



Convention of the Protection and Use of
Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes
Task Force on Water and Climate
Sixth meeting
Geneva, Switzerland, 27 June 2013

ANNOTATED PROVISIONAL AGENDA FOR THE SIXTH MEETING

To be held in the Palais des Nations, Geneva,
starting on Thursday, 27 June 2013 at 9.30 a.m.

I. PROVISIONAL AGENDA

1. Opening and election of officers
2. Adoption of the agenda
3. Programme of pilot projects and global network of transboundary basins working on adaptation to climate change
4. Global platform for exchanging experience on water and adaptation to climate change in transboundary basins
5. Collection of good practices and lessons learned
6. Synergies with other areas of work under the Water Convention
7. Other business
8. Closing

II. BACKGROUND AND PRACTICAL INFORMATION

Background

1. The Task Force on Water and Climate under the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes (Water Convention) is responsible for activities related to adaptation to climate change, including flood and drought management, in accordance with the programme of work for 2013–2015 of the Water Convention, which encompasses the following activities:

- (a) Compile, analyse, publish and disseminate good practices and lessons learned from the programme of pilot projects under the Convention and other similar initiatives;
- (b) Promote cooperation in the development of adaptation strategies and in their implementation in transboundary basins, through the programme of pilot projects and global network of basins working on climate change adaptation in;
- (c) Provide a global platform for exchanging experience, good practices and lessons learned regarding adaptation to climate change in transboundary basins.

2. The sixth meeting of the Task Force on Water and Climate aims to review the progress and discuss the implementation of future activities to be undertaken under the programme of work for 2013-2015 of the Water Convention. These activities are to be implemented in the context of the global opening of the Water Convention to all the United Nations Member States, following the entry into force of the amendments to articles 25 and 26 of the Convention on 6 February 2013.

Practical information

3. The sixth meeting of the Task Force will start at 9.30 a.m. and end at 4.30 p.m. on Thursday, 27 June 2013. It will be held in the Palais des Nations, Geneva. The Task Force meeting will be organized back-to-back with the Fourth Workshop on Adaptation to Climate Change in Transboundary Basins, which will be held on 25-26 June 2013 in Geneva. The working languages will be English, French, Russian and Spanish.

4. The meeting is open to experts representing governmental authorities, the private sector, non-governmental and international organizations as well as other interested stakeholders. Focal points are requested to disseminate information on the meeting and to facilitate the nomination of relevant experts from their respective countries.

5. Eligible participants from countries with economies in transition and developing countries may apply for financial support to facilitate their participation in the meeting. Requests for financial support should be submitted to the UNECE secretariat (cammile.marcelo@unece.org) as soon as possible, but not later than **Wednesday 15 May 2013**. No application will be accepted after this deadline.

6. Participants requiring entry visas should inform the UNECE secretariat as soon as possible. Due to the entry of Switzerland in the Schengen Zone, the minimum amount of time needed for obtaining a visa is 15 working days. Participants needing a visa are therefore requested to submit their application as soon as possible and initiate visa procedures at **least three weeks before the meeting**.

7. In accordance with United Nations accreditation procedures, participants are requested to complete the registration form available online (http://www.unece.org/env/water/6th_meeting_taskforce_water_climate_2013.html) and to transmit it to the UNECE secretariat by **Monday 10 June 2013** at the latest (cammile.marcelo@unece.org). On their way to the meeting, participants should obtain an identification badge at the Pass and Identification Unit of the United Nations Office at Geneva Security and Safety Section located at the Pregny Gate, 14 Avenue de la Paix (see map on the UNECE website). Please allow enough time for this.

8. Practical information on the Palais des Nations, as well as on transport and accommodation in Geneva, is available online at: <http://www.unece.org/meetings/practical.htm>.

9. Further information, the registration form and relevant material will be made available on the following website in due course:
http://www.unece.org/env/water/6th_meeting_taskforce_water_climate_2013.html and for the workshop: http://www.unece.org/env/water/transboundary_adaptation_workshop_2013.html

III. ANNOTATIONS TO THE PROVISIONAL AGENDA

Item 1: Opening and election of officers (9.30- 9.40 a.m.)

10. The co-Chairs will open the meeting. The Task Force will be asked to elect its officers for 2013-2015.

Item 2: Adoption of the agenda (9.40- 9.45 a.m.)

11. The Task Force is expected to adopt its agenda as set out in the present document.

Item 3: Programme of pilot projects and global network of transboundary basins working on adaptation to climate change¹ (9.45 – 11.00 a.m.)

