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**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

Tenth meeting

Bratislava, 10–11 June 2009

Item 10 of the provisional agenda

Working Group on Integrated Water Resources Management

Fourth meeting

Geneva, 8–9 July 2009

Item 13 of the provisional agenda

**WORKPLAN FOR 2010–2012 AND BEYOND**

Note by the secretariat \*

*Summary*

This document has been prepared by the secretariat in cooperation with the Chairperson of the Working Group on Integrated Water Resources Management, the Chairperson of the Working Group on Monitoring and Assessment and in consultation with the Chairperson of the Meeting of the Parties and the Chairpersons of other bodies under the Convention. It summarizes the proposed activities for the 2010–2012 workplan under the Convention, together with bodies to support their implementation.

According to their terms of reference, the two Working Groups are responsible for preparing proposals for future activities and draft workplan for consideration by the Meeting of the Parties.

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\* The present document was submitted late as its preparation required extensive consultations with the chairpersons of the various bodies under the Convention.

## **I. BACKGROUND AND PROPOSED ACTION BY THE WORKING GROUPS**

1. The proposed draft workplan is based on the outcomes of discussions held at the previous meetings of the Working Group on Integrated Water Resources Management, the Working Group on Monitoring and Assessment, the Bureau of the Meeting of the Parties and other bodies under the Convention (e.g. the Legal Board, the Task Force on Water and Climate and the Ad Hoc Joint Expert Group on Water and Industrial Accidents). It was further informed by workshops and seminars organized under the auspices of the Convention. The proposal also includes possible follow-up activities to ongoing work.

2. The draft workplan is organized in a different way than previous workplans, in which activities were grouped according to the body responsible for their implementation. The new proposed structure is based on the types of activities and deliverables, and is intended to promote a better understanding of activities under the Convention.

3. The draft workplan contains eight programme areas:

- (a) Promotion of the Convention (I);
- (b) Support to implementation and compliance (II);
- (c) Assessment of the status of transboundary rivers, lakes and groundwaters in the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe region (III);
- (d) Projects on the ground (IV);
- (e) Sharing of experiences and capacity-building (V);
- (f) The European Union Water Initiative and National Policy Dialogues (VI);
- (g) Water and industrial accidents (VII);
- (h) Cooperation with the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol on Water and Health (VIII).

4. The Working Group on Monitoring and Assessment and the Working Group on Integrated Water Resources Management are invited:

- (a) To examine the proposals contained in the document, and to further elaborate those elements that should become part of the draft workplan, including, wherever possible, information on the method of work and the time frame;
- (b) To draw up additional elements for the workplan, following proposals by Parties and non-Parties, including, wherever possible, information on the method of work and the time frame;

- (c) To prioritise the elements of the workplan considering that resources available might not allow implementing all proposed activities;
- (d) To consider, on the basis of the agreed workplan, the need to revise the terms of reference of the Working Group on Integrated Water Resources Management and the Working Group on Monitoring and Assessment and other bodies to implement the workplan;
- (e) To report on the willingness of Parties and non-Parties to lead or participate in the implementation of the various workplan elements, in particular in the programme of pilot projects;
- (f) To report on the willingness of other stakeholders (such as non governmental organizations, international organizations) to participate in the implementation of the various workplan elements, in particular in the programme on pilot projects;
- (g) To entrust the secretariat with the task of estimating the costs involved in the workplan's implementation;
- (h) To agree on future steps for finalizing the draft workplan, and to entrust the Bureau, with the assistance of the secretariat, to submit it to the fifth meeting of the Parties (Geneva, 10–12 November 2009).

## **II. BODIES TO IMPLEMENT THE WORKPLAN FOR 2010–2012**

### **A. Bureau of the Meeting of the Parties**

5. In accordance with the rules of procedure for the meetings of the Parties (see ECE/MP.WAT/19/Add.1), the Bureau of the Meeting of the Parties is composed of not fewer than eight persons including the Chairperson and the two Vice-Chairpersons of the Meeting of the Parties, the Chairpersons of the Working Groups and, if applicable, other officers elected by the Meeting of the Parties.

6. The main responsibilities of the Bureau include: (a) making arrangements to further develop the workplan, 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; (b) taking initiatives to strengthen implementation of the Convention; and (c) carrying out other tasks entrusted to it by the Meeting of the Parties.

