azerbaijan, Georgia), Latoritca/Uzh (Slovakia, Ukraine), Morava (Czech

Republic, Slovakia), Mures (Hungary, Romania), Serverski Donets (Russian Federation, Ukraine) and Tobol (Kazakhstan, Russian Federation);

(b) Also took note of the preparations made for pilot projects on transboundary groundwaters, including the joint activities of Bosnia and Herzegovina and Croatia on monitoring their joint groundwaters;

(c) Invited senior staff of the relevant ministries in the countries carrying out pilot projects to give their continued support to these activities under the Convention and the promising work already done by riparian countries.

C. Future activities of the Working Group on Monitoring and Assessment

39. The Meeting of the Parties:

(a) Took note of the reports of the Chairman of the task force on monitoring and assessment, the delegation of Finland (lead country on monitoring and assessment of international lakes) and the delegation of Romania (lead country on monitoring and assessment of transboundary estuaries) on the future activities of the Working Group on Monitoring and Assessment;

(b) Agreed on the inclusion of these new activities in the 2000-2003 work plan (annex II, programme area III);

(c) Invited Parties and non-Parties to nominate, if they had not already done so, their experts, taking into account that the activity on lakes would start mid-May 2000 and that on estuaries in early September 2000.

D. Terms of reference of the collaborating centre on monitoring and assessment of transboundary watercourses and international lakes

40. The Meeting of the Parties, having examined document MP.WAT/2000/14:

(a) Endorsed the terms of reference of the collaborating centre on monitoring and assessment (annex V below) on the understanding that this centre would be referred to as the International Water Assessment Centre under the Convention (IWAC);

(b) Decided to establish IWAC at the Netherlands Institute for Inland Water Management and Waste Water Treatment (RIZA);

(c) Invited the Meeting of the Signatories to the Protocol on Water and Health to take these terms of reference into account when deciding on the work plan under the Protocol;

(d) Invited IWAC to start its activities in spring 2000 and provide, in particular, services to joint bodies on matters relating to the monitoring and assessment of transboundary waters as well as to countries which were carrying out pilot projects on monitoring and assessment;

(e) Requested IWAC to cooperate, if applicable, with the other Working Groups established under the Convention and the Protocol on Water and Health;

(f) Requested IWAC to cooperate particularly with the European Environment Agency and its relevant topic centres;

(g) Entrusted the Working Group on Monitoring and Assessment with preparing - within the existing resources - the annual work programmes of IWAC on the basis of proposals by delegations at meetings under the Convention and its Protocol or communicated to the secretariat, for adoption by the Meeting of the Parties or its Bureau;

(h) Decided to review the activities of IWAC at its third meeting on the basis of a report by the Chairman of the Working Group on Monitoring and Assessment;

(i) Expressed its gratitude to the Government of the Netherlands for providing the necessary human and financial resources to operate IWAC.

#### E. Laboratory quality management and accreditation

41. The Meeting of the Parties:

(a) Took note of the information by the delegation of Hungary, lead country on laboratory quality management and accreditation, about the activities undertaken in the first phase of the project by a task force and the envisaged activities to finalize the implementation of the programme element by 2003;

(b) Invited the delegation of Hungary to finalize the guidelines on laboratory quality management for consideration by the Working Group on Monitoring and Assessment at its first meeting (Makkum, Netherlands, 21-23 September 2000).

### **VI. WORK PLAN UNTIL THE THIRD MEETING OF THE PARTIES**

42. The Meeting of the Parties:

(a) Endorsed the 2000-2003 work plan (annex II below), finalized by its ad hoc group on the basis of document MP.WAT/2000/11 prepared by the drafting group with the Netherlands as lead country;

(b) Commended the drafting group led by the Netherlands and the ad hoc group led by Germany for their excellent work in preparing of the work plan.

43. Furthermore, the Meeting of the Parties:

- (a) Took note of document MP.WAT/2000/12, which examined the activities of the Working Group on Water Management, as decided by the Parties at their first meeting (ECE/MP.WAT/2, para. 32 (d)), and which proposed new terms of reference for both the Bureau and the Working Group;
- (b) Adopted the terms of reference of the Working Groups on Legal and Administrative Aspects, on Water Management, on Monitoring and Assessment, and on Water and Health (annex VI below);
- (c) Invited all Parties to the Convention to participate actively in these Working Groups;
- (d) Decided to invite those ECE countries, non-Parties to the Convention, and international bodies that actively supported the work under the Convention to participate as observers in meetings of the Working Groups;
- (e) Decided to review the activities of the Working Groups and its Bureau at its third meeting;
- (f) Requested the Chairpersons of the Working Groups to report to it as well as to the Bureau; and to keep the Chairpersons of the other Working Groups abreast of achievements;
- (g) Decided that its Bureau should consist of the Chairperson and the two Vice-Chairpersons elected at the end of its meetings and of the Chairpersons of the Working Groups;
- (h) Adopted the terms of reference of the Bureau (annex VII below);
- (i) Commended the Chairpersons and the Vice-Chairpersons of the various bodies established under the Convention for their excellent leadership and the work of the respective bodies in 1997-2000.

## VII. RESOURCES TO IMPLEMENT THE WORK PLAN

44. The Meeting took note of the report of the secretariat on the ways in which the Parties had facilitated the attendance of representatives of countries with economies in transition at meetings under the Convention. It also noted the readiness of Parties with market economies to continue providing this support to Parties.

45. The Meeting took note of a proposal by the delegation of Ukraine to establish an environmental fund to facilitate, *inter alia*, the implementation of rehabilitation measures for damaged ecosystems and to finance experts engaged in such activities. Given that the purpose of the envisaged fund would cover more than just damaged aquatic ecosystems in transboundary areas, the Meeting of the Parties recommended that the delegation of Ukraine should elaborate its proposal as a possible input into the forthcoming Ministerial Conference "Environment for Europe" to be convened in Ukraine in 2002.



## **VIII. SERVICES TO IMPLEMENT THE CONVENTION**

46. The Meeting recalled the decisions that it had taken under the agenda item on legal issues regarding the establishment of the Advisory Network on Legal Instruments under the Convention (para. 21) and under the agenda item on monitoring and assessment regarding the establishment of the International Water Assessment Centre (para. 40).

## **IX. PARTNERS IN COOPERATION: LINKS WITH OTHER SECTORS AND PROGRAMMES**

47. The Meeting of the Parties:

(a) Took note of the information provided by the delegation of the Netherlands about the outcome of the second World Water Forum and Ministerial Conference held in The Hague on 17 - 22 March 2000, including the Conference Declaration adopted on this occasion;

(b) Also took note of the water-related activities carried out under the other ECE environmental conventions and the ECE Committee on Environmental Policy, including its programme on environmental performance reviews;

(c) Decided to cooperate closely with other sectors and programmes, as specified in the Declaration of the Peace Palace (annex I below).

(d) Welcomed the proposal by the delegation of the Netherlands to explore the possibility of organizing a workshop on cooperation with joint bodies established for the protection of the marine environment and noted the readiness of the delegation of Finland to assist in the further work.

## **X. 10<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF THE ADOPTION OF THE CONVENTION**

48. The Meeting agreed to arrange for a programme to commemorate the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the adoption of the Convention, which would include activities to be carried out under the auspices of the Meeting of the Parties, such as the convening of international conferences, and activities by Riparian Parties to transboundary waters. It entrusted its Working Group on Water Management with the drawing-up of this programme.

## **XI. THE DECLARATION OF THE PEACE PALACE**

49. On the basis of a draft text prepared by the drafting group with the Netherlands as lead country (MP.WAT/2000/15) and finalized by the ad hoc group, the Meeting of the Parties:

(a) Adopted its policy declaration – the Declaration of the Peace Palace (annex I below);

(b) Commended the ad hoc group and the drafting group led by the Netherlands for its excellent work.

## **XII. ELECTION OF OFFICERS FOR THE THIRD MEETING OF THE PARTIES**

50. The Meeting of the Parties unanimously elected Mr. Carel de VILLENEUVE (Netherlands) as Chairperson, and Mr. Manuel VARELA (Spain) and Mr. Sergey TVERITINOV (Russian Federation) as Vice-Chairpersons, respectively.

51. The Meeting of the Parties expressed its great appreciation and thanks to the outgoing Chairperson, Mrs. Lea KAUPPI, for the outstanding services that she has provided to the Parties since the entry into force of the Convention in 1996. Her leadership in the preparatory process for the first meeting of the Parties, her assistance in the drawing-up and adoption of the Protocol on Water and Health, her commitment to assisting the countries in transition, and her able leadership of the meetings of the Bureau and the first and second meetings of the Parties had made the joint work under the Convention a real success and opened the way for close cooperation with other international governmental and non-governmental organizations working on water-and health-related issues. The Parties also expressed their appreciation and thanks to Mrs. Liliana MÂRA and Mr. Gert VERWOLF for their excellent work for the meetings of the Parties and the bodies established under the Convention.

