



# Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General  
8 August 2016

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

#### Eleventh meeting

Geneva, 18 and 19 October 2016

Item 2 of the provisional agenda

#### Adoption of the agenda

### Annotated provisional agenda for the eleventh meeting

To be held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva, starting on Tuesday,  
18 October 2016, at 10 a.m.\*

#### I. Provisional agenda

1. Opening of the session and election of officers.
2. Adoption of the agenda.
3. Adoption of the report of the previous meeting.

---

\* Delegates attending the meeting at the Palais des Nations are requested to register no later than two weeks before the meeting using the new electronic procedure. Registration is available through the following link: <https://www2.unece.org/uncdb/app/ext/meeting-registration?id=1VqE7H>. For assistance with registration, please see the instructions on the meeting's web page ([http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=41733#](http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=41733#/)) or contact the secretariat by e-mail ([cammile.marcelo@unece.org](mailto: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 United Nations Economic Commission for Europe website: [www.unece.org/meetings/practical.html](http://www.unece.org/meetings/practical.html)). In case of difficulty, please contact the secretariat by telephone at +41 22 917 1606.



4. Progress in the ratification process, including the ratification of the amendments to open the Convention to countries outside the region.
5. Special session on the twentieth anniversary of the entry into force of the Convention and its opening for global accession.
6. Support to implementation and application of the Convention:
  - (a) Assistance supporting accession to and implementation of the Convention through projects on the ground and capacity development;
  - (b) Implementation Committee;
  - (c) Reporting under the Convention;
  - (d) Development of a concept for a third comprehensive assessment.
7. Identifying, assessing and communicating the benefits of transboundary water cooperation.
8. The water-food-energy-ecosystems nexus in transboundary basins.
9. Adapting to climate change in transboundary basins.
10. Opening the Convention, promotion and partnerships:
  - (a) Promoting accession by raising awareness about the Convention and developing capacity to implement its provisions;
  - (b) Cooperation with partners;
  - (c) Strategy for the implementation of the Convention at the global level.
11. European Union Water Initiative and National Policy Dialogues.
12. International Water Assessment Centre.
13. Water and industrial accidents.
14. Ongoing programme of work for 2016–2018.
15. Date and venue of the next meeting of the Working Group.
16. Other business.
17. Closure of the meeting.

## II. Annotations

1. The eleventh meeting of the Working Group on Integrated Water Resources Management under the Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes (Water Convention) will be held at the Palais des Nations in Geneva, Switzerland, starting at 10 a.m. on Tuesday, 18 October and ending at 5.30 p.m. on Wednesday, 19 October 2016. The working languages for the meeting will be English, French, Russian, and Spanish. All relevant documentation will be available on a dedicated page of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) Water Convention website.<sup>1</sup>

---

<sup>1</sup> See <http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=41733#/>.

### **Special session on the twentieth anniversary of the entry into force of the Convention and its opening for global accession**

2. The eleventh meeting will be organized around two major thematic poles: the twentieth anniversary of the entry into force of the Convention; and the opening of the Convention to accession by all United Nations members States, in effect since 1 March 2016. A special session will be held on 18 October dedicated to these two themes in order to discuss the main achievements in transboundary water cooperation under the Convention over the past 20 years and future challenges. At the end of the day, the Government of Switzerland will host a reception in celebration of the Convention's twentieth anniversary and its global opening.

#### **Other work items**

3. Participants will also examine in greater depth issues connected with the opening of the Convention, its promotion and partnerships. In particular, Participants will discuss how the Convention should evolve to best support transboundary water cooperation globally and start work on the strategy for the implementation of the Convention at the global level, including with regard to the Convention's relationship with the Convention on the Law of the Non-navigational Uses of International Watercourses (Watercourses Convention) and the role of key partners. A draft global strategy will be submitted to the Meeting of the Parties for consideration and adoption at its eighth session, in 2018.

4. Among others, the Working Group will also review the implementation of the programme of work for 2016–2018 (ECE/MP.WAT/49/Add.1) and examine progress with regard to the water-food-energy-ecosystems nexus assessments, the European Union Water Initiative National Policy Dialogues and activities undertaken in the context of water and industrial accidents and adaptation to climate change in transboundary basins.

