



Convention of the Protection and Use of
Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes
Task Force on the Water-Food-Energy-Ecosystems Nexus
Fifth meeting

Geneva, Switzerland, 18 October 2017

ANNOTATED PROVISIONAL AGENDA FOR THE FIFTH MEETING

To be held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva,
starting on Wednesday, 18 October 2017 at 9.30 a.m.

I. PROVISIONAL AGENDA

1. Opening and adoption of the agenda
2. Adoption of the report of the fourth meeting
3. Opportunities of a nexus approach seen from the perspective of the energy sector
4. Methodological progress in assessing the water-food-energy-ecosystems nexus under the Water Convention
5. Documenting nexus assessment experience and reporting to the Meeting of the Parties
6. Review of the status of ongoing nexus assessments carried out under the Convention
7. Follow-up activities to the completed nexus assessments carried out as part of the programme of work 2013-2015
8. Review of partners activities on the nexus and cooperation with the assessments under the Convention
9. Next steps under the Water Convention
10. Other business
11. Closing

II. BACKGROUND AND PRACTICAL INFORMATION

Background

1. The Task Force on the Water-Food-Energy-Ecosystems Nexus under the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes (Water Convention) is jointly with the Working Group on Integrated Water Resources Management responsible for activities related to the water-food-energy-ecosystems nexus. In accordance with the programme of work for 2016-2018 of the Water Convention (programme area 3), this work has the objective of supporting transboundary cooperation by:

- (a) Identifying intersectoral synergies that could be further explored and utilized in the different basins;
- (b) Determining policy measures and actions that could alleviate negative consequences of the nexus and help to optimize the use of available resources;

(c) Helping to move towards increased efficiency in resource use, greater policy coherence and intersectoral co-management;

(d) Developing capacity in addressing intersectoral impacts.

2. The fifth meeting of the Task Force on Water-Food-Energy-Ecosystems Nexus aims to discuss and provide guidance to the implementation of the activities on the water-food-energy-ecosystems nexus under the programme of work for 2016-2018 of the Water Convention.

3. In particular, methodological advances in further developing and applying the participatory nexus assessment methodology developed under the Convention will be presented. The status of the on-going basin assessments will also be reviewed during the meeting and the conclusions from the Global Stock-taking Workshop on Assessments of the Water-Food-Energy-Ecosystems Nexus and Response Measures in Transboundary Basins (Geneva, 6-7 December 2016) recalled. Based on these elements, the Task Force will discuss the content and scope of a synthesis document to be produced for the eight session of the Meeting of the Parties (October 2018). Follow up actions to assessments already carried out will also be discussed.

4. Reflecting the intensified involvement of energy sector authorities and stakeholders in the nexus activities under the Water Convention, the meeting will start with a session devoted to sharing experience from intersectoral coordination and integrated planning from the perspective of the energy sector.

Practical information

5. The fifth meeting of the Task Force will start at 9.30 a.m. and end at 5.30 p.m. on Thursday, 18 October 2017. It will be held in the Palais des Nations, Geneva. The Task Force meeting will be preceded by “Water allocation in transboundary basins: a global workshop on the status and good practices”, which will be held on 16-17 October 2017 in Geneva. The working languages will be English, French, Russian and Spanish.

6. The meeting is open to officials and experts representing governmental authorities, the private sector, non-governmental and international organizations as well as academia. Focal points are requested to disseminate information on the meeting and to facilitate the nomination of relevant representatives of their respective countries.

7. Eligible participants from countries with economies in transition and developing countries may apply for financial support to facilitate their participation in the meeting using the financial support request form available on the meeting website. Requests for financial support should be submitted to the UNECE secretariat (mayola.lidome@unece.org) as soon as possible, but no later than **Monday, 4 September 2017**. No application will be accepted after this deadline.

8. Participants requiring entry visas should inform the UNECE secretariat as soon as possible. Since Switzerland is part of the Schengen Zone, obtaining a visa might take up to 5 weeks. Participants needing a visa are therefore requested to submit their application as soon as possible and initiate visa procedures at least four weeks before the meeting.

9. Delegates attending the meeting are requested to register by **10 October 2017** using the following link: <https://www2.unece.org/uncdb/app/ext/meeting-registration?id=YFwzQE>. In case of difficulties, please contact the secretariat by e-mail (mayola.lidome@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.

10. 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>

11. The publications mentioned below can be found at:
<http://www.unece.org/env/water/publications/pub.html>.

12. Further information and relevant material will be made available on the following website in due course: <http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=43626>

III. ANNOTATIONS TO THE PROVISIONAL AGENDA

Item 1: Opening and adoption of the agenda (9.35 a.m. - 9.40 a.m.)

13. The Chair will open the meeting and invite the Task Force to adopt its agenda as set out in the present document.

Item 2: Adoption of the report of the fourth meeting

14. The Task Force will adopt the report of its fourth meeting held in Geneva on 8 December 2016(TFWFEEN/2016/2)

Item 3: Opportunities of a nexus approach seen from the perspective of the energy sector (9.40 a.m. - 10.40 a.m.)

