



# Economic and Social Council

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## Economic Commission for Europe

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

#### Tenth meeting

Geneva, 24 and 25 June 2015

Item 1 of the provisional agenda

#### Adoption of the agenda

### Annotated provisional agenda for the tenth meeting

To be held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva, starting on Wednesday,  
24 June 2015, at 10 a.m.\*

#### I. Provisional agenda

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

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\* Delegates attending the meeting at the Palais des Nations are requested to register no later than two weeks before the meeting using the new electronic procedure. Registration is available through the following link: <https://www2.unece.org/uncdb/app/ext/meeting-registration?id=RpdxKG>. For assistance with registration, please see the instructions on the meeting's web page ([http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=38163#/?](http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=38163#/)) or contact the secretariat by e-mail ([cammile.marcelo@unece.org](mailto:cammile.marcelo@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 United Nations Economic Commission for Europe website: [www.unece.org/meetings/practical.html](http://www.unece.org/meetings/practical.html)). In case of difficulty, please contact the secretariat by telephone at +41 22 917 1606.



4. 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.
5. European Union Water Initiative and National Policy Dialogues.
6. Quantifying the benefits of transboundary cooperation.
7. Adapting to climate change in transboundary basins.
8. Thematic assessment of the water-food-energy-ecosystems nexus.
9. Opening 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) Cooperation with other international multilateral environmental agreements;
  - (c) Cooperation with UN-Water and other partners;
  - (d) Follow-up to the Seventh “Environment for Europe” Ministerial Conference.
11. Water in the post-2015 development agenda.
12. International Water Assessment Centre.
13. Ongoing programme of work for 2013–2015.
14. Programme of work for 2016–2018 and preparations for the seventh session of the Meeting of the Parties.
15. Date and venue of the next meeting of the Working Group.
16. Other business.
17. Closure of the meeting.

## II. Annotations

1. The main objectives of the tenth meeting of the Working Group on Integrated Water Resources Management under the Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes (Water Convention) are to review the implementation of the programme of work for 2013–2015 (ECE/MP.WAT/37/Add.1) and

to prepare for the seventh session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention (Budapest, 17–20 November 2015).

2. The meeting will be held at the Palais des Nations in Geneva, Switzerland. It will start at 10 a.m. on Wednesday, 24 June 2015 and end at 5:30 p.m. on Thursday, 25 June 2015.

3. The working languages for the meeting will be English, French and Russian, as well as Spanish (the latter is subject to the availability of extrabudgetary resources).

4. All relevant documentation will be available on a dedicated page of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) Water Convention website.<sup>1</sup>

## **1. Adoption of the agenda**

*Tentative timing: 10–10:10 a.m., Wednesday, 24 June*

5. The co-Chairs of the Working Group on Integrated Water Resources Management will open the meeting. The Working Group is expected to adopt the agenda as set out in the present document.

6. The co-Chairs will explain the background and main objectives of the meeting.

### **Documentation**

Annotated provisional agenda for the tenth meeting (ECE/MP.WAT/WG.1/2015/1)

## **2. Adoption of the report of the previous meeting**

*Tentative timing: 10:10–10:20 a.m., Wednesday, 24 June*

7. The Working Group is expected to adopt the report of its ninth meeting (Geneva, 25–26 June 2014).

### **Documentation**

Report of the Working Group on Integrated Water Resources Management on its ninth meeting (ECE/MP.WAT/WG.1/2014/2)

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

*Tentative timing: 10:20–10:40 a.m., Wednesday, 24 June*

8. Having reached the sufficient number of ratifications, the amendments to articles 25 and 26 opening the Convention for accession by non-ECE countries entered into force on 6 February 2013, turning the Convention into a universally available 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. Although at its sixth session (Rome, 28–30 November 2012) the Meeting of the Parties set 31 December 2013 as the deadline for those

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<sup>1</sup> See <http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=38163#/>.

ratifications, in its decision VI/3, three Parties have still not ratified the amendments to date.

9. 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.

10. Representatives of countries that are not Parties to the Convention will be invited to report on any plans for accession to or ratification of the Convention, as appropriate.

11. The Working Group will discuss how to foster ratification of the Convention and especially how to promote ratification of the amendments.

#### **Documentation**

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

Ratification status of the ECE Water Convention, its amendments and Protocols (WG.1/2015/INF.1)

### **4. Support to implementation and accession**

*Tentative timing: 10:40 a.m.–1 p.m., Wednesday, 24 June*

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

12. The secretariat will inform the Working Group on the progress achieved in different projects supporting implementation of the Convention in countries of Eastern and South-Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia, developed with the support of the ECE Regional Adviser on Environment. The Working Group will provide comments as needed, including on the future development of such projects.

