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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

REPORT OF THE WORKING GROUP ON MONITORING AND ASSESSMENT ON ITS TENTH MEETING

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I. INTRODUCTION

1. The tenth meeting of the Working Group on Monitoring and Assessment was held on 10 and 11 June 2009 in Bratislava.

A. Attendance

2. It was attended by representatives of the following countries: Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Finland, Georgia, Hungary, Italy, Republic of Moldova, Serbia, Slovakia, Turkey, Ukraine and Uzbekistan.

3. The meeting was attended by representatives of the following organizations: the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the International Water Assessment Centre (IWAC), the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE), the Scientific Information Centre of the Interstate Coordination Water Commission of Central Asia (SIC-ICWC), International Office for Water, the Global Water Partnership-Mediterranean, Charles University (Prague) and Wetlands International. An expert from the EuropeAid project, Water Governance in Western EECCA (Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia), also attended the meeting.

B. Organizational matters

4. The Director of the IWAC delivered a welcome statement. He highlighted the importance of the cooperation of IWAC with the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE). Noting that this cooperation was formally launched on 7 April 2009, when the memorandum of understanding on IWAC between the Slovak Government and UNECE was signed, he expressed his hope that this meeting will be a start of the fruitful future collaboration devoted to promotion of the implementation of the Convention.

5. Ms. Lea Kauppi (Finland), Chairperson of the Working Group, opened the meeting and delivered an introductory statement.

6. The Working Group adopted its agenda as contained in document ECE/MP.WAT/WG.2/2009/1.

7. The Working Group adopted the report of its ninth meeting (MP.WAT/WG.2/2008/2), held from 17 to 18 June 2008 in Geneva.

II. ASSESSMENT OF THE STATUS OF TRANSBOUNDARY WATERS

8. The Chairperson informed the delegates that the following documents had been prepared for this agenda item: (a) a note on the second Assessment of Transboundary Rivers, Lakes and Groundwaters in the UNECE region (ECE/MP.WAT/WG.2/2009/3); (b) an informal document on the elements for the assessment of transboundary waters in South-Eastern Europe (SEE) (Inf. 2); (c) an informal document on the lessons learned from the SEE assessment and the consequences for the further preparations of the second Assessment (Inf. 3); and (d) an informal document on the compilation of draft datasheets (Inf. 4).

A. Preliminary assessment of transboundary rivers, lakes and groundwaters in South-Eastern Europe

9. The secretariat reported on the outcomes of the subregional meeting for SEE held in Sarajevo from 18 to 20 May 2009. The International Workshop on Integrated Transboundary Water Resources Management in SEE was jointly organized by the Regional Cooperation Council (RCC) and UNECE in cooperation with the Global Water Partnership Mediterranean (GWP-Med) and the International Sava River Basin Commission. Due to insufficient capacity in the secretariat, GWP-Med had been entrusted to assist in the workshop's preparation and would be responsible for follow-up, including the finalization of the assessment for SEE (i.e. the summary of major findings for SEE and the facts and figures for all transboundary rivers, lakes and groundwaters).

10. The discussions at the Sarajevo event allowed participants to draw some general conclusions on the status of transboundary waters and to identify some of the major challenges related to the management of and cooperation on transboundary waters. At the same time, as countries were not in a position to provide all the information required, a full preliminary assessment was not possible. More work was needed to complete and enrich the information with examples, so as to provide an accurate picture of the different problems and priorities in the various parts of the subregion.

11. As the SEE workshop was the first subregional event in the preparatory process, it allowed for testing the approach to organizing such meetings, in particular the feasibility of using the datasheets for collecting information. This allowed participants to draw conclusions and lessons learned that should be taken into account in future subregional meetings.

12. The secretariat introduced the elements of the assessment of transboundary rivers, lakes and groundwaters in SEE contained in the informal document (Inf. 2) that were commented by participants.

13. Participants agreed that among the issues to which the subregional assessment should devote more attention were the region's coasts (in connection with tourism) and the need to combine coastal zone management with integrated water resources management, in particular in water-scarce areas. Participants also noted that the documents did not provide enough information on the specific problems of European Union (EU) countries. Aspects specific to transboundary groundwater management and cooperation should receive greater emphasis (in particular, appropriate information was lacking).

