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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

Eighth meeting

Geneva, 25 and 26 September 2013
Item 2 of the provisional agenda

Adoption of the agenda

Annotated provisional agenda for the eighth meeting

**To be held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva, starting on Wednesday,
25 September 2013, at 10 a.m.***

I. Provisional agenda

1. Election of officers.
2. Adoption of the agenda.
3. Adoption of the report of the previous meeting.
4. Progress in the ratification process, including the ratification of the amendments to open the Convention to countries outside the region.

* Delegates attending meetings at the Palais des Nations are requested to complete the registration form available on the Convention's 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 (katri.veldre@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 1911.

5. Support to implementation and accession:
 - (a) Assistance supporting accession to and implementation of the Convention through projects on the ground and capacity-building;
 - (b) Implementation Committee;
 - (c) Exchange of experience of joint bodies;
 - (d) Consideration of the need for reporting under the Convention;
 - (e) Promoting ratification of the Protocol on Civil Liability and Compensation for Damage Caused by the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents on Transboundary Waters.
6. Adapting to climate change in transboundary basins.
7. Quantifying the benefits of transboundary cooperation.
8. Thematic assessment of the water-food-energy-ecosystems nexus.
9. Opening of the Convention to countries outside the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe region:
 - (a) Building capacity on the Convention outside the region and promoting exchange of experience worldwide;
 - (b) Synergies with the 1997 Convention on the Law of the Non-navigational Uses of International Watercourses;
 - (c) Cooperation with the Global Environment Facility.
10. Promotion of the Convention and establishment of strategic partnerships:
 - (a) Promotion of the Convention, its activities and guidelines;
 - (b) European Riverprize;
 - (c) Cooperation with other international multilateral environmental agreements;
 - (d) Cooperation with UN-Water and other partners;
 - (e) Follow-up to the Seventh “Environment for Europe” Ministerial Conference.
11. Water in the post-2015 development agenda.
12. European Union Water Initiative and National Policy Dialogues.
13. Water and industrial accidents.
14. International Water Assessment Centre.
15. Programme of work for 2013–2015.
16. Date and venue of the next meeting of the Working Group on Integrated Water Resources Management.
17. Other business.
18. Closure of the meeting.

II. Annotations

1. The main objective of the eighth meeting of the Working Group on Integrated Water Resources Management is to review the implementation of the programme of work for 2013–2015 (ECE/MP.WAT/37/Add.1, forthcoming) for the Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes (Water Convention).
2. The meeting will be held at the Palais des Nations in Geneva, Switzerland. It will start at 10 a.m. on Wednesday, 25 September and end at 12.30 p.m. on Thursday, 26 September 2013. The workshop, “River Basin Commissions and other Joint Bodies for Transboundary Water Cooperation: Legal and Institutional Aspects”, will be held on 23 and 24 September 2013, back to back with the meeting of the Working Group.
3. The working languages for the meeting will be English, French and Russian.
4. All relevant documentation will be available on a dedicated page of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) Water Convention website.¹

1. Election of officers

Tentative timing: 10 a.m.–10.05 a.m., Wednesday, 25 September

5. The Working Group will elect its co-Chairs, taking into account that the Meeting of the Parties at its sixth session 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: 10.05 a.m.–10.10 a.m., Wednesday, 25 September 2013

Official documentation: Annotated provisional agenda for the eighth meeting (ECE/MP.WATWG.1/2013/1)

6. The Working Group is expected to adopt the agenda as set out in the present document.
7. The Working Group co-Chairs will explain the background and main objectives of the meeting.

3. Adoption of the report of the previous meeting

Tentative timing: 10.10–10.15 a.m., Wednesday, 25 September 2013

Official documentation: Report of the joint meeting of the Working Group on Monitoring and Assessment and the Working Group on Integrated Water Resources Management (ECE/MP.WAT/WG.1/2012/2–ECE/MP.WAT/WG.2/2012/2)

8. The Working Group on Integrated Water Resources Management is expected to adopt the report of its joint meeting with the Working Group on Monitoring and Assessment (Geneva, 3–4 July 2012).