### **B. Working Group on Integrated Water Resources Management and the Working Group on Monitoring and Assessment**

7. The Working Group on Integrated Water Resources Management and the Working Group on Monitoring and Assessment are the two main subsidiary bodies established by the Meeting of the Parties.

8. The two Working Groups shall be responsible for the implementation of the relevant activities areas of the workplan. They shall examine experience and draw up draft recommendations, codes of practice and other soft-law instruments. They shall also (a) review policies, strategies and methodologies of relevance to the protection and use of waters as well as human health and safety; and (b) examine the implications of such policies, strategies and methodologies. The Working Groups shall also assist the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention and the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol on Water and Health, if applicable, in developing response measures and promote the harmonization of rules and regulations on specific areas.

9. In between the meetings of the Parties, the two Working Groups shall provide guidance regarding the implementation of the workplan. The Working Groups may advise the Bureau to make arrangements to further develop the workplan, to adapt it to changing circumstances and to avoid, to the extent possible, duplication of efforts with water-related activities of other United Nations bodies and other international organizations.

10. The Working Groups shall take initiatives to strengthen the application of the Convention, including the preparation of draft decisions, proposals and recommendations, and of a draft workplan for consideration by the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention. They shall also mobilize resources.

11. Each Working Group may formulate recommendations related to the work of the other Working Group.

12. The focus of the work of the Working Group on Integrated Water Resources Management is on intersectoral activities to support the implementation of the Convention with regard to integrated management of transboundary water resources. Activities under this Working Group aim to prevent, control and reduce transboundary impacts and thereby prevent damage to the environment; promote the ecosystem approach in the framework of integrated water resources management; and ensure conservation and, where necessary, restoration of water-related ecosystems. Further goals are to promote the concept of payments for ecosystem services; to prevent accidental water pollution; and to further adaptation to climate change in the transboundary context, including floods and droughts management. The Working Group also seeks to build and/or to strengthen the institutions responsible for the management of transboundary waters; to facilitate the work of joint bodies; and to promote access to information and public participation in decision-making.

13. The focus of the work of the Working Group on Monitoring and Assessment is to assist Parties bordering the same transboundary waters in establishing and implementing joint programmes for monitoring the conditions of transboundary waters, including floods and ice drifts, as well as transboundary impacts. Further goals are to agree on pollution parameters and pollutants whose concentrations in transboundary waters will be regularly monitored as well as to carry out joint or coordinated assessments of the conditions of transboundary waters and the effectiveness of measures taken to prevent, control and reduce transboundary impacts. In addition, the Working Group seeks to exchange reasonably available data on environmental conditions of transboundary waters, including monitoring data; to encourage Parties to inform

each other about any critical situation that may have a transboundary impact; and to 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. Furthermore, the Working Group on Monitoring and Assessment will have a leading role in the preparation of periodic assessments of the status of transboundary waters and international lakes, which will allow for measuring progress in the implementation of the Convention.

14. Unless otherwise decided by the Meeting of the Parties, the Bureau or the Working Groups themselves, the Working Groups hold one ordinary meeting per year. Annual meetings of the Working Groups constitute an efficient mechanism for governing, coordination and fostering implementation of the Convention. These meetings provide a forum for sharing knowledge and successful experiences among Parties, non-Parties and stakeholders with a view to supporting and carrying out, inter alia, bilateral and multilateral activities, pilot projects and capacity-building activities.

15. The need to consider monitoring and assessment in the broader context of integrated water resources management calls for close collaboration between the two Working Groups through cooperation on a number of joint activities. To apply this in practice, it is proposed that: (a) the Working Groups should in future hold back-to-back meetings to allow for the joint discussion of shared agenda items; and (b) the workplan for 2010–2012 will contain activities for which the two Working Group will have joint responsibility.

16. The Working Group on Integrated Water Resources Management will be led by [Switzerland], the Working Group on Monitoring and Assessment will be led by [Slovakia].

**Resource requirements:**

- Organization of annual meetings of the Bureau, the Working Group on Integrated Water
- Resources management and the Working Group on Monitoring and Assessment, including participation of eligible experts: to be completed

**C. Other bodies**

17. The implementation of the Convention's workplan will be supported by a number of other open-ended bodies with specific terms of reference.

***Legal Board***

18. The Legal Board, with [Italy] as a lead Party, deals with legal questions related to the work under the Convention, upon the request of other Convention bodies.