1. Legal, policy and institutional frameworks for transboundary water management

14. In addition to the aspects already included in the document, the suggestion was made to provide more information on the ongoing reform of the water sector as well as more details on where the legal framework for cooperation was effectively working and where it was missing or not implemented.

15. Participants noted that one of the obstacles for cooperation was the fact that countries tended to prioritize implementation at the national level, in particular of the EU *acquis communautaire*, which absorbed much of their resources, to the expense of transboundary cooperation.

2. Monitoring of transboundary waters

16. Participants noted that this chapter was a fundamental one for the assessment. They therefore recommended strengthening it, in particular by providing more details on the specific problems of monitoring and assessment of transboundary groundwaters.

17. Related problems included the different levels of advancement of the monitoring systems in SEE countries and the resulting difficulties this posed for cooperation.

3. Main problems, impact and status

18. While problems related to climate change were already partly examined, other issues such as water pollution from industrial facilities and mines, water pollution from agriculture, urban wastewater, groundwater pollution and overabstraction, water scarcity, destructive floods, and the competing uses and vulnerability of karst aquifers needed to be further described and qualified.

4. Responses

19. Participants recommended that this chapter should be more detailed, should provide a precise picture of the differences in the subregion, and should outline specific priorities in the different basins.

5. The way forward

20. The majority of participants felt that this chapter should be very clear and focused, and should serve as a guide to future work on water cooperation in the subregion. Participants also underlined the need to include information on future trends.

21. The importance of ensuring sustainability of the various projects was stressed as an important issue for the subregion, and one linked to problems of ownership and political commitment in certain cases. It was agreed to highlight the importance of allocating national funding for cooperation on transboundary waters, including that of ensuring necessary capacity of responsible authorities.

22. The importance of coordination between different international organizations and donors was also stressed. Furthermore, coordination should also be improved among the national authorities involved in international projects.

23. Finally, considering the growing number of development projects in the region, participants suggested including in this chapter considerations of the limits to development dictated by sustainability.

6. Facts and figures on transboundary waters

24. In addition to some editorial changes, the representative of Serbia requested that the tributaries of the Velika Morava (the Southern and Western Morava, which are transboundary) but not the Velika Morava itself should be included in the Assessment.

B. Finalization of the datasheets and the subregional assessment

25. Representatives of SEE countries discussed how to proceed with the completion and submission to the secretariat of the datasheets so as to ensure the subregional assessment's timely preparation to the fifth session of the Meeting of the Parties (10–12 November 2009).

26. Hungary informed the meeting that it had already identified experts to work on the preparation of the Assessment. Bulgaria confirmed that it requested its regional water directorates to complete the datasheets. Turkey reported that the expert that had taken part in the Sarajevo workshop would be a focal point for the Assessment and that it was in the process of identifying groundwater experts for the second Assessment. Croatia tentatively confirmed that the expert that took part in the Sarajevo workshop will be a focal point for the Assessment. Albania was not in a position to nominate a responsible expert at the moment due to the election in the country. Serbia had nominated four experts, who would be responsible for the preparation of the second Assessment.

27. The SEE countries agreed on the following procedure for the further preparation of the subregional assessment:

(a) 30 June: deadline for submission of datasheets by SEE countries to the secretariat;

(b) 31 July: finalization of the draft assessment of transboundary waters in SEE (both the subregional summary on main findings and the facts and figures for all transboundary rivers, lakes and groundwaters) by GWP-Med;

(c) August: work in the secretariat to finalize, edit and format documents for submission to the Meeting of the Parties;

(d) End-August–beginning September: two weeks for a final review of the assessment by SEE countries;

(e) 21 September: submission of the documents to the Meeting of the Parties, including arrangement of an external translation of the summary of the major findings of the assessment into Russian.

28. Participants stressed that the two weeks for the final review in August–September were only intended for corrections of mistakes in the assessment, but not to provide additional information. The basis for the assessment would only be the datasheets submitted by end of June.

29. The secretariat was entrusted with the finalization of the draft assessment of SEE transboundary waters (i.e. both the subregional summary and the facts and figures for all major transboundary waters in SEE), and was requested to submit it to the fifth session of the Meeting of the Parties.

