



**Economic and Social  
Council**

Distr.  
GENERAL

MP.WAT/WG.2/2005/1  
24 February 2005

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

---

**ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE**

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

**Working Group on Monitoring and Assessment**

Sixth meeting

Bratislava, 18-20 May 2005

**ANNOTATED PROVISIONAL AGENDA**

At the invitation of the Government of Finland and Slovakia, the meeting will take place at the Slovak Hydrometeorological Institute, Jeseniova 17, Bratislava. It will start on 18 May 2005 at 2 p.m. and close on 20 May at 5 p.m.

1. Adoption of the agenda
2. Adoption of the report of the fifth meeting (MP.WAT/WG.2/2004/2)
3. Strategies for monitoring and assessment of transboundary waters
  - (a) Draft strategic guidance for monitoring and assessment of transboundary waters

The Working Group will examine and further develop the strategic guidance prepared by the Task Force led by Finland. The draft guidance will be distributed in April 2005 in English and in Russian. To facilitate this discussion, participants are invited to submit their comments and proposals in writing to Mr. Pertti Heinonen (perti.heinonen@ymparisto.fi) with a copy to the secretariat (water.convention@unece.org) by **29 April 2005**.

The Working Group will also agree on the future steps to finalize the draft guidance in order to submit it for adoption by the Parties at their fourth meeting.

(b) Technical guidance for monitoring and assessment of transboundary waters

The Working Group will review the progress in the preparation of the inventory of existing technical guidance, tools and examples of monitoring and assessment practices, developed within other frameworks (e.g. United Nations organizations, EU Water Framework Directive), including a short description of the contents and scope, as well as an expert judgement, if possible, to be published on the web site of the International Water Assessment Centre.

4. Pilot programme on monitoring and assessment

(a) Pilot projects on transboundary rivers

On the basis of a working paper prepared by Slovakia, lead Party for this programme element, the Working Group will discuss future initiatives to support the implementation phase of the rivers' pilot projects. It will also decide how to support the development of a pilot project on the Sava river.

(b) Pilot projects on transboundary groundwaters

On the basis of a working paper prepared by the Chairman of the core group on groundwaters, the Working Group will examine the progress made and decide on future activities related to the preparation/implementation of pilot projects on groundwater monitoring and assessment.

The Working Group will also examine the progress made under the Slovak assistance project on transboundary groundwaters shared by Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan.

The Working Group will discuss joint activities with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the International Association of Hydrogeologists under the Internationally Shared (Transboundary) Aquifer Resource Management project.

(c) Pilot projects on transboundary/international lakes

On the basis of a working paper prepared by the Chairman of the core group on lakes, Mr. Pertti Heinonen (Finland), the Working Group will examine the progress made in the preparation/implementation of pilot projects on lake monitoring and assessment.

5. Assessment of the status of transboundary waters and international lakes in the UNECE region

The Working Group will examine a preliminary draft assessment report prepared by Finland and will make arrangements for the future work. In particular it will agree on:

- (a) Possible alternatives and work-sharing arrangements to fill the gaps (questionnaire, country missions, workshops, etc.);
- (b) The use of indicators of the World Water Development Report;
- (c) Future work schedule in order to submit a final draft for the fourth meeting of the Parties and print the final report by 2007.

6. International Water Assessment Centre (IWAC)

On the basis of a report by a representative of IWAC, the Working Group will discuss the role of IWAC under the Convention, its activities and priorities.

7. The Convention's "Capacity for Water Cooperation" project

The Working Group will examine information from the secretariat on the forthcoming workshops under the "Capacity for Water Cooperation" project in Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia, to facilitate the exchange of experience among the river basins and the countries in that subregion, and with other parts of the UNECE region, on the themes: "Information management and public participation in transboundary water cooperation" (St. Petersburg, Russian Federation, 8-10 June 2005); and "Joint monitoring and assessments of shared water basins, including early-warning and alarm systems (Tbilisi, October 2005). The Working Group is expected to assist in the further preparations.

8. Indicators and reporting mechanisms for water supply and sanitation under the Protocol on Water and Health

The Working Group will be informed of the Working Group on Water and Health's activity to comply with the provisions of the Protocol on Water and Health on setting targets and monitoring the performance of water supply and sanitation services. This information will be taken into account in the discussion on future activities under item 10.

9. Work-plan

The Working Group will consider its work-plan (ECE/MP.WAT/15/Add.2, programme area III) as adopted by the Parties at their third meeting and update it, if need be.

10. Preparation for the fourth meeting of the Parties

The Working Group will agree on how to prepare a mid-term (until 2009) and long-term (beyond 2009) strategy under the Convention related to monitoring and assessment, including a list of priorities to be included in the 2006-2009 work-plan. It will make work-sharing arrangements with a view to finalizing a draft work-plan on monitoring and assessment for its next meeting.

11. Election of officers

12. Date and venue of the seventh meeting of the Working Group

13. Other business

14. Closing

The official language of the Working Group is English. Interpretation from and into Russian will also be provided.

The Government of Finland will provide some financial assistance to experts from countries in transition. Due to the limitation of available funds, priority will be given to participants actively involved in the Working Group, e.g. to those who will provide written comments to the draft strategic guidelines for monitoring and assessment of transboundary waters (see agenda item 3 (a)). Requests for financial assistance should be submitted not later than **8 April 2005** to the Water Convention's secretariat.

Documents and unofficial working papers for the meeting can be downloaded from <http://www.unece.org/env/water/meetings/documents.htm>

For information on organizational matters, please contact:

Mr. Pavol Caucík

Tel.: +421-2-59415358

Fax: +421-2-59415393

E-mail: pavol.caucik@shmu.sk

Information on hotels in Bratislava is available on the following web sites:  
[www.bratislavahotels.sk](http://www.bratislavahotels.sk), [www.bratislava.sk](http://www.bratislava.sk).

Participants should fill in the registration form below and send it by **29 April 2005** to Ms. Francesca Bernardini ([francesca.bernardini@unece.org](mailto:francesca.bernardini@unece.org) or fax: +41 22 917 01 07)

**REGISTRATION FORM FOR THE SIXTH MEETING  
OF THE WORKING GROUP ON MONITORING AND ASSESSMENT**

*Return by 29 April 2005 by e-mail to [francesca.bernardini@unece.org](mailto:francesca.bernardini@unece.org)*

*or fax: +41 22 917 01 07*

**REGISTRATION DATA**

FULL NAME: .....

TITLE: .....

ORGANIZATION: .....

MAILING ADDRESS: .....

CITY, POSTAL CODE: .....

COUNTRY: .....

TELEPHONE: .....

FAX: .....

E-MAIL: .....

WEB SITE: .....

**TRAVEL-RELATED INFORMATION**

Arrival date:..... Time:..... Airline:..... Flight #:.....

Departure date:..... Time:..... Airline:..... Flight #:.....

Hotel in Bratislava: .....

DO YOU NEED A LETTER OF INVITATION FOR VISA SUPPORT (yes / no)?

If yes, please provide the following information, **not later than 8 April 2005**:

Surname:

Given name(s):

Date of birth:

Citizenship:

Permanent address:

Passport no:

Expiration date:

EMERGENCY CONTACT INFORMATION (name, address and phone number of a person to contact in case of an emergency):