¹ http://www.unece.org/env/water/8th_wgiwrm_2013.html.

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

Tentative timing: 10.15–10.35 a.m., Wednesday, 25 September 2013

Official documentation: Decision VI/3 on accession by non-United Nations Economic Commission for Europe countries (ECE/MP.WAT/37/Add.2, forthcoming)

Information document: Ratification status of the ECE Water Convention, its amendment and Protocols

9. Since the joint meeting of the Working Groups on 3 and 4 July 2012, Austria, Belarus, Bulgaria, Germany, Greece, Liechtenstein, Norway, Portugal, the Russian Federation and Slovakia have ratified the amendments to articles 25 and 26 of the Convention.

10. Having reached the sufficient number of ratifications, the amendments opening the Convention for accession by non-ECE countries entered into force on 6 February 2013, turning the Convention into a global framework for transboundary water cooperation. However, all countries that were Parties to the Convention on 28 November 2003 will need to ratify the amendments before non-ECE countries can accede to the Convention.

11. 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.

12. The Working Group will discuss how to foster ratification of the Convention. It will also discuss how to promote ratification of the amendments so as to ensure that all countries that were Parties to the Convention on 28 November 2003 will have ratified them by the end of 2013, as envisaged in decision VI/3 of the Meeting of the Parties.

5. Support to implementation and accession

Tentative timing: 10.35 a.m.–12. p.m., Wednesday, 25 September 2013

Official documentation: Report of the first meeting of the Implementation Committee (ECE/MP.WAT/IC/2013/2, forthcoming)

Information paper: Preliminary considerations to support the development of an analysis on the needs for reporting under the Water Convention

(a) Assistance supporting accession to and implementation of the Convention through projects on the ground and capacity-building

13. The secretariat will inform the Working Group on the progress achieved in different 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 ECE Regional Adviser. 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 first meeting of the Implementation Committee, held on 5 June 2013 in Geneva.

(c) Exchange of experience of joint bodies

15. The lead Parties will inform the Working Group about the first of two workshops foreseen in the 2013–2015 programme of work to promote the exchange of experience and good practices between joint bodies worldwide and to draw lessons learned and recommendations — “River Basin Commissions and other Joint Bodies for Transboundary Water Cooperation: Legal and Institutional Aspects” (23–24 September 2013) — and will give an overview of the plans for the second workshop.

(d) Consideration of the need for reporting under the Convention

16. The Working Group was requested by the Meeting of the Parties to carry out, in consultation with the Implementation Committee, an analysis on the needs for reporting under the Convention, taking into account the capacity of countries and other relevant reporting mechanisms. Such analysis will serve as a basis for the possible elaboration of the scope and modalities of a reporting mechanism to be submitted for possible adoption by the Meeting of the Parties at its seventh session.

17. The Working Group will discuss an information paper about opportunities and challenges for introducing a reporting mechanism and decide how to carry out the analysis of the needs for reporting under the Convention.

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

18. The Working Group will discuss the status and possible ways forward for promoting ratification 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.

6. Adapting to climate change in transboundary basins

Tentative timing: 12 p.m.–12.40 p.m., Wednesday, 25 September 2013

Official documentation: Concept note on the collection of good practices and lessons learned on water and adaptation to climate change in transboundary basins (ECE/MP.WAT/WG.1/2013/3)

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

19. The co-Chairs of the Task Force on Water and Climate will brief participants on the outcomes of the sixth meeting of the Task Force (Geneva, 27 June 2013) and those of the “Fourth Workshop on Water and Adaptation to Climate Change in Transboundary Basins — Adaptation serving multiple purposes” (Geneva, 25–26 June 2013). Representatives of the pilot projects and the global network of basins will be invited to report about their activities relating to climate change adaptation in transboundary basins. Following an introduction by the co-Chairs of the Task Force on Water and Climate, the Working Group will also discuss the planned preparation of a collection of lessons learned and good practices.