C. Next steps for the preparations of the second Assessment

30. Participants discussed future steps to be taken in particular with regards to the organization of various subregional meetings. They considered possible synergies with other activities and indicated their proposed inputs to the preparation of the second Assessment:

(a) IWAC would take responsibility for supporting the preparation of the assessment of transboundary waters in the EU countries, including those waters shared with non-EU countries (with the support from experts from relevant non-EU countries), and would provide expertise for the assessment of transboundary groundwaters;

(b) The representative of UNESCO briefed the meeting about a workshop it had recently organized in cooperation with OSCE on transboundary aquifers in Caucasus and Central Asia (Almaty, Kazakhstan, 27–28 May 2009). The workshop's outcomes should be a substantive contribution the assessment of groundwaters for these subregions. Support for the assessment of transboundary groundwaters in different subregions was a part of a global inventory work being led by UNESCO, which involved many partner organizations;

(c) OSCE reconfirmed its willingness to support the process and requested that the Environment and Security (ENVSEC) Initiative be included among the partners.

1. Caucasus workshop

31. The secretariat presented the lessons learned from SEE that should be taken into account when preparing the assessment for the Caucasus subregion. It stressed that a key factor for the success of the assessment's preparation was the availability of national experts devoted to the work.

32. Representatives of Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia affirmed that the organization of the subregional meeting for the Caucasus should take into account the SEE experience, and that it should have a general session on priority themes for the subregion as well as a session specifically dedicated to the second Assessment.

33. It was agreed that the secretariat should send, as soon as possible, letters to the countries involved in the Caucasus workshop (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, the Russian Federation and Turkey) asking then to nominate, by 15 July, surface and groundwater experts to be responsible for preparations for the second Assessment.

34. The secretariat informed the meeting that it had plans also to invite the Islamic Republic of Iran to participate in the workshop and in the assessment of the Araks River. The representative of Armenia offered to facilitate the involvement of experts from the Islamic Republic of Iran in the second Assessment, as he had had a history of cooperation with them.

35. It was also agreed that the countries involved in the Caucasus assessment would provide the secretariat by 15 July with official material to be considered as the basis for pre-filling the datasheets for the assessment. Thereafter, the pre-filled datasheets would be distributed to the national experts checking the data, who would complete them with the required information.

2. Cooperation with the Committee on Environmental Policy

36. Participants discussed communication of progress and cooperation with the UNECE Committee on Environmental Policy, the body responsible for preparation of the next "Environment for Europe" Ministerial Conference, scheduled to be held in Astana in 2011.

37. The representative of Italy informed the meeting that the preparation of a pan-European assessment for the Astana Conference was under the consideration by the Committee. The Working Group stressed that the second Assessment of transboundary waters and the pan-European assessment should be designed so as to complement each other, and that any duplication of efforts should be avoided.

3. Datasheets and outline of the second Assessment

38. The secretariat introduced the informal paper containing datasheets (Inf. 4) and the draft outline of the second assessment contained in the annex of the note to the second Assessment (ECE/MP.WAT/WG.2/2009/3). Participants provided a number of comments on the datasheet. They suggested including, inter alia, questions related to the impacts of river diversion, information on glaciers and highlands ecosystems, "postponed" impacts (i.e. due to climate change or remote location from the activities causing impacts) and impacts on indigenous peoples. It was agreed that comments on both the datasheets and the outline should be sent in writing to the secretariat by 22 June 2009.

39. The Working Group entrusted the secretariat, with the support of the core group, with the task of revising the datasheets and the outline of the second Assessment on the basis of the comments received.

4. Budget and funding

40. The secretariat updated the Working Group with regard to fund-raising, and informed it about resource needs.

41. The Chairperson informed the meeting that Finland was planning to cover the remaining required balance from the Wider Europe Initiative.

42. Several partners expressed their readiness to provide in-kind contributions to support the organization of subregional meetings and to assist in the preparation of the draft assessments.

43. The secretariat stressed that estimates of the resources needed for the second Assessment's preparation were based on minimum requirements and did not foresee, for example, producing an interactive CD, which might be a very useful and user-friendly tool.

