



Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
10 April 2012

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 Integrated Water Resources Management

Seventh meeting

Geneva, 3–4 July 2012

Item 1 of the provisional agenda

Adoption of the agenda

Working Group on Monitoring and Assessment

Thirteenth meeting

Geneva, 3–4 July 2012

Item 1 of the provisional agenda

Adoption of the agenda

Annotated provisional agenda for the joint meeting

To be held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva, starting on Tuesday,
3 July 2012, at 10 a.m.*

I. Provisional agenda

1. Adoption of the agenda.
2. Adoption of the reports of the previous meetings.

* Delegates attending meetings at the Palais des Nations are requested to complete the registration form available on the Water Convention web page (<http://www.unece.org/env/water.html>) and to transmit it to the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) secretariat no later than two weeks before the meeting by e-mail (cammile.marcelo@unece.org). On their way to the meeting, delegates 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 the map on the ECE website: <http://www.unece.org/meetings/practical.htm>). In case of difficulty, please contact the secretariat by telephone at +41 22 917 1606.

3. Progress in the ratification process, including the ratification of the amendments to open the Convention to countries outside the region.
4. Support for implementation and compliance.
 - (a) Mechanism to support implementation and compliance;
 - (b) Transboundary groundwaters;
 - (c) Other projects supporting implementation of the Convention.
5. Adaptation to climate change in transboundary basins.
6. Second Assessment of Transboundary Rivers, Lakes and Groundwaters and future assessments under the Convention.
7. Joint monitoring and assessment of transboundary waters, including data management and information exchange.
8. Water and ecosystems.
9. Water and industrial accidents:
 - (a) Joint Ad Hoc Expert Group on Water and Industrial Accidents;
 - (b) Protocol on Civil Liability and Compensation for Damage Caused by the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents on Transboundary Waters.
10. European Union Water Initiative and National Policy Dialogues.
11. Ongoing programme of work for 2010–2012.
12. Promotion of the Convention and its twentieth anniversary.
13. Opening of the Convention.
14. Draft programme of work for 2013–2015 and vision for the future of the Convention.
15. International Water Assessment Centre and its future work.
16. Cooperation with partners.
17. Cooperation with the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol on Water and Health.
18. Dates and venues of the next meetings of the Working Group on Integrated Water Resources Management and the Working Group on Monitoring and Assessment.
19. Other business.
20. Closure of the meeting.

II. Annotations

1. The main objective of the joint meeting of the Working Group on Integrated Water Resources Management and the Working Group on Monitoring and Assessment is to review the implementation of the workplan for 2010–2012 (ECE/MP.WAT/29/Add.1) for the Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes (Water Convention) and to agree on a draft workplan for 2013–2015 as well as on any other decisions and proposals to be submitted for discussion and adoption at the sixth session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention (Rome, Italy, 28–30 November 2012).

2. The meeting will be held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva. It will start at 10 a.m. on Tuesday, 3 July and end at 5.30 p.m. on Wednesday, 4 July 2012. The second meeting of the Core Group on National Policy Dialogues will be held on 2 July 2012, back to back with the joint meeting of the Working Groups.
3. The working languages for the joint meeting will be English, French and Russian.
4. All relevant documentation will be available on the Water Convention website (<http://www.unece.org/env/water.html>).

1. Adoption of the agenda

Tentative timing: 10 a.m.–10.05 a.m., Tuesday, 3 July 2012

5. The Working Groups are expected to adopt the agenda as set out in the present document.
6. The Working Group Chairs will explain the background and main objectives of the meeting.

2. Adoption of the reports of the previous meetings

Tentative timing: 10.05–10.10 a.m., Tuesday, 3 July 2012

Official documentation: Report of the Working Group on Integrated Water Resources Management on its sixth meeting (ECE/MP.WAT/WG.1/2011/2); Report of the Working Group on Monitoring and Assessment on its twelfth meeting (ECE/MP.WAT/WG.2/2011/2)

7. The Working Group on Integrated Water Resources Management is expected to adopt the report of its sixth meeting. The Working Group on Monitoring and Assessment is expected to adopt the report of its twelfth meeting.