Background publication: *Deployment of Renewable Energy: The Water-Energy-Food-Ecosystem Nexus Approach to Support the Sustainable Development Goals (ECE/MP.WAT/NONE/7)*

15. Many of the intersectoral issues identified in the nexus assessments under the Water Convention relate to the energy sector's development and operation, underlining the importance of a dialogue and coordination between energy and water management authorities and other actors.

16. As better understanding of the energy sector's concerns and opportunities can help to more effectively raise awareness and promote consideration of water resources' use and protection, a panel discussion with representatives of the energy sector will be organized. In this framework, representatives of organizations implementing activities on the water-food-energy-ecosystems (or some of these interlinkages) from the perspective of the energy sector (e.g. the International Renewable Energy Agency, the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs and the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia) will be invited to share experiences on how water resources and transboundary aspects are or could be taken into account in developing energy sector related recommendations.

17. The Task Force will also be informed about the workplan for 2017-2018 of the UNECE Group of Experts on Renewable Energy (GERE), in particular what work is expected to be carried out in relation to nexus issues in deploying renewable energy. The future work is expected to build on the brochure *Deployment of Renewable Energy: The Water-Energy-Food-Ecosystem Nexus Approach to Support the Sustainable Development Goals* which highlights relevant experience from nexus assessments under the Water Convention.

Item 4: Methodological progress in assessing the water-food-energy-ecosystems nexus under the Water Convention (10.40 a.m. - 11.40 a.m.)

Background documents: "Report of the fourth meeting, Task Force on the Water-Food-Energy-Ecosystems Nexus" (TFWFEEN/2016/2)

Report of the global stock-taking workshop, "Assessments of the water-food-energy-ecosystems nexus and response measures in transboundary basins" (TFWFEEN/2016/3)

Background publications: *Reconciling resources uses in transboundary basins: Assessment of the Water-Food-Energy-Ecosystems Nexus (ECE/MP.WAT/46)*

Policy Guidance on the Benefits of Transboundary Water Cooperation: Identification, Assessment and Communication (ECE/MP.WAT/47)

18. The methodology developed from 2013 to 2015 under the oversight of the Task Force for carrying out participatory assessments involving different sectors from the riparian countries was published and adopted by the seventh session of the Meeting of the Parties (Budapest, 2015). Since then, further experience about its application has been obtained through assessments carried out from 2016 to 2018 which are described under item 6 below, including a first application to an aquifer.

19. To promote use of the methodology, it is timely to review the latest experience from its application. The Task Force will be informed on recent developments on the methodology's application in the following areas and these be presented on by experts: 1) aspects related to intersectoral governance; 2) use of participatory methods to collect input and opinions in the assessment process; 3) integrating into the nexus assessment a subsequent identification of the benefits from the nexus solutions through the application of the *Policy Guidance on the Benefits of Transboundary Water Cooperation: Identification, Assessment and Communication*; and 4) analytical tools to quantify selected nexus issues.

20. Contributing to the last point, the global stock-taking workshop, "Assessments of the water-food-energy-ecosystems nexus and response measures in transboundary basins", held in Geneva from 6 to 7 December 2016, involved presentations of various tools and approaches used for analysing intersectoral issues in the water-food-energy-ecosystems nexus.¹

21. The presentations and discussions under this agenda item will also inform the discussions under the following agenda item about the most appropriate way to document the practical experience and insights from the nexus assessments.

Item 5: Documenting nexus assessment experience and reporting to the Meeting of the Parties (11.40 a.m. - 12.30 a.m.)

22. In accordance with the programme of work 2016-2018, a synthesis document is to be produced based on the nexus work carried out under the Convention in order to promote the methodology. The Task Force will discuss the scope and content of the document on the basis of some initial thinking prepared by the secretariat using expert inputs. The synthesis document could summarize experience from the application of the methodology, possibly illustrated with examples.

Item 6: Review the status of ongoing nexus assessments carried out under the Convention (2.30 p.m. – 3.30 p.m.)

Background document: "Programme of work for 2016–2018" (ECE/MP.WAT/49/Add.1)²

Background publications: *Assessment of the water-food-energy-ecosystems nexus and the benefits of transboundary cooperation in the Drina River Basin: Policy Brief* (ECE/MP.WAT/NONE/6)

23. Representatives of the riparian countries and joint bodies as well as partners with whom nexus assessments are carried out or about to start will inform about the status of the assessments, challenges and lessons learned.