52. Following earlier decisions, the Bureau of the Meeting of the Parties would consist of these officers as well as the Chairpersons of the Working Groups on Legal and Administrative Aspects, on Water Management on Monitoring and Assessment and on Water and Health. Until the officers of these Working Groups were elected, the Chairpersons of the respective former task forces would act as Chairpersons: Mrs. Phani DASKALOPOULOU-LIVADA (Greece) on legal and administrative aspects; Mr. Milan MATUSKA (Slovakia) on water management; Mr. Wim COFINO (Netherlands) on monitoring and assessment; and Mr. Alan PINTER (Hungary) on water and health.

## **XIII. DATE AND VENUE OF THE THIRD MEETING OF THE PARTIES**

53. The Parties welcomed the offer of the Government of Spain to host their third meeting in Spain in 2003.

#### **XIV. ADOPTION OF THE REPORT**

54. The Meeting of the Parties:

- (a) Adopted its report of its sessions of 23 and 24 March 2000 on the basis of a draft prepared by the secretariat;
- (b) Adopted the Declaration of the Peace Palace (annex I);
- (c) Entrusted its officers to adopt on its behalf the report of its session of 25 March 2000 on the basis of a draft to be prepared by the secretariat.<sup>1/</sup>

#### **XV. CLOSING OF THE MEETING**

55. The Meeting of the Parties commended the secretariat for its excellent and productive work and the high quality of the documents.

56. On behalf of the participants, the delegate of the Russian Federation thanked the Government of the Netherlands and the host of the meeting, the Netherlands Ministry of Transport, Public Works and Water Management, for the excellent arrangements that had been made and for the cordial hospitality extended to them during the meeting. The participants expressed their gratitude for the financial assistance provided by the Netherlands to enable representatives of countries in transition as well as NGOs to attend the meeting, and to provide interpreters and to cover the participation of secretariat staff.

#### Note :

<sup>1/</sup> When finalizing the report, the secretariat drew the attention of the officers to the need to amend the wording of a decisions taken on 24 March. With the adoption of the report of the Seminar on water and industrial accidents (see para. 29), the Parties decided that the joint ad hoc expert group on water and industrial accidents should continue its work. The establishment of an additional task force on this issue, as decided afterwards by the Parties, contradicts this decision and caused confusion in the discussion of the results of the debate on water and industrial accidents with the Bureau of the Industrial Accidents Convention. The secretariat has therefore recommended the replacement of the wording “joint task force” by “the existing joint ad hoc

Annex I

**DECLARATION OF THE PEACE PALACE**

1. WE, THE PARTIES TO THE CONVENTION, gathered at The Hague, Netherlands, from 23 to 25 March 2000 for our second meeting, reaffirm the conclusions of our first meeting (Helsinki, 2 - 4 July 1997).
2. Moreover, we welcome the outcome of the Second World Water Forum and the Ministerial Conference (The Hague, 17 - 22 March 2000) and stress the challenge of sharing water resources by promoting peaceful cooperation through sustainable river basin management. We also stress the need to work together with stakeholders to make pollution control strategies based on the polluter-pays principle more effective and to consider appropriate rules and procedures to govern liability and compensation for damage resulting from activities dangerous to water resources.
3. We most heartily welcome the adoption in London, on 17 June 1999, of the Protocol on Water and Health to the Convention as an important tool for ensuring safe drinking water and adequate sanitation to all citizens throughout the UN/ECE region.
4. We welcome the forthcoming adoption of the EC Directive establishing a framework for Community action in the field of water policy, which may inspire sustainable water management well beyond the borders of the European Union.
5. We commit ourselves to contributing to the periodical review of the implementation of chapter 18 of Agenda 21 on freshwater resources, using appropriate forums, including the meeting in Bonn (Germany) in 2002, and the Rio+10 assessment. We offer to share our experience with other regions in the world.
6. We are ready to cooperate with the newly established Regional Technical Advisory Committees of the Global Water Partnership in Europe, with the aim of furthering the objectives of our Convention.
7. We welcome those Parties that have ratified the Convention since our first meeting. We encourage all UN/ECE member countries to ratify the Convention and the Protocol, and invite all other countries to draw on its provisions when formulating and implementing their water policies. We encourage all UN/ECE member countries to update their agreements and arrangements and to conclude and ratify new ones in accordance with the provisions of the Convention.
8. We invite the executive bodies of related conventions, the UN/ECE Committee on Environmental Policy, and other relevant bodies, organizations and institutions to cooperate actively in our work so that both sides can benefit from each other's experience.
9. We take note with appreciation of the comparative study on the UN/ECE Convention

on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes and the 1997 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Non-Navigational Uses of International Watercourses. We stress the complementarity of these instruments in strengthening worldwide water legislation.

10. We recognize with appreciation that since the Convention's adoption considerable progress has been made institutionally by creating new joint bodies and improving collaboration through existing ones. We stress the importance of joint bodies for achieving the objectives of our Convention, and for drawing up joint action programmes. Within the joint bodies to which our Convention applies, we commit ourselves to increasing cooperation with the relevant coastal States and regional sea commissions, as appropriate.

11. We underline the message, contained in the recent European Environment Agency's environment report, that much remains to be done in Europe to improve water ecosystems. In this light, we welcome the close cooperation established between the Convention's bodies and the Agency.

12. We adopt the following documents submitted to us:

- (a) The Recommendations on the prevention and limitation of the effects of industrial accidents on transboundary waters;
- (b) The Guidelines on monitoring and assessment of transboundary rivers;
- (c) The Guidelines on monitoring and assessment of transboundary groundwaters;
- (d) The Guidelines on sustainable flood prevention.

We will assess the experience with their application at our fourth meeting.

13. We take note of the draft guidelines on public participation and the draft compliance review procedure prepared by a joint group of experts of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe and the Regional Office for Europe of the United Nations Environment Programme, at the initiative of the Netherlands, and will further discuss their contents.

14. Our cooperation during the next three years will focus on four programme areas, as elaborated in our 2000-2003 work plan:

- (a) Implementation and compliance;
- (b) Integrated management of water and related ecosystems;
- (c) Monitoring and assessment;
- (d) Water and health.

15. Worried about the serious consequences of recent water-related accidents and aware of the discussions that they have triggered also in other international forums on how to prevent such accidents in the future and better control their consequences, we will: assess relevant liability rules; identify possible gaps with regard to liability rules where action under our Convention is called for; and draw up options with the view of developing tools, including non-binding or legally binding instruments. In parallel we will also examine possibilities for providing the Parties to the Convention and joint bodies with guidance for improving preventive and response measures as well as safety standards. In doing so we will seek appropriate cooperation with the Conference of the Parties to the UN/ECE Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents.

16. We welcome and gratefully accept the offer of the Government of the Netherlands to establish a collaborating centre -- the International Water Assessment Centre -- under the Convention.

17. We will continue to encourage countries with economies in transition that are riparian to the same transboundary waters to prepare and carry out joint projects on human resources development and institutional capacity-building to resolve existing water-management problems and prevent future disputes over water resources. We will also continue to support the UN/ECE Regional Advisory Service Programme in facilitating the preparation and implementation of such joint activities under the Convention and the Protocol. We count on the assistance of this Programme, particularly its Advisory Service on Legal Instruments, in the implementation of our work plan and of the relevant decisions and recommendations of the Third Ministerial Conference on Environment and Health.

18. We invite donor countries, financial institutions and funding mechanisms that carry out assistance projects (such as the World Bank, the Global Environment Facility, the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, the European Investment Bank and the European Commission, and subregional assistance programmes) to give high priority to relevant joint country initiatives when deciding on funding.

19. We, the Parties, note with appreciation that at this meeting UN/ECE member countries that have not yet become Parties to the Convention have associated themselves with this declaration.

20. We express our gratitude to the Government of the Netherlands for hosting our meeting and for its generous hospitality.

21. We welcome the offer of the Government of Spain to host our third meeting in the year 2003.

Annex II

**WORK PLAN 2000-2003**

**PROGRAMME AREA I: IMPLEMENTATION AND COMPLIANCE**

Responsible body: Working Group on Legal and Administrative Aspects, with Greece as lead Party.

Rationale: Many countries need methodologies and/or practical advice on how to comply with the provisions of the Convention. Such assistance is an integral component of all programme areas. In particular, programme area I will provide assistance for the drawing-up, revision, adaptation and implementation of bilateral and multilateral agreements on transboundary waters and provide advice so as to avoid inconsistencies with the Convention and other UN/ECE environmental conventions. The establishment of compliance review systems will be facilitated and the conformity of bilateral and multilateral agreements and other arrangements with the basic principles of the Convention will be reviewed.

**1.1 Review of policies and strategies for the protection and use of transboundary waters**

Objectives: The Meeting of the Parties will regularly review policies for, and methodological approaches to, the protection and use of transboundary waters, and exchange information on steps taken by the Parties for the implementation of the Convention. This will be part of its efforts to follow closely recent developments in the protection and rational use of inland waters, at both the national and international levels in the ECE region, and facilitate the convergence of policies and strategies. This review will also facilitate the selection of priorities for policy discussion at its meetings and form a basis for identifying areas of specific cooperation. This activity is an important part of the monitoring of the implementation of the Convention.