20. The Working Group will provide comments, as needed, on the work accomplished and the future plans.

7. Quantifying the benefits of transboundary cooperation

Tentative timing: 12.40–1 p.m., and 3 p.m.–3.25 p.m., Wednesday, 25 September 2013

Official documentation: Quantifying benefits of transboundary cooperation (ECE/MP.WAT/WG.1/2013/4)

21. The Meeting of the Parties at its sixth session decided to support countries to estimate the benefits of transboundary cooperation (including the costs of non-action) by providing guidance on how to identify, quantify and communicate the range of benefits linked to cooperation. In this regard, the secretariat will report about the outcomes of the first Expert Scoping Workshop on Quantifying the Benefits of Transboundary Water Cooperation, held in Amsterdam, on 6 and 7 June 2013, as well as present a draft outline of the guidance note on quantifying benefits of transboundary cooperation.

22. The Working Group will discuss the outline. Participants will be invited to provide comments, including on potential case studies. This will be followed by informal interactive discussions in small groups during lunchtime.

8. Thematic assessment of the water-food-energy-ecosystems nexus

Tentative timing: 3.25 p.m.–4.10 p.m., Wednesday, 25 September 2013

Information document: Methodology for the thematic assessment of the water-food-energy-ecosystems nexus

23. The Chair of the Task Force on the Water- Food-Energy-Ecosystems Nexus will report about the outcomes of the first meeting of the Task Force, held on 8 and 9 April 2013 in Geneva. Subsequently, the secretariat will present the planned approach to assessing the nexus, including the methodology and the plans for piloting the methodology in a pilot basin. The secretariat will inform participants of the basins that have expressed interest and that will be included in the assessment, as well as of the time schedule. Representatives of the selected basins as well as other participants of the Working Group will be invited to make comments.

9. Opening of the Convention to countries outside the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe region

Tentative timing: 4.10 p.m.–5.10 p.m., Wednesday, 25 September 2013

Information document: Report on the Workshop on Transboundary Water Cooperation: Latin American and pan-European regions: sharing experiences and learning from each other

(a) Building capacity on the Convention outside the region and promoting exchange of experience worldwide

24. The Working Group will be informed of the outcomes of the “Workshop on Transboundary Water Cooperation: Latin American and pan-European regions: sharing experiences and learning from each other” (Buenos Aires, 11–12 June 2013), as well as other efforts to involve non-ECE countries in the Convention’s activities and to raise awareness on the Convention beyond the region. The Working Group will discuss how to promote the Convention beyond the ECE region, including through subregional workshops and with partners.

25. Interested non-ECE countries will be invited to inform the Working Group about their interest in participating in the Convention's activities and possible accession, as well as their needs and expectations.

(b) Synergies with the 1997 Convention on the Law of the Non-navigational Uses of International Watercourses

26. In view of the upcoming entry into force of the 1997 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Non-navigational Uses of International Watercourses (Watercourses Convention), current and prospective Parties to either of the two Conventions, in particular Parties to both of them, will be invited to discuss how the two international legal frameworks could interact and how they could support each other and build synergies, including how the experience and guidance material collected under the ECE Water Convention can support implementation of the United Nations Watercourses Convention. Countries will also be invited to discuss the possible future institutional governance frameworks for the two Conventions. In this regard, the Netherlands will be invited to report about the outcomes of the workshop on water diplomacy (The Hague, the Netherlands, 26 April 2013).

(c) Cooperation with the Global Environment Facility

27. The Working Group will discuss how to further strengthen cooperation with the Global Environment Facility, following the decision on this topic adopted at the sixth session of the Meeting of the Parties (decision VI/4).

10. Promotion of the Convention and establishment of strategic partnerships

Tentative timing: 5.10 p.m.–6.00 p.m., Wednesday, 25 September 2013

(a) Promotion of the Convention, its activities and guidelines

28. The secretariat will provide information on the activities during the International Year of Water Cooperation in 2013. The Working Group will be informed about the Water Convention's involvement in international events such as World Water Week (Stockholm, 1–6 September 2013), the High-level International Conference on Water Cooperation (Dushanbe, 20–21 August 2013) and the Budapest Water Summit (8–11 October 2013).