***Joint Ad Hoc Expert Group on Water and Industrial Accidents***

19. The Joint Ad Hoc Expert Group on Water and Industrial Accidents was established under the Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes (Water Convention) and the Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents (Industrial Accidents Convention), with [Germany and Hungary] as the lead countries

to support work in the area of accidental water pollution, to respond to the needs identified by Parties.

20. The strategy for the Ad Hoc Joint Expert Group on Water and Industrial Accidents is contained in a separate document.<sup>1</sup>

### ***Task Force on Water and Climate***

21. The Task Force on Water and Climate, with [Germany and The Netherlands] as lead countries is responsible for activities related to adaptation to climate change, including flood and drought management. The Task Force will work in close cooperation with the Task Force on Extreme Weather Events established under the Protocol on Water and Health.<sup>2</sup>

### ***International Water Assessment Centre***

22. The International Water Assessment Centre (IWAC) is the Convention's collaborative centre on integrated resources management and a support tool for the implementation of the Convention and its Protocols. IWAC is hosted at the Slovak Hydrometeorological Institute.

23. IWAC strategy is contained in information document 4 for the tenth meeting of the Working Group on Monitoring and Assessment.

## **III. PROGRAMME AREAS AND ACTIVITIES<sup>3</sup>**

### **PROGRAMME AREA I: PROMOTION OF THE CONVENTION**

Responsible body: The Bureau, with the assistance of all Parties, the secretariat and the Legal Board.

Objectives: The focus of programme area I is the promotion of the Convention and its achievements, to encourage non-Parties to ratify the Convention and Parties to ratify the amendment to articles 25 and 26 opening the Convention to countries outside the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) region. Activities in this programme area also aim to develop new partnerships and synergies.

The Meeting of the Parties will disseminate information on activities carried out under the Convention or related to it, will raise the profile of the Convention and its Protocols, and will provide Parties and non-Parties with information to help them implement the Convention. Efforts will be devoted to promoting the Convention and its success in all possible contexts, including meetings and workshops organized under the workplan. Activities will also support compliance

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<sup>1</sup> The strategy has been jointly developed by the Bureaux of the Water and Industrial Accidents Conventions and will be available as an information document at the fourth meeting of the Working Group on Integrated Water Resources Management.

<sup>2</sup> Pending a decision to be made at the second meeting of the Parties to the Protocol on Water and Health, tentatively scheduled for October 2010, on the continuation of the Task Force on Extreme Weather Events.

<sup>3</sup> The numbering and formatting of this chapter are consistent with that of past Convention workplans.

with decision III/1 of the Meeting of the Parties on the amendment to the Convention, and will promote the Convention's achievements outside the UNECE region.

Work to be undertaken: Activities will include:

(a) Presentations of the Convention and its achievements at high-level meetings in UNECE countries and at international meetings, in particular at the Seventh Ministerial Conference "Environment for Europe" (Astana, 2011). The Convention and its achievements will also be promoted at the annual World Water Week in Stockholm and at [to be completed];

(b) Development of relevant tools to raise the profile of the Convention (e.g. informative leaflets, the Convention website);

(c) Promotion of the Convention, its Protocols and its soft-law tools outside the UNECE region through: (i) inviting experts from non-UNECE countries to meetings under the Convention with priority given to non-UNECE countries sharing waters with UNECE member States; and (ii) participating in relevant global events or events organized outside the region;

(d) Promotion of the Convention through coordination and synergies with activities of United Nations agencies and other organizations, in particular through UN-Water and its Task Force on Transboundary Waters.

Main partners<sup>4</sup>: Cooperation will be sought with the other United Nations regional commissions, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), UN-Water, the International Network of Basin Organizations (INBO), the International Waters Learning Exchange and Resource Network (IW:LEARN), the Global Water Partnership (GWP), and in particular GWP-Mediterranean and GWP-Central and Eastern Europe, and the Inter-State Commission for Water Coordination of Central Asia (ICWC).

**Resource requirements:**

- Production of communication material for the Convention's promotion: to be defined
- Participation of the secretariat and experts in events to promote the Convention (including travel and accommodation, preparation of the events and background materials): to be defined

**PROGRAMME AREA II: SUPPORT TO IMPLEMENTATION AND COMPLIANCE**

Responsible body: Working Group on Integrated Water Resources Management, assisted by the Legal Board.

Lead Parties: [Italy, Germany, Switzerland].