24. In the work programme from 2016 to 2018, the following assessments have been worked on or are ongoing:

¹ Documentation from the global stock-taking workshop is available at <http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=41736#/>

² <http://www.unece.org/env/water/mop7/documents.html#/>

- A nexus assessment process of the Drina River Basin, a tributary of the Sava River, shared by Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro and Serbia, has been concluded. The project was funded by Italy.
- An assessment of the nexus in the North-West Sahara Aquifer System shared by Algeria, Libya and Tunisia in the framework of a Global Water Partnership (GWP) Mediterranean led project is in early stages. The key step, the first transboundary nexus assessment workshop was organized in Algiers from 18 to 19 July 2017. This assessment is funded by Sweden.
- In addition, the UNECE secretariat is contributing to a GEF-funded project, also implemented by the GWP-Mediterranean, on the Extended Drin Basin shared by Albania, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Greece, Kosovo³ and Montenegro to prepare a desk study of the nexus.
- The project “Promoting the Sustainable Management of Natural Resources in South-eastern Europe, through the use of Nexus approach” provides for working on the nexus in two transboundary basins in the Western Balkans, building on the work on the Sava and the Drina Basins. This project is funded by Austria.
- Participation and contribution to a nexus dialogue on the Niger River Basin, to be implemented and financed by Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit, is foreseen.

25. The Task Force will provide comments and discuss next steps in the assessments, also with a view to the development of the programme of work 2019-2021 under the Water Convention.

Item 7: Follow-up activities to the nexus assessments carried out as part of the programme of work 2013-2015 (3.30 p.m. - 4.30 p.m.)

Background publications: Reconciling resource uses in transboundary basins: assessment of the water-food-energy-ecosystems nexus (ECE/MP.WAT/NONE/5)

Reconciling resource uses in transboundary basins: assessment of the water-food-energy-ecosystems nexus in the Sava River Basin (ECE/MP.WAT/NONE/3)

Reconciling resource uses in transboundary basins: assessment of the water-food-energy-ecosystems nexus in the Syr Darya River Basin (ECE/MP.WAT/NONE/2)

Increasing welfare in the Sava countries through a transboundary nexus approach: Policy Brief

Reconciling resource uses in transboundary basins: assessment of the water-food-energy-ecosystems nexus: Policy Brief (ECE/MP.WAT/NONE/4)

26. Nexus assessments in the following basins were essentially completed in the period from 2013 to 2015: the Alazani/Ganykh (shared by Azerbaijan, Georgia), Sava (Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Montenegro, Serbia, Slovenia), Syr Darya (shared by Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan). Each of the basin assessments concluded led to identification of a set of conclusions and recommendations. A draft assessment of the Isonzo/Soča (shared by Italy and Slovenia) was not finalized.

27. The dissemination of findings from the first basin assessments includes publishing of more detailed technical reports and a number of policy briefs. In addition, in the Syr Darya Basin, a quantification of the selected solutions identified in the assessment, notably looking at increased integration of non-hydro renewable energy into the energy systems and improved energy efficiency, was carried out and was included in the technical report published.

³ United Nations administered territory under Security Council Resolution 1244 (1999).

28. Representatives of the riparian countries will be invited to report on any follow up discussions, promotion of findings from the assessments or specific actions undertaken in response to the conclusions and recommendations.

29. With the value of a nexus approach increasingly recognized for informing decisions regarding trade-offs in development and resource uses, the assessments carried out may prove informative for related discussions. Arrangements set up in countries to support intersectoral coordination for achievement of the SDGs have potential to foster actions called for in the recommendations of the assessments.

30. The Task Force will discuss challenges in fostering response actions, related opportunities, and promotion of follow up work.

Item 8: Review of partners' activities on the nexus and cooperation with the assessments under the Convention (4.30 p.m. - 5.15 p.m.)

31. Various initiatives related to the water-food-energy-ecosystems nexus (with different scope and focus) are on-going worldwide, including institutional support, assessment and analysis, which have links or parallels with the nexus assessments under the Water Convention.

32. For example, through the Global Environment Facility's (GEF) IW:LEARN 4 project, the nexus work under the Convention supports training and provision of programmatic support to the GEF International Waters portfolio of projects on addressing the water-food-energy-ecosystems nexus. The Task Force will be informed about the Water Convention's contribution to IW:LEARN which includes notably preparation of briefing material and the synthesis document.

33. Organizations implementing and supporting relevant nexus initiatives include GIZ, the European Commission, the Global Water Partnership (GWP), the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN), the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) and the Regional Environmental Centre for Central Asia (CAREC). These organizations and others will be invited to present their current and planned activities highlighting in particular links to and cooperation opportunities with the nexus work under the Convention.

Item 9: Next steps under the Water Convention (5.15 p.m. - 5.25 p.m.)

Background document: Programme of work for 2016–2018 under the Water Convention (ECE/MP.WAT/49/Add.1)

34. On the basis of the discussions under previous agenda items, the Chair will recall decisions on the next steps next steps in the work on the nexus under the programme of work for 2016–2018. The Task Force will be also informed about the process of preparation of the programme of work for 2019–2021 under the Water Convention.

Item 10: Other business (5.25 p.m. - 5.30 p.m.)

35. 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 11: Closing

36. The Chair will close the meeting at 5.30 p.m. on Wednesday, 18 October 2017.
