



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

Second Joint Meeting of the Working Groups on Monitoring and Assessment and on Integrated Water Resources Management

Geneva, 28-30 May 2018

UNEDITED LIST OF DECISIONS ADOPTED BY THE WORKING GROUPS ON INTEGRATED WATER RESOURCES MANAGEMENT AND MONITORING AND ASSESSMENT AT THEIR SECOND JOINT MEETING¹

Items 1, 2 and 3: Opening of the session, Adoption of the agenda, Adoption of the report of the previous meeting of the working group on Integrated Water Resources Management

1. The Working groups adopted its agenda as set out in document (ECE/MP.WAT/WG.1/2018/1-ECE/MP.WAT/WG.2/2018/1).
2. The Working Group on Integrated Water Resources Management adopted the report of its last meeting (ECE/MP.WAT/WG.1/2017/2) on the basis of an advanced unedited version.

Item 4: Monitoring and assessment of transboundary waters

3. The Working Groups:
 - (a) Underlined that information exchange and joint monitoring and assessment are key obligations under the Convention and are prerequisite for effective management of transboundary water resources;
 - (b) Recognized that information exchange and joint monitoring and assessment remain challenging even in basins with advanced transboundary cooperation;
 - (c) Called upon countries and donors to prioritize this issue and provide funding for it;
 - (d) Recalled the useful work done under the Convention in this field and encouraged countries and actors supporting transboundary water cooperation to make use of the existing guidance material;
 - (e) Decided to include *Supporting monitoring, assessment and information sharing in transboundary basins* as a programme area in the draft future programme of work of the Convention for 2019-2021.

Item 5: Progress in the ratification process and recent accession

4. The Working Groups:
 - (a) Welcomed Chad as the first Party from outside the UNECE region among the Convention Parties;
 - (b) Emphasized the historical milestone this represents in the process of global implementation of the Convention;
 - (c) Stressed that the globalization of the Convention represents a much-needed opportunity to strengthen transboundary water cooperation worldwide, support sustainable development and the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, prevent conflicts and promote peace and regional integration;
 - (d) Also welcomed the progress towards accession by several countries from outside the UNECE region;

¹ All pre-session documents and presentations are available at: <http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=46374>

- (e) Encouraged other countries to start national dialogues on the benefits of accession;
- (f) Expressed appreciation for the many offers by existing Parties to support accession;
- (g) Thanked the secretariat for the support it provided to non-Parties in their efforts towards accession.

Item 6: The global convention-promotion and partnerships

5. The Working Groups:

- (a) Reaffirmed their commitment to support accession processes through the provision of technical and legal assistance, including by sharing Parties' expertise in implementation;
- (b) Thanked donors which provided resources to support activities promoting the Convention outside the UNECE region, and lead Parties and the Bureau for providing political leadership;
- (c) Thanked partners and encouraged them to further strengthen cooperation with the Convention and support its implementation at the global level;
- (d) Endorsed the revised draft strategy for implementation of the Convention at the global level (ECE/MP.WAT/WG.1/2018/4- ECE/MP.WAT/WG.2/2018/4) and entrusted the Bureau with the support of the secretariat, to finalize the strategy based on the comments received, for its submission for adoption by the Meeting of the Parties at its eighth session;
- (e) Also entrusted the Bureau, partners and the secretariat to lay the basis for the implementation of certain actions which will require close involvement of partners (e.g. preparation of memoranda of understandings, etc.);
- (f) Endorsed the draft revised rules of procedure of the Convention ECE/MP.WAT/WG.1/2018/6- ECE/MP.WAT/WG.2/2018/6) and requested the secretariat to submit the document to the Meeting of the Parties for adoption at its eighth session;
- (g) Endorsed the draft decision on the designation and responsibilities of focal points (ECE/MP.WAT/WG.1/2018/5- ECE/MP.WAT/WG.2/2018/5) and entrusted the Bureau with the support of the secretariat, to finalize it based on the comments received, for its submission for adoption by the Meeting of the Parties at its eighth session;
- (h) Decided to include *Increasing awareness of and accession to the Convention and application of its principles drawing on the benefits of cooperation* as one programme area into the draft future programme of work of the Convention for 2019-2021.