Objectives: The focus of programme area I is to provide advice to Parties concerning means to prevent or manage existing or potential conflicts on transboundary waters as well as cases of

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<sup>4</sup> This list of partners does not preclude other partners from joining.

non-compliance with the Convention. The aim is to provide the Convention with an institutional and procedural mechanism for monitoring, reviewing, facilitating and promoting compliance on a multilateral and cooperative basis.

Work to be undertaken: The Legal Board will prepare a proposal defining the objectives, structure, tasks, functions, measures and procedures of a mechanism under the Convention for monitoring, reviewing, facilitating and promoting compliance, for possible adoption at the sixth session of the Meeting of the Parties in 2012. The mechanism should be simple, facilitative, non-adversarial and cooperative in nature, with its operation guided by the principles of transparency, fairness, expediency and predictability. The Legal Board will base its work on the experience gained with the Guide to implementing the Convention as well as experience of similar mechanisms, in particular mechanisms established under UNECE multilateral environmental agreements.

Main partners: Implementation and compliance review mechanisms established under other multilateral environmental agreements, in particular those serviced by UNECE. [Others to be defined].

**Resource requirements:**

- Travel of eligible experts in the meetings of the Legal Board and other relevant meetings: to be defined
- Consultancy fee for the preparation of background documentation: to be defined

**PROGRAMME AREA III: ASSESSMENT OF THE STATUS OF TRANSBOUNDARY RIVERS, LAKES AND GROUNDWATERS IN THE UNITED NATIONS ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE REGION**

Responsible body: the Working Group on Monitoring and Assessment, in cooperation with the Working Group on Integrated Water Resources Management and assisted by IWAC.

Lead Parties: Finland, Slovakia and others to be defined.

Objectives: The focus of programme area III is to keep the state of transboundary rivers, lakes and groundwaters under scrutiny with the goals of assessing how the Convention's provisions have been implemented, evaluating progress achieved in improving the status of transboundary waters and bringing positive changes to their management. Activities under this area will promote informed decision-making, provide the basis for continuous bilateral and multilateral cooperation under the Convention, and support actors involved at the national, transboundary and regional levels. The assessments should serve as a tool to identify trends and needs related to the protection and sustainable management of transboundary waters. Their findings should lay the foundations for strategic directions for work under the Convention and should be taken into consideration by the Meetings of the Parties and various political forums, including the "Environment for Europe" Ministerial Conferences. They should also be useful source of information for investment by prospective donors.



Work to be undertaken:

- (a) Prepare the Second Assessment of the status of transboundary waters for the Seventh Ministerial Conference “Environment for Europe”;<sup>5</sup>
- (b) Ensure that the Second Assessment and its findings inform the discussions and decisions at the Seventh Ministerial Conference “Environment for Europe”;
- (c) Promote the Assessment and its findings at the Conference and in other global, regional and national events;
- (c) Prepare an analysis on the need to prepare a third assessment of the status of transboundary waters and, if applicable, a strategy for its preparation, for consideration at the sixth session of the Meeting of the Parties.

Main partners: Cooperation will be sought with UNESCO, the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE), the European Environment Agency (EEA), the secretariat of the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands<sup>6</sup>, GWP including GWP-Mediterranean, ICWC, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the Regional Environmental Centers (RECs), and others to be defined.

**Resource requirements to be completed:**

- Personnel costs
- Subregional meetings
- Consultancy fees (e.g. editing, translation and printing, and production of maps and graphic materials)

## **PROGRAMME AREA IV: PROJECTS ON THE GROUND**

### **4.1 Advisory service**

Responsible body: the Working Group on Integrated Water Resources Management, supported by the UNECE Regional Advisor and the Legal Board.

Objectives: The Meeting of the Parties will assist Parties and non-Parties, at their request, in improving cooperation on their transboundary waters in general and, in particular, in ratifying and implementing the Convention. Assistance will include legal and technical assistance. For example, assistance will be provided for drawing up, revising and/or adapting agreements on transboundary waters and for strengthening national and transboundary water institutions. The Meeting of the Parties will provide guidance to joint bodies in the region to strengthen their capacity in integrated river basin management and water protection in line with article 9, paragraph 2, and other relevant articles of the Convention. Work will build on the Guide to

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<sup>5</sup> For more information on the objectives, scope, working arrangement and content of the Second Assessment, please see documents ECE/MP.WAT/WG.2/2008/3 and ECE/MP.WAT/WG.2/2009/3.

