

18th meeting of the Working Group on Monitoring and Assessment, 17-18 October 2023

## Item 10

# Past activities of WGMA. Proposed process and milestones for the preparation of the PoW 2025-2027

Sonja Koeppel

Secretary of the Water Convention, UNECE

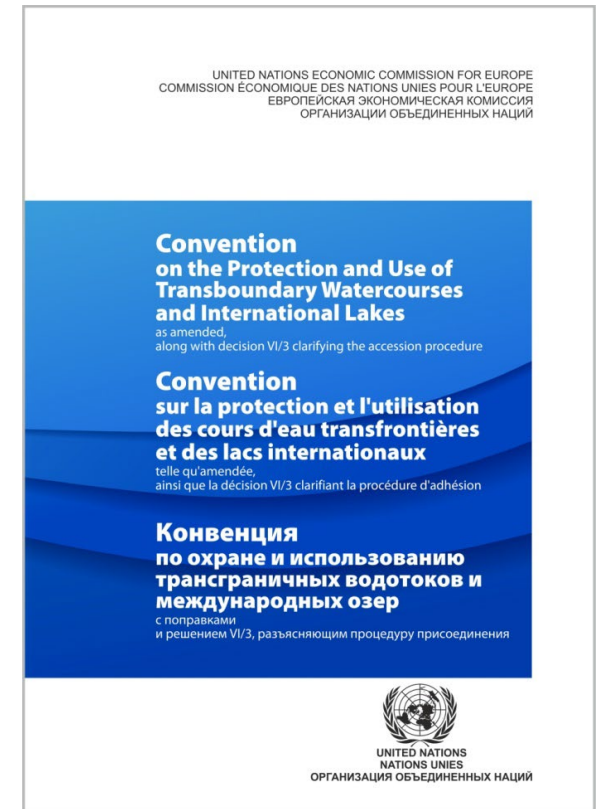
# Monitoring and Assessment under the Water Convention

Most relevant articles on monitoring and data sharing:

Article 4: Parties shall establish programmes for monitoring the conditions of transboundary water

Article 6: Parties shall provide the widest exchange of information as early as possible, on issues covered by the provisions of the Convention

Article 11: Riparians shall establish and implement joint programmes for monitoring the conditions of transboundary waters, agree upon pollution parameters, carry out joint assessments and harmonize rules for setting up and operation of monitoring programmes

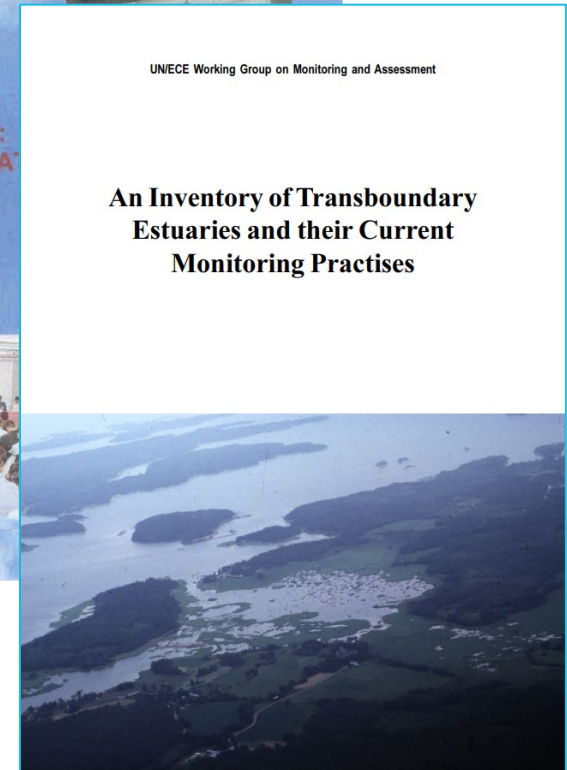
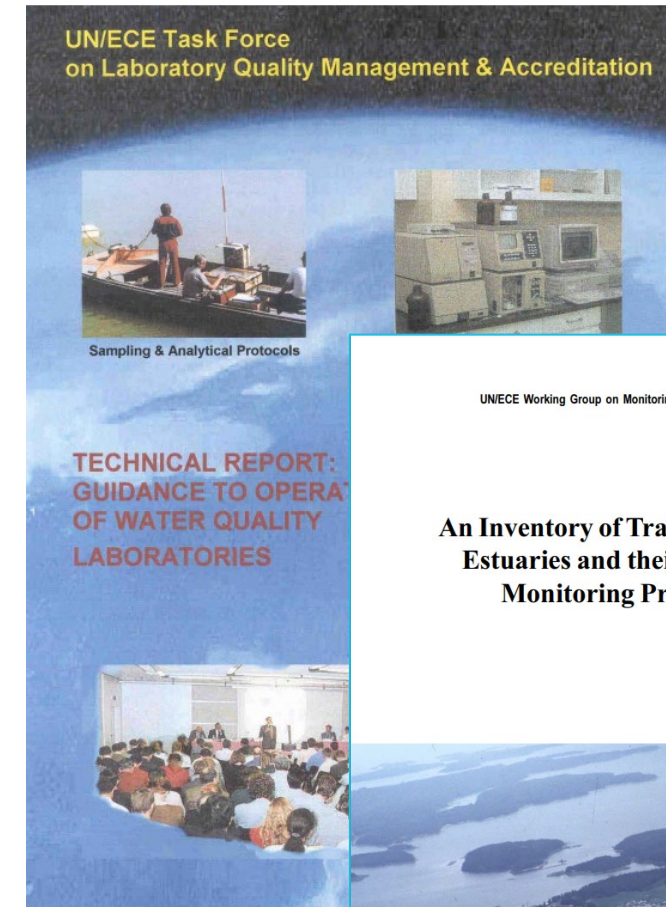