Item 7: Reporting under the Convention and on Sustainable Development Goal indicator 6.5.2

6. The Working Groups:

- (a) Welcomed the submission of 38 reports by Parties under the Convention and 107 national reports on Sustainable Development Goal indicator 6.5.2;
- (b) Commended the alignment of the reporting under the Convention and the reporting on Sustainable Development Goal indicator 6.5.2 to increase synergies between the processes and avoid duplication of efforts;
- (c) Called upon countries to make use of the reports in order to improve their transboundary cooperation, for example by setting national or basin-wide targets;
- (d) Welcomed the outcomes of Technical meeting on the template for reporting on SDG indicator 6.5.2 and under the Water Convention jointly organized by UNECE and UNESCO in Budapest on 16 and 17 January 2018;
- (e) Endorsed the draft decision on reporting and draft revised reporting template under the Convention as contained in document ECE/MP.WAT/WG.1/2018/7-ECE/MP.WAT/WG.2/2018/7 and entrusted the secretariat to submit it for adoption to the eighth session of the Meeting of the Parties;

- (f) Called upon donors to provide resources for the work on reporting under the Convention and on SDG indicator 6.5.2;
- (g) Requested the secretariat to publish and print in English, French and Russian the first report on the implementation of the Convention “Progress on transboundary water cooperation under the Water Convention”.
- (h) Decided to include *Reporting on Sustainable Development Goal indicator 6.5.2 and under the Convention* as one of the programme areas in the future programme of work of the Convention for 2019-2021.

Item 8: Support for implementation and application of the Convention

Part 1- Assistance supporting countries’ accession to and implementation of the Convention through projects on the ground and capacity development

7. The Working Groups:

- (a) Congratulated countries for their efforts and for the progress achieved under the different projects;
- (b) Encouraged Afghanistan and Tajikistan to sign the Memorandum of Understanding on the exchange of information and cooperation in the field of environmental protection in the Panj/Amu Darya River basin;
- (c) Welcomed the establishment of the Dniester Commission;
- (d) Thanked donors which provided resources for the different projects;
- (e) Decided to include *Supporting the development of agreements and the establishment of joint bodies* into the draft future programme of work for 2019-2021.

Part 2- Implementation Committee

8. The Working Groups:

- (a) Took note of the report on the work of the Implementation Committee;
- (b) Encouraged Parties to make use of the mechanism to support implementation of the Convention.
- (c) Recalled decision VI/1 on support to implementation and compliance (ECE/MP.WAT/37/Add.2) in particular the provisions related to the election of Committee members, including the deadline of 18 July 2018 for the submission of candidates for the election at the eighth session of the Meeting of the Parties.

Item 9: Identifying, assessing and communicating the benefits of transboundary water cooperation.

9. The Working Groups:

- (a) Welcomed the outcomes of the Global workshop “Moving forward transboundary water cooperation: Building on its benefits” (Geneva, 6–7 February 2018);
- (b) Also welcomed progress so far in applying the *Policy Guidance Note on the Benefits of Transboundary Cooperation: Identification, Assessment and Follow-up* and encouraged other interested basins and partners to consider applying and using the Guidance Note;
- (c) Thanked donors and lead Parties for their support to this area of work;
- (d) Invited countries and organizations, in particular those involved in the application of the Policy Guidance Note or similar exercises, to submit comments and inputs to the draft brochure on lessons learned and recommendations from identifying, assessing and communicating the benefits of transboundary water cooperation (ECE/MP.WAT/WG.1/2018/INF.6-ECE/MP.WAT/WG.2/2018/INF.6), by 20 June 2018;
- (e) Requested the secretariat, in consultation with the lead Parties, to finalize the brochure based on the comments received and to publish and print it in Arabic, English, French, Russian and Spanish, with at least the English version available by the eighth session of the Meeting of the Parties;

- (f) Decided to include *Promoting and communicating the benefits of transboundary cooperation* into the draft programme of work for 2019-2021.

Item 10: The water-food-energy-ecosystems nexus in transboundary basins

10. The Working Groups:

- (a) Welcomed progress with applying the nexus assessment methodology and invited representatives of the basins concerned to make use of the nexus assessment results in developing policies and interventions and to explore the possibility of implementing the solutions identified;
- (b) Encouraged interested countries and organizations to consider applying and using the methodology;
- (c) Welcomed the cooperation with other sectors, in particular the energy sector, and encouraged them to also use the methodology and to contribute to refining and implementing the solutions identified, as appropriate;
- (d) Thanked donors and the lead Party for supporting work in this area;
- (e) Invited countries and organizations, in particular those involved in nexus assessments, to provide comments and inputs to the draft Synthesis document on assessing the water-food-energy-ecosystems nexus in transboundary basins and its summary (ECE/MP.WAT/WG.1/2018/INF.7-ECE/MP.WAT/WG.2/2018/INF.7 and ECE/MP.WAT/WG.1/2018/INF.12-ECE/MP.WAT/WG.2/2018/INF.12) by 20 June 2018;
- (f) Entrusted the secretariat, in cooperation with the lead Party and based on the comments received, to finalize, publish and print a synthesis of the methodology and experience in assessing the water-food-energy-ecosystems nexus in transboundary basins, in Arabic, English, French, Russian and Spanish, with at least the English version available by the eighth session of the Meeting of the Parties;
- (g) Also entrusted the secretariat, in cooperation with the lead Party and based on the comments received and additional inputs from the basin nexus assessment, in particular the on-going ones, to finalize, publish and print a synthesis of solutions to the water-food-energy-ecosystems nexus, in Arabic, English, French, Russian and Spanish, in 2019-2020;
- (h) Welcomed the outcomes of the Global Workshop on Water Allocation in transboundary basins (Geneva, 16–17 October 2017), and decided to include *Supporting equitable and sustainable water allocation in the transboundary context* into the draft programme of work for 2019-2021;
- (i) Decided to include *Supporting intersectoral dialogues and assessments through the application of the water-food-energy-ecosystems nexus approach* in the draft programme of work for 2019-2021.