Work accomplished: Review of the implementation of the Convention's provisions regarding joint bodies (MP.WAT/2000/2). Compilation of agreements on transboundary waters to be constantly updated by the secretariat (<http://www.unece.org/env/water>).

**1.1.1 Implementation of the Convention's provisions on bilateral and multilateral agreements**

Work to be undertaken: Update the compilation of agreements on transboundary waters in the UN/ECE region on the basis of replies by countries to the relevant part of the questionnaire.

Lead Party: Greece.

Main partners: Working Group on Water Management, United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) as well as relevant NGOs.

### **1.1.2 Implementation of the Convention's provisions regarding joint bodies**

Work to be undertaken: Updated the review of the implementation of the Convention's provisions regarding joint bodies in the UN/ECE region on the basis of replies to the relevant part of the questionnaire.

Lead Party: none, to be implemented by the secretariat.

Main partners: Working Group on Water Management, Meeting of the Parties to the Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context (EIA Convention), Conference of the Parties to the Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents (Industrial Accidents Convention), Meeting of the Signatories to the Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters (Aarhus Convention) as well as relevant NGOs.

## **1.2 Strategy and framework for compliance with the Convention**

Objectives: Guidance will be offered to joint bodies willing to evaluate their compliance with the Convention. Such assistance will be given to joint bodies upon request.

Work accomplished: Proposal for a strategy and framework for monitoring compliance with agreements on transboundary waters prepared by a group of invited experts (MP.WAT/2000/4, 5 and Add.1).

Work to be undertaken: (a) Review, at the request of the Parties or joint bodies, major agreements and other arrangements regarding their compliance with article 9, paragraph 1, of the Convention; (b) assess the findings of a group of invited experts as a possible basis for developing guidelines aimed at supporting joint bodies in developing their compliance assessment.

Lead Party: none, to be implemented through the Advisory Service on Legal Instruments (see programme element 1.3).

Main partners: Working Group on Water Management, UN/ECE Committee on Environmental Policy, Meeting of the Signatories to the Aarhus Convention, UNEP, WHO/EURO as well as relevant NGOs.



### **1.3 Advisory service on legal instruments**

Objectives: The Meeting of the Parties will assist Parties to the Convention, as well as non-Parties, at their request, to draw up new or adapt existing agreements on transboundary waters in line with the provisions of article 9 as well as other relevant articles. It will also examine whether existing agreements are in line with the provisions of the Convention and advise on steps to be taken to avoid contradictions. Assistance will also be provided to draw up, revise and/or adapt national laws/regulations on water management.

Work accomplished: Advisory service provided by Sweden to countries sharing the Daugava catchment area. Study on the relationship between the Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes and the 1997 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Non-Navigational Uses of International Watercourses (see MP.WAT/2000/3).

Work to be undertaken: Make hoc arrangements at the request of the Meeting of the Parties, its Bureau and its Working Groups as well as at the request of UN/ECE countries following the terms of reference of the Advisory Network on Legal Instruments under the Convention (MP.WAT/2000/13).

Lead Party: Greece.

Main partners: UN/ECE Regional Advisory Service, European Commission.

### **1.4 Responsibility and liability**

Objective: The Meeting of the Parties, worried about the serious consequences of recent water-related accidents and aware of the discussions that they have triggered also in other international forums on how to prevent such accidents in the future and better control their consequences, will: assess relevant liability rules; identify possible gaps with regard to liability rules where action under the Convention is called for; and draw up options with a view to developing tools, including non-binding or legally binding instruments.

Work accomplished: Final report, issued in 1990, of the former ECE task force on responsibility and liability, with Austria as lead country (ENVWA/R.45).

Work to be undertaken: Under the auspices of the Working Group on Legal and Administrative Aspects, a group of experts will draw up a preliminary report on the above issues, submit it to the Parties to the Industrial Accidents Convention for consideration at their first Conference in November 2000, and include, as appropriate, the outcome of this discussion in the final version of the report for submission to the Bureau of the Meeting of the Parties to the Water Convention in early 2001. The Bureau will prepare a decision on possible ways and means of following up the activities proposed by the Working Group. The Bureau shall further proceed on the subject as part of the preparations for the Ministerial Conference "Environment for Europe" (Kiev, Ukraine, 2002), and develop a procedure which ensures the involvement of all the Parties to the Convention in taking decisions to that effect. Account will be taken of activities to be carried

out under programme element 2.8.1 relating to the development of further guidance to Parties and joint bodies for improving procedures and response measures as well as safety standards, which will be undertaken under the auspices of the Working Group on Water Management.

Lead Party: Greece.

Main partners: Working Group on Water Management, Conference of the Parties to the Industrial Accidents Convention, UNEP, WHO/EURO and relevant NGOs.

## **PROGRAMME AREA II: INTEGRATED MANAGEMENT OF WATER AND RELATED ECOSYSTEMS**

Responsible body: Working Group on Water Management, with Slovakia as lead Party.

Rationale: The focus of programme area II is on inter-sectorial issues of water management related to the prevention, control and reduction of transboundary impact. It aims at providing assistance to the Parties in their endeavour to prevent damage to the environment; ensure the conservation and, where necessary, the restoration of aquatic ecosystems; prevent damage by waters, including river regulation, drainage, floods, droughts and erosion; promote the ecosystem approach in water management; and foster water-demand management measures, including water supply services and the rational use of water. The programme area also facilitates the work of joint bodies. It also provides advice on public information and public participation in water management. Outputs include recommendations, codes of practice and other soft-law instruments.

### **2.1 Public participation in water management**

Objectives: The Meeting of the Parties will assist countries to comply with provisions of relevant conventions, protocols and other binding and non-binding instruments to make policy- and decision-making on integrated management of catchment areas a matter of concern to both public authorities and the public. Guidance will be given to countries and joint bodies so that public participation can lead to an improvement in the quality and implementation of, and commitment to, decisions, increased accountability, increased transparency and increased public awareness of water management issues.

Work accomplished: Draft guidelines on public participation in water management (MP.WAT/2000/4, 6 and Add.1) prepared by a group of invited experts.

Work to be undertaken: Draw up policy guidelines on public participation in water management taking into account relevant provisions of the Aarhus Convention and the EIA Convention for consideration by the Parties at their third meeting.

Lead country: Netherlands.

Main partners: Working Group on Legal Aspects, Meeting of the Signatories to the Protocol on Water and Health, Meeting of the Signatories to the Aarhus Convention, UNEP, WHO/EURO as well as relevant NGOs.

## **2.2 Strengthening the capability of joint bodies to comply with the obligations under the Convention**

Objectives: The Meeting of the Parties will assist countries which are setting up or revitalizing joint bodies (e.g. river and lake commissions, border commissions) to comply with the provisions of the Convention related to the activities of joint bodies, and to strengthen cooperation between the UN/ECE conventions related to transboundary waters, industrial accidents, environmental impact assessment, public participation and long-range transboundary air pollution. Experience gained in concluding and implementing international legal instruments on the protection and use of waters will be analysed. Difficulties encountered when implementing the Convention, arising from differences in administrative practice, in management and protection responsibilities or in water use rights in riparian countries will be also examined.

Work accomplished: Workshop "from dispute to consensus - the role of binational and multinational commissions on transboundary waters", Bonn, Germany, 13-14 September 1999.

Work to be undertaken: Create a UN/ECE Web site (related to <http://www.unece.org/env/water>) listing and permanently updating joint bodies on transboundary waters as a basis for exploring the possibility of twinning between joint bodies and eventually establishing a network of joint bodies and, at their request, on-the-job-training of their representatives to facilitate the implementation of relevant provisions of the Convention as well as relevant recommendations of guidelines and other soft-law instruments drawn up under the Convention.

Lead Party: none, to be implemented by the secretariat.

Main partners: Working Group on Legal Aspects, UNEP, representatives of secretariats of joint bodies, such as the International Commissions for the Protection of the rivers Elbe, Danube, Meuse, Moselle, Oder, Rhine and Scheldt as well as regional sea commissions.

## **2.3 Ecosystem approach in water management**

Objectives: The Meeting of the Parties will provide guidance on basic approaches to preventing further deterioration and protecting and improving the status of aquatic ecosystems, to promote sustainable water use based on a long-term protection of available water resources as stipulated both in the Convention and in the proposal for a EC directive establishing a framework for Community action in the field of water policy. It will examine how countries are following a holistic approach to the environmentally sound water management of inland water resources, and review the progress made in developing a new level of national and international awareness and responsibility to solve complex and interrelated water management problems.

Work accomplished: 1993 Guidelines on the ecosystems approach in water management (ECE/ENVWA/31).