3. Progress in the ratification process, including the ratification of the amendments to open the Convention to countries outside the region

Official documentation: Opening the Convention beyond the region: Why the amendments to articles 25 and 26 should enter into force soon (ECE/MP.WAT/2009/1); Amendment to articles 25 and 26 of the Convention (ECE/MP.WAT/14)

Tentative timing: 10.10–10.45 a.m., Tuesday, 3 July 2012

8. Since the previous meetings of the Working Groups, Denmark, Italy, Switzerland and Uzbekistan have ratified the amendments to articles 25 and 26 of the Convention.
9. Delegations will be invited to report on any recent or anticipated developments with respect to the ratification of the Convention and the amendments to articles 25 and 26 in their respective countries.
10. The Working Groups will discuss how to foster ratification of the Convention. They will also discuss how to promote ratification of the amendments so as to ensure their entry into force by the sixth session of the Meeting of the Parties in 2012.

4. Support for implementation and compliance

Tentative timing: 10.45 a.m.–12 p.m., Tuesday, 3 July 2012

Official documentation: Report of the tenth meeting of the Legal Board (ECE/MP.WAT/AC.4/2012/2); Study on the application of the Convention to groundwater: explicatory recognition of existing United Nations Economic Commission for Europe regulatory language (ECE/MP.WAT/WG.1/2012/3–ECE/MP.WAT/WG.2/2012/3); Draft decision on the establishment of an implementation committee (ECE/MP.WAT/WG.1/2012/L.2–ECE/MP.WAT/WG.2/2012/L.2); Draft model provisions on transboundary groundwaters (ECE/MP.WAT/WG.1/2012/L.3–ECE/MP.WAT/WG.2/2012/L.3).

(a) Mechanism to support implementation and compliance

11. The Chair of the Legal Board will inform the meeting about the key outcomes of the tenth meeting of the Legal Board (Geneva, 31 January–1 February 2012) where the proposal and draft rules of procedure for a mechanism to facilitate and support implementation of and compliance with the Convention were finalized for adoption at the sixth session of the Meeting of the Parties in November 2012.

12. The Working Groups will discuss modalities for the establishment of the implementation committee, including the identification and election of candidates and the promotion of the mechanism.

(b) Transboundary groundwaters

13. The Working Groups will be informed about the finalization of the study on the application of the principles of the Convention to transboundary groundwaters, to be submitted to the sixth session of the Meeting of the Parties, and about the progress in the development of the draft model provisions for transboundary groundwaters, developed by a core group of nominated experts on groundwater. The Working Groups will consider and comment the draft model provisions and decide on the way forward for their finalization and submission to the Meeting of the Parties for possible adoption.

14. The Working Groups will discuss options for promoting the implementation and use of the model provisions once accepted, including their relationship with other similar initiatives.

15. The secretariat will inform the Working Groups about the Capacity for Water Cooperation (CWC) workshop on transboundary groundwaters, held on 29–31 May 2012 in Kazakhstan.

(c) Other projects supporting implementation of the Convention

16. The secretariat will inform the Working Groups on the progress achieved in projects supporting implementation of the Convention in South-Eastern Europe, Eastern Europe and the Caucasus, as well as Central Asia, developed with the support of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) Regional Adviser. The Working Groups will provide comments as needed, including on the future development of such projects.

5. Adaptation to climate change in transboundary basins

Tentative timing: 12–1 p.m., Tuesday, 3 July 2012

Official documentation: Lessons learned and future work on climate change adaptation in transboundary basins (ECE/MP.WAT/WG.1/2012/5–ECE/MP.WAT/WG.2/2012/5); Draft programme of work for 2013–2015 (ECE/MP.WAT/WG.1/2012/L.1–ECE/MP.WAT/WG.2/2012/L.1)

Information paper: Progress report on the pilot projects on climate change adaptation in transboundary basins

17. The co-Chairs of the Task Force on Water and Climate will brief participants on the outcomes of the fifth meeting of the Task Force (Geneva, 27 April 2012) and of the “Third Workshop on Water and Adaptation to Climate Change in Transboundary Basins — Making adaptation work” (Geneva, 25–26 April 2012), in particular in relation to the pilot projects on water and adaptation to climate change and the platform for exchanging experience on adaptation in transboundary basins. Representatives of the pilot projects will be invited to report about their progress.

18. The Working Groups will provide comments, as needed, on the work accomplished.

19. The Task Force co-Chairs will present proposed future activities in this area of work for 2013–2015 as suggested by the Task Force. The Working Groups will be invited to comment such proposals. A discussion on the overall programme of work for 2013–2015 will take place under agenda item 14.