# Working Group on Monitoring and Assessment established in 2000



# Technical documents on monitoring and assessment under the Water Convention

- [Biological Assessment Methods for Watercourses](#) (1995)
- [State of the Art on Monitoring and Assessment of Rivers](#) (1995)
- [Quality Assurance](#) (1995)
- [Guidance to operation of water quality laboratories](#) (2002)
- [Monitoring of International Lakes: Background Paper for the Guidelines on Monitoring and Assessment of Transboundary and International Lakes](#) (2002)
- [An inventory of transboundary estuaries and their current monitoring practices](#) (2003)
- [Good Practices for Monitoring and Assessment of Transboundary Rivers, Lakes and Groundwaters](#) (2006)





# Guidelines on monitoring and assessment under the Convention

1996

- Guidelines on M&A of Transboundary Rivers
- Guidelines on M&A of Transboundary Groundwaters

2000

- Guidelines on M&A of Transboundary Rivers
- Guidelines on M&A of Transboundary Groundwaters

2002/2003

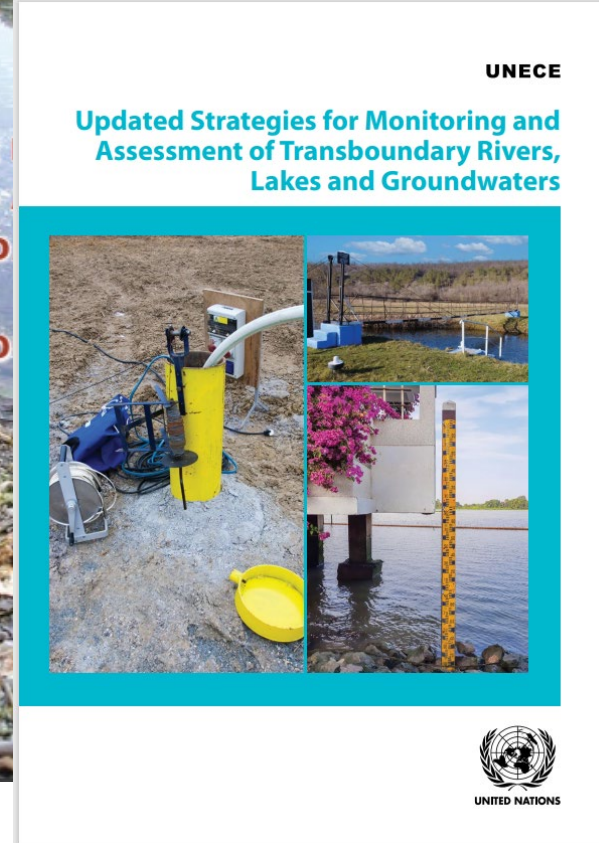
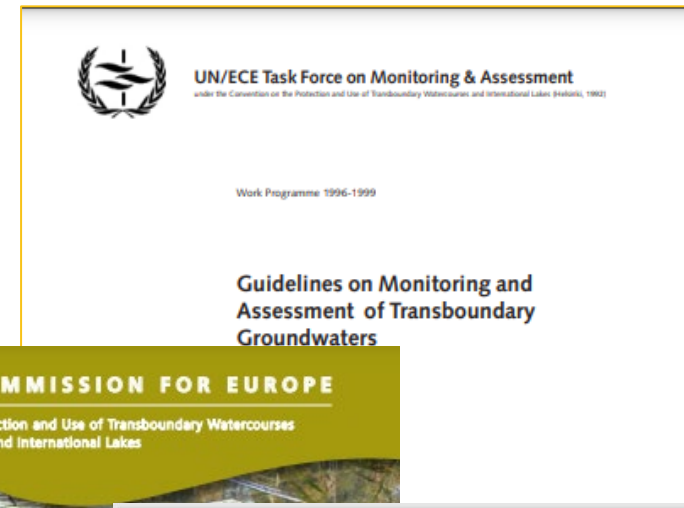
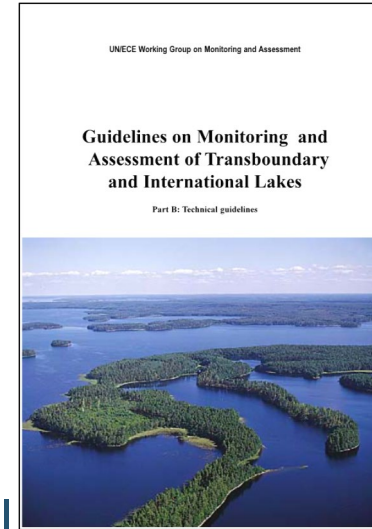
- Guidelines on M&A of Transboundary and International Lakes

- Part A: Strategy Document
- Part B: Technical Guidelines

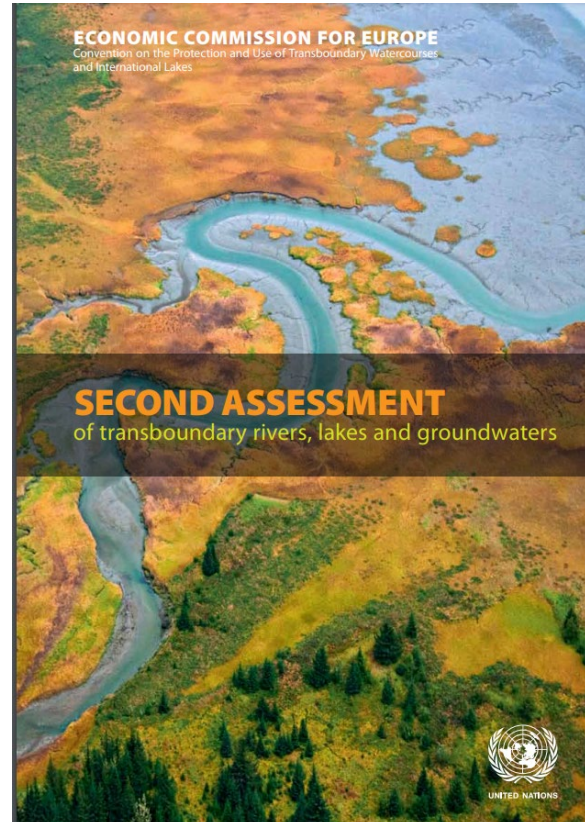
2006

- Strategies for Monitoring and Assessment of Transboundary Rivers, Lakes and Groundwaters