#### **(b) Implementation Committee**

13. The Working Group will be informed about the fourth and fifth meetings of the Implementation Committee, held on 4 December 2014 in London and on 5–6 May 2015 in Vienna, respectively, as well as about the preparation of the Committee's report to the Meeting of the Parties. Considering that four members of the Committee were elected for a half term of office, and that their term will thus expire by November 2015, the procedures for nomination and election of candidates will be recalled.

#### **Documentation**

Report of the fourth meeting of the Implementation Committee (ECE/MP.WAT/IC/2014/4)

Decision VI/1 on support to implementation and compliance (see ECE/MP.WAT/37/Add.2)

#### **(c) Exchange of experience of joint bodies**

14. The lead Parties for the work on the exchange of experience of joint bodies will present to the Working Group the draft principles for effective joint bodies for transboundary water cooperation, revised on the basis of comments received subsequent to the Working Group's previous meeting. The Working Group will be invited to agree on the format in which the draft principles are to be submitted to the Meeting of the Parties at its seventh session for consideration and possible adoption.

**Documentation**

Draft principles for effective joint bodies for transboundary water cooperation (WG.1/2015/INF.2)

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

15. 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. The 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. To support this analysis, a questionnaire was sent to Parties, other States and organizations in October 2013 in order to understand their views on reporting, as well as their criteria for the possible design of such a mechanism, if the Meeting of the Parties should decide to introduce it.

16. At its ninth meeting, the Working Group decided to create a core group to elaborate, with the help of the Bureau and the secretariat, a proposal for a possible reporting mechanism. The core group met twice (15–16 December 2014 and 30–31 March 2015). The Chair of the core group will present the core group's proposal.

17. The Working Group will discuss the proposal and decide whether to submit a draft decision on reporting to the Meeting of the Parties at its seventh session for consideration and possible adoption. If such a decision is to be drafted, the Working Group will decide on its content.

**Documentation**

Proposal for a reporting mechanism by the core group on reporting (ECE/MP.WAT/WG.1/2015/5)

**(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 secretariat will inform the Working Group on the status 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 (Industrial Accidents Convention).

**5. European Union Water Initiative and National Policy Dialogues**

*Tentative timing: 3–3:30 p.m., Wednesday, 24 June*

18. The Working Group will be informed about recent developments in the European Union Water Initiative (EUWI) National Policy Dialogues on Integrated Water Resources Management (facilitated by ECE) and Water Supply and Sanitation (facilitated by the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD)). ECE and OECD are the key strategic partners of EUWI in Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia.

19. The Working Group will examine the progress and lessons learned from the dialogues. It will discuss future development of the dialogues beyond 2015 and agree on ways and means to further strengthen them.

### **Documentation**

Report on the Implementation of the National Policy Dialogues  
(ECE/MP.WAT/WG.1/2015/3)

## **6. Quantifying the benefits of transboundary cooperation**

*Tentative timing: 3:30–4:15 p.m., Wednesday, 24 June*

20. The Meeting of the Parties at its sixth session decided to assist countries in estimating 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 Working Group will be informed about the outcomes of the expert workshop “Beyond water: Regional economic integration and geopolitical benefits of transboundary water cooperation” (Tallinn, 28–29 January 2015), as well as about the final draft of the policy guidance note on identifying, assessing and communicating the benefits of transboundary water cooperation.

21. The Working Group will discuss the draft policy guidance note and next steps for its finalization and subsequent submission to the Meeting of the Parties at its seventh session. Participants will be invited to provide comments. The Working Group will then discuss possible future activities in this area under the Water Convention beyond 2015.

### **Documentation**

Draft policy guidance note on identifying, assessing and communicating the benefits of transboundary water cooperation: “Counting our gains” (ECE/MP.WAT/WG.1/2015/4)

## **7. Adapting to climate change in transboundary basins**

*Tentative timing: 4:15–5 p.m., Wednesday, 24 June*

22. With regard to activities linked to adaptation to climate change, participants will be informed about the outcomes of the seventh meeting of the Task Force on Water and Climate (Geneva, 13 October 2014), the fifth workshop on adaptation to climate change in transboundary basins (Geneva, 14–15 October 2014) and the Second Workshop on Transboundary Flood Risk Management (Geneva, 19–20 March 2015). The Working Group will also hear about the publication, *Water and adaptation to climate change in transboundary basins: lessons learned and good practices*, which will be launched at the Seventh World Water Forum (Daegu-Gyeongbuk, Republic of Korea, 12–17 April 2015). Representatives of the pilot projects and the global network of basins will be invited to report on their activities. The Working Group will provide comments, as needed, on the work accomplished and will discuss possible future activities in this area.