<sup>6</sup> Convention on Wetlands of International Importance, especially as Waterfowl Habitat.

Implementing the Convention and on other guidance documents developed under the Convention.

The Legal Board will provide: (a) legal assistance to Parties and non-Parties, at their request, in drawing up new agreements or adapting existing ones on transboundary waters in line with article 9, paragraph 1, as well as other relevant articles of the Convention; (b) legal assistance to non-Parties, at their request, helping to facilitate ratification through country-specific activities; and (c) support to Parties' ratification of the amendment to articles 25 and 26 opening the Convention for accession to countries outside the UNECE region.

Activities in this area will focus on three subregions.

#### **4.1.1 Transboundary water management in Central Asia**

Lead Parties: Germany, for the programme, "Transboundary Water Management in Central Asia"; Finland, for dam safety activities and the Chu Talas project; Switzerland, for the Central Asia Regional Water Information Base (CAREWIB) project; and the secretariat, for additional activities on water quality.

Activities in Central Asia will include follow-up to ongoing projects, and in particular activities promoting dam safety, promoting cooperation in the Chu Talas basin, and supporting knowledge and information exchange on water and environmental issues through CAREWIB.

An important new activity in this subregion will be linked to the Programme "Transboundary Water Management in Central Asia" launched in 2008 at the "Water Unites" Conference in Berlin as part of the Berlin Water Process. A programme component on "Regional dialogue and cooperation on water resources management" will be implemented by UNECE. The component will focus on: (a) building capacity of regional institutions with regard to water cooperation; (b) strengthening capacity in Central Asian countries regarding international water legislation and regional guidelines/principles for water management; (c) promoting reform of regional and bilateral agreements regarding water resources; and (d) support joint monitoring of water quality and data exchange.

Activities in this subregion will be closely related to the European Union (EU) Strategy for Central Asia related to enhanced regional cooperation on environment- and water-related issues, and coordinated by Italy.

<b>Resource requirements:</b> to be defined
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#### **4.1.2 Transboundary water management in South-Eastern Europe**

Lead Parties: Sweden, as well as Germany and Greece within the framework of the Petersberg Phase II/Athens Declaration Process.

Activities in South-Eastern Europe (SEE) will be pursued in close cooperation with the Petersberg Phase II/Athens Declaration Process jointly coordinated by Germany, Greece and the

World Bank. The main objective is to build capacity and share experience with respect to integrated water resources management (IWRM) and to develop IWRM plans for shared water bodies as a response to the targets of the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, adopted at the World Summit on Sustainable Development in 2002.

Activities might include support to: (a) countries sharing the Drin Basin in developing a sustainable framework for transboundary water cooperation; (b) the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia for accession and implementation of the Convention; (c) Serbia and Bulgaria on the two countries' cooperation in the Timok basin; and (d) the work of the Sava Commission [to be defined].

<b>Resource requirements:</b> to be defined
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#### **4.1.3 Transboundary water management in Eastern Europe and the Caucasus**

Activities in Eastern Europe and the Caucasus will include follow-up to ongoing projects, and in particular activities promoting transboundary water cooperation in the Dniester basin, support for cooperation between Azerbaijan and Georgia, and support for Georgia's accession to the Water Convention [to be defined].

<b>Resource requirements:</b> to be defined
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#### **4.2 Programme of pilot projects on transboundary rivers, lakes and groundwaters**

Responsible bodies: the Working Group on Monitoring and Assessment and the Working Group on Integrated Water Resources Management, assisted by IWAC. The Task Force on Water and Climate will facilitate the pilot projects on adaptation to climate change.

Objectives: The broad objective of the programme of pilot projects is to support UNECE countries, and specifically countries with economies in transition (in Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia (EECCA) as well as in SEE), in their efforts to improve IWRM in a transboundary context.

In particular, the programme will have three main focus areas:

- (a) Adaptation to climate change in the transboundary context, including management of floods and droughts;
- (b) Joint monitoring and assessment of transboundary waters, including data management and information exchange;
- (c) Implementation of payments for ecosystem services to support integrated water resources management.

