



**Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary
Watercourses and International Lakes**

Working Group on Integrated Water Resources Management
Sixteenth meeting
Working Group on Monitoring and Assessment
Sixteenth meeting
Geneva, 26-28 April 2021

Item 16 of the provisional agenda
Preparation of the ninth session of the Meeting of the Parties

Draft programme of the ninth session of the Meeting of the Parties

Note by the secretariat

Background

The present document provides an overview of the provisional agenda of the ninth session of the Meeting of the Parties scheduled to take place on 29 September – 1 October 2021.

The Working Group on Integrated Water Resources Management and the Working Group on Monitoring and Assessment are invited to review the draft programme and provide comments.

The programme will be further elaborated by the Bureau in cooperation with the secretariat based on the comments received and taking into account the circumstances related to the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic.

I. OVERVIEW OF THE MEETING

Wednesday, 29 September	Meeting of the Parties High Level Segment
Wednesday, 29 September p.m. – Friday, 1 October	Meeting of the Parties General Segment

II. DRAFT AGENDA OF THE MEETING OF THE PARTIES

WEDNESDAY, 29 SEPTEMBER 2021

1. Opening and adoption of the agenda (10.00-10.50)

- Opening speech and ceremony by Estonia
- Opening speech by Kazakhstan
- Statements by United Nations representatives
- Adoption of the agenda, rules for the meeting

2. Status of ratification of the Convention and its protocols and report on credentials (10.50-11.00)

3. High Level Segment (11.00-13.00 and 15.00-16.20)

The high-level segment will include:

- Celebration of new accessions
- Moderated discussion "Water and Peace"
- Presentation of the SDG indicator 6.5.2 report and Global SDG 6 Acceleration Framework

DURING LUNCH BREAK 13.00-15:00: SIDE EVENTS

GENERAL SEGMENT

The general segment will review progress under the different areas of work under the Convention and discuss future activities.

1. Increasing awareness of and accession to the Convention and application of its principles drawing on the benefits of cooperation (16.20-17.20)

- Progress in national processes towards accession and implementation of the Strategy for the implementation of the Convention at the global level
 - *Statements by countries in accession process*
 - *Discussion on past and future activities in this programme area*

2. Facilitating financing of transboundary water cooperation (17.20-18.00)

- Launch of the publication on financing transboundary water cooperation and basin development
- Review of progress achieved and discussion on future activities

THURSDAY, 30 SEPTEMBER 2021

3. Increasing awareness of and accession to the Convention and application of its principles drawing on the benefits of cooperation (continued) (10.00-11.45)

- Launch of the second progress report on implementation of the Convention
- Supporting the development of agreements and the establishment of joint bodies
 - *Launch of the Checklist on agreements and other arrangements for transboundary water cooperation*
 - *Report on the work to support legal frameworks for transboundary water cooperation*
 - *Discussion on future activities*

- Supporting implementation and application of the Convention through projects on the ground and capacity-building
 - *Progress in basin projects such as the Drin, Senegalo-Mauritanian aquifer, Cubango-Okavango, Dniester, Chu Talas, Central Asia and other basins*
 - *Discussion on future activities*
- Implementation Committee
 - *Report by the Implementation Committee*
 - *Adoption of a decision on general issues of implementation*
 - *Election of four Committee members*

4. European Union Water Initiative and National Policy Dialogues (11.45-12.30)

- Discuss progress in implementation of EUWI NPDs
- Discuss future development beyond 2021

5. Supporting monitoring, assessment and information sharing in transboundary basins (12.30-13.00)

- Review of progress achieved and discussion on future activities

DURING LUNCH BREAK 13.00-15:00: SIDE EVENTS

6. Reporting under the Convention and on Sustainable Development Goal indicator 6.5.2 (15.00-15.50)

- Review of the 2020 reporting exercise under the Convention and on the SDG Indicator 6.5.2, together with a forward looking discussion how to move from reporting towards improving transboundary water cooperation
- Proposal for an online reporting system
- Discussion on future activities

7. Supporting equitable and sustainable water allocation in the transboundary context (15.50-16.50)

- Launch of the Handbook on water allocation in a transboundary context
- Discussion on further work on water allocation

8. Water-food-energy-ecosystems nexus in transboundary basins (16.50-17.30)

- Review of progress achieved and discussion on future activities
- Progress achieved in the Drina River Basin (follow-up), the North-Western Sahara Aquifer System and the Drin River Basin
- Presentation of the Toolkit publication “Sustainable renewable energy investments and development: accounting for water resources and the environment with a nexus approach” and of a synthesis publication “Balancing resource management trade-offs and synergies in

transboundary basins: synthesis of nexus solutions”

9. Financing of the Convention (17.30-18.00)

- Reporting back on the last MOP request to allocate more regular budget resources to the Water Convention
- Presentation of the financial situation of the trust funds
- Discussion and pledges
- Presentation and adoption of decision "Targets for financial sustainability of the work under the Water Convention"

FRIDAY, 1 OCTOBER 2021

10. Identifying, assessing and communicating the benefits of transboundary cooperation (10.00-10.20)

- Review of progress achieved and discussion on future activities
- Application of the Policy Guidance Note on the Benefits of Transboundary Water Cooperation: Identification, Assessment and Communication of Benefits in the Cubango-Okavango River Basin and the North-Western Sahara Aquifer System Basin

11. Adapting to climate change in transboundary basins (10.20-11.00)

- Review of progress achieved and discussion on future activities

12. Water and industrial accidents (11.00-11.20)

- Review of progress achieved and discussion on future activities

13. Formalizing the procedure for proposing to host future MOPs (11.20-11.40)

- Presentation and adoption of decision "Procedure for proposing the hosting of sessions of the Meeting of the Parties"

14. International Water Assessment Centre (11.40-12.00)

- Review of progress achieved and discussion on future activities
- Discussion and adoption of IWAC workplan for 2022–2024

15. Programme of work for 2022–2024, terms of reference of the bodies established to implement it and resources needed for its implementation (12.00-13.00)

Discussion and adoption of the programme of work:

- Activities, objectives, lead Parties and financing
- Bodies to implement the programme of work
- Role of focal points
- Resources, including statements on contributions

DURING LUNCH BREAK 13.00-15:00: SIDE EVENTS

16. Promotion and partnerships (15.00-16.00)

Cooperation with UN-Water, global and regional partners and other MEAs.

17. Status of ratification of the Convention and its protocols and report on credentials (continued) (16.00-16.10)

18. Election of officers (16.10-16.25)

19. Date and venue of the tenth session of the Meeting of the Parties (16.25-16.35)

20. Other business (16.35-16.40)

21. Presentation and adoption of the main decisions (16.40-16.50)

22. Closing of the session (16.50-17.10)