6. Second Assessment of Transboundary Rivers, Lakes and Groundwaters and future assessments under the Convention

Tentative timing: 3–4 p.m., Tuesday, 3 July 2012

Official documentation: Lessons learned from the preparation of the Second Assessment and future assessments under the Convention (ECE/MP.WAT/WG.1/2012/4–ECE/MP.WAT/WG.2/2012/4); Draft programme of work for 2013–2015 (ECE/MP.WAT/WG.1/2012/L.1–ECE/MP.WAT/WG.2/2012/L.1)

20. The Chair of the Working Group on Monitoring and Assessment will inform the Working Groups on the finalization, launching and further promotion of the Second Assessment of Transboundary Rivers, Lakes and Groundwaters, and will provide an overview of the main messages and findings of the Second Assessment.

21. The Chair will also recall the decisions of the last joint meeting of the two Working Groups (Geneva, 4 May 2011) on future assessments, including the decision to prepare a third comprehensive assessment of all transboundary basins in the ECE region in 8–10 years, and to develop a special thematic assessment edition, focusing on a specific topic, to be finalized by 2015.

22. The secretariat will present the lessons learned from the Second Assessment and the options for the topic of the special thematic edition deriving from the discussions at the “Strategic workshop on the future work under the ECE Water Convention: building on the findings of the Second Assessment and other results achieved” (Geneva, 14–15 February 2012) and within the Bureau.

23. The Working Groups will be invited to comment on the proposal, agree on the thematic focus for the special edition and discuss possible partners and basins to be assessed, as well as resource requirements and funding opportunities.

24. The Working Groups will also agree on ways and means to finalize the proposal on this issue for submission to the Meeting of the Parties.

7. Joint monitoring and assessment of transboundary waters, including data management and information exchange

Tentative timing: 4–4.20 p.m., Tuesday, 3 July 2012

Information paper: progress report on the project to strengthen capacity for data administration and exchange for monitoring and assessment of transboundary water resources in Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia

25. The Chair of the Working Group on Monitoring and Assessment will invite representatives of the International Office for Water and of the International Water Assessment Centre (IWAC) to report on the progress of the project “Strengthening capacity for data administration and exchange for monitoring and assessment of transboundary water resources in Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia”, in particular concerning activities undertaken and future plans, as well as on cooperation with other similar projects. The Working Groups will be invited to discuss the project and provide comments. In particular, representatives of the pilot basins will be invited to complete the information provided and introduce their perspectives on the project.

8. Water and ecosystems

Tentative timing: 4.20–4.50 p.m., Tuesday, 3 July 2012

Information paper: Conclusions from activities on water and ecosystems under the Water Convention

26. The Working Groups will be informed about progress achieved and future plans in implementing the pilot projects on payments for ecosystem services.

27. Switzerland will be invited to report on the workshop on forest and water in low-forest-cover countries, held on 7 and 8 July 2011 in Geneva, back to back with the workshop on payments for ecosystem services (4–5 July 2011), organized by the ECE/Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) Timber Committee.

28. The Working Groups will then discuss the main results of the activities on water and ecosystems under the Convention.

9. Water and industrial accidents

Tentative timing: 4.50–5.20 p.m., Tuesday, 3 July 2012

(a) Joint Ad Hoc Expert Group on Water and Industrial Accidents

29. The Working Groups will be informed on the plans and progress achieved in the development of a checklist for contingency planning and its testing in a transboundary case by the Joint Ad Hoc Expert Group on Water and Industrial Accidents. The Working Group will also be informed about the outcomes of the workshop on the occasion of the twenty-

fifth anniversary of the Sandoz accident, held on 8 and 9 November 2011 in Bonn, Germany.

30. The Working Groups will provide comments and agree on the next steps in this area.

(b) Protocol on Civil Liability and Compensation for Damage Caused by the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents on Transboundary Waters

31. In order to jointly promote the entry into force of the Protocol on Civil Liability and Compensation for Damage Caused by the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents on Transboundary Waters to the Water Convention and the Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents, the Bureaux of the two Conventions decided to:

- *Step 1*, strive to better understand what national legislation is required to implement the Protocol in light of differences between the Protocol and other civil liability instruments.
- *Step 2*, carry out case studies based on realistic potential accidents to understand the implications including the benefits of implementing the Protocol and/or other instruments.
- *Step 3*, identify and recommend actions which would enable the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine to implement the Protocol.

32. The Working Group will be briefed about the outcomes of step 1, a study carried out by a consultant to better understand what national legislation is required to implement the Protocol in light of differences between the Protocol and other civil liability instruments.