Work to be undertaken: The EC directive establishing a framework for the Community action in the field of water policy, which is expected to enter into force in the second half of 2000, will be used by the EC as legal instrument to transpose the Convention into Community legislation. Therefore, the EC directive will be an important tool for the implementation of the Convention in the region. The experience gained with implementing the directive will therefore be of major interest to non-EU Parties to the Convention. With a view to exchanging and disseminating early experience gained by the EU member States and countries applying for EU membership and to making use of this experience to possibly revise the 1993 Guidelines on the ecosystem approach in water management, a workshop will be organized jointly by Germany and Slovakia in the second half of 2001.

Lead Parties: Germany and Slovakia.

Main partners: European Commission, interested joint bodies.

#### **2.4. Management of transboundary waters in the UN/ECE region**

Description: The Meeting of the Parties will prepare, convene and follow up the second International Conference on Management of Transboundary Waters and Sustainable Development of International Lakes in the UN/ECE region, to be held in Poland, which will provide a platform for governmental officials, decision makers and planners in environmental and water authorities, representatives of joint bodies, scientists and all those who are involved in the institutional, technical, economic, legal or scientific aspects of the management of transboundary waters.

Work accomplished: Conference on Management of Transboundary Waters in Europe, Mrzezyno (Poland), 22-25 September 1997 (MP.WAT/WG.1/1998/4).

Work to be undertaken: A programme committee led by Poland will prepare and develop the conference, scheduled for 2002. The lead country will inform the Parties at their third meeting about the outcome and propose follow-up activities.

Lead Parties: Poland in cooperation with Finland, Germany and the Netherlands.

Main partners: Working Group on Monitoring and Assessment, UNEP, WHO/EURO, EC and relevant NGOs.

#### **2.5 Groundwater management**

Objectives: The Meeting of the Parties will assist countries to develop a comprehensive groundwater protection policy which goes beyond water-production areas; preserves the water quality of unpolluted aquifers; promotes the integrated management of groundwater and surface

water; and facilitates the development and use of techniques to alleviate contamination. It will develop additional specific measures to protect groundwaters against inputs of hazardous substances and overuse, following the provisions of article 3.

Work accomplished: International workshop on groundwater depletion in basin regions: problems arising between the rivers Danube and Tisza (MP.WAT/WG.1/1998/5).

Work to be undertaken: Prepare and develop the international workshop on the protection of groundwaters used as a source of drinking-water supply, to be held in Hungary in 2001. The lead country will inform the Parties at their third meeting about the outcome and propose follow-up activities to be undertaken under the Convention or its Protocol on Water and Health.

Lead Party: Hungary.

Main partners: Working Group on Monitoring and Assessment, International Hydrological Programme (IHP) of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), WHO/EURO and relevant NGOs.

## **2.6 Interstate distribution and rational use of water resources of transboundary rivers in water-deficient regions**

Objectives: The Meeting of the Parties will examine legal, administrative, economic and technical measures for the rational use of water within countries located in water-deficient regions; and develop policy guidelines for the reasonable and equitable use of transboundary waters, particularly in arid and semi-arid areas or under other physical and socio-economic constraints. Both water-quantity and water-quality aspects will be considered.

Work accomplished: 1984 UN/ECE Declaration of Policy on the Rational Use of Water; workshop on water-demand management organized under the former task force on sustainable water management, led by the Netherlands, under the auspices of the former Working Party on Water Problems (Geneva, 27-28 February 1995).

Work to be undertaken: Prepare draft recommendations on the rational use of water and interstate water distribution on the basis of responses to a questionnaire and other available information; organize and hold a workshop in the Russian Federation in 2002.

Lead Party: Russian Federation.

Main partners: Working Group on Legal Aspects and Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP).

## **2.7 Management and sustainable development of international lakes**

Objectives: The Meeting of the Parties will assist countries in promoting environmental management and sustainable development of international lakes as part of their entire basins

taking duly into account relevant international legal frameworks such as UN/ECE conventions and the forthcoming EC directive establishing a framework for Community action in the field of water policy. The experience of the lake commissions, relevant documents developed by other international organizations and the deliberations and results of international workshops in this field, e.g. the Tartu workshop, will be fully taken into account. To this end, a policy document containing a set of recommendations will be prepared covering all necessary aspects, e.g. institutional, legal, managerial, technical and scientific in the lake catchment areas, including public participation and paying special attention to the specificity of lakes as compared to other waters.

Work accomplished: International workshop on management and sustainable development in international lake basins held in Tartu (Estonia) from 15 to 17 December 1999 (MP.WAT/WG.1/1999/5).

Work to be undertaken: An international expert group on management of international lakes will be established, with Switzerland as lead country, as a forum to facilitate the exchange of information and strengthen cooperation between international lake basins. The expert group will prepare a draft policy document, following a three-step approach: collection of the existing documentation and its critical review by the expert group, drafting of a preliminary version of a policy document and final review of the draft document by the Working Group on Water Management in order to finalize it for consideration by the Parties at their third meeting in 2003. In parallel, its content will be disseminated widely.

Lead Party: Switzerland.

Main partner: International Lake Environment Committee (ILEC).

## **2.8 Water and industrial accidents**

Objectives: The Meeting of the Parties to the Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes and the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents will implement their joint programme on water and industrial accidents, further develop the recommendations contained therein, and provide advice to joint bodies and other relevant authorities, organizations and institutions to improve the safety and management of industrial installations so as to prevent transboundary accidental water pollution, taking into account the achievements of the joint bodies for the protection of the Elbe, Danube and Rhine.

Work accomplished: Workshop on prevention and limitation of industrial accidents with effects on transboundary waters, Berlin, Germany, 7-9 May 1998 (MP.WAT/WG.1/1998/7), and UN/ECE Seminar on the prevention of chemical accidents and limitation of their impact on transboundary waters, Hamburg, Germany, 4-6 October 1999 (MP.WAT/SEM.1/1999/3), organized jointly under the auspices of the Meetings of the Parties/Signatories to both Conventions.

Main partners: Meeting of the Signatories to the Protocol on Water and Health, International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (ISDR), UNEP, WHO/EURO, European Commission.

### **2.8.1 Water and industrial accidents: joint measures**

Work to be undertaken: Implement the short-term activities set out in the joint programme (MP.WAT/SEM.1/1999/3, annex I) to promote cooperation and prompt communication in the event of an industrial accident, further develop the joint programme and adapt it to changing circumstances. Joint activities may include identification of hazardous activities for the purposes of both Conventions, including safety standards, notification and alarm systems; response measures (e.g. contingency plans and joint activities aimed at testing their effectiveness) and the organization of joint exercises, taking into account the results of the consultation to be held in Budapest (Hungary) from 6 to 7 April 2000 pending their approval by the Conference of the Parties to the Industrial Accidents Convention at its first meeting and by the Working Group on Water Management at its third meeting. These joint activities shall also include the examination of the hazards from the exploration, exploitation and transport of oil as well as from tailing dams and possible safety measures to protect transboundary waters.

Lead Party: [to be determined at a later stage]

### **2.8.2 Water and industrial accidents: measures to be undertaken by each Party**

Work to be undertaken: The long-term activities set out in the joint programme (MP.WAT/SEM.1/1999/3, annex I) will be carried out by each of the Parties (by countries with market economies within a period of five years, and by countries with economies in transition within a period of ten years). These activities include the adaptation of national legal systems, the setting-up of administrative procedures and the implementation of technical measures at the level of industrial installations and within production practices. Each Party will report to the respective meetings of the Parties about achievements. The format of the reporting scheme and criteria for compliance will be considered by the Parties to both Conventions at a joint meeting, tentatively scheduled for 2003, in order to facilitate reporting by countries with market economies in 2005 and by countries with economies in transition in 2010.

Lead Party: none, to be implemented by each Party.

### **PROGRAMME AREA III: MONITORING AND ASSESSMENT**

Responsible body: Working Group on Monitoring and Assessment with the Netherlands as lead Party. The collaborative centre on monitoring and assessment, the International Water Assessment Centre (IWAC) at the Netherlands Institute for Inland Water Management and Waste Water Treatment, will assist in the implementation of the programme area.

Rationale: Programme area III will help Parties bordering the same transboundary waters to establish and implement joint programmes for monitoring the conditions of transboundary waters, including floods and ice drifts, as well as transboundary impact; agree upon pollution parameters and pollutants whose concentrations in transboundary waters shall be regularly monitored; carry out joint or coordinated assessments of the conditions of transboundary waters and the effectiveness of measures taken to prevent, control and reduce transboundary impact; exchange reasonably available data on environmental conditions of transboundary waters, including monitoring data; inform each other about any critical situation that may have a transboundary impact; and make available to the public the results of water and effluent sampling, together with the results of the verification of compliance with water-quality objectives and permit conditions.

#### **3.1 Strategies for monitoring and assessing transboundary waters**

Objectives: Guidelines, studies and reports on monitoring and assessing transboundary waters will be drawn up or revised. They will provide a framework for problem identification, specification of information needs, the use of applicable tools and the setting-up of monitoring and assessment systems for transboundary waters. Guidance will also be provided, as appropriate, on issues related to human health and safety. The guidelines will include recommendations to Governments and regional/local authorities and/or institutions of riparian countries.