## **1. Opening of the session and election of officers**

*Tentative timing: 10–10.15 a.m., Tuesday, 18 October*

5. The Working Group will be opened by high-level representatives of Parties to the Convention and ECE. Subsequently, the Working Group will elect its co-Chairs, taking into account that at its seventh session (Budapest, 17–19 November 2015) the Meeting of the Parties elected Ms. Heide Jekel (Germany) and Ms. Lea Kauppi (Finland) to prepare the current session of the Working Group.

## **2. Adoption of the agenda**

*Tentative timing: 10.15–10.20 a.m., Tuesday, 18 October*

6. The co-Chairs of the Working Group on Integrated Water Resources Management will open the meeting. The Working Group is expected to adopt the agenda as set out in the present document.

7. The co-Chairs will present the background and main objectives of the meeting.

#### **Documentation**

Annotated provisional agenda for the eleventh meeting (ECE/MP.WAT/WG.1/2016/1)

### **3. Adoption of the report of the previous meeting**

*Tentative timing: 10.20–10.30 a.m., Tuesday, 18 October*

8. The Working Group will be invited to adopt the report of its tenth meeting (Geneva, 24–25 June 2015).

#### **Documentation**

Report of the Working Group on Integrated Water Resources Management on its tenth meeting (ECE/MP.WAT/WG.1/2015/2)

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

*Tentative timing: 10.30–10.35 a.m., Tuesday, 18 October*

9. The secretariat will inform participants about the status of ratification of the Convention, recalling that the amendments to articles 25 and 26 opening the Convention for accession by non-ECE countries entered into force on 6 February 2013 and became operational on 1 March 2016, turning the Convention into a universally available framework for transboundary water cooperation.

#### **Documentation**

Ratification status of the ECE Water Convention, its amendments and protocols (WG.1/2016/INF.1)

### **5. Special session on the twentieth anniversary of the entry into force of the Convention and its opening for global accession**

*Tentative timing: 10.35 a.m.–11.45 a.m., Tuesday, 18 October*

10. The Convention entered into force on 6 October 1996. Over the past 20 years, the Convention has proven its usefulness on the ground for enhancing transboundary water cooperation, supporting the development of agreements and the establishment and strengthening of joint institutions. Moreover, it has provided an intergovernmental platform for the day-to-day development and advancement of transboundary water cooperation. Its institutional framework has supported Parties and non-Parties alike in implementation by promoting the sharing of experience, the development of guidance tools and the fostering of mutual assistance, while continuously adapting its work to the evolving needs of countries.<sup>2</sup>

11. As of 1 March 2016, the Convention is open for accession to all United Nations Member States, and several States not members of ECE have already started the accession process. The global opening provides numerous opportunities for existing and prospective Parties, as well as for other actors engaged in supporting transboundary water cooperation. At the same time, a number of challenges need to be addressed to ensure that the Convention can be most effective at the global level. In this respect, the views of countries

---

<sup>2</sup> For more information, see *The Global Opening of the 1992 Water Convention* (brochure) (ECE/MP.WAT/43) and *The Water Convention: serving the planet* (brochure, 2012), both available from <http://www.unece.org/env/water/publications/pub.html>.

from outside the ECE region will also be key to shape and organize the future work under the Convention.

12. The special session will provide a platform to review and celebrate the achievements in the 20 years since the entry into force of the Convention, and discuss lessons learned and challenges for the future. It will include a series of short testimonials from Parties and non-Parties from within and outside the ECE region, as well as international and non-governmental organizations, of their experience in implementing or supporting implementation of the Convention, and their expectations for the future, in particular taking into account the global opening of the Convention.

## **6. Support to implementation and application of the Convention**

*Tentative timing: 11.45 a.m.–1 p.m. and 3–3.45 p.m. Tuesday, 18 October*

### **(a) Assistance supporting accession to and implementation of the Convention through projects on the ground and capacity development**

13. The secretariat will inform the Working Group of the progress achieved in different projects supporting implementation of the Convention in countries of Eastern and South-Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia, carried out with the support of the ECE Regional Adviser on Environment. The Working Group will provide comments as needed, including on the future development of such projects.

### **(b) Implementation Committee**

14. The Working Group will be informed about the outcome of the sixth meeting of the Implementation Committee (Geneva, 3–4 May 2016), as well as the future plans of the Committee, including in relation to the global opening of the Convention and the new task entrusted to the Committee by the Bureau — to support the secretariat in responding to queries from prospective new Parties.

