



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

Working Group on Integrated Water Resources Management
Nineteenth meeting
Working Group on Monitoring and Assessment
Nineteenth meeting
Geneva, 6-8 May 2024

UNEDITED LIST OF DECISIONS

**ADOPTED BY THE WORKING GROUP ON INTEGRATED WATER RESOURCES MANAGEMENT AND
THE WORKING GROUP ON MONITORING AND ASSESSMENT**

Items 1, 2 and 3: Opening of the session; Adoption of the agenda; Adoption of the report of the previous meeting

1. The Working Groups:

- (a) Adopted the agenda (ECE/MP.WAT/WG.1/2024/1–ECE/MP.WAT/WG.2/2024/1);
- (b) Adopted the report of the 18th meeting of the Working Group on Integrated Water Resources Management (ECE/MP.WAT/WG.1/2023/2);
- (c) Adopted the report of the 18th meeting of the Working Group on Monitoring and Assessment (ECE/MP.WAT/WG.2/2023/2).

Item 4: Status of ratification

2. The Working Groups:

- (a) Welcomed Panama and The Gambia in the community of Parties to the Convention, and appreciated the growing membership to the Water Convention in various regions;
- (b) Encouraged the countries close to accession to finalize the process as soon as possible to participate to the upcoming 10th session of the Meeting of the Parties as Party, if possible;
- (c) Encouraged other countries to start or progress in their national processes of accession.

Item 5: Global processes and recent developments related to transboundary water cooperation

5(a) Input to global events focusing on water and progress towards achieving Sustainable Development Goals

3. The Working Groups:

- (a) Underlined the need to highlight the importance and benefits of transboundary water cooperation, as well as the role of the Water Convention, in the global water processes, such as towards the 2024 One Water Summit and the Summit of the Future and in their outcomes, encouraged Parties and non-Parties to do so, and requested the secretariat to contribute to these processes;
- (b) Requested to include contribution to global processes related to water and transboundary water cooperation as an integral part in the future programme of work for 2025-2027.

Item 6. Increasing awareness of and accession to the Convention and application of its principles drawing on the benefits of cooperation

6(a) Increasing capacity for implementation of the Convention and supporting national processes towards accession

4. The Working Groups:

- (a) Welcomed the growing interest in the Water Convention and significant progress in accession by a large number of countries in various regions;
- (b) Reaffirmed its commitment to support accession processes through the provision of technical and legal assistance, including by sharing Parties' expertise in implementation;
- (c) Encouraged existing Parties to support new Parties in implementation of the Convention, for example through twinnings, support to development of implementation plans and other means;
- (d) Thanked donors, which provided resources to support activities promoting the Convention; lead Parties and the Bureau, which provided political leadership; and current Parties, which provided assistance to support new accessions;
- (e) Expressed appreciation for the support by global and regional organizations and river basin organizations, including the United Nations system, contributing to awareness raising and increasing capacity for accession to and implementation of the Convention;
- (f) Decided to include "Increasing awareness of and supporting national processes towards accession to the Convention" and "Increasing capacity for implementation of the Convention at the national and regional levels, especially for new Parties" into the draft future programme of work for 2025-2027.

6(b) Supporting the development of agreements and the establishment of joint bodies

5. The Working Groups:

- (a) Welcomed progress achieved in different projects supporting the development of agreements and the establishment of joint bodies, including through applying the *Practical Guide for the Development of Agreements or Other Arrangements for Transboundary Water Cooperation*;
- (b) Encouraged countries, interested basins and partners to use and disseminate the *Practical Guide for the Development of Agreements or Other Arrangements for Transboundary Water Cooperation* to support the development of agreements, in order to support the implementation of the Convention and achievement of SDG target 6.5;
- (c) Decided to include "Supporting the development of agreements and the establishment of joint bodies" into the draft future programme of work for 2025-2027.

6(c) Implementation Committee

6. The Working Groups:

- (a) Welcomed the progress made in the first advisory procedure carried out by the Implementation Committee;
- (b) Encouraged Parties and other stakeholders to seek the Committee's assistance, support and facilitation to address difficulties in implementing and complying with the Convention, for example, by using the advisory procedure;

- (c) Welcomed the contribution of the Committee to activities related to promotion of accession to the Convention and the assistance provided by the Committee to the secretariat in supporting cooperation in the Senegalo-Mauritanian Aquifer Basin;
- (d) 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, and the deadline 30 July 2024 for the nomination of candidates by Parties for the election at the 10th session of the Meeting of the Parties.

Item 7 Supporting monitoring, assessment and information-sharing in transboundary basins

7. The Working Groups:

- (a) Recalled that final requests for changes or updates to the text of the publication Good Practices and Lessons Learned in Transboundary Data-sharing, if any, can be sent to the secretariat by 17 May 2024;
- (b) Entrusted the secretariat, in consultation with the lead Parties (Finland and Senegal), with the task of finalizing the text, taking into account the comments made, and publishing and printing the publication in English, French, Russian and Spanish, with the English version available by the tenth session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Water Convention (Ljubljana, 23–25 October 2024);
- (c) Thanked the Netherlands for expert support provided to the development of publications under this programme area;
- (d) Decided to include “Supporting monitoring, assessment and information-sharing in transboundary basins to address pressures on water resources” into the draft future programme of work for 2025-2027.