Therefore, there was still an opportunity for other interested countries to provide additional funds.

44. The Working Group entrusted Finland, other partners and the secretariat to follow up on the agreements reached at the meeting with regard to preparation of the second Assessment, taking into consideration the availability of resources.

III. INTERNATIONAL WATER ASSESSMENT CENTRE

45. The Director-General of the Slovak Hydrometeorological Institute, made a statement in which he reconfirmed that IWAC would play an important role in supporting the work under the Convention. He also expressed his hope that this cooperation would produce practical and fruitful results.

46. The Director of IWAC informed the Working Group about how the Slovak Hydrometeorological Institute followed up the offer to host IWAC made by Slovakia at the fourth session of the Meeting of the Parties. He confirmed that the transfer of IWAC to the Slovak Hydrometeorological Institute had been completed.

47. The Director of IWAC introduced the Centre's proposed strategy and workplan for 2010–2012 contained in Inf. 4. The document was intended to replace the current terms of reference of IWAC.

48. Based on the workplan, the Working Group discussed the future role of IWAC, its planned activities and its proposed priorities for the period 2010–2012.

49. The Working Group agreed that IWAC should focus its work on supporting pilot projects and providing input to the preparation of the second Assessment, and that organization of the "Monitoring Tailor-made" Conference should be postponed. Other agreed activities included the organization of capacity-building activities upon request, development of a website and producing an electronic newsletter.

50. The Working Group endorsed the strategy and the workplan with the agreed amendments and requested the secretariat to inform the Working Group on Integrated Water Resources Management about the decisions taken with regard to future IWAC work. It entrusted IWAC, with the assistance of the secretariat, to finalize the document on the basis of the comments received and to submit it to the fifth session of the Meeting of the Parties for adoption.

51. The Chairperson encouraged Governments and stakeholders to join in IWAC activities. The Working Group thanked Slovakia for the work done and expressed its hope for the effective functioning of IWAC as an instrument supportive to the Convention's implementation.

IV. PILOT PROGRAMME ON MONITORING AND ASSESSMENT

A. Ongoing pilot projects on transboundary rivers, lakes and groundwaters

52. The secretariat informed the meeting about progress made with respect to a pilot project supporting the development of the Sava River Basin Management Plan. The project had been a useful step in the preparation of the first Sava River Basin management plan and had also been instrumental to getting access to a major funding from the EU to support the plan's development.

53. Representatives of Hungary and Slovakia briefed the Working Group on follow-up to the Aggtelek/Slovak Karst groundwaters pilot project. The project had resulted in a number of the proposals for follow-up. A report of the project should be published soon and distributed widely, so as to allow others to learn from the experience of its implementation.

54. The representatives of Azerbaijan and Georgia informed the Working Group that no progress had been made since the Working Group's last meeting, where the proposal for a pilot project on Jandar Lake (shared by Azerbaijan and Georgia) had been presented. Funding for the project was still under being considered by Finland. The Chairperson informed the meeting that she would contact the Ministry of the Foreign Affairs of Finland about the Ministry's plans to support the activity.

B. Future pilot projects on transboundary rivers, lakes and groundwaters

55. The secretariat introduced an informal document on the future pilot programme (Inf. 1) that explained the objectives, terms of reference, scope and organization of work for the future programme of pilot projects. It highlighted that the major rationale of this proposal was to provide a common framework for all pilot projects. This would help put into practice the broad knowledge acquired under the Convention. It would also facilitate the exchange of experience between basins and projects and promote good practices and lessons learned throughout the whole UNECE region. The broad context of the proposed pilot programme required the Working on Monitoring and Assessment and of the Working Group on Integrated Water Resources Management to jointly oversee its implementation.

56. Future pilot projects would focus on the following three main thematic 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.

57. Belarus expressed its interest in several pilot projects, mostly those focusing on joint monitoring and assessment of transboundary waters and including an element of data management and information exchange. The Belarusian representative stressed that the priority

for Belarus was the basin of the Western Dvina River, acknowledging at the same time that cooperation with Latvia and the Russian Federation required facilitation. Belarus called upon the Working Group and the secretariat to facilitate communication with the responsible officers in these countries.