### **Documentation**

*Water and adaptation to climate change in transboundary basins: lessons learned and good practices* (ECE/MP.WAT/45)

Lessons learned and future work on water and adaptation to climate change  
(WG.1/2015/INF.3)

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

*Tentative timing: 5–6 p.m., Wednesday, 24 June*

23. The secretariat will report on the progress achieved in the thematic assessment of the water-food-energy-ecosystems nexus, in particular the finalization of the methodology and the assessment of the Alazani/Ganikh Basin, shared by Azerbaijan and Georgia, the Sava Basin, shared by Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Montenegro, Serbia and Slovenia, the Syr Darya Basin, shared by Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan and the Isonzo/Soca Basin, shared by Italy and Slovenia. The draft assessments for the Alazani/Ganikh, Sava and Syr Darya Basins will be presented. Representatives of the basins concerned and other participants in the Working Group meeting will be invited to make comments. The Working Group will discuss the finalization of the basin assessments.

24. Subsequently, the secretariat will present the main findings of the thematic assessment and the steps to be taken to prepare and finalize its publication. The Working Group will be invited to discuss these as well as possible future activities in this area of work beyond 2015.

### Documentation

Chapters on selected aspects of the water-food-energy-ecosystems nexus (ECE/MP.WAT/WG.1/2015/6)

Major findings of the basin-level assessments of the water-food-energy-ecosystems nexus (ECE/MP.WAT/WG.1/2015/7)

Methodology for assessing the water-food-energy-ecosystems nexus in transboundary basins (ECE/MP.WAT/WG.1/2015/8)

Basin assessments of the Alazani/Ganikh, Sava and Syr Darya (WG.1/2015/INF.4, WG.1/2015/INF.5 and WG.1/2015/INF.6)

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

*Tentative timing: 9:30–10:20 a.m., Thursday, 25 June*

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

25. The Working Group will be informed about the national workshops on the Water Convention organized in countries outside the ECE region, including in Lebanon (Beirut, 4–5 February 2015) and Jordan (Amman, 10 March 2015), as well as follow-up steps taken by these countries. These workshops were organized at the request of countries interested in acceding to the Water Convention. Outcomes of other events where the opening of the Convention to countries outside the ECE region was promoted, such as the General Assembly of the African Network of Basin Organizations (Addis Ababa, 12–14 February 2015) and the Ibero-American Water Directors Conference (Panama, 18–21 November 2015), will also be presented.

26. In this regard, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) will be invited to report on its activities and the efforts undertaken to provide assistance to interested United Nations Member States in implementing the Water Convention in relation to transboundary groundwater, in accordance with decision VI/5 of the Meeting of the Parties.

27. Interested non-ECE countries will be invited to inform the Working Group about their interest in participating in the Convention's activities and their interest or progress in studying possible accession, as well as their needs and expectations. The Working Group will discuss how to further promote and build capacities on the Convention beyond the ECE region, including through subregional workshops and with partners.

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

28. The 1997 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Non-navigational Uses of International Watercourses (United Nations Watercourses Convention) entered into force on 17 August 2014. In view of that Convention's entry into force, current and prospective Parties to either the Watercourses or the Water Convention, and in particular Parties to both of them, will be invited to discuss how the two international legal frameworks could interact. They will also be invited to explore how the two treaties could support each other and how synergies could be built, including how the experience and guidance material collected under the ECE Water Convention could support the implementation of the United Nations Watercourses Convention. In this regard, the Working Group will be informed about the different initiatives undertaken to jointly promote the Conventions.

**Documentation**

*The Economic Commission for Europe Water Convention and the United Nations Watercourses Convention: An analysis of their harmonized contribution to international water law* (ECE/MP.WAT/42)

**(c) Cooperation with the Global Environment Facility**

29. The Working Group will discuss how to strengthen cooperation further with the Global Environment Facility, in accordance with decision VI/4 of the Meeting of the Parties.

**10. Promotion of the Convention and establishment of strategic partnerships**

*Tentative timing: 10:30–11:15 a.m., Thursday, 25 June*

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

30. The Working Group will be informed about the Water Convention's involvement in international events, such as the World Water Weeks in 2014 and 2015 (Stockholm, 31 August–5 September 2014 and 23–28 August 2015) and the Seventh World Water Forum in April 2015.