In these three areas, the programme will aim:

- (a) To assist UNECE countries in implementing the Convention, thereby also supporting implementation of the EU Water Framework Directive;
- (b) To create positive examples demonstrating the benefits of and possible mechanisms for transboundary cooperation regarding adaptation to climate change in the water sector, monitoring and assessment, data management and information exchange, as well as payments for ecosystem services;
- (c) To provide a forum for exchanging experience, good practices and lessons learnt in different parts of the UNECE region;
- (d) To support the implementation of the guidance documents developed under the Convention, in particular: (i) the Guidance on Water and Adaptation to Climate Change; (ii) the Model Provisions on Transboundary Flood Risk Management, adopted at the fourth meeting of the Parties; (iii) the Guidelines and Strategies for Monitoring and Assessment of Transboundary Rivers, Lakes and Groundwaters, adopted at the second and fourth meetings of the Parties; (iv) the Recommendations on Payment for Ecosystem Services, adopted at the fourth meeting of the Parties.<sup>7</sup>

The pilot projects should as much as possible be developed and implemented in the transboundary context. As far as possible, surface and groundwaters should be integrated.

Although the main focus of the pilot projects programme will be on EECCA and SEE, it is expected that pilot projects will be set up also in EU countries or in basins shared by EU and non-EU countries. Exchange of experience between EU and non-EU countries will be promoted.

#### **4.2.1 Pilot projects on adaptation to climate change**

Lead Parties: [the Netherlands and Germany, with the support of IWAC]; others to be defined.

##### Work to be undertaken:

The specific focus and objectives of each pilot project will be defined jointly by the riparian countries in the basin concerned. Depending on the level of advancement and previous relevant activities in the basin, the pilot projects will focus on different steps of the Guidance on Water and Adaptation to Climate Change and in the development of an adaptation strategy. Depending on the level of awareness, progress and cooperation in the basin, as well as on data availability and previous work done regarding climate change, the projects might address, inter alia, the creation of an enabling environment; the development of the knowledge base – joint development of scenarios and vulnerability assessments - ; up to the joint planning of a package of adaptation measures.

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<sup>7</sup> More information on the objectives, focus and other issues related to pilot projects is contained in the information document no.1 for the tenth meeting of the Working Group on Monitoring and Assessment and no.3 for the fourth meeting of the Working Group on Integrated Water Resources Management.

In most cases, pilot projects will focus on developing strategies that lay the ground for further action. Therefore, in the first stage, pilot projects will focus on the planning of adaptation strategies and not on the funding and implementation of relevant measures.

Special focus will be on cooperation with the EU and the European Commission as well as on the work carried out regarding the implementation of the EU Water Framework Directive and the EU guidance document on water and climate change. The goal is to combine future efforts and design future pilot projects so that they can simultaneously support implementation of both UNECE and EU strategic papers and promote exchange of experience and cross-fertilization between EU and non-EU countries. This would create a very-much-called-for framework for continuous dialogue in the pan-European region on adaptation to climate change, in line with the EU Neighbourhood Policy.

<b>Resource requirements:</b> to be defined
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#### **4.2.2 Pilot projects on joint monitoring and assessment of transboundary waters, including data management and information exchange<sup>8</sup>**

Lead Parties: [France and IWAC].

Work to be undertaken:

The pilot projects on joint monitoring and assessment of transboundary waters, including data management and information exchange will be funded by the French Global Environment Fund and implemented by IWAC in cooperation with the International Office for Water and the UNECE secretariat.

In two transboundary basins, the pilot projects will strengthen the capacity of data management and information exchange through the development and establishment of tools for information management (e.g. a metadata database), the improved interoperability of information management systems and the definition and adoption of rules for information-sharing.

<b>Resource requirements:</b> to be defined
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#### **4.2.3 Pilot projects on payments for ecosystem services**

Lead Party: Switzerland.

Work to be undertaken:

Pilot projects will support the implementation of the Recommendations on Payments for Ecosystem Services in Integrated Water Resources in (transboundary) basins. Depending on the specific situation in the pilot basin, the projects will focus on different steps identified by the Recommendations.

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<sup>8</sup> Pending the final decision on funding of the pilot projects by the French Global Environment Fund.

The ongoing pilot project on the Lake Issyk-Kul basin will be continued.

<b>Resource requirements:</b> - to be defined
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Possible partners: Partners to be involved in the programme of pilot projects will vary depending on the focus of the specific pilot projects. They may include the Ramsar Convention secretariat, the UNECE Timber Committee, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), UNEP, UNESCO, the Ministerial Conference for the Protection of Forests in Europe (MCPFE), the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF), the Cooperative Programme on Water and Climate, the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), OSCE, the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), GWP, the RECs, the World Water Council and many others. Some have already expressed interest in cooperation. Cooperation will also be sought with ongoing or planned international projects, in particular under the Environment and Security (ENVSEC) Initiative.