58. Other proposals from Belarus concerned pilot projects on the Pripyat River, shared with Ukraine, focusing specifically on the flood forecasting, and on the Dnieper River, shared with the Russian Federation and Ukraine. Ukraine supported both proposals. Regarding the Neman River, shared with Lithuania, Belarus pointed out that it would like to focus work on the following subjects: (a) assessment of the impact of hydropower stations on the status of the water; and (b) monitoring and assessment.

59. It was agreed that Belarus would consult further with the riparian countries and would inform the secretariat about a possible proposal for a pilot project.

60. Ukraine expressed its need for methodological materials on the monitoring and assessment of transboundary waters. It also stated its readiness to share the experience it had gained and to learn from the experience of others with the monitoring and assessment of transboundary waters.

61. Participants agreed that IWAC should facilitate preparation and fund-raising for the pilot projects. In this regard, IWAC brought the meeting's attention to possible funding from the SlovakAid mechanism under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Slovakia, which targeted countries with economies in transition. IWAC also briefed the meeting about ongoing projects on the Tisza and Pripyat Rivers that could be beneficial to possible future projects in these basins. The representative of OSCE suggested submitting future project proposals for consideration under the Environment and Security Initiative (ENVSEC)[1], and suggested contacting the ENVSEC national focal points to this end.

62. The Working Group agreed to include the pilot programme on monitoring and assessment in the workplan for 2010–2012.

63. The Working Group requested the secretariat to inform the Working Group on Integrated Water Resources Management about the discussions and the agreed proposal. It also requested the secretariat to finalize the document, taking into consideration the comments provided by the two Working Groups, for submission to the Meeting of the Parties.

V. STRENGTHENING CAPACITY FOR DATA ADMINISTRATION FOR MONITORING AND ASSESSMENT OF TRANSBOUNDARY WATERS

64. The Chairperson recalled the decision of the Working Group on Monitoring and Assessment's ninth meeting with regard to the establishment of a metadata database to strengthen capacity for data administration of monitoring and assessment of transboundary water resources. She informed participants that since the Working Group's ninth meeting, the

[1] Environment and Security Initiative (ENVSEC), jointly carried out by UNECE, UNDP, UNEP, OSCE and the Regional Environmental Center for Central and Eastern Europe, with the North Atlantic Treaty Organization's Public Diplomatic Division, as an associate member.

International Office for Water, on behalf of France, had kindly agreed to take the lead for this initiative. It had prepared, in cooperation with IWAC and the secretariat, a project proposal to the French Global Environment Fund. The proposal had been accepted in the pre-selection phase and a formal decision on funding would be taken in July 2009. If funded, the project would be carried out over two years, from January 2010 to December 2011.

65. The representative of the International Office for Water presented a project proposal for the strengthening capacity for data administration of monitoring and assessment of transboundary water resources in EECCA countries. The proposal was contained in an informal document (Inf. 6).

66. An important assumption of the proposal was that the metadata database could not be established in one go for all of EECCA, but rather had to be achieved through a number of pilot basins and further replication throughout the subregion. The project would focus on two pilot basins. The first phase of the project would be devoted to defining the two basins where the project would be carried out as well as specific objectives in each basin.

67. The representative of Hungary pointed out that the set of guidance documents on monitoring and assessment developed under the Convention should be taken into account in the project's implementation. Hungary also recommended that the project include groundwaters.

68. The representatives of Belarus, the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine expressed their interest in participating in the pilot projects. They informed the meeting that they would hold further consultations in their respective countries and with the riparian countries concerned and would report back to the secretariat on possible project proposals.

69. The Working Group agreed that strengthening capacity for data administration for monitoring and assessment of transboundary water resources in EECCA countries was an important issue. Accordingly, it agreed to include the development of the metadata database in the workplan for 2010–2012. Moreover, provided funds were confirmed by the French Global Environmental Fund, the Working Group entrusted the International Office for Water and IWAC, with the assistance of the secretariat, with the development and implementation of the project. It also requested the International Office for Water to report on progress made and to present a proposal for future steps at the fifth session of the Meeting of the Parties and at the Working Group's next meeting.