**TESTED IN PILOT PROJECTS**



# Regional assessments of transboundary rivers, lakes and groundwaters: 2007, 2011



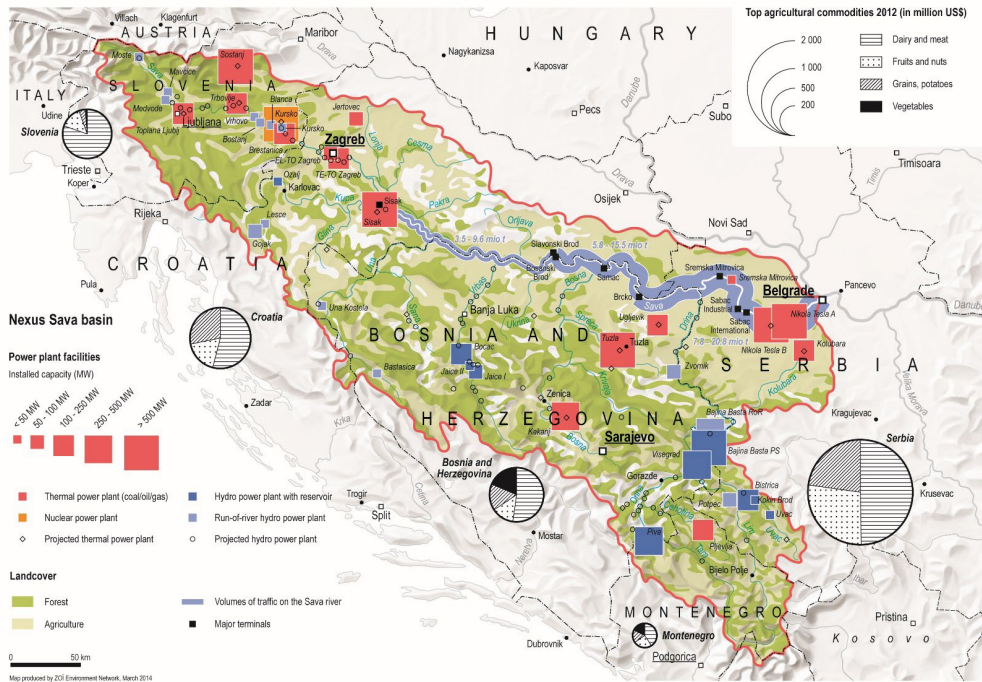
## Information collected for the Second Assessment:

- Surface and groundwater resources
- Pressures and their importance
- Quality and quantity status of waters
- Transboundary impacts (descriptive)
- **Cooperation:** joint bodies, agreements, joint monitoring etc (descriptive)
- Trends
- Management response measures taken (descriptive)

*Served to exchange views & experience, harmonize approaches, keep the status of transboundary waters under scrutiny*



# From monitoring and assessment to...



**Nexus assessments** under the Water Convention (from 2013)

**Task Force on Water-Food-Energy-Ecosystems Nexus**

Monitoring and assessment has **been integrated into thematic activities** (e.g. adaptation to climate change, water-food-energy-ecosystems nexus), or has been a **component in projects on the ground** (Afghan-Tajik cooperation, Drin GEF project, SMAB)

**Water allocation work**

## *Global workshop on exchange of data and information in transboundary basins and WGMA Dec 2019:*

7 regional groups:

- When updating existing guidance documents on monitoring and assessment, it would be useful to integrate experiences from the different regions
- Regional or subregional workshops were widely considered to be useful, not only for review of and learning about the Convention's guidelines, but also for exchange of experiences.
- Some regions indicated a need for training sessions on specific topics.
- Financing of monitoring and assessment was perceived to be an important issue, including possibilities of optimizing monitoring and assessment programmes, taking into account the costs and potential of modern technology.

## Programme of work 2022-2024

- **Develop a publication on good practices and lessons learnt in transboundary data exchange**
- **Update *Strategies for Monitoring and Assessment of Transboundary Rivers, Lakes and Groundwaters***
- **Up to 3 training or regional workshops/sessions** on monitoring, information and data
- **Tailored assistance** for developing joint or coordinated monitoring or information and data exchange - upon country request, pending availability of resources



# Programme of Work (PoW) 2025-2027



A new programme of work under the Water Convention is adopted **every 3 years** by the Meeting of the Parties.

