



Convention of the Protection and Use of
Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes
Task Force on Water and Climate
Second meeting
Geneva, Switzerland, 24 April 2009

ANNOTATED PROVISIONAL AGENDA FOR THE SECOND MEETING

To be held in Conference Room VIII of the Palais des Nations, Geneva,
starting on Friday, 24 April 2009 at 9.30 a.m.

I. PROVISIONAL AGENDA

1. Opening
2. Adoption of the agenda
3. Transboundary flood management
4. Guidance on water and climate adaptation
5. Cooperation with the Task Force on Extreme Weather Events established under the Protocol on Water and Health
6. Future work
7. Other business
8. Closing

II. BACKGROUND AND PRACTICAL INFORMATION

Background

1. The fourth meeting of the Parties to the Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes (Water Convention) (20–22 November 2006, Bonn) decided to transform the Flood Task Force into a Water and Climate Task Force, to be jointly led by Germany and the Netherlands. This new Task Force was entrusted with activities in two main areas of work: transboundary flood management and water and climate change adaptation.
2. In the area of transboundary flood management, the Task Force should support the transfer of the experience and results of the European Network of Expertise on Flood Risk Management to non-European Union countries. To this end, a workshop will be organized on transboundary flood risk management on 22-23 April 2009 in Geneva by the German Ministry for Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety, the Dutch Ministry of Transport, Public Works and Water Management, the World Meteorological Organization and the UNECE.
3. In the area of water and climate adaptation, the Task Force was entrusted to prepare a Guidance on Water and Climate Adaptation for adoption at the fifth Meeting of the Parties in November 2009. The Guidance should provide governments with strategic recommendations on

how to implement adaptation in the water sector and throughout water-related policy sectors - especially the health sector - addressing in particular transboundary aspects.

4. The activities on water and adaptation to climate change in transboundary basins are implemented in cooperation with the Task Force on Extreme Weather Events established under the Protocol on Water and Health.

Practical information

5. The meeting of the Task Force will start at 9.30 a.m. on Friday, 24 April 2009 and end at 5.30 p.m. on Friday, 24 April 2009. It will be held in conference room VIII of the Palais des Nations, Geneva. The Task Force meeting will be organized back-to-back with the Workshop on Transboundary Flood Risk Management (22-23 April 2009). The working languages will be English and Russian.

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

7. Eligible participants from countries with economies in transition may apply for financial support to facilitate their participation in the meeting. Requests for financial support should be submitted to the UNECE secretariat (olga.carlos@unece.org) as soon as possible, but not later than **10 March 2009**. No application will be accepted after this deadline due to changes in visa and travel arrangement regulations.

8. Participants requiring entry visas should inform the UNECE secretariat as soon as possible. Due to the entry of Switzerland in the Schengen Zone in December 2008, visa procedures have become more complicated. The minimum amount of time needed for obtaining a visa is now 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.

9. In accordance with United Nations accreditation procedures, participants are requested to complete the registration form available online (<http://www.unece.org/env/water/water.and.climate.htm>) and to transmit it to the UNECE secretariat by 6 April 2009 at the latest either by fax (+ 41 22 917 0621) or e-mail (olga.carlos@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 time for this. In case of difficulty, please contact the secretariat by telephone at +41 22 917 1926.

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. 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/water.and.climate.htm>

III. ANNOTATIONS TO THE PROVISIONAL AGENDA

Item 1: Opening (9.30- 9.35 a.m.)

12. The chairpersons will open the meeting.

Item 2: Adoption of the agenda (9.35- 9.40 a.m.)

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

Item 3: Transboundary flood management (9.40- 10.30 a.m.)

14. As agreed at the last Meeting of the Parties, the Task Force should promote the exchange of experience between EU member countries and countries with economies in transition. A workshop on transboundary flood risk management will therefore be organized on 22-23 April, back-to-back with the Task Force meeting. The Task Force will be informed about the conclusions of the workshop and will discuss possible next steps in this area.

Item 4: Guidance on water and climate adaptation (10.30 a.m. - 12.30 p.m. and 2.30 p.m. - 3.00 p.m.)

