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**MEETING OF THE PARTIES TO THE CONVENTION ON
THE PROTECTION AND USE OF TRANSBOUNDARY
WATERCOURSES AND INTERNATIONAL LAKES**

Fifth session
Geneva, 10–12 November 2009

REPORT OF THE MEETING OF THE PARTIES ON ITS FIFTH SESSION

Addendum

Part Two: Workplan for 2010–2012¹

I. BODIES TO IMPLEMENT THE WORKPLAN FOR 2010–2012

A. Bureau of the Meeting of the Parties

1. In accordance with the rules of procedure for the meetings of the Parties (see ECE/MP.WAT/19/Add.1), the Bureau of the Meeting of the Parties is composed of not fewer than eight persons, including the Chair and the two Vice-Chairs of the Meeting of the Parties, the Chairs of the Working Groups and, if applicable, other officers elected by the Meeting of the Parties.

2. The main responsibilities of the Bureau include: (a) making arrangements to further develop the workplan, adapting it to changing circumstances and avoiding, to the extent possible, duplication of efforts with water-related activities of other United Nations bodies and other

¹ The numbering and formatting in this workplan are consistent with that of past Convention workplans.

international organizations; (b) taking initiatives to strengthen implementation of the Convention; and (c) carrying out other tasks entrusted to it by the Meeting of the Parties.

B. Working Group on Integrated Water Resources Management and Working Group on Monitoring and Assessment

3. The Working Group on Integrated Water Resources Management and the Working Group on Monitoring and Assessment are the two main subsidiary bodies established by the Meeting of the Parties.

4. The two Working Groups shall be responsible for the implementation of the relevant activities under the various programme areas of the workplan. They shall examine experience and draw up draft recommendations, codes of practice and other soft-law instruments. They shall also: (a) review policies, strategies and methodologies of relevance to the protection and use of waters, as well as to human health and safety; and (b) examine the implications of such policies, strategies and methodologies. The Working Groups shall also assist the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention and the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol on Water and Health, if applicable, in developing response measures and in promoting the harmonization of rules and regulations on specific areas.

5. In between sessions of the Meetings of the Parties, the two Working Groups shall provide guidance regarding the implementation of the workplan. The Working Groups may advise the Bureau to make arrangements to further develop the workplan, to adapt it to changing circumstances and to avoid, to the extent possible, duplication of efforts with water-related activities of other United Nations bodies and other international organizations.

6. The Working Groups shall take initiatives to strengthen the application of the Convention, including the preparation of draft decisions, proposals and recommendations, and of a draft workplan for consideration by the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention. They shall also mobilize resources.

7. Each Working Group may formulate recommendations related to the work of the other Working Group.

8. The focus of the work of the Working Group on Integrated Water Resources Management is on intersectoral activities to support the implementation of the Convention with regard to the integrated management of transboundary water resources. Activities under this Working Group aim to prevent, control and reduce transboundary impacts and thereby prevent damage to the environment; to promote the ecosystem approach in the framework of integrated water resources management; and to ensure conservation and, where necessary, restoration of water-related ecosystems. Further goals are to promote the concept of payments for ecosystem services; to prevent accidental water pollution; and to advance adaptation to climate change in the transboundary context, including flood and drought management. The Working Group also seeks to build and/or to strengthen the institutions responsible for the management of transboundary waters; to facilitate the work of joint bodies; and to promote access to information and public participation in decision-making.

9. The focus of the work of the Working Group on Monitoring and Assessment is to assist Parties bordering the same transboundary waters in establishing and implementing joint programmes for monitoring the conditions of transboundary waters, including floods and ice drifts, as well as transboundary impacts. Furthermore, this Working Group will have a leading role in the preparation of periodic assessments of the status of transboundary waters and international lakes in the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) region, which will allow for measuring progress in the implementation of the Convention. The Working Group also seeks to promote the exchange of data on environmental conditions of transboundary waters; to encourage Parties to inform each other about any critical situation that may have a transboundary impact; and to make available to the public the results of water and effluent sampling, together with the results of the verification of compliance with water-quality objectives and permit conditions.

10. Unless otherwise decided by the Meeting of the Parties, the Bureau or the Working Groups themselves, the Working Groups hold one regular meeting per year. Annual meetings of the Working Groups constitute an efficient mechanism for governing, coordinating and fostering implementation of the Convention. These meetings provide a forum for sharing knowledge and successful experiences among Parties, non-Parties and stakeholders, with a view to supporting and carrying out, inter alia, bilateral and multilateral activities, pilot projects and capacity-building activities.