#### **Documentation**

Report of the sixth meeting of the Implementation Committee (ECE/MP.WAT/IC/2016/2)

Decision VI/1 on support to implementation and compliance (see ECE/MP.WAT/37/Add.2)

Decision VII/1 on general issues of implementation (see ECE/MP.WAT/49/Add.2)

### **(c) Reporting under the Convention**

15. At its seventh session, the Meeting of the Parties adopted decision VII/2 (see ECE/MP.WAT/49/Add.2) introducing a reporting mechanism under the Convention. In accordance with decision VII/2, reporting will start with a pilot exercise in 2016–2017 to test the annexed template. Decision VII/2 also encourages all Parties and non-Parties, especially those sharing basins with Parties and those considering accession to the Convention, to participate in the pilot reporting exercise and submit to the secretariat their filled out reporting forms electronically in the English, French or Russian languages, as well as their comments on the reporting template. On the basis of the reports submitted, the secretariat will prepare a synthesis report providing an overview of the Convention's implementation and the advancement of transboundary water cooperation.

16. The Working Group will be informed about the deadlines and modalities for carrying out the pilot reporting, in particular taking into account the revised deadline of 28 February 2017 to submit reports.

17. The Working Group will also be updated on the process of defining global indicators for the Sustainable Development Goals, in particular Goal 6 on clean water and sanitation and its target 6.5 on integrated water resources management and transboundary cooperation, with the proposed indicator 6.5.2 on the proportion of transboundary basin area with an operational arrangement for water cooperation. The Working Group will be informed about the next steps of the process for follow-up and review of progress in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, and about the efforts to ensure the needed synergies with the future review of target 6.5.

18. Finally, the Working Group will discuss the preparation of the synthesis report as well as its use for the follow-up and review of progress towards target 6.5 in relation to transboundary cooperation.

### **Documentation**

Decision VII/2 on reporting under the Convention (see ECE/MP.WAT/49/Add.2)

#### **(d) Development of a concept for a third comprehensive assessment**

19. Under the Convention, two comprehensive assessments of the status of transboundary rivers, lakes and groundwaters in the European and Asian parts of the ECE region were prepared, in 2007 and 2011.<sup>3</sup> At its seventh session, the Meeting of the Parties entrusted the Working Group on Integrated Resources Management and the Working Group on Monitoring and Assessment to develop a proposal for a third comprehensive assessment, including the thematic and geographical scope (taking into account the Convention's global opening), modalities and partners for implementation, financing options and links with other ongoing processes, such as the reporting under the Convention and the Transboundary Waters Assessment Programme. The Working Group will be informed about the plans related to the preparation of such a proposal. Actors involved in similar initiatives will be invited to present their undertakings and future plans, including possible cooperation with the third comprehensive assessment under the Convention.

## **7. Identifying, assessing and communicating the benefits of transboundary water cooperation**

*Tentative timing: 3.45–4.30 p.m., Tuesday, 18 October*

20. At its seventh session, the Meeting of the Parties decided to support Parties and other States, at their request, in improving cooperation on their transboundary waters: (a) by highlighting the potential to generate a broad range of significant benefits for cooperating countries, on the basis of the *Policy Guidance Note on the Benefits of Transboundary Water Cooperation* (Policy Guidance Note); and (b) by providing a forum to assess and communicate such benefits in order to support the strengthening of ongoing cooperation.

21. The Working Group will be informed about the application of the Policy Guidance Note in a number of basins and regions worldwide, such as the Okavango and Drina Basins, and plans for its application to a basin within the geographical scope of the Intergovernmental Authority on Development, as well as similar initiatives by partners. The

---

<sup>3</sup> *Our Waters: Joining Hands Across Borders — First Assessment of Transboundary Rivers, Lakes and Groundwaters* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.07.II.E.19), available from <http://www.unece.org/env/water/publications/pub76.html>; and *Second Assessment of Transboundary Rivers, Lakes and Groundwaters* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E. 11.II.E.15), available from <http://www.unece.org/?id=26343>.

Working Group will also consider future expressions of interest and further activities in this area of work.