## **PROGRAMME AREA V: SHARING OF EXPERIENCES AND CAPACITY-BUILDING**

Responsible bodies: the Working Group on Integrated Water Resources Management and the Working Group on Monitoring and Assessment, as appropriate, supported by the Legal Board, the Task Force on Water and Climate, and IWAC.

Objectives: The broad objectives of programme area V are to strengthen understanding of critical issues for transboundary water management, including emerging issues; to build capacity for cooperation on transboundary waters, in particular in countries with economies in transition; and to promote exchange of experience and good practices.

Activities of different formats, such as conferences, workshops, trainings and exercises, will be organized around different thematic issues.

### **5.1 Capacity-building and exchange of experience for the whole region of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe**

Lead Party(ies): to be defined

#### Work to be undertaken:

Activities at the UNECE level will address strategic and policy issues, rather than technical aspects, with a focus on emerging issues. Themes to be tackled may include, inter alia:

- (a) Food production, agrofuels and water interlinkages;
- (b) Forests and water at the regional level with the MCPFE and the FAO and at the global level possibly in cooperation with the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF) through a UNFF Country-Led Initiative with global participation;

- (c) Dispute settlement and sharing benefits in the context of transboundary water cooperation;
- (d) Water and adaptation to climate change;
- (e) Monitoring Tailor-Made V (under the leadership of IWAC).

Activities could be linked to the preparatory process for the Seventh Ministerial Conference “Environment for Europe” (Astana, 2011).<sup>9</sup>

<b>Resource requirements:</b> to be defined
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## **5.2 Subregional and national capacity-building and exchange of experience**

Lead Party(ies): to be defined

Work to be undertaken:

Activities at the subregional and national levels will aim at strengthening the capacity of Parties and non-Parties to implement the Convention and the different guidance documents developed under its auspices. They will focus on technical issues and mostly address countries with economies in transition.

In particular, the Working Group on Monitoring and Assessment, with the assistance of IWAC, will support activities promoting joint monitoring and assessment of transboundary waters. The Task on Water and Climate will support capacity-building related to the Guidance on Water and Adaptation to Climate Change.

## **5.3 Capacity for Water Cooperation project**

Lead Party(ies): to be defined. The secretariat is closely involved in implementation.

Work to be undertaken:

The Capacity for Water Cooperation (CWC) project aims to strengthen the capacity of transboundary water management in EECCA. The objectives are to create a framework enabling cross-fertilization and exchange of experience between river basins and countries regarding regulatory, institutional, methodological and other aspects of integrated management of transboundary waters and at the same time bringing in valuable experience from other parts of the UNECE region. CWC also aims at establishing a network of EECCA experts involved in transboundary water management who are used to cooperating and sharing knowledge. In the period 2010–2012, two CWC workshops will be organized on specific aspects of transboundary

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<sup>9</sup> Pending decisions by the Committee on Environmental Policy on the agenda of the Seventh Ministerial Conference.

water management, and will serve different purposes, e.g. preparation of the Second Assessment or implementation of guidelines and strategies developed under the Convention.

Possible partners: Partners to be involved in the organization of activities in this area will vary depending on the focus of the specific activity. Cooperation will be sought with UNDP, UNEP, UNESCO, OSCE, REC-Central and Eastern Europe, the EECCA RECs, and others to be defined.

<b>Resource requirements:</b> to be defined
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## **PROGRAMME AREA VI: THE EUROPEAN UNION WATER INITIATIVE AND NATIONAL POLICY DIALOGUES**

Responsible body: the Working Group on Integrated Water Resources Management.

Lead Parties: UNECE secretariat in cooperation with the European Commission, Romania and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD).