11. The need to consider monitoring and assessment in the broader context of integrated water resources management calls for close collaboration between the two Working Groups through cooperation on a number of joint activities. To apply this in practice: (a) the Working Groups should preferably hold back-to-back meetings to allow for the joint discussion of shared agenda items; and (b) the workplan for 2010–2012 will contain activities for which the two Working Groups will have joint responsibility.

12. The Working Group on Integrated Water Resources Management will be led by Germany and the Working Group on Monitoring and Assessment will be led by Finland.

Resource requirements:²

Organization of annual meetings of the Bureau (three meetings), the Working Group on Integrated Water Resources Management (three meetings) and the Working Group on Monitoring and Assessment (three meetings), including participation of eligible experts: US\$ 186,000.

² The estimated costs shown here are limited to those intended to be covered by voluntary contributions, either through the Convention's trust fund or in kind. They do not include costs that are expected to be covered by the United Nations regular budget or other sources. The estimate is mostly based on the experience with previous workplans and may vary according to the further definition of the activities by the Meeting of the Parties as well as according to United Nations administrative regulations. Resource requirements are not mentioned for activities for which the lead Party has already agreed to cover all related costs. Figures are rounded and include 13 per cent of the programme support costs.

C. Other bodies

13. The implementation of the Convention's workplan will be supported by a number of other open-ended bodies with specific terms of reference.³

Legal Board

14. The Legal Board, with Italy as a lead Party, deals with legal questions related to the work under the Convention, upon the request of other Convention bodies.

Joint Ad Hoc Expert Group on Water and Industrial Accidents

15. The Joint Ad Hoc Expert Group on Water and Industrial Accidents was established under the Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes (Water Convention) and the Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents (Industrial Accidents Convention), with Germany and Hungary as the lead Parties, to support work in the area of accidental water pollution and to respond to the needs identified by Parties.

16. The Strategy for the Joint Expert Group is contained in part three of this report (ECE/MP.WAT/29/Add.2).

Task Force on Water and Climate

17. The Task Force on Water and Climate, with Germany and the Netherlands as lead Parties, is responsible for activities related to adaptation to climate change, including flood and drought management. The Task Force will work in close cooperation with the Task Force on Extreme Weather Events established under the Protocol on Water and Health.⁴

International Water Assessment Centre

18. The International Water Assessment Centre (IWAC) is the Convention's collaborative centre on monitoring and assessment and integrated resources management and a support tool for the implementation of the Convention and its Protocols. IWAC is hosted at the Slovak Hydrometeorological Institute. The IWAC strategy is contained in part three of this report (ECE/MP.WAT/29/Add.2). IWAC will focus on supporting the development and implementation of projects on transboundary waters in countries with economies in transition regarding monitoring and assessment, adaptation to climate change and development of innovative financing tools such as payments for ecosystem services. IWAC's work will also aim at strengthening the knowledge base for transboundary water cooperation by contributing to the second Assessment of Transboundary Waters in the UNECE region.

³ For cost estimates of the activities under these bodies, see chapter II.

⁴ Pending a decision to be made at the second meeting of the Parties to the Protocol on Water and Health, scheduled for 23–25 November 2010, on the continuation of the Task Force on Extreme Weather Events.

II. PROGRAMME AREAS AND ACTIVITIES

19. The workplan contains eight programme areas:

1. Support to implementation and compliance;
2. Assessment of transboundary rivers, lakes and groundwaters;
3. Projects on the ground;
4. Sharing of experiences and capacity-building;
5. European Union Water Initiative and National Policy Dialogues;
6. Water and industrial accidents;
7. Cooperation with the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol on Water and Health;
8. Promotion of the Convention.

PROGRAMME AREA 1: SUPPORT TO IMPLEMENTATION AND COMPLIANCE

Responsible body: The Legal Board, reporting to the Working Group on Integrated Water Resources Management.

Objectives: To provide advice to Parties and non-Parties concerning means to prevent or manage existing or potential conflicts regarding transboundary waters, as well as problems in implementing the Convention, by (a) assisting Parties and non-Parties, upon request, on legal issues related to the implementation of the Convention; and (b) providing the Convention with an institutional and procedural mechanism to facilitate and support implementation and compliance on a multilateral and cooperative basis.

1.1 Mechanism to facilitate and support implementation and compliance

Work to be undertaken: The Legal Board will:

(a) Study possible options for assisting Parties with solving implementation problems and preventing or settling differences regarding the interpretation and application of the Convention, taking into account countries' needs and the Convention's distinctive cooperative spirit, as well as the Guide to Implementing the Convention;

(b) On the basis of such study, prepare a proposal on the objectives, structure, tasks, functions, measures and procedures of an institutional and procedural mechanism to facilitate and support implementation and compliance, for possible adoption at the sixth session of the Meeting of the Parties in 2012. The mechanism should be simple, facilitative, non-adversarial and cooperative in nature, with its operation guided by the principles of transparency, fairness, expediency and predictability (see ECE/MP.WAT/2009/3).