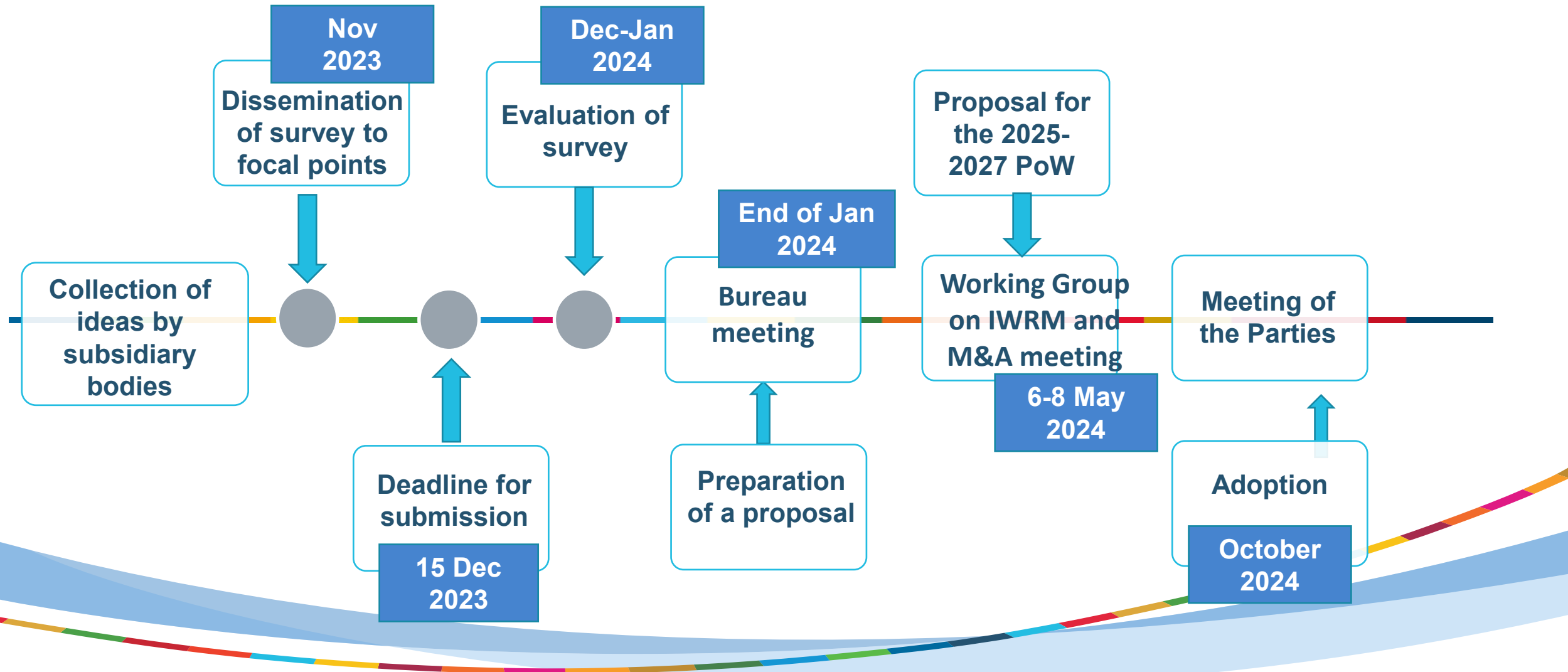


Future programme of works will need to reflect the **Convention's global nature** and **respond to new challenges and priorities**.



The process will start with the **collection of recommendations by various subsidiary bodies under the Water Convention** about future activities to be included in the next PoW

# Planned timeline for the development of the PoW 2025-2027



# On-line survey

## Thematic areas:

- How relevant are current programme areas?
- Which sub-programme / programme areas should appear?
- What are emerging issues?

## Institutional structure:

- Does the institutional structure need to change?

## Implementation:

- How can your country/organization contribute to the implementation of one or more areas of the Programme of work 2025-2027?





# Drafting process

The Bureau, with the support of secretariat, will develop a **first draft** of the new PoW 2025-2027 on the basis of the **survey's outcome** and of the **recommendations by various subsidiary bodies**.



The draft PoW will be **presented and discussed during the joint session of the Working Group on Monitoring and Assessment and the Working Group on IWRM** taking place on 6-8 May 2024 in Geneva.

Comments and additional recommendations will be integrated in a **revised draft that will be submitted for approval to the Meeting of the Parties** in October 2024.

**What are your views and suggestions for future work in this area?**



# Thank you!



WEB

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RESOURCES

<https://unece.org/environment-policy/water/areas-work-convention/programme-work>



WATER  
CONVENTION