Work accomplished: Guidelines on monitoring and assessment of transboundary groundwaters (MP.WAT/2000/9), and Guidelines on monitoring and assessing of transboundary rivers (MP.WAT/2000/10).

Main partners: UNEP, World Meteorological Organization (WMO), World Health Organization (WHO), European Environment Agency (EEA) and its relevant topic centres, and joint bodies set up under transboundary water agreements in Europe.

##### **3.1.1 Monitoring and assessment of international lakes**

Work to be undertaken: Prepare draft guidelines on monitoring and assessment of international lakes, including background documentation, for consideration and follow up by the Working Group on Monitoring and Assessment at its meeting in September 2000. A preparatory meeting will be held in Helsinki (Finland) from 18 to 20 May 2000.

Lead Party: Finland.



### **3.1.2 Monitoring and assessment of transboundary estuaries**

Work to be undertaken: Prepare elements for draft guidelines on monitoring and assessment of transboundary estuaries, including background documentation, for consideration and follow up by the Working Group on Monitoring and Assessment at its meetings in September 2000 and in 2001. A preparatory meeting will be held in Romania in September 2000.

Lead Party: Romania.

### **3.1.3 Updating of the Guidelines on monitoring and assessment of transboundary waters**

Work to be undertaken: The Guidelines on monitoring and assessing transboundary rivers and groundwaters will be updated, if need be, in the light of experience gained with pilot projects (see programme element 3.2), technological advances, economic and social factors as well as changes in scientific knowledge and understanding.

Lead Party: Netherlands.

## **3.2 Pilot programmes on monitoring and assessment**

Objectives: Through pilot programmes, the Meeting of the Parties will provide assistance to countries to implement the Guidelines on monitoring and assessment of transboundary waters in a number of catchment areas to illustrate the application of the Guidelines, and to make possible adjustments/improvements to them. The implementation of the Guidelines through the pilot programmes will be supported by an advisory service, training and workshops (if necessary). As far as possible, the implementation will also cover issues related to human health and safety as stipulated in the Protocol on Water and Health.

Main partners: Donor countries (Parties and non-Parties) and donor organizations/institutions; joint bodies set up under transboundary water agreements in Europe.

### **3.2.1 Pilot programme on transboundary rivers**

Ongoing work: Pilot programme on eight transboundary rivers including the rivers Bug (Belarus, Poland, Ukraine), Ipoly (Hungary, Slovakia), Kura (Azerbaijan, Georgia), Latoritca/Uzh (Slovakia, Ukraine), Maros (Hungary, Romania), Morava (Czech Republic, Slovakia), Serverski Donets (Russian Federation, Ukraine) and Tobol (Kazakhstan, Russian Federation).

Work to be undertaken: Overall supervision and project management by the Core Group on Pilot Projects. Further regular meetings of the Core Group.

Lead Party: Netherlands.

Work-sharing arrangements: Memorandums of understanding or other arrangements have been made among the riparian countries participating in the various projects.

### **3.2.2 Pilot programme on transboundary groundwaters**

Work accomplished: Guidelines on monitoring and assessment of transboundary groundwaters (MP.WAT/2000/9).

Work to be undertaken: Overall supervision and project management. The delegation of the Netherlands informed the Parties at their second meeting about arrangements made for the countries that would participate in the pilot programme.

Lead Party: Netherlands.

### **3.2.3 Pilot programme on international lakes**

Work accomplished: see the objectives and work to be undertaken in programme element 3.1.1.

Work to be undertaken: Given that the pilot programme could start in 2001/2002, project preparation, overall supervision and project management will be carried out after the completion of programme element 3.1.1.

Lead Party: Finland.

## **3.3 Laboratory quality management and accreditation**

Objectives: Following the overall objective of the programme element (see work plan 1997-2000 in ECE/MP.WAT/2, annex II), an expert group with Hungary as lead country started its activities on laboratory quality management and accreditation. Based on the outcome of the meeting of this group on 20 and 21 December 1999, the Meeting of the Parties invited the core group to finalize the draft guidelines on laboratory quality management presented to it at its second meeting as background information for the forthcoming meeting of the Working Group on Monitoring and Assessment.

Work accomplished: Preliminary draft guidelines on laboratory quality management.

Work to be undertaken: Finalize draft guidelines at further meetings of the expert group before the first meeting of Working Group on Monitoring and Assessment (Makkum, Netherlands, 21 to 23 September 2000).

Lead Party: Hungary.

## **PROGRAMME AREA IV: WATER AND HUMAN HEALTH**

Responsible body: Working Group on Water and Health, with Hungary as lead Party.

Rationale: Programme area IV focuses on the interim implementation of the Protocol on Water and Health pending its entry into force. The activities will promote sustainable water supply and management in cities and rural areas, the rehabilitation of defective water-supply and sewage systems, and the minimization of the adverse impact of human activities (e.g. waste-water discharges, water resources development projects) on human health and safety. The programme area also aims at reducing health problems and diseases due to poor water quality. The possibility of including measures on compliance into the work plan will be also explored. Soft-law instruments and methodologies will be developed. Human resources development and institutional capacity building, for example through workshops, training courses and pilot programmes or projects, are part of the activities. The work plan elements included in this programme area will be updated in the light of the decisions expected to be taken by the Signatories to the Protocol at their first meeting (Budapest, 2-4 November 2000).

### **4.1 Protocol on Water and Health: interim implementation**

Objectives: The Meeting of the Parties to the Convention will provide assistance to the Signatories to the Protocol on Water and Health to implement the Protocol's provision pending its entry into force and prepare the first meeting of the Parties to the Protocol. The collaborative centre on monitoring and assessment will assist, as appropriate, in the implementation of the programme element.

Work accomplished: Protocol on Water and Health to the 1992 Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes, adopted in London on 17 June 1999. Geneva Strategy and Framework for Monitoring Compliance with Agreements on Transboundary Waters (MP.WAT/2000/4, 5 and Add.1)

Work to be undertaken: The Working Group on Water and Health will inform the Meeting of the Signatories and the Working Group on Water Management about the outcome of its meeting on 3-4 April 2000 so that the Parties can update the present programme element and possibly include a work-plan element on compliance pending the decision by the Meeting of the Signatories to the Protocol on Water and Health and Working Group on Water Management.

Lead Party: Hungary.

Main partners: UN/ECE, WHO/EURO, UNEP, UNDP, European Commission, European Environment and Health Committee (EEHC) and relevant NGOs.

#### **4.2 Conferences on sustainable water management and health**

Objective: To assist in human resources development and institutional capacity building to implement the water-and-health-related provisions of the Convention and the Protocol, joint UN/ECE and WHO/EURO conferences on sustainable water management and health will take place. They will be designed as an all-European forum for governmental officials, decision makers and planners in environmental, water and health authorities, and representatives of major groups involved in the institutional, technical, economic, legal or scientific aspects of water management to share their experience.

Work accomplished: Round table on water and health held in Moscow during the Third International Congress and Trade Fair “Water: Ecology and Technology” (ECWATECH-1998). ”.

Work to be undertaken: Prepare and develop international conferences to be held during the fourth International Congress ECWATECH-2000 (Moscow, Russian Federation, 30 May to 2 June 2000) and expected to be held during the fifth International Congress (May 2002), and preparation of follow up activities for consideration by the Working Group on Water Management and the Meeting of the Signatories to the Protocol.

Lead Party: Russian Federation.

Main partners: UN/ECE, WHO/EURO, UNEP, European Commission and relevant NGOs.

Annex III

**RULES OF PROCEDURE  
FOR THE MEETINGS OF THE PARTIES TO THE CONVENTION ON THE  
PROTECTION AND USE OF TRANSBOUNDARY WATERCOURSES  
AND INTERNATIONAL LAKES  
as amended by the Parties at their second meeting \***

**PURPOSE**

**Rule 1**

These rules of procedure shall apply to the meetings of the Parties convened in accordance with article 17 of the Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes.

**DEFINITIONS**

**Rule 2**

For the purposes of these rules:

1. “Convention” means the Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes, adopted at Helsinki, Finland, on 17 March 1992.
2. “Parties” means Contracting Parties to the Convention.
3. “Parties present and voting” means Parties present and casting an affirmative or negative vote. Parties abstaining from voting shall be considered as not voting.
4. “Meeting of the Parties” means the body established by the Parties in accordance with article 17 of the Convention.
5. “A meeting of the Parties” means an ordinary or extraordinary meeting convened in accordance with article 17 of the Convention.
6. “Regional economic integration organization” means an organization in accordance with article 23 of the Convention.

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\* For easy reference, amendments to the former Rules of Procedure adopted by the Parties at their first meeting (ECE/MP.WAT/2, annex III) are underlined.

7. “Chairperson” means the Chairperson elected in accordance with rule 18 of these rules of procedure.

8. “Secretariat” means, in accordance with article 19 of the Convention, the Executive Secretary of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe.

## **PLACE OF MEETINGS**

### **Rule 3**

The meetings of the Parties shall be held at the United Nations Office at Geneva (UNOG), unless other appropriate arrangements are made by the Parties and/or the Bureau in consultation with the secretariat.