Resource requirements:

Participation of eligible experts in the meetings of the Legal Board and its drafting group:
US\$ 90,000;

Consultancy fee for the preparation of background documentation, including translation:
US\$ 40,000.

1.2 Advice and assistance

Work to be undertaken: The Legal Board will:

(a) Provide legal assistance to Parties, non-Parties or subsidiary bodies of the Convention, at their request, in drawing up new agreements or adapting existing ones on transboundary waters in line with article 9, paragraph 1, as well as other relevant articles of the Convention, or other issues related to the Convention;

(b) Provide legal assistance to non-Parties, at their request, helping to facilitate ratification through country-specific activities;

(c) Provide support to Parties' ratification of the amendments to articles 25 and 26, opening the Convention for accession to countries outside the UNECE region;

(d) Consider the need to revise the Guide to Implementing the Convention, in the light of the experience gained;

(e) Prepare a preliminary study, jointly with the Working Group on Integrated Water Resources Management, on the application of the principles of the Convention to transboundary groundwaters, to be submitted to the sixth session of the Meeting of the Parties for consideration as to whether further action is needed.

Resource requirements:

Costs for items (a) to (c) to be defined depending on requests.

Cost of item (d) included under subsection 1.1.

Consultancy fee for the preparation the preliminary study on the application of the principles of the Convention to transboundary groundwaters, including translation: US\$ 15,000.

PROGRAMME AREA 2: ASSESSMENT OF TRANSBOUNDARY RIVERS, LAKES AND GROUNDWATERS

Responsible body: The Working Group on Monitoring and Assessment, in cooperation with the Working Group on Integrated Water Resources Management, and assisted by the International Water Assessment Centre (IWAC).

Lead Party: Finland.⁵

Objectives: To keep the state of transboundary rivers, lakes and groundwaters under scrutiny with the goals of (a) assessing how the Convention's provisions have been implemented; (b) evaluating progress achieved in improving the status of transboundary waters; and (c) bringing positive changes to their management. Activities under this area will promote informed decision-making, provide the basis for continuous bilateral and multilateral cooperation under the Convention, and support actors involved at the national, transboundary and regional levels. The assessments should serve as a tool to identify trends and needs related to the protection and sustainable management of transboundary waters. Their findings should lay the foundations for strategic directions for work under the Convention and should be taken into consideration by the Meetings of the Parties and various political forums, including the "Environment for Europe" Ministerial Conferences. They should also be useful source of information for investment by prospective donors.

Work to be undertaken:

(a) Prepare the second Assessment of transboundary waters as a basis for the future work of the Convention and as a reference document for the Seventh "Environment for Europe" Ministerial Conference;

(b) Ensure that the second Assessment and its findings inform the discussions and decisions at the Seventh "Environment for Europe" Ministerial Conference;

(c) Promote the Assessment and its findings at the Ministerial Conference and in other global, regional and national events;

(d) Prepare an analysis on the need to prepare a third assessment of transboundary waters and, if applicable, a strategy for its preparation, for consideration at the sixth session of the Meeting of the Parties.

Main partners: the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the European Environment Agency (EEA), the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), the secretariat of the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance especially as Waterfowl Habitat (Ramsar Convention), the Inter-State Commission for Water Coordination of Central Asia (ICWC), the Global Water Partnership (GWP), including GWP-Mediterranean (GWP-Med) and GWP for Central and Eastern Europe (GWP-CEE), the Regional Environmental Centres (RECs), and others.

⁵ Support to the preparation of the second Assessment will be provided by the Wider Europe Initiative of Finland, designed to promote stability and well-being in former Soviet Republics (Wider Europe Initiative, Framework Programme for Finland's Development Policy Implementation Plan for 2009–2013; Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland, June 2009).

Resource requirements

Personnel costs: one extrabudgetary staff member until December 2011: US\$ 312,000;
Organization of four subregional meetings, including travel of staff and participants: US\$ 160,000;
Consultancy fees: experts, editing, translation, design and layout; production of maps and of interactive web and CD-ROM version: US\$ 300,000.

PROGRAMME AREA 3: PROJECTS ON THE GROUND

3.1 Programme of pilot projects on transboundary rivers, lakes and groundwaters

Responsible bodies: The Working Group on Monitoring and Assessment and the Working Group on Integrated Water Resources Management, assisted by IWAC. The Task Force on Water and Climate will facilitate the pilot projects on adaptation to climate change.