Background document: Draft guidance on water and climate adaptation TFWC/2009/2
Comments from expert review TFWC/2009/3

15. Since the first meeting of the Task Force, the draft guidance on water and climate adaptation has been further developed through a number of steps. A drafting group has been established and met three times in 2008-2009.¹ In order to get a better overview of the needs and current status of countries regarding climate change impacts on the water sector and adaptation measures, a survey was organised among non-EEA² countries. A draft of the Guidance was presented at the workshop on water and adaptation to climate change in the water sector which took place in Amsterdam on 1-2 July 2008. Subsequently, the Guidance was revised and presented to the third meeting of the Working Group on Integrated Water Resources Management on 22-24 October 2008 in Rome, which was followed by another revision. In spring 2009, the draft Guidance was submitted for an external expert review.

16. The chairperson will present the results of the different steps in the guidance preparation – in particular the survey on climate change adaptation on the water sector and adaptation measures and the conclusions of the Amsterdam workshop on water and climate adaptation - as well as the revised guidance on water and climate adaptation.

17. The chairperson will also present the comments received during the expert review.

¹ The drafting group is composed of Mr. Edgar Pirumyan (Armenia), Mr. Mikhail Kalinin (Belarus), Ms. Tanja Dubrovin (Finland), Ms. Meike Gierk (Germany), Ms. Zsuzsanna Buzas and Ms. Zsuzsanna Engi (Hungary), Ms. Luciana Sinisi and Ms. Benedetta Dell'Anno (Italy), Mr. Henk Van Schaik and Ms. Marloes Bakker (the Netherlands), Ms. Inmaculada Paniagua (Spain), Mr. Christian Goldi (Switzerland), Ms. Natalya Agaltseva (Uzbekistan), Mr. José Luis Martín Bordes (UNESCO), Mr. Avinash Tyagi and Mr. Giacomo Teruggi (WMO), as well as members of the UNECE and WHO-EURO secretariat. Mr. Jos Timmerman (the Netherlands) was the lead author and Mr. Joost J. Buntsma (the Netherlands) chaired the drafting group.

² European Environment Agency

18. The Task Force will discuss and comment the revised Guidance and in particular agree on:

- (a) The main messages of the guidance and its chapters;
- (b) The executive summary;
- (c) The boxes and case studies to be included;
- (d) The checklist for self-assessment of countries;
- (e) How to deal with the comments received during the expert review;
- (f) The relevant modifications to be made in the Guidance.

19. Finally, the Task Force will agree upon work sharing arrangements for the finalization of the Guidance and its submission to the fourth meeting of the Working Group on Integrated Water Resources Management (Geneva, 8-10 July 2009).

Item 5: Cooperation with the Task Force on Extreme Weather Events established under the Protocol on Water and Health (3.00 – 3.30 p.m.)

Background document: Draft Guidelines on Water Supply and Sanitation under Extreme Weather events TFWC/ 2009/ 4

20. The Task Force on Water and Climate will be informed about the ongoing work under the Protocol's Task Force on Extreme Weather Events led by Italy, which is elaborating draft guidelines for water supply and sanitation under extreme weather events for adoption at the second Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol in 2010. This document which will be also presented at the 2010 Environment and Health Ministerial Conference is targeted at, among others, managers of public and private utilities, and it should be read together with the Guidance on Water and Climate Adaptation.

21. The Task Force will discuss how to contribute to the work under the Protocol Task Force as well as ways and means to ensure coordination and integration of future work.

Item 6: Future work (3.30 p.m. – 5.20 p.m.)

Background document: Future work TFWC/2009/5

22. On the basis of a draft proposal prepared by the lead Parties, the Task Force will discuss activities regarding water and climate change for the next workplan 2010-2012, to be submitted to the fourth meeting of the Working Group on Integrated Water Resources Management.

23. In particular, the suggestion to develop a programme of pilot projects to implement and test the Guidance will be discussed, including the relevant organizational framework, the funding arrangements and possible pilot basins.

Item 7: Other business (5.20 p.m. – 5.30 p.m.)

24. At the time of writing, the secretariat had no points to propose under this item.

Item 8: Closing

25. The Chairperson will close the meeting at 5.30 p.m. on Friday, 24 April 2009.
