



Convention of the Protection and Use of
Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes
Task Force on Water and Climate
Eighth meeting

Geneva, Switzerland, 15 September 2016

ANNOTATED PROVISIONAL AGENDA FOR THE EIGHTH MEETING

To be held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva,
starting on Thursday, 15 September 2016 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. Contribution to global processes on water, climate and disasters
5. Cooperation with partners
6. Synergies with other areas of work under the Water Convention, the Protocol on Water and Health and UNECE
7. Draft strategy for future work on climate change adaptation in transboundary basins under the Water Convention
8. Other business
9. Closing

II. BACKGROUND AND PRACTICAL INFORMATION

Background

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 in transboundary basins, including flood and drought management, in accordance with the programme of work for 2016-2018 of the Water Convention (programme area 4), with the following objectives:

- (a) Increased adaptive capacity and improved cooperation on climate change mitigation and adaptation in transboundary basins worldwide;
- (b) Increased awareness of the importance of cooperation in climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction at the national level and in intergovernmental processes, such as the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

The eighth meeting of the Task Force on Water and Climate aims to discuss, plan and provide guidance to the implementation of the activities on water and climate under the programme of work for 2016-2018 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, and with the overall strategic goal of building stronger partnerships and linkages with major global processes.

Practical information

The eighth meeting of the Task Force will start at 9.30 a.m. and end at 5.30 p.m. on Thursday, 15 September 2016. It will be held in the Palais des Nations, Geneva. The Task Force meeting will be preceded by the Sixth Workshop on Adaptation to Climate Change in Transboundary Basins, which will be held on 13-14 September 2016 in Geneva. The working languages will be English, French, Russian and Spanish.

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 representatives of their respective countries.

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 (water.convention@unece.org) as soon as possible, but no later than **Monday, 25 July 2016**. No application will be accepted after this deadline.

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.

Delegates attending the meeting are requested to register by **1 September 2016** using the following link: <https://www2.unece.org/uncdb/app/ext/meeting-registration?id=Gkp7at>. In case of difficulties please contact the secretariat by e-mail (water.convention@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.

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>

Further information and relevant material will be made available on the following website in due course: <http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=42220>

For the workshop: <http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=42218>

III. ANNOTATIONS TO THE PROVISIONAL AGENDA

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

1. The co-Chairs will open the meeting. The Task Force will be asked to elect its officers for 2016-2018.

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

2. 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 change (9.45 a.m. – 11.00 a.m.)

Background document: “Overview of the activities of the global network of basins working on climate change” (TFWC/2016/3)

Background publication: *Water and Climate Change Adaptation in Transboundary basins: lessons learned and good practices*

3. Representatives of the pilot projects and other basins of the global network of basins working on climate change adaptation will be invited to briefly inform about their activities, challenges and lessons learned. The Task Force will provide comments and discuss how to further 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. It will also discuss how to promote upscaling and mainstreaming of the pilot projects and consider new requests, including their funding. Finally, it will consider the future of the pilot projects programme, in particular taking into account the global opening of the Convention.

4. The Task Force will be briefed on the outcomes of the third meeting of the global network of basins working on climate change, held in Geneva on 6–7 April 2016.

5. Finally, the Task Force will be informed about the publication *Water and Climate Change Adaptation in Transboundary basins: lessons learned and good practices* finalized in 2015 by a drafting group under the Task Force and will discuss its further promotion, translation etc.

Item 4: Contribution to global processes on water, climate and disasters (11.00 a.m. - 12.30 p.m.)

Information document: Draft concept note on the development of the Sendai Framework “Words into Action” Implementation Guide for river basin management and transboundary cooperation

6. 2015 was marked by the adoption of several new global commitments with relevance to water and climate such as the Sendai Framework on Disaster Risk Reduction and the Paris agreement. In 2016, the implementation of these agreements is starting which provides an opportunity for the Task Force to provide inputs, recommendations and good practices.