#### **Documentation**

*Policy Guidance Note on the Benefits of Transboundary Water Cooperation: Identification, Assessment and Communication (ECE/MP.WAT/47)*<sup>4</sup>

### **8. The water-food-energy-ecosystems nexus in transboundary basins**

*Tentative timing: 4.30–5.15 p.m., Tuesday, 18 October*

22. At its seventh session, the Meeting of the Parties adopted the methodology for the assessment of the water-food-energy-ecosystems nexus developed in the triennium 2013–2015, encouraged its further use, and decided to undertake further nexus assessments and promote the findings and solutions identified. The progress achieved in this area of work will be presented, in particular the promotion of the findings of the synthesis report and the ongoing assessments for the Drina and the North-Western Sahara Aquifer System, as well as the follow-up to the assessments on the Alazani/Ganykh, Sava and Syr Darya assessments. Representatives of the basins concerned will be invited to comment. Other actors engaged in similar undertakings may also share their experiences.

23. The Working Group will discuss the finalization of the basin assessments as well as future work in this area, in particular the global workshop on the water-food-energy-ecosystem nexus (Geneva, 6–7 December 2016) and inputs to other processes.

24. Under this area of work, the Meeting of the Parties also decided to collect good practices and examples of water allocation, water sharing and benefits sharing, including through the organization of a global workshop in 2017 on these topics. The Working Group will therefore discuss how to carry out these tasks, including the timeline of future activities and partners to be involved in this work.

#### **Documentation**

*Reconciling resource uses in transboundary basins: assessment of the water-food-energy-ecosystems nexus (ECE/MP.WAT/46)*<sup>5</sup>

### **9. Adapting to climate change in transboundary basins**

*Tentative timing: 5.15–6 p.m., Tuesday, 18 October*

25. The Working Group will be informed about the outcomes of the sixth workshop on adaptation to climate change in transboundary basins (Geneva, 13–14 September 2016), the eighth meeting of the Task Force on Water and Climate (Geneva, 15 September 2016), and progress on the pilot projects and other activities within the framework of the global network of basins.

26. The Working Group will also discuss input to global processes on climate change and disaster risk reduction, such as the preparation of a “Words into Action” guide on river basin management aimed at providing direction for implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030. The Working Group will provide

<sup>4</sup> Available at <http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=41340&L=0>.

<sup>5</sup> Available at <http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=41427&L=0>.

comments, as needed, on the work accomplished and will discuss future activities in this area.

27. The Working Group will also consider the draft revised strategy for future work on water and climate under the Convention, as revised by the Task Force on Water and Climate at its eighth meeting, and will discuss how to finalize it.

#### **Documentation**

Draft revised strategy for future work on water and climate under the Convention (ECE/MP.WAT/WG.1/2016/3)

### **10. Opening the Convention, promotion and partnerships**

*Tentative timing: 10 a.m.–1 p.m. and 3–3.30 p.m., Wednesday, 19 October*

#### **(a) Promoting accession by raising awareness about the Convention and developing capacity to implement its provisions**

28. The Working Group will be informed about the national workshops on the Water Convention organized at the request of countries outside the ECE region interested in acceding to the Convention, namely for Iraq (Amman, 10–11 January 2016) and Tunisia (Tunis, September 2016), as well as follow-up steps taken by these countries. The Working Group will also hear about efforts at the regional and global levels to build capacity on and awareness of the Convention.

29. Through a panel followed by a moderated discussion, interested non-ECE countries will be invited to report on their plans for accession to the Convention, and discuss expectations with regard to the Convention's opening, as well as comments and needs related to, respectively, past and possible future capacity-building activities and other activities to strengthen implementation of the Convention and the capacity to accede to it.

30. The Working Group will discuss and agree on future activities in this area to further promote and build capacities on the Convention beyond the ECE region.

#### **(b) Cooperation with partners**

31. At its seventh session, through decision VII/4, the Meeting of the Parties emphasized the importance of partnerships with international organizations, in particular regional commissions and other UN-Water members, financing institutions, joint bodies, non-governmental organizations, academia and the business sector, to strengthen transboundary water cooperation, support the Convention's implementation on the ground and ensure the execution of the programme of work. It decided to continue and further enhance cooperation with existing partners and to seek new partnerships, in particular in the light of the global opening of the Convention, and the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and other global commitments. It also decided to regularly review progress and gaps in the development of partnerships — also in connection with the development of the strategies for the implementation of the Convention at the global level and its contribution to the achievement of the water-related Sustainable Development Goals — at the meetings of the Working Group on Integrated Water Resources Management.

32. The Working Group will therefore discuss cooperation with different partners. In particular, partners such as the Global Environment Facility, the World Bank, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the United Nations Regional Commissions and UN-Water will be invited to describe how they see the benefits of the



Convention's globalization for their activities and how they could support the implementation of the Convention at the global level.