31. The Working Group will be invited to provide comments on and suggestions for the promotion of the Convention internationally. Focal points will be invited to report on their national efforts to promote the Convention.

**(b) Cooperation with other international multilateral environmental agreements**

32. The Working Group will discuss how to increase synergies and cooperation with other multilateral environmental agreements, in particular with the Protocol on Water and Health, the Convention on the Protection of the Alps and the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands of International Importance especially as Waterfowl Habitat. The Working Group will also be informed about the outcomes of recent meetings between representatives of the



governing bodies of the ECE multilateral environmental agreements and the Committee on Environmental Policy (Geneva, 27 October 2014 and 13 April 2015).

33. 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 Expert Group on Water and Industrial Accidents, which was endorsed by the Conference of the Parties to the Industrial Accidents Convention at its eighth meeting (Geneva, 3–5 December 2014). The Working Group will provide comments and agree on the next steps in this area.

#### **Documentation**

Checklist for contingency planning for accidents affecting transboundary waters (WG.1/2015/INF.7)

#### **(c) Cooperation with UN-Water and other partners**

34. 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.

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

35. The ECE Committee on Environmental Policy at its twentieth session (Geneva, 28–31 October 2014) decided that the next and final reporting on the Astana Water Action should take place at the Committee’s special session in February 2016. The Working Group will exchange views on how to organize the reporting and next steps.

### **11. Water in the post-2015 development agenda**

*Tentative timing: 11:15–11:45 a.m., Thursday, 25 June*

36. 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, with a view to advancing sustainable water management and transboundary water cooperation. The Working Group will also discuss the possible role of the Water Convention in implementing any water-related future sustainable development goals and in reporting on progress towards such goals.

### **12. International Water Assessment Centre**

*Tentative timing: 11:45 a.m.–noon, Thursday, 25 June*

37. The International Water Assessment Centre has been without a host country since 2013 and is thus currently not operational. The Working Group will be informed of any offers to host the Centre and in such a case will discuss the possible future activities and future workplan of the Centre.

### **13. Ongoing programme of work for 2013–2015**

*Tentative timing: noon–12:30 p.m., Thursday, 25 June*

38. The Working Group will review overall progress made in the implementation of the Convention’s programme of work for 2013–2015, and make minor adjustments, if

necessary. The secretariat will present lessons learned from the implementation of the current programme of work, as a basis for a discussion of the Working Group on the draft future programme of work. The Working Group will also be informed about the financial situation of the Convention's trust fund, its evolution over recent years and its future perspectives. The Working Group will discuss lessons learned regarding funding and future steps.

#### **Documentation**

Programme of work for 2013–2015 (ECE/MP.WAT/37/Add.1)

### **14. Programme of work for 2016–2018 and preparations for the seventh session of the Meeting of the Parties**

*Tentative timing: 2:30–5:10 p.m., Thursday, 25 June*

39. On the basis of a draft programme of work for 2016–2018 prepared by the Bureau (ECE/MP.WAT/WG.1/2015/L.1), as well as the discussions under previous agenda items, the Working Group will discuss and agree on future activities under the Water Convention, including potential lead countries for the various work areas. When discussing the programme of work, the Working Group will also consider the resources needed for its implementation. In addition, the Working Group could discuss the strengthening of cooperation with partner organizations.

40. The Working Group will also discuss and agree upon the future institutional structure under the Convention and the mandate of the different subsidiary bodies to guide the implementation of the 2016–2018 programme of work.

41. The Working Group will agree on ways and means to finalize the draft programme of work to be submitted to the Meeting of the Parties for adoption at its seventh session.

42. A representative of Hungary, host country of the seventh session of the Meeting of the Parties, and the secretariat will report on the organizational preparations for the meeting and the overall programme of events for the seventh session, in particular the high-level segment. The Working Group will be invited to make comments.

#### **Documentation**

Draft programme of work for 2016–2018 (ECE/MP.WAT/WG.1/2015/L.1)

Draft programme of the seventh session of the Meeting of the Parties (WG.1/2015/INF.8)

### **15. Date and venue of the next meeting of the Working Group**

*Tentative timing: 5:10–5:20 p.m., Thursday, 25 June*

43. The Working Group will determine the preliminary date and venue for its next meeting. It will also be informed of the schedule of other meetings under the Convention and its Protocol on Water and Health.

### **16. Other business**

*Tentative timing: 5:20–5:30 p.m., Thursday, 25 June*

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

**17. Closure of the meeting**

45. The co-Chairs will close the meeting at 5:30 p.m. on Thursday, 25 June 2014.
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