Item 8. Promoting an integrated and intersectoral approach to water management at all levels

8(a) Promoting integrated water resources management in transboundary basins

8. The Working Groups decided to include “Promoting integrated water resources management in transboundary basins” as well as a new sub-area “Promoting conjunctive management of transboundary surface waters and groundwaters” into the draft future programme of work for 2025-2027.

8(b) Source-to-sea management

9. The Working Groups:

- (a) Invited countries and organizations to provide written comments on the draft outline of Draft outline of the guidance note for the implementation of the source-to-sea approach in transboundary basins (ECE/MP.WAT/WG.1/2024/INF.5-ECE/MP.WAT/WG.2/2024/INF.5) to the Water Convention secretariat no later than 30 May 2024;
- (b) Decided to include “Source-to-sea: linking governance and management of transboundary freshwaters and the coastal and marine environment” into the draft future programme of work for 2025-2027.

8(c) Supporting intersectoral dialogues and assessments through the application of the water-food-energy-ecosystems nexus approach

10. The Working Groups:

- (a) Encouraged countries that have participated in nexus projects to make use of the results of the projects and to continue sharing their experience through the Task Force;
- (b) Encouraged partners to apply the methodology for assessing the water-food-energy-ecosystems nexus in transboundary basins;
- (c) Encouraged the Sustainable Energy Division of ECE and the Water Convention secretariat to cooperate closely in relevant nexus activities;
- (d) Decided to include “Supporting intersectoral dialogues and assessments through the application of the water-food- energy-ecosystems nexus approach” into the draft future programme of work for 2025-2027.

8(d) Supporting equitable and sustainable water allocation in a transboundary context

11. The Working Groups:

- (a) Encouraged countries and partners to use and disseminate the Summary Guide on Water Allocation in a Transboundary Context (ECE/MP.WAT/72);
- (b) Decided to include “Supporting equitable and sustainable water allocation in a transboundary context” into the draft future programme of work for 2025-2027.

8(e) Supporting National Policy Dialogues on Integrated Water Resources Management under the European Union Water Initiative

12. The Working Groups:

- (a) Welcomed the progress in the National Policy Dialogues (NPDs) in Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia noting with appreciation how the dialogue processes have evolved in all countries to adjust to different situations and supporting further evolution of the processes to respond to new countries needs;
- (b) Expressed appreciation and gratitude for the support provided by the European Union, in particular through the Programme EU4Environment in the Eastern Partnership: Water Resources and Environmental Data” and noting the upcoming end of the project asked the EU to continue supporting the National Policy Dialogues;
- (c) Decided to include “Supporting National Policy Dialogues on Integrated Water Resources Management in Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia” into the draft future programme of work for 2025-2027.

Item 9. Adapting to climate change in transboundary basins

13. The Working Groups:

- (a) Welcomed the outcomes of the Global workshop on droughts in transboundary basins (Geneva, 26–27 February 2024) and the fourteenth meeting of the Task Force on Water and Climate (Geneva, 28 February 2024) and asked the secretariat to transmit the latter to UNCCD and UNFCCC;
- (b) Appreciated the progress within the Global network and encouraged more transboundary basins to join the network;
- (c) Encouraged countries to mainstream transboundary aspects of water management into national climate documents such as, for example, Nationally Determined Contributions

- (NDCs) and National Adaptation Plans (NAPs) and to liaise with colleagues responsible for climate change issues and disaster risk reduction also in preparation to the UNFCCC COP29;
- (d) Based on the conclusions of the Task Force on Water and Climate, decided to develop an action-oriented document on how transboundary aspects of water management can be mainstreamed into national climate documents such as, for example, Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and National Adaptation Plans (NAPs) for the tenth session of the Meeting of the Parties and subsequent transmission to UNFCCC;
 - (e) Decided to include “Adapting to climate change in transboundary basins” into the draft future programme of work for 2025-2027.

Item 10. Facilitating funding and financing of transboundary water cooperation and basin development

14. The Working Groups:

- (a) Welcomed the outcomes of the global workshop on funding and financing transboundary water cooperation and basin development;
- (b) Invite all international financing institutions and bilateral cooperation agencies to consider further supporting financially transboundary water cooperation processes and activities;
- (c) Decided to include “Facilitating funding and financing of transboundary water cooperation and basin development” into the draft future programme of work for 2025-2027.