Item 11: Adapting to climate change in transboundary basins

11. The Working Groups:

- (a) Welcomed the draft “Words into Action” implementation guide on addressing water-related disasters and transboundary cooperation (ECE/MP.WAT/WG.1/2018/INF.8-ECE/MP.WAT/WG.2/2018/INF.8) and invited countries and organizations to provide comments by 20 June to the draft;
- (b) Requested the secretariat and the lead Parties in cooperation with the United Nations International Strategy on Disaster Risk Reduction to finalize the publication;
- (c) Requested the secretariat to publish and print the “Words into Action” implementation guide in English, French, Russian and Spanish, with at least the English version available by the eighth session of the Meeting of the Parties;
- (d) Expressed appreciation for the progress in the pilot projects on climate change adaptation in transboundary basins, in particular the progress of the Chu Talas project;
- (e) Requested the secretariat, in cooperation with the other partners, to publish and print the publication on preparing bankable projects for climate change adaptation in transboundary basins in

English, French, Russian and Spanish, with at least the English version available by the eighth session of the Meeting of the Parties;

- (f) Welcomed the outcomes of the International Workshop on Water Scarcity (Geneva, 11–12 December 2017), and recognized this topic as a priority for future work under the Convention;
- (g) Decided to include *Adapting to climate change in transboundary basins* in the future programme of work of the Convention for 2019–2021.

Item 12: Water and industrial accidents

12. The Working Groups:

- (a) Expressed appreciation to the lead Parties and the Joint Expert Group for preparing the draft safety guidelines and good practices for the management and retention of firefighting water: general recommendations and technical recommendations (ECE/MP.WAT/WG.1/2018/8-ECE/MP.WAT/WG.2/2018/8 and ECE/MP.WAT/WG.1/2018/8-ECE/MP.WAT/WG.2/2018/8);
- (b) Took note of the draft safety guidelines and entrusted the secretariat to include comments received and submit them to the eighth session of the Meeting of the Parties;
- (c) Endorsed the draft workplan for the Joint Expert Group for 2019–2021 as included in the draft programme of work for 2019–2021 (ECE/MP.WAT/WG.1/2018/3-ECE/MP.WAT/WG.2/2018/3).

Item 13: European Union Water Initiative and National Policy Dialogues

13. The Working Groups:

- (a) Welcomed the progress in the National Policy Dialogues (NPDs) in Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia and thanked the European Commission and other donors for the financial support provided to the NPDs;
- (b) Expressed concerns that the National Policy Dialogue process in Central Asian countries would run out of funding soon and encouraged the European Commission and other donors to continue to support financially the work of the EUWI NPDs in the countries of Central Asia.

Item 14: International Water Assessment Centre

14. The Working Groups:

- (a) Congratulated Kazakhstan for the opening of IWAC in December 2017 and for all the arrangements made;
- (b) Welcomed the Memorandum of Understanding signed by IWAC and ICWC at the joint meeting;
- (c) Entrusted Kazakhstan, in consultation with the Bureau and the secretariat, to develop a concrete work programme for IWAC for 2019–2021 and submit it to the eighth session of the Meeting of the Parties.

Item 15: Ongoing programme of work for 2016–2018

15. The Working Groups:

- (a) Welcomed progress under the different areas of work and thanked the countries involved, lead Parties, donors and the secretariat for the positive results;
- (b) Requested the secretariat to reprint by the Meeting of the Parties copies of the publications which have been exhausted.

Item 16: Programme of work for 2019–2021 and preparations for the eighth session of the Meeting of the Parties

16. The Working Groups:

- (a) Endorsed the draft programme of work for 2019-2021 as contained in document ECE/MP.WAT/WG.1/2018/3-ECE/MP.WAT/WG.2/2018/3, and entrusted the Bureau, with the support of the secretariat, with its finalization for its submission for adoption by the Meeting of the Parties at its eighth session;
 - (b) Agreed on the future institutional structure under the Convention and the mandate of the different subsidiary bodies to guide the implementation of the programme of work for 2019–2021 of the Water Convention;
 - (c) Invited Parties, non-Parties and other donors to provide financial resources for the implementation of the programme of work for 2019-2021, and to indicate such pledges at the eighth session of the Meeting of the Parties;
 - (d) Welcomed the preparations for the eighth session Meeting of the Parties by Kazakhstan and encouraged Parties, non-Parties and organizations to participate in the meeting at high level.
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