Objectives: To support UNECE countries, and specifically countries with economies in transition in Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia, as well as in South-Eastern Europe (SEE) in their efforts to improve integrated water resources management (IWRM) in a transboundary context.

In particular, the programme will focus on three main areas:

- (a) Water and adaptation to climate change in the transboundary context, including management of floods and droughts;
- (b) Joint monitoring and assessment of transboundary waters, including data management and information exchange;
- (c) Implementation of payments for ecosystem services to support IWRM.

In these three areas, the programme will aim:

- (a) To assist UNECE countries in implementing the Convention, thereby also supporting implementation of the European Union Water Framework Directive (EU WFD);
- (b) To create positive examples demonstrating the benefits of and possible mechanisms for transboundary cooperation regarding water and adaptation to climate change, monitoring and assessment, data management and information exchange, as well as payments for ecosystem services;
- (c) To provide a forum for exchanging experience, good practices and lessons learned in different parts of the UNECE region;
- (d) To support the implementation of the guidance documents developed under the Convention, in particular: (i) the Guidance on Water and Adaptation to Climate Change, adopted at the fifth session of the Meeting of the Parties; (ii) the Model Provisions on Transboundary Flood Risk Management, adopted at the fourth session of the Meeting of the Parties; (iii) the

Guidelines and Strategies for Monitoring and Assessment of Transboundary Rivers, Lakes and Groundwaters, adopted at the second and fourth sessions of the Meeting of the Parties; (iv) the Recommendations on Payments for Ecosystem Services in Integrated Water Resources Management, adopted at the fourth session of the Meeting of the Parties.

The pilot projects should as much as possible be developed and implemented in the transboundary context. As far as possible, surface and groundwaters should be integrated.

3.1.1 Pilot projects on water and adaptation to climate change

Lead Parties/organizations: the Netherlands and Germany, for coordination of activities; the secretariat and IWAC for implementation of pilot projects.

Work to be undertaken: The Task Force on Water and Climate will provide a platform for the exchange of experience, good practices and lessons learned related to water and adaptation to climate change in the UNECE region, in particular in the transboundary context.

The specific focus and objectives of each pilot project will be defined jointly by the riparian countries in the basin concerned. Depending on the level of advancement and previous relevant activities in the basin, the pilot projects will focus on different steps of the Guidance on Water and Adaptation to Climate Change and in the development of an adaptation strategy. Depending on the level of awareness, progress and cooperation in the basin, as well as on data availability and previous work done regarding climate change, the projects might address, inter alia: (a) the creation of an enabling environment; and (b) the development of the knowledge base, e.g. joint development of scenarios and vulnerability assessments, up to the joint planning of a package of adaptation measures.

In most cases, pilot projects will focus on developing strategies that lay the groundwork for further action. Therefore, in the first stage, pilot projects will focus on the planning of adaptation strategies and not on the funding and implementation of relevant measures.

Although the main focus of the pilot projects programme will be on countries in Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia and in SEE, it is expected that pilot projects will also be set up in European Union (EU) countries or in basins shared by EU and non-EU countries. Exchange of experience between EU and non-EU countries will be promoted. Special focus will be on cooperation with the EU and the European Commission, as well as on the work carried out regarding the implementation of the EU WFD and the EU Guidance “River Basin Management in a Changing Climate — A Guidance Document”. The goal is to combine future efforts and to design future pilot projects so that they can simultaneously support implementation of both UNECE and EU strategic papers and promote exchange of experience and cross-fertilization between EU and non-EU countries. This would create the much-requested framework for continuous dialogue in the pan-European region on adaptation to climate change, in line with the EU Neighbourhood Policy.

The pilot projects on water and adaptation to climate change will also be projects of the Environment and Security Initiative (ENVSEC).

Possible partners: The Task Force on Water and Climate will continue cooperating with the Task Force on Extreme Weather Events under the Protocol on Water and Health, as well as with EU activities and bodies, in particular the European Commission.

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the other ENVSEC partners – UNEP, OSCE and the RECs – will actively cooperate in the design and implementation of pilot projects. Other partners include the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), GWP, the RECs in Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia, the World Wildlife Fund (WWF), the Cooperative Programme on Water and Climate and the World Water Council.

Resource requirements

Coordination, exchange of experiences and support to projects' implementation (Task Force meetings, consultancy fees, personnel costs for 2011–2012):⁶ US\$ 400,000;

Tentative costs per pilot project: US\$ 200,000.

3.1.2 Pilot projects on joint monitoring and assessment of transboundary waters, including data management and information exchange

Lead Parties: France and IWAC.

Work to