Background document “Overview of the activities of the pilot projects and other basins in the global network” (TFWC/2013/1)

12. The Task Force will review the progress of the programme of pilot projects and provide comments as relevant. In particular, the Task Force will welcome representatives of new basins which have joined the global network of transboundary basins working on adaptation to climate change. The Task Force will discuss how to enable the comparison of methodologies and approaches, foster the exchange of experience and promote a shared vision between the participating basins worldwide through the global network of transboundary basins working on adaptation to climate change.

13. The Task Force will also be briefed on the third meeting of the core group of pilot projects and the first meeting of the global network of transboundary basins working on adaptation to climate change, held on 20–21 February 2013 in Geneva.

Item 4: Global platform for exchanging experience on water and adaptation to climate change in transboundary basins (11.00 a.m. – 12.30 p.m.)

14. Participants will be informed about the background of the global platform for exchanging experience on water and adaptation to climate change, established in light of the global opening of the Water Convention to all the United Nations Member States, following the entry into force of the amendments to articles 25 and 26 of the Convention on 6 February 2013. They will discuss the aims and components of this platform, namely regular workshops and partnerships. In this regard, the Task Force will discuss the outcomes of the Fourth Workshop on Adaptation to Climate Change in Transboundary Basins, to be held on 25-26 June 2013 in Geneva, in view of future activities such as the collection of good practices.

¹ The sixth session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Water Convention (Rome, 28–30 November 2012) decided to strengthen the implementation of the programme of pilot projects and expand its geographic scope by: (a) promoting the implementation of some previously agreed adaptation strategies developed during the programme of work 2010–2012; and (b) adding new pilot projects — including at the borders of the ECE region or in other regions, which are already working on climate change adaptation and which will contribute to and benefit from the regular exchange of experience. More information on the pilot projects and their progress is contained in the background document “Overview of the activities of the pilot projects and other basins in the global network” (TFWC/2013/1).

15. The Task Force will discuss the future cooperation with global partners, such as the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), the European Union, the Alliance for Global Water Adaptation (AGWA), the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN), the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), the Global Water Partnership (GWP), the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), UN-Water and others. The French Water Partnership's initiative, carried out in cooperation with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) which elaborated four recommendations as an outcome of the sixth World Water Forum aimed to reduced uncertainty in climate change and water will also be considered. Partners will be invited to briefly present their ongoing activities on water and adaptation to climate change and to present their suggestions for promoting the transfer of lessons learned and a broader exchange under the global platform.

16. The meeting will particularly discuss cooperation with UNFCCC and its Nairobi Work Programme on impacts, vulnerability and adaptation to climate change where water is now receiving greater attention. Such cooperation could include sharing information and knowledge on adaptation in water management as well as direct inputs into the work on water and adaptation under UNFCCC upon request of the relevant UNFCCC bodies. Representatives of UNFCCC will be invited to report on the latest developments in the Convention's Adaptation Committee and the Nairobi work programme.

17. The Task Force will also discuss the possibility for the UNECE platform to further function as an informal network among water experts which countries can use for facilitating preparation of their inputs on adaptation and water for the UNFCCC process.

Item 5: Collection of good practices and lessons learned (2.30 – 4.00 p.m.)

Background document: Concept note on the collection of good practices and lessons learnt (TFWC/2013/3)

18. The Task Force will discuss the collection of the existing knowledge, experience, good practices and lessons learned on climate change adaptation in transboundary basins, based on the Convention's pilot projects and other similar activities. The collection of good practices, which is expected to be launched at the seventh World Water Forum (Republic of Korea, 2015), will serve as a complement to the *Guidance on Water and Adaptation to Climate Change*². The Task Force will discuss the approach, the selection criteria, the methodology and the timeline for the collection of good practices and lessons learned.

19. The Task Force will also consider the need for revising and updating the Guidance in the longer term.

Item 6: Synergies with other areas of work under the Water Convention (4.00-4.30 p.m.)

20. The Task Force will discuss how to promote internal synergies with other areas of work under the programme of work for 2013–2015 of the Water Convention. In particular, the Task Force will be invited to provide input to the thematic assessment of the water-food-energy-ecosystems nexus in selected transboundary basins, following a presentation by the secretariat on the approach. Suggestions from the Task Force on Water and Climate about how assessing the

² United Nations publication, Sales No. 09.II.E.14, available at: <http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=11658>

impact of climate change and variability on the nexus can be incorporated into the nexus assessment under the Water Convention would be welcome.

Item 7: Other business (4.30 p.m.)

21. At the time of writing, the secretariat had no points to propose under this item. Delegates wishing to propose points under this item should inform the secretariat as soon as possible.

Item 8: Closing

22. The co-Chairs will close the meeting at 4.30 p.m. on Thursday, 27 June 2013.