VI. ASSISTANCE TO PARTIES TO THE PROTOCOL ON WATER AND HEALTH ON ISSUES RELATED TO TARGET-SETTING, INDICATORS AND REPORTING

70. The secretariat informed the Working Group about recent activities of the Working Group on Water and Health, including the preparation of draft guidelines for setting targets, evaluating progress and reporting (ECE/MP.WH/WG.1/2009/4 - EUR/09/5086340/9) and the draft guidelines for summary reports in accordance with the Protocol's article 7 (ECE/MP.WH/WG.1/2009/5- EUR/09/5086342/7).

71. The Chairperson stressed the need for the close involvement by the water sector and water experts in work under the Protocol, as this was the only way to ensure effective

implementation of the Protocol in accordance with its spirit of integrating policy and prevention of risks for the environment and human health.

VII. WORKPLANS

A. Workplan for 2007–2009

72. The Chairperson introduced the excerpt from the workplan for 2007–2009 adopted by the Meeting of the Parties at their fourth session that was relevant to the Working Group's work (see informal document WGMA/2007/1). The Working Group considered that work on the technical guidelines was not a priority for the Convention's programme of work. In the first place, no demand for technical guidelines had emerged. Concerning the work on updating the existing inventory of technical guidance, tools and examples of monitoring and assessment practices, participants considered that building a comprehensive and user-friendly inventory with information in English and Russian was an extremely labour-intensive task that was considered a priority neither under the Convention nor for IWAC. The Working Group therefore decided to discontinue this activity.

73. The Working Group entrusted the secretariat, with the assistance of the Bureau and in particular the Chairperson, to prepare a report on the implementation of the current workplan, for submission to the fifth session of the Meeting of the Parties.

B. Workplan for 2010–2012 and beyond

74. The secretariat introduced a proposal for the workplan for 2010–2012 (ECE/MP.WAT/WG.1/2009/3 - ECE/MP.WAT/WG.2/2009/4). Specifically, it brought to the meeting's attention to the following programme areas of relevance for the Working Group: 3, on the Assessment of the status of transboundary waters; 4.2.2, on the pilot projects on joint monitoring and assessment of transboundary waters, including data management and information exchange; 5, on the sharing of experience and capacity-building; and 7, on cooperation with the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol on Water and Health.

75. With regard to the programme area 5 (sharing of experience and capacity-building), the Working Group agreed that activities at regional level should address strategic and policy issues, rather than technical aspects, and should focus on emerging issues.

76. The representative of Wetlands International suggested including in the programme on pilot projects, as a contribution to the second Assessment, an assessment of impacts on the status of Siberian rivers flowing from Central Asia to the Arctic Ocean as well as on permanent ice in the Arctic Ocean. The representative also suggested, on behalf of the World Wildlife Fund, considering a project proposal on adaptation to climate change in the basin of the Amur River. The Working Group welcomed the proposals, but stressed that such decisions required agreement from the riparian Parties sharing the related basins.

77. Taking into account the decisions under the previous agenda items, the Working Group agreed that the priority activities to be included in the 2010–2012 workplan were: (a) the second

Assessment of transboundary rivers, lakes and groundwaters in the UNECE region; (b) pilot projects; (c) activities carried out by IWAC; and (d) the metadata database.

78. The Working Group requested the secretariat to inform the Working Group on Integrated Water Resources Management about its discussions and decisions. Furthermore, it was agreed that participants should send comments to the draft workplan, if applicable, by 30 June 2009. The Working Group also requested the Bureau, with the assistance of the secretariat, to finalize the draft workplan, taking into consideration the comments provided by the two Working Groups, and to submit it to the fifth session of the Meeting of the Parties. The secretariat was requested to assess the resources required for the workplan's implementation, including personnel and costs for activities. Parties and non-Parties were invited to inform the secretariat of their willingness to lead or participate in implementation of the workplan elements.

VIII. DATE AND VENUE OF THE ELEVENTH MEETING OF THE WORKING GROUP

79. Considering the schedule of preparation of the second Assessment, the dates of the fifth meeting of the Parties and the availability of interpretation in Geneva, it was tentatively agreed to hold the eleventh meeting of the Working Group on Monitoring and Assessment from 5 to 7 July 2010, possibly back-to-back with the fifth meeting of the Working Group on Integrated Water Resources Management.