## **DATES OF MEETINGS**

### **Rule 4**

The Meeting of the Parties shall set the indicative date for the opening and the duration of its next ordinary meeting. Ordinary meetings shall be held at least every three years.

### **Rule 5**

The secretariat shall notify all Parties of the date and venue of a meeting of the Parties at least six weeks before it is due to take place.

## **OBSERVERS**

### **Rule 6**

1. The secretariat shall notify organizations of the United Nations system with specific competence on issues of the Convention, as well as those ECE member States and regional economic integration organizations which are entitled to become a Party to the Convention, of any meeting of the Parties so that they may be represented as observers.

2. Any other State, member of the United Nations, may also be represented as observer.

3. Such observers may participate, without the right to vote, in the meetings of the Parties in matters of direct concern to them.

### **Rule 7**

1. The Meeting of the Parties may approve, by the vote of a majority of the Parties present and voting, the admission to its meetings of observers from any other international governmental organization and from international non-governmental organizations which have special qualifications with regard to matters relating to the Convention, and may similarly terminate any such approval.
2. Such observers may at the invitation of the Meeting of the Parties participate, without the right to vote, in the proceedings of its meetings in matters of direct concern to them.

## **AGENDA**

### **Rule 8**

In consultation with the Chairperson, the secretariat shall prepare the provisional agenda of each meeting of the Parties.

### **Rule 9**

1. The provisional agenda for a meeting of the Parties shall include, where appropriate:
  - (a) Items specified in article 17, paragraph 2, of the Convention;
  - (b) Items arising from previous meetings of the Parties;
  - (c) Any item proposed by the Bureau and/or the secretariat;
  - (d) Any item proposed by a Party before the agenda is circulated.
2. The first item on the provisional agenda for each meeting shall be the adoption of the agenda.

### **Rule 10**

The provisional agenda for a meeting of the Parties together with available supporting documents shall be distributed by the secretariat to the Parties at least six weeks before the opening of the meeting.

### **Rule 11**

The secretariat shall, in consultation with the Chairperson, include any question suitable for the agenda which may arise between the dispatch of the provisional agenda and the opening of the meeting of the Parties in an addendum to the provisional agenda, which the Meeting of the Parties shall examine together with the provisional agenda.

### **Rule 12**

The Meeting of the Parties when adopting the agenda of its meeting may add, delete, defer or amend items. The Meeting of the Parties may amend the agenda at any time.

## **REPRESENTATION AND CREDENTIALS**

### **Rule 13**

Each Party participating in the meetings of the Parties shall be represented by a delegation consisting of a head of delegation and such other representatives and advisers as it thinks appropriate.

### **Rule 14**

An alternate representative or an adviser may act as a representative upon designation by the head of delegation.

### **Rule 15**

The credentials of all representatives shall be submitted to the secretariat at the opening of any meeting of the Parties. Any later change in the composition of the delegation shall also be submitted to the secretariat.

### **Rule 16**

The officers of the Meeting of the Parties shall examine the credentials and submit their report to the Meeting.

### **Rule 17**

Pending a decision of the Meeting of the Parties upon their credentials, representatives shall be entitled to participate in the meeting.



## OFFICERS

### Rule 18

1. The first meeting of the Parties shall be chaired by a representative of Finland, host country of the first meeting. If in the future a meeting is again hosted by a Party, a representative of the host country may nominate a person to chair the meeting whether or not he/she has been previously elected as a member of the Bureau.
2. At the end of each meeting, the Meeting of the Parties shall elect a Chairperson and two Vice-Chairpersons from among the representatives of the Parties.
3. The Chairperson and the Vice-Chairpersons shall serve as the officers of the Meeting of the Parties and remain in office until their successors are elected. They shall be eligible for re-election. If the Chairperson or one of the Vice-Chairpersons is permanently unable to serve as officer, the remaining members of the Bureau shall co-opt a successor by consensus. The Bureau should take into account the proposal for a successor by the Party represented by the outgoing Chairperson or Vice-Chairperson.
4. The Chairperson shall participate in the meeting of the Parties in that capacity and shall not at the same time exercise the rights of a representative of a Party. In such a case, the Party concerned shall designate another representative who shall be entitled to represent it in the Meeting of the Parties and to exercise its right to vote.

### Rule 19

1. In addition to exercising the powers conferred upon him/her elsewhere by these rules, the Chairperson shall:
  - (a) Declare the opening and closing of the meeting of the Parties;
  - (b) Preside at the sessions of the meeting;
  - (c) Ensure the observance of these rules;
  - (d) Accord the right to speak;
  - (e) Put questions to the vote and announce decisions;
  - (f) Rule on points of order;
  - (g) Subject to these rules, exercise control over the proceedings and maintain order.
2. The Chairperson may, moreover, propose:
  - (a) The closure of the list of speakers;

- (b) A limitation on the time allowed to speakers and on the number of times each representative may speak on a question;
  - (c) The adjournment or closure of the debate;
  - (d) The suspension or adjournment of the meeting of the Parties.
3. The Chairperson, in the exercise of his/her functions, remains under the authority of the Meeting of the Parties.

#### **Rule 20**

1. If the Chairperson is temporarily absent, asks to be temporarily replaced, is unable to complete his/her term of office, is unable to perform his/her functions or resigns, a Vice-Chairperson shall act as Chairperson.
2. At any time the Chairperson may ask one of the Vice-Chairpersons or the person nominated by the host country in accordance with rule 18 to chair the meeting.

#### **Rule 21**

1. The Chairperson and the two Vice-Chairpersons of the Meeting of the Parties together with the Chairpersons elected by the working groups established under rule 22, paragraph 1, shall constitute the Bureau of the Meeting of the Parties. The Bureau shall be chaired by the Chairperson of the Meeting of the Parties. If the Chairperson is temporarily absent or is unable to complete his/her term of office or to perform his/her functions, a Vice-Chairperson shall act as Chairperson.
2. The terms of reference of the Bureau shall be established by the Meeting of the Parties.

### **BODIES TO IMPLEMENT THE WORK PLAN**

#### **Rule 22**

1. The Meeting of the Parties may establish such working groups, task forces or other bodies as it deems necessary for the performance of its functions and the implementation of the work plan, and may request them to help organizing workshops, seminars, training courses and other meetings under the Convention. Each body shall elect its own officers.
2. The Meeting of the Parties shall determine both the matters to be considered by these bodies and meetings and their term. The Meeting of the Parties may at any time terminate the function of these bodies.

## **SECRETARIAT**

### **Rule 23**

The Executive Secretary of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe shall provide secretariat services for the Meeting of the Parties and all meetings organized under the auspices of the Meeting of the Parties. He/she may delegate these functions to a member of his/her staff.

### **Rule 24**

For meetings of the Parties the secretariat shall:

- (a) Arrange for interpretation;
- (b) Arrange for the translation, reproduction and distribution of the documents;
- (c) Arrange for the custody and preservation of the documents in the archives of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe.

## **CONDUCT OF BUSINESS**

### **Rule 25**

The meetings of the Parties shall ordinarily be held in private. The Meeting of the Parties may decide that a meeting or parts of it shall be held in public.

### **Rule 26**

The Chairperson may declare a meeting of the Parties open and permit debate to proceed when representatives of the majority of the Parties are present.

### **Rule 27**

1. The Chairperson shall determine the list and order of speakers at a meeting of the Parties. Without prejudice to rules 28, 29, 30 and 32, the Chairperson shall call upon speakers in the order in which they indicate their wish to speak. The secretariat shall be in charge of drawing up a list of such speakers. The Chairperson may call a speaker to order if his/her remarks are not relevant to the subject under discussion.

2. The Meeting of the Parties may, on a proposal from the Chairperson or from any Party, limit the time allowed to each speaker and the number of times each representative may speak on a question. Before a decision is taken, two representatives may speak in favour of and two against a proposal to set such limits. When the debate is limited and a speaker exceeds the allotted time, the Chairperson shall call him/her to order without delay.

3. The Executive Secretary or his/her representative may at any meeting make either oral or written statements concerning any question under consideration.

#### **Rule 28**

An officer of a body established by the Meeting of the Parties may be accorded precedence by the Chairperson of the Meeting of the Parties for the purpose of explaining the conclusions arrived at by this body.

#### **Rule 29**

During the discussion of any matter, a representative may at any time raise a point of order, which shall be decided immediately by the Chairperson in accordance with these rules. A representative may appeal against the ruling of the Chairperson. The appeal shall immediately be put to the vote and the ruling shall stand unless overruled by a majority of the Parties present and voting. A representative may not, in raising a point of order, speak on the substance of the matter under discussion.

#### **Rule 30**

Any motion calling for a decision on the competence of the Meeting of the Parties to discuss any matter or to adopt a proposal or an amendment to a proposal submitted to it shall be put to the vote before the matter is discussed or a vote is taken on the proposal or amendment in question.