33. The Working Groups will discuss further steps in this area.

10. European Union Water Initiative and National Policy Dialogues¹

Tentative timing: 5.20–6 p.m., Tuesday, 3 July 2012

Information document: Report on National Policy Dialogues and vision for the future development of the dialogues

34. The Working Groups will be informed about recent developments under the European Union (EU) Water Initiative and its National Policy Dialogues process regarding integrated water resources management activities facilitated by ECE and water supply and sanitation activities facilitated by the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, as key strategic partners of the EU Water Initiative in Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia. In particular, the Working Groups will be briefed about the ongoing dialogue processes on integrated water resources management financed by the European Commission, Finland, Norway and Switzerland in Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Kyrgyzstan, the Republic of Moldova, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Ukraine.

35. The Working Group will examine the lessons learned and the added value of the dialogue process for the Convention. It will discuss the vision of future developments of the dialogues and agree on ways and means to further strengthen them.

¹ The National Policy Dialogues (NPDs) will be discussed in more detail during the second meeting of the Core Groups on NPDs, to be held on 2 July in the Palais des Nations in Geneva.

11. Ongoing programme of work for 2010–2012

Tentative timing: 9.30–10 a.m., Wednesday, 4 July 2012

Official documentation: Workplan for 2010–2012 (ECE/MP.WAT/29/Add.1)

36. The Working Groups will review the progress made in the implementation of the Convention's programme of work for 2010–2012, and draw lessons for the future programmes of work.

12. Promotion of the Convention and its twentieth anniversary

Tentative timing: 10–10.40 a.m., Wednesday, 4 July 2012

Official documentation: How to better promote the Convention and its Protocol on Water and Health: a guide for focal points (ECE/MP.WAT/2009/13)

37. The Working Groups will be informed about the Water Convention's involvement in and relevant outcomes of the sixth World Water Forum, held in Marseille, France, from 12 to 17 March 2012. The secretariat will also provide information on various promotional efforts to mark the twentieth anniversary of the Convention in 2012.

38. A representative of Finland will report on a special event organized for the twentieth anniversary of the Convention and its forthcoming global opening, to be held on 3 and 4 September 2012 in Helsinki.

39. The Working Groups will be invited to provide comments and focal points will be invited to report on their national efforts to promote the Convention and celebrate its anniversary.

40. The secretariat will provide information on the plans for the International Year of Water Cooperation in 2013. The Working Groups will discuss how to promote the Convention on this occasion and in general in the future.

41. Finally, the Working Groups will discuss linkages between the Convention and global processes such as the outcomes of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development.

13. Opening of the Convention

Tentative timing: 10.40–11.40 a.m., Wednesday, 4 July 2012

Official documentation: Draft decision on accession by non-ECE countries (ECE/MP.WAT/WG.1/2012/L.4–ECE/MP.WAT/WG.2/2012/L.4), Draft programme of work for 2013–2015 (ECE/MP.WAT/WG.1/2012/L.1–ECE/MP.WAT/WG.2/2012/L.1)

Information document: Report of the International Conference on Europe-Asia Transboundary Water Cooperation (Geneva, 15–16 December 2011)

42. The secretariat will inform the Working Groups about the outcomes of the International Conference on Europe-Asia Transboundary Water Cooperation, held in Geneva on 15 and 16 December 2011.

43. The Working Groups will discuss the prospects for the expected opening of the Convention to non-ECE member States and how to facilitate future accession by non-ECE countries. In this regard, the Bureau will present a draft decision for adoption by the

Meeting of the Parties to facilitate the accession to the Convention by non-ECE countries. The Working Groups will be invited to discuss the draft decision and to agree on ways and means to finalize it for submission to the Meeting of the Parties.

44. Subsequently, the Working Groups will discuss the implications of the opening of the Convention to non-ECE countries, including their involvement in the future programme of work and participation in future activities, the exchange of experience between regions and the promotion of the Convention's implementation beyond the ECE region.

45. The Working Groups will be also invited to discuss the Convention's relationship to the 1997 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Non-Navigational Uses of International Watercourses, which is expected to enter into force soon. Current and prospective Parties to both Conventions will be invited to discuss how the two international legal frameworks will interact and how they can support each other and build synergies, in particular, how the rich experience and guidance material collected under the ECE Water Convention can support implementation of the United Nations Watercourses Convention once it enters into force.

46. Countries will also be invited to discuss the possible future institutional governance frameworks for the two Conventions.