33. Moreover, the Working Group will be informed about the ongoing preparations for the fourth session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol on Water and Health (Geneva, 14–16 November 2016) and its draft programme of work for 2017–2019, and will discuss options for reinforcing cooperation between the Convention and the Protocol.

#### **Documentation**

Draft programme of work for 2017–2019 under the Protocol on Water and Health (forthcoming)

Annotated provisional agenda for the fourth session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol on Water and Health (forthcoming)

#### **(c) Strategy for the implementation of the Convention at the global level**

34. At its seventh session, through its decision VII/3 on Establishing a framework for the implementation of the Convention at the global level, the Meeting of the Parties entrusted the Bureau and the Working Group on Integrated Water Resources Management, in cooperation with non-Parties, key partners and the secretariat, to develop a strategy for the implementation of the Convention at the global level, including the relationship with the Watercourses Convention and the role of key partners, for adoption at its next session. It also entrusted the same actors to develop a strategy for the Convention's contribution to the achievement of the water-related Sustainable Development Goals and targets, including their follow-up and review activities under the high-level political forum on sustainable development.

35. Based on a discussion paper prepared by the Bureau with the support of the secretariat, and taking into account the deliberations under this and previous items, the Working Group will discuss in an interactive way how to realize the benefits and advantages of the Convention's global opening, new approaches and mechanisms to be established to allow different stakeholders and actors in transboundary cooperation to contribute to and benefit from the Convention, priority objectives of the strategy and concrete activities to be undertaken. Moreover, the Working Group will discuss and agree on the next steps of the strategy's preparation.

#### **Documentation**

Discussion paper on the strategy for implementation of the Water Convention at the global level (WG.1/2016/INF.2)

## **11. European Union Water Initiative and National Policy Dialogues**

*Tentative timing: 3.30–4 p.m., Wednesday, 19 October*

36. The Working Group will be informed about recent developments in the European Union Water Initiative National Policy Dialogues on Integrated Water Resources Management (facilitated by ECE) and Water Supply and Sanitation (facilitated by the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development), including the outcomes of the European Union Water Initiative Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia Working Group, to be held on 17 October in Geneva.

37. The Working Group will examine the progress and lessons learned from the dialogues, as well as their continuation.

## **12. International Water Assessment Centre**

*Tentative timing: 4–4.30 p.m., Wednesday, 19 October*

38. At the seventh session of the Meeting of the Parties, Kazakhstan offered to host the International Water Assessment Centre as of 2016 or 2017. A representative of Kazakhstan will brief the Working Group on progress achieved to date towards hosting the Centre. The Working Group will discuss the terms of reference of the Centre as well as its draft workplan for 2017–2018.

### **Documentation**

Draft programme of work and terms of reference of the International Water Assessment Centre (WG.1/2016/INF.3)

## **13. Water and industrial accidents**

*Tentative timing: 4.30–4.50 p.m., Wednesday, 19 October*

39. The Working Group will discuss the draft workplan for 2017–2018 of the Joint Ad Hoc Expert Group on Water and Industrial Accidents, which foresees the preparation of guidance on firewater retention, the carrying out of transboundary response exercises and the promotion of guidance documents already developed by the group.

### **Documentation**

Draft workplan for 2017–2018 of the Joint Ad Hoc Expert Group on Water and Industrial Accidents (WG.1/2016/INF.4)

## **14. Ongoing programme of work for 2016–2018**

*Tentative timing: 4.50–5.15 p.m., Wednesday, 19 October*

40. The Working Group will review overall progress made in the implementation of the Convention's programme of work for 2016–2018, and make minor adjustments, if necessary. The Working Group will also be informed about the financial situation of the Convention's trust fund.

### **Documentation**

Programme of work for 2016–2018 (ECE/MP.WAT/49/Add.1)

## **15. Date and venue of the next meeting of the Working Group**

*Tentative timing: 5.15–5.20 p.m., Wednesday, 19 October*

41. The Working Group will determine the preliminary date and venue for its next meeting. It will also be informed of the schedule of other meetings under the Convention and its Protocol on Water and Health.

**16. Other business**

*Tentative timing: 5.20–5.30 p.m., Wednesday, 19 October*

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

**17. Closure of the meeting**

43. The co-Chairs will close the meeting at 5.30 p.m. on Wednesday, 19 October 2016.

---