7. A representative of UNFCCC will be invited to report on latest developments with regards to water and climate under the UNFCCC, namely the outcomes of the Paris climate change conference in December as well as of the forty-fourth session of the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA 44) in May 2016, in particular with regards to Nairobi Work

Programme on impacts, vulnerability and adaptation to climate change. Subsequently, a representative of Morocco will inform about the Outcomes of the International Conference on Water and Climate (Rabat, 11-12 July 2016) and the preparations for the 22nd session of the Conference of the Parties to the UNFCCC (Marrakech, Morocco, 7-18 November 2016). The meeting will discuss how it can provide input to these processes.

8. A representative of INBO will report on the Paris Pact on Water and Adaptation in the Basins of Rivers, Lakes and Groundwaters, including on the number of signatories and the planned follow up activities. The Task Force will discuss how it can contribute to the Paris Pact and to reporting and follow-up, including promotion of implementation.

9. Subsequently, the Task Force will discuss cooperation with the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR) in light of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015 – 2030. Specifically, the Task Force will be invited to discuss possible preparation of the Sendai Framework “Words into Action” Implementation Guide¹ for river basin management and transboundary cooperation.

10. Input to other processes, such as the World Water Forum, will also be considered, as relevant.

Item 5: Cooperation with partners (2.30 p.m. - 3.45 p.m.)

11. The Task Force will discuss cooperation with partners, such as the European Commission, the Alliance for Global Water Adaptation (AGWA), the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN), the International Network of Basin Organizations (INBO), the Stockholm International Water Institute (SIWI), the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), the Global Water Partnership (GWP), the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), the Global Environment Facility, GIZ, UN-Water and others. These and other partners will be invited to inform about 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. The exchange of information will be organized in the form of an interactive panel discussion.

12. The Task Force will also discuss input to the Global Environment Facility IW:LEARN 4 project and how climate change issues can be mainstreamed in GEF International Waters projects.

Item 6: Synergies with other areas of work under the Water Convention, the Protocol on Water and Health and UNECE (3.45 p.m. - 4.45 p.m.)

Background documents: Programme of work for 2016–2018 under the Water Convention (ECE/MP.WAT/49/Add.1); Draft programme of work for 2017–2019 for the Protocol on Water and Health (ECE/MP.WH/WG.1/2016/3– EUPCR/1611921/2.1/2016/WGWH/07)

13. The Task Force will discuss links and synergies with other areas of work under the programme of work for 2016–2018 of the Water Convention, in particular the thematic assessment of the water-food-energy-ecosystems nexus and the National Policy Dialogues as well as the planned work on water allocation under the Convention. The Task Force will also be informed about future planned activities on water and climate under the Protocol on Water and

¹ For details please see <http://www.preventionweb.net/drr-framework/sendai-framework/wordsintoaction/>.

Health and will consider options for cooperation. Finally, the Task Force will discuss cooperation with other relevant units of UNECE, such as on inland navigation, public-private partnerships, etc.

Item 7: Draft strategy for future work on climate change adaptation in transboundary basins under the Water Convention (4.45 p.m. - 5.15 p.m.)

Background document: Draft strategy for future work on climate change adaptation in transboundary basins under the Water Convention (ECE/MP.WAT/2015/4)

14. At its seventh session (Budapest, 17-19 November 2015), the Meeting of the Parties to the Water Convention considered the draft strategy for future work on climate change adaptation in transboundary basins under the Water Convention and entrusted the Task Force on Water and Climate to further elaborate it, for submission to the Working Group on Integrated Water Resources Management.

15. The Task Force will therefore provide comments on the strategy, the future main directions and priorities as well as activities on water and climate under the Convention with the aim of designing future work attractive to different target groups. Finally, it will decide on further development and modalities for the finalization of the document.

Item 8: Other business (5.15 p.m. - 5.30 p.m.)

16. 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 9: Closing

17. The co-Chairs will close the meeting at 5.30 p.m. on Thursday, 15 September 2016.