Item 11. Reporting on Sustainable Development Goal indicator 6.5.2 and under the Convention

15. The Working Groups:

- (a) Welcomed that all Parties had submitted reports under the Water Convention in the third reporting cycle in 2023-2024;
- (b) Expressed appreciation and gratitude to the 129 countries out of 153 sharing transboundary waters, that had submitted reports to UNECE and UNESCO in the third monitoring exercise on SDG indicator 6.5.2;
- (c) Called on countries to make use of their national reports in order to improve their transboundary cooperation, for example by setting national or basin-wide targets or developing roadmaps or action plans;
- (d) Requested the secretariat to finalize and publish, together with UNESCO and in the framework of UN-Water, the Third report on SDG indicator 6.5.2 - Accelerating progress on transboundary water cooperation to achieve Target 6.5 in Arabic, English, French, Russian and Spanish;
- (e) Requested the secretariat to finalize the Third report on progress on transboundary water cooperation under the Water Convention and publish and print in Arabic, English, French, Spanish and Russian, with translation and printing costs to be covered by the United Nations regular budget, subject to the availability of resources, with the English version to be available by the 10th session of the Meeting of the Parties;
- (f) Decided to include “Reporting on Sustainable Development Goal indicator 6.5.2 and under the Convention” into the draft future programme of work for 2025-2027.

Item 12. Partnerships

12(a) Cooperation with UN-Water, global and regional partners and other multilateral environmental agreements

16. The Working Groups:

- (a) Encouraged partners to further identify possible synergies and join efforts with the Water Convention to support a better understanding and implementation of the Convention and its activities worldwide, including under the future 2025-2027 programme of work of the Convention;
- (b) Entrusted the secretariat, in cooperation with the Bureau, to develop a draft decision on partnerships or more specific partnership decisions with particular organizations for adoption at the tenth session of the Meeting of the Parties;
- (c) Decided to include “Cooperation with UN-Water, global and regional partners and other multilateral environmental agreements and contribution to policy processes” into the draft future programme of work for 2025-2027.

12(b) Joint Expert Group on Water and Industrial Accidents

17. The Working Groups:

- (a) Welcomed the outcomes of the International workshop on increasing capacities to prevent, prepare for and respond to accidental water pollution from tailings facilities, combined with the Joint Expert Group meeting (Bratislava, 23–24 April 2024) and thanked Slovakia for hosting it;
- (b) Decided to include “Improving water quality, including through pollution prevention and control” into the draft future programme of work for 2025-2027.

Item 13. Communication and knowledge management

18. The Working Groups:

- (a) Encouraged countries and partners to promote the Water Convention whenever possible or appropriate;
- (b) Requested Parties, and encouraged other countries, to review and correct as needed their focal point(s) information, or to nominate focal point(s) as soon as possible when no focal point had been officially nominated yet;
- (c) Decided to include “Communication and knowledge management” into the draft future programme of work for 2025-2027.

Item 14. International Water Assessment Centre

19. The Working Groups:

- (a) Thanked Kazakhstan for the support provided to the Centre;
- (b) Entrusted Kazakhstan, in consultation with the Bureau and the secretariat, to develop the draft work programme for IWAC for 2025-2027 and submit it to the Meeting of the Parties for adoption at its 10th session.

Item 15. Future programme of work for 2025-2027

20. The Working Groups:

- (a) Highlighted the need to carry out dedicated work under the Convention related to ecosystems and decided to include “Promoting conservation and restoration of transboundary freshwater and water-related ecosystems” into the draft future programme of work for 2025-2027;
- (b) Invited countries and organizations to share any additional written comments on the draft programme of work of the Water Convention for 2025-2027 to the secretariat no later than 30 May 2024;
- (c) Supported the mainstreaming of gender into the future programme of work for 2025-2027;
- (d) Encouraged Parties to propose gender balanced nominations of focal points, delegates to meetings and candidates for the Bureau and Implementation Committee;
- (e) 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 2025–2027 of the Water Convention;
- (f) Entrusted the Co-Chairs, in cooperation with the Bureau of the Convention, with the support of the secretariat, with the integration of comments received and finalization of the draft programme of work for 2025-2027 and submit it to the Meeting of the Parties for adoption at its 10th session;
- (g) Invited Parties, non-Parties and other donors to provide financial resources for the implementation of the draft programme of work, and to indicate such pledges at the 10th session of the Meeting of the Parties.

Item 16. Resources for the implementation of the programme of work

21. The Working Groups:

- (a) Expressed gratitude to all donors supporting the implementation of the Conventions programme of work;
- (b) Invited Parties, non-Parties and other donors to provide financial resources for the implementation of the programme of work, if possible unearmarked, in line with decision IX/3 on Targets for a more sustainable and predictable funding of the work under the Convention.
- (c) Entrusted the Bureau to develop a draft decision defining a process towards a more sustainable and predictable financing mechanism of the Water Convention’s work, entailing a mandatory financing scheme for consideration by the Meeting of the Parties at its tenth session (Ljubljana, 23-25 October 2024). Such decision should include the establishment of an open-ended financing group mandated to prepare the proposal for the financing mechanism, including a mandatory contribution scheme, for consideration and possible adoption at the eleventh session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Water Convention in 2027.

Item 17. Preparation for the tenth session of the Meeting of the Parties

22. The Working Groups:

- (a) Welcomed the preparations for the 10th session Meeting of the Parties;
- (b) Encouraged Parties, non-Parties and organizations to participate in the meeting at high level;

(c) Invited Parties to consider nominating Bureau members by 27 August 2024, for election of the new Bureau by the Meeting of the Parties at its 10th session.