Work to be undertaken: Within the framework of the EECCA component of the EU Water Initiative, the Meeting of the Parties will support the development and implementation of IWRM in EECCA countries at the local, national and transboundary levels. Work under this programme element will strengthen IWRM and improve its legal, regulatory, administrative, technical and economic frameworks. It will also set priorities for financing water management activities, identify international assistance projects and develop capacity in EECCA through dialogue involving public authorities and civil society representatives. It will develop road maps to achieve the water-related Millennium Development Goals as well as targets and target dates on sustainable water management, safe drinking water and adequate sanitation. Steering groups that include stakeholders of key importance to IWRM will lead the country-specific dialogue processes. Since 2006, the UNECE secretariat has been the key strategic partner of the EECCA countries in conducting these National Policy Dialogues. The outputs of the Dialogues will include policy packages as new legislative acts, ministerial orders, and development strategies and plans. Based on funding from the European Commission (secured for the period 2009–2012) and contributions to be sought from other donors, activities may involve up to 8 of the 12 EECCA countries. In particular, in the period 2010–2012 activities will focus on follow-up to the establishment of National Policy Dialogues in Armenia, Kyrgyzstan and Ukraine, and on initiating new activities in Azerbaijan, Georgia, Tajikistan and Turkmenistan.

Possible partners: Cooperation will be sought with UNDP, the RECs in EECCA, GWP, and others to be defined. The Meeting of the Parties will also cooperate with the Mediterranean component of the EU Water Initiative.

<b>Resource requirements:</b>
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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Personnel costs</li><li>• Travel of secretariat and experts</li><li>• Local consultancy</li><li>• Organization of meetings, translation, interpretation, printing and other costs :<br/>To be completed</li></ul> |
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## **PROGRAMME AREA VII: WATER AND INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENTS**

Responsible bodies: the Bureau, the Working Group on Integrated Water Resources Management and the Ad Hoc Joint Expert Group on Water and Industrial Accidents, in cooperation with the Conference of the Parties to the Industrial Accidents Convention.

### **7.1 Protocol on Civil Liability**

Lead Party(ies): to be defined.

Objectives: Activities in this area will aim to promote ratification and accession to the Protocol on Civil Liability and Compensation for Damage Caused by the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents on Transboundary Waters, through addressing issues of concern for its implementation, and promoting the understanding of its obligations and their consequences [to be further defined].

Work to be undertaken: to be defined.

Possible partners: to be defined.

<b>Resource requirements:</b> to be defined
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### **7.2 Joint Ad Hoc Expert Group on Water and Industrial Accidents**

Lead Parties: [Germany and Hungary].

Objectives: The mission of the Joint Expert Group on Water and Industrial Accidents is to assist Parties to both Conventions in drawing up and implementing measures aimed at strengthening the prevention of and preparedness to accidental water pollution in transboundary context. In carrying out its mission the Joint Expert Group may:

- (a) Provide assistance in organizing exercises, workshops and seminars;
- (b) Draft method-based training materials;
- (c) Develop compendiums of good practices;
- (d) Develop or review specific guidelines and recommendations.

The areas of interests to Joint Expert Group are identified by both Conventions:

- (a) Measures for prevention, control and reduction of transboundary accidental water pollution (article 6 of the Industrial Accidents Convention and article 3 of the Water Convention);

(b) Effective transboundary contingency planning including warning and alert systems (articles 8 and 10 of the Industrial Accidents Convention and articles 3 and 9 of the Water Convention);

(c) Exchange of information and experience, particularly through joint training programmes and the organization of relevant seminars and meetings (article 16 of the Industrial Accidents Convention and article 13 of the Water Convention).

The strategy for the Ad Hoc Joint Expert Group on Water and Industrial Accidents is contained in a separate document.<sup>10</sup>

Work to be undertaken: to be defined by the two Bureaux.

**Resource requirements:** to be defined

## **PROGRAMME AREA VIII: COOPERATION WITH THE MEETING OF THE PARTIES TO THE PROTOCOL ON WATER AND HEALTH**

Responsible bodies: the Bureau, the Working Group on Integrated Water Resources Management and the Working Group on Monitoring and Assessment.

Lead Party(ies): to be defined.

Work to be undertaken: Cooperation with the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol on Water and Health, to promote a joint implementation of the programmes of work under the two legal instruments.

Cooperation will in particular focus on setting targets in accordance with article 6, paragraph 2, of the Protocol in the areas of water management, as well as the review of progress achieved vis-à-vis such targets (to be further defined).

Partners: The Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol on Water and Health. Cooperation will be sought with others (to be further defined).

**Resource requirements:** to be defined

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<sup>10</sup> The strategy is jointly developed by the Bureaux of the Industrial Accidents and Water Conventions and will be available as an information document at the fourth meeting of the Working Group on Integrated Water Resources Management.