14. Draft programme of work for 2013–2015 and vision for the future of the Convention

Tentative timing: 11.40 a.m.–12.30 p.m. and 2.30–4 p.m., Wednesday, 4 July 2012

Official documentation: Draft programme of work for 2013–2015 (ECE/MP.WAT/WG.1/2012/L.1–ECE/MP.WAT/WG.2/2012/L.1); Draft vision for the future of the Water Convention (ECE/MP.WAT/WG.1/2012/L.5–ECE/MP.WAT/WG.1/2012/L.5)

47. The Working Groups will be informed about the process of preparation of the draft programme of work for 2013–2015 and of the vision for the future of the Water Convention, in particular the outcomes of the strategic workshop on the future work under the ECE Water Convention held in February 2012 (see para. 22).

48. On the basis of a draft programme of work prepared by the Bureau (ECE/MP.WAT/WG.1/2012/L.1–ECE/MP.WAT/WG.2/2012/L.1), as well as the discussions under previous agenda items, the Working Groups will discuss and agree on future activities under the Water Convention, including potential lead countries. When discussing the workplan the Working Groups will also consider resources needed for its implementation.

49. The Working Groups will also discuss and agree on the future institutional structure under the Convention and the mandate of the different subsidiary bodies to guide the implementation of the 2013–2015 workplan.

50. The Working Groups will agree on ways and means to finalize the draft workplan to be submitted to the Parties for adoption at their sixth meeting.

51. The Working Groups will also discuss the draft vision on the future of the Water Convention, prepared by the Bureau on the basis of the experience over the past 20 years, the results achieved and the outcomes of the strategic workshop.

52. The Working Groups will comment the future vision and agree on its finalization and submission to the sixth session of the Meeting of the Parties.

15. International Water Assessment Centre and its future work

Tentative timing: 4–4.30 p.m., Wednesday, 4 July 2012

Information document: Report on IWAC work and draft IWAC workplan for 2013–2015

53. Mr. Boris Minarik, Director of IWAC, will inform participants about IWAC support to the current programme of work and present how IWAC could contribute to the implementation of the future workplan, including the draft IWAC workplan for the period 2013–2015. The Working Groups will provide comments as needed and agree on ways and means to finalize the IWAC workplan for 2013–2015 for submission to the sixth session of the Meeting of the Parties.

16. Cooperation with partners

Tentative timing: 4.30–5 p.m., Wednesday, 4 July 2012

Official documentation: Draft decision on cooperation with the Global Environmental Facility (ECE/MP.WAT/WG.1/2012/L.6–ECE/MP.WAT/WG.2/2012/L.6); Draft programme of work for 2013–2015 (ECE/MP.WAT/WG.1/2012/L.1–ECE/MP.WAT/WG.2/2012/L.1)

54. The Working Groups will consider potential partners for the implementation of the future workplan.

55. In particular, the Working Groups will consider the opportunity to strengthen the cooperation with the Global Environmental Facility (GEF) and will discuss a draft decision on this issue prepared by the Bureau for submission to the Meeting of the Parties at its sixth session.

56. The Working Groups will also discuss how to increase synergies and cooperation with other multilateral environmental agreements. In particular, the Chair of the Bureau will inform the Working Groups about the recently established process of cooperation and coordination between the representatives of the governing bodies of the ECE environmental conventions and the Committee of Environmental Policy.

57. The secretariat will inform the Working Group about the contributions of ECE to the activities of UN-Water, and in particular to the UN-Water Thematic Priority Area on Transboundary Waters.

17. Cooperation with the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol on Water and Health

Tentative timing: 5–5.15 p.m., Wednesday, 4 July 2012

58. The Working Groups will discuss options for cooperation with activities under the Protocol on Water and Health, in particular in the areas of (a) adaptation to climate change; (b) the setting of targets and target dates according to article 6 of the Protocol; and (c) reviewing progress and reporting according to article 7 of the Protocol.

18. Dates and venues of the next meetings of the Working Group on Integrated Water Resources Management and the Working Group on Monitoring and Assessment

Tentative timing: 5.15–5.20 p.m., Wednesday, 4 July 2012

59. The Working Groups will determine preliminary dates and venues for their next meetings.

19. Other business

Tentative timing: 5.20–5.30 p.m., Wednesday, 4 July 2012

60. Delegates wishing to propose points under this item are requested to inform the secretariat as soon as possible.

20. Closure of the meeting

61. The Chairs will close the meeting at 5.30 p.m. on Wednesday, 4 July 2012.