29. The Working Group will be invited to provide comments and suggestions on the promotion of the Convention. Focal points will be invited to report on their national efforts to promote the Convention and celebrate the International Year of Water Cooperation.

(b) European Riverprize

30. The Working Group will be informed about the award of the first European Riverprize by the International RiverFoundation.

(c) Cooperation with other international multilateral environmental agreements

31. The Working Group will discuss how to increase synergies and cooperation with other multilateral environmental agreements. In this regard, the meeting will be informed about the progress achieved under the Protocol on Water and Health and the ongoing preparations for the third session of the Meeting of the Parties of the Protocol, to be held from 25 to 27 November 2013 in Oslo. The Working Group will discuss how to further strengthen joint work with the Protocol.

(d) **Cooperation with UN-Water and other partners**

32. 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.

(e) **Follow-up to the Seventh “Environment for Europe” Ministerial Conference**

33. The Working Group will be informed about the outcomes of the reporting on implementation of the Astana Water Action in the framework of the mid-term review of the Seventh “Environment for Europe” Ministerial Conference main outcomes (Astana, 21–23 September 2011).

11. Water in the post-2015 development agenda

Tentative timing: 9.30 a.m.–10.30 a.m., Thursday, 26 September 2013

34. At the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20 Conference), held in Rio de Janeiro in June 2012, Governments agreed to develop action-oriented, concise and aspirational Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which would build upon the Millennium Development Goals and be instrumental for achieving focused and coherent action towards sustainable development after 2015. Since then, the SDG process has advanced with thematic online consultations, national consultations, regional and global meetings, the work of the High-Level Panel of eminent persons on the Post-2015 Development Agenda established by the United Nations Secretary General and other processes. In May 2013, at its third session, the intergovernmental Open Working Group established by the United Nations General Assembly addressed water and sanitation issues.

35. The Working Group will be informed about the latest developments in the discussions on the post-2015 development agenda, in particular in relation to water. The Working Group will discuss the role and place of water in the post-2015 framework, in particular with a view to advancing sustainable water management and transboundary water cooperation.

12. European Union Water Initiative and National Policy Dialogues

Tentative timing: 10.30 a.m.–11.15 a.m., Thursday, 26 September 2013

Information document: Report on National Policy Dialogues

36. The Working Group 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 Group will be briefed about the ongoing dialogues on integrated water resources management financed by the European Commission, Finland, Norway and Switzerland in Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, the Republic of Moldova, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Ukraine.

37. The Working Group will examine the progress and lessons learned from the dialogues. It will discuss future developments of the dialogues and agree on ways and means to further strengthen them.

13. Water and industrial accidents

Tentative timing: 11.15 a.m.–11.30 a.m., Thursday, 26 September 2013

38. The Working Group will be briefed 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 provide comments and agree on the next steps in this area.

14. International Water Assessment Centre

Tentative timing: 11.30 a.m.–11.45 a.m., Thursday, 26 September 2013

39. The Working Group will be informed about the situation of the International Water Assessment Centre (IWAC), following the announcement by Slovakia at the sixth session of the Meeting of the Parties of the termination of the hosting of IWAC at the Slovak Hydrometeorological Institute. The Working Group will provide comments, including on potential alternative host countries or institutions for IWAC.

15. Programme of work for 2013–2015

Tentative timing: 11.45 a.m.–12.15 p.m., Thursday, 26 September 2013

Official documentation: Programme of work for 2013–2015 (ECE/MP.WAT/37/Add.1, forthcoming)

40. The Working Group will review progress made in the implementation of the Convention's programme of work for 2013–2015, and elaborate upon it, if necessary. The Working Group will also discuss the funding for the different activities, including potential fundraising options.

16. Date and venue of the next meeting of the Working Group on Integrated Water Resources Management

Tentative timing: 12.15 p.m.–12.20 p.m., Thursday, 26 September 2013

41. The Working Group will determine preliminary dates and venues for its next meeting.

17. Other business

Tentative timing: 12.20 p.m.–12.30 p.m., Thursday, 26 September 2013

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

18. Closure of the meeting

43. The co-Chairs will close the meeting at 12.30 p.m. on Thursday, 26 September.