#### **Rule 31**

1. Without prejudice to paragraph 2 of this rule, proposals and amendments to proposals shall normally be presented in writing and handed to the secretariat, which shall circulate copies to the Parties. As a general rule, no proposal shall be discussed or put to the vote at any meeting unless copies of it have been circulated to delegations not later than 24 hours in advance. The Chairperson may, however, permit the discussion and consideration of amendments to proposals or of procedural motions even though those amendments or motions have not been circulated or have been circulated only the same day.

2. Proposals for amending the Convention, including its annexes, shall be submitted to the secretariat at least 120 days before the meeting of the Parties at which they are proposed for adoption by consensus, so that the secretariat in accordance with article 21, paragraph 3, of the Convention can communicate these proposals to the Parties at least 90 days before the meeting of the Parties.

#### **Rule 32**

1. Subject to rule 29, the following motions shall have precedence, in the order indicated below, over all other proposals or motions:

- (a) To suspend the meeting of the Parties;
- (b) To adjourn the meeting of the Parties;
- (c) To adjourn debate on a question under discussion;
- (d) For closure of the debate on a question under discussion.

2. Permission to speak on a motion falling within (a) to (d) above shall be granted only to the proposer and, in addition, to one speaker in favour of and two against the motion, after which it shall immediately be put to the vote.

### **Rule 33**

A proposal or motion may be withdrawn by its proposer at any time before voting on it has begun, provided that the motion has not been amended. A proposal or motion that is withdrawn may be reintroduced by any other Party.

### **Rule 34**

When a proposal has been adopted or rejected, it may not be reconsidered at the same meeting, unless the Meeting of the Parties, by a three-fourth majority of the Parties present and voting, decides in favour of reconsideration. Permission to speak on a motion to reconsider shall be accorded only to the mover and one other supporter, after which it shall immediately be put to the vote.

## **VOTING**

### **Rule 35**

1. The Meeting of the Parties shall make every effort to reach its decisions by consensus. If all efforts at consensus have been exhausted, and no agreement reached, the decisions - except for amendments to the Convention and its annexes (article 21 of the Convention), to rule 34, and to paragraph 2 of this rule - shall be taken by a majority of the Parties present and voting.

2. Decisions of the Meeting of the Parties on financial matters shall be adopted by consensus of the Parties present.

### **Rule 36**

If two or more proposals relate to the same question, the Meeting of the Parties, unless it decides otherwise, shall vote on the proposals in the order in which they have been submitted. The Meeting of the Parties may, after each vote on a proposal, decide whether or not to vote on the next proposal.

### **Rule 37**

Any representative may request that any part of a proposal or of an amendment to a proposal be voted on separately. If objection is made to the request for division, the Chairperson shall permit two representatives to speak, one in favour of and the other against the motion, after which it shall immediately be put to the vote.

### **Rule 38**

If the motion referred to in rule 37 is adopted, those parts of a proposal or of an amendment to a proposal which have been approved shall then be put to the vote as a whole. If all the operative parts of a proposal or amendment have been rejected, the proposal or amendment shall be considered to have been rejected as a whole.

### **Rule 39**

A motion is considered to be an amendment to a proposal if it merely adds to, deletes from, or revises that proposal. An amendment shall be voted on before the proposal to which it relates is put to the vote and, if the amendment is adopted, the amended proposal shall then be voted on.

### **Rule 40**

If two or more amendments to a proposal are moved, the Meeting of the Parties shall first vote on the amendment furthest removed in substance from the original proposal, then on the amendment next furthest removed therefrom, and so on, until all amendments have been put to the vote.

### **Rule 41**

Except for elections, voting shall normally be by show of hands. A roll call shall be taken if one is requested by any Party. It shall be taken in the English alphabetical order of the names of the Parties participating in the meeting of the Parties beginning with the Party whose name is drawn by lots by the Chairperson. However, if at any time a Party requests a secret ballot, that shall be the method of voting on the issue in question.

### **Rule 42**

The voting of each Party participating in a vote by roll call shall be recorded in the report of the meeting of the Parties.

### **Rule 43**

After the Chairperson has announced the beginning of voting, no representative shall interrupt the voting except on a point of order in connection with the actual conduct of voting. The Chairperson may permit the Parties to explain their votes, either before or after the voting, and may limit the time allowed for such explanations. He/she shall not permit the proposer of a proposal or an amendment to a proposal to explain his/her vote on his/her own proposal or amendment, unless it has been amended.

### **Rule 44**

All elections shall be decided by secret ballot, unless, in the absence of any objection, the Meeting of the Parties decides to proceed without taking a ballot on an agreed candidate or slate.

## **OFFICIAL LANGUAGES**

### **Rule 45**

The official languages of the Meeting of the Parties shall be English, French and Russian.

### **Rule 46**

1. Statements made during meetings of the Parties in an official language shall be interpreted into the other official languages.
2. A representative may speak in a language other than an official language if he/she provides for interpretation into one of the official languages.

### **Rule 47**

Official documents of the Meeting of the Parties shall be drawn up in one of the official languages and translated into the other official languages.

## **AMENDMENTS TO THE RULES OF PROCEDURE**

### **Rule 48**

Amendments to these rules of procedure shall be adopted by consensus of the Meeting of the Parties.

## **OVERRIDING AUTHORITY OF THE CONVENTION**

### **Rule 49**

In the event of a conflict between any provision of these rules and any provision of the Convention, the provision of the Convention shall prevail.



Annex IV

**TERMS OF REFERENCE  
OF THE ADVISORY NETWORK ON LEGAL INSTRUMENTS UNDER THE  
CONVENTION**

1. The Advisory Network on Legal Instruments shall facilitate the implementation of the legal and administrative provisions of the Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes and its Protocol on Water and Health in the whole UN/ECE region.
2. The Advisory Network shall handle requests for clarification or regarding the practical implementation of legal, administrative or institutional issues related to the Convention and its Protocol on Water and Health. It shall take into consideration only written requests addressed to the UN/ECE secretariat. The UN/ECE secretariat will transmit the requests to the appropriate legal and administrative experts and institutions of the Network.
3. The Network shall be open-ended: its experts and institutions will be nominated by the national focal points and confirmed by the Working Group on Legal Aspects on the grounds of professional excellence. It may include governmental and non-governmental experts, private sector practitioners as well as experts from international organizations.
4. The progress of, and experience gained with, setting up the informal Network of legal experts shall be regularly evaluated by the Working Group on Legal Aspects, which shall inform the Meeting of the Parties, the Bureau and the other Working Groups about the achievements.

Annex V

**TERMS OF REFERENCE  
OF THE INTERNATIONAL WATER ASSESSMENT CENTRE (IWAC)  
under the Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary  
Watercourses and International Lakes (Helsinki, 1992)**

Introduction

1. The monitoring and assessment of the conditions of transboundary watercourses and international lakes are specific objectives of the Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes (Helsinki, 1992).
2. The Convention stipulates that the Parties shall establish programmes for monitoring the conditions of transboundary waters. Parties bordering the same transboundary waters shall establish and implement joint programmes for monitoring the conditions of transboundary waters, including floods and ice drifts, as well as transboundary impact; agree upon pollution parameters and pollutants whose concentrations in transboundary waters shall be regularly monitored; carry out joint or coordinated assessments of the conditions of transboundary waters and the effectiveness of measures taken to prevent, control and reduce transboundary impact; exchange reasonably available data on environmental conditions of transboundary waters, including monitoring data; inform each other about any critical situation that may have transboundary impact; and make available to the public results of water and effluent sampling, together with the results of checking compliance with the water-quality objectives and the permit conditions.
3. The Convention obliges the riparian Parties furthermore to harmonize rules for the setting-up and operation of monitoring programmes, measurement systems, devices, analytical techniques, data processing and evaluation procedures.

Overall tasks

4. The overall tasks of the International Water Assessment Centre shall be as follows:
  - (a) To assist in the development and implementation of tailor-made monitoring and assessment systems in the UN/ECE region, and upon request in other regions following the offer of the Parties at their first meeting (ECE/MP.WAT/2, annex I, Helsinki Declaration) to share their experience with other regions in the world;
  - (b) To organize training courses and workshops, and/or render assistance to UN/ECE countries and joint bodies in conducting such events to improve monitoring and information systems for decision-making;

(c) To act as a clearing house on issues related to the sharing of data and information among UN/ECE countries that are gathered through monitoring systems according to the provisions of the Convention;

(d) To act as a coordinator, providing a network of scientists in Europe, promoting the exchange of concepts and findings of scientific research on monitoring strategies, and to establish a dialogue between scientists and policy makers, for the transformation of scientific results and technical know-how into policies, and to get the feedback from policy makers to scientists to seek answers for solving still existing problems and tackling those ahead;

(e) To assist joint bodies within the terms of article 9, paragraph 2, of the Convention in matters related to monitoring and assessment.

#### Main activities

5. The International Water Assessment Centre shall:

(a) Provide scientific, methodological and technical support to UN/ECE Governments to implement the provisions of the Convention related to monitoring and assessment of the conditions in transboundary surface waters and groundwaters as well as international lakes;

(b) Provide a platform for all key players, such as scientists, experts and policy makers, to discuss cooperation on transboundary waters in the UN/ECE region, to review scientific developments in monitoring and assessment and to share knowledge;

(c) Assist countries in implementing the recommended practices through pilot projects for transboundary waters;

(d) Assist in, and promote the development of, national training capacities for different target groups at different levels, and organize the training of trainers.

6. The International Water Assessment Centre shall more specifically, on the basis of the work plan adopted by the Meeting of the Parties:

(a) Provide guidance on the design and operation of monitoring networks, including the optimization of existing networks for transboundary waters;

(b) Assist in the drawing-up of proposals for the region-wide harmonization of rules for setting up and operating monitoring programmes in transboundary waters, relevant devices and analytical techniques, methods for the registration of water uses, including the discharge of pollutants, and methods for assessing conditions of transboundary waters, including data processing and evaluation procedures;

(c) Assist in the drawing-up of proposals for setting up, where appropriate, information transmission by warning and alarm systems;

(d) Promote and support, where appropriate, initiatives on quality management, in particular those undertaken by other bodies established under the Convention;

(e) Assist countries in the preparation of inventories of pollution sources and in conducting surveys of hot spots and key locations;

(f) Assist UN/ECE countries with economies in transition, through the organization of seminars and workshops, in the exchange of information on the best available technology, the results of research and development, practices and instruments, and training related to monitoring and assessment;

(g) Assist in the preparation of status reports, including region-wide information on the conditions of transboundary waters, and in developing and maintaining an appropriate database;

(h) Ensure that the Guidelines on monitoring and assessment of transboundary watercourses and international lakes drawn up under the auspices of the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention are kept up to date.

7. The International Water Assessment Centre shall also serve as a clearing house. In this function, it shall:

(a) Assist countries in transition to improve the formulation of projects related to monitoring and assessment, and promote their effective implementation;

(b) Promote the exchange of experts;

(c) Gather and distribute information on relevant international organizations, activities and programmes on monitoring and assessment;

(d) Gather and distribute information on methodologies, technical requirements and guidelines.

8. The Centre shall ensure that all its tasks and main activities are properly coordinated and harmonized, to the extent feasible, with pertinent legislation and policies of the European Union, activities of the European Environment Agency and its relevant topic centres, and the activities of joint bodies under the Convention.

Annex VI

**TERMS OF REFERENCE OF THE WORKING GROUPS**

1. The Working Groups on Legal and Administrative Aspects, on Water Management, on Monitoring and Assessment, and on Water and Health shall be responsible for the implementation of the relevant programme areas of the work plan. They shall examine experience and draw up draft recommendations, codes of practice and other soft-law instruments. They shall review policies, strategies and methodologies of relevance to human health and safety as well as the protection and use of waters; examine the implications of such policies, strategies and methodologies; assist the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention and the Meeting of the Signatories to the Protocol on Water and Health, if applicable, in developing response measures; and promote the harmonization of rules and regulations on specific areas.
2. The Working Groups shall provide guidance - in between the meetings of the Parties - in the implementation of the work plan. The Working Groups may advise the Bureau to make arrangements to further develop the work plan, adapt it to changing circumstances and avoid, to the extent possible, duplication of efforts with water-related activities of other United Nations bodies and other international organizations.
3. The Working Groups shall take initiatives to strengthen the application of the Convention, including the preparation of draft decisions, proposals and recommendations, and a draft work plan for consideration by the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention, and mobilize resources.
4. Each Working Group may formulate recommendations related to the work of the other Working Groups.
5. The Working Groups shall seek, where appropriate, the services of relevant UN/ECE bodies as well as other competent international bodies and specific committees to implement the Convention and its Protocol.
6. In the interest of consistency, the Working Groups shall review relevant activities of the UN/ECE programme of work that have a bearing on water as well as human health and safety; keep themselves informed of the relevant work done and planned under other international conventions, particularly the UN/ECE environmental conventions; and keep themselves abreast of water-related activities of other United Nations bodies and other international organizations. If need be, the Working Groups shall also assist Parties in the implementation of the water-related parts of Agenda 21, particularly chapter 18.
7. Except as provided for in the terms of reference of the Bureau of the Meeting of the Parties, a Working Group shall hold no more than one ordinary meeting per year. Working Groups may hold joint meetings.

8. The Working Groups shall elect their own officers. The Chairpersons of the Working Groups shall be members of the Bureau. The Chairpersons shall report to the Meeting of the Parties about the achievements of their Working Groups.

Annex VII

**COMPOSITION AND TERMS OF REFERENCE OF THE BUREAU**

1. The Bureau shall consist of the Chairperson and the two Vice-Chairpersons elected at the end of a meeting of the Parties to the Convention and of the Chairpersons elected by the Working Groups.
2. The Bureau with the assistance of the secretariat shall:
  - (a) Carry out the tasks entrusted to it by the Meeting of the Parties;
  - (b) Make arrangements to further develop the work plan, adapt it to changing circumstances and avoid, to the extent possible, duplication of efforts with water-related activities of other United Nations bodies and other international organizations;
  - (c) Take initiatives to strengthen the application of the Convention; maintain liaison with the bureaux of governing bodies of other environmental conventions, the Bureau of the UN/ECE Committee on Environmental Policy, international organizations, financial institutions, environmental policy-making bodies and non-governmental organizations to improve the implementation of the Convention; and take other appropriate measures to facilitate the implementation of the work plan.
3. The Bureau may decide on the convening of special meetings of the Working Groups.

Annex VIII

**DOCUMENTS SUBMITTED TO THE PARTIES AT THEIR SECOND MEETING**

**Basic documents**

- ECE/MP.WAT/2            REPORT OF THE FIRST MEETING OF THE PARTIES held in Helsinki from 2 to 4 July 1997 at the invitation of the Government of Finland
- ECE/MP.WAT/4  
and Add.1            PROVISIONAL AGENDA FOR THE SECOND MEETING OF THE PARTIES to be held at the Peace Palace (Vredespaleis), The Hague, Netherlands, starting at 10 a.m. on Thursday, 23 March 2000

**Working documents**

- MP.WAT/2000/1            Protocol on Water and Health to the 1992 Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes
- MP.WAT/2000/2            Bilateral and multilateral cooperation under the Convention
- MP.WAT/2000/3  
and Corr.1            Legal and administrative aspects of implementing and further developing the and Convention and its Protocol
- MP.WAT/2000/4            The need for a strategy and framework for compliance with agreements on transboundary waters and guidelines on public participation in water management
- MP.WAT/2000/5  
and Add.1            Geneva strategy and framework for monitoring compliance with agreements transboundary waters
- MP.WAT/2000/6            Draft guidelines on public participation in water management
- MP.WAT/2000/6/Add.1    Examples on public participation in water management
- MP.WAT/2000/7            Sustainable flood prevention



|                |   |
|----------------|---|
| MP.WAT/2000/8  | Regulatory and policy instruments to protect European waters from adverse consequences of agricultural activities: status of implementation                             |
| MP.WAT/2000/9  | Guidelines on monitoring and assessment of transboundary groundwaters   |
| MP.WAT/2000/10 | Guidelines on monitoring and assessment of transboundary rivers   |
| MP.WAT/2000/11 | Work plan 2000-2003   |
| MP.WAT/2000/12 | Bodies to implement the work plan   |
| MP.WAT/2000/13 | Services to implement the Convention: terms of reference of the Advisory Service on Legal Instruments   |
| MP.WAT/2000/14 | Services to implement the Convention: terms of reference of the collaborating centre on monitoring and assessment of transboundary watercourses and international lakes |
| MP.WAT/2000/15 | Draft elements for the Declaration of The Hague   |
| MP.WAT/2000/16 | Possible approach to draw up a protocol on responsibility and liability   |
| MP.WAT/2000/17 | Water and industrial accidents: Proposal for joint activities under two UN/ECE conventions  |

### **Supporting documents**

|                    |  |
|--------------------|--|
| MP.WAT/WG.1/1998/2 | Report of the first meeting of the Working Group on Water Management   |
| MP.WAT/WG.1/1998/4 | Report on the International Conference on Management of Transboundary Waters in Europe                               |
| MP.WAT/WG.1/1998/5 | Report on the International Workshop on Groundwater Depletion in Basin Regions                                       |
| MP.WAT/WG.1/1998/6 | Follow up to the Workshop on Prevention of Chemical Accidents and Limitation of their Impact on Transboundary Waters |
| MP.WAT/WG.1/1998/7 | Joint Workshop on the Prevention of Chemical Accidents and Limitation of their Impact on Transboundary Waters        |

- MP.WAT/WG.1/1999/2 Report on the second meeting of the Working Group on Water Management
- MP.WAT/WG.1/1999/5 Management and Sustainable Development of International Lakes
- MP.WAT/SEM.1/1999/3 Report of the Seminar on the Prevention of Chemical Accidents and Limitation of their Impact on Transboundary Waters
- MP.WAT/SEM.2/1999/3 Report of the Seminar on Flood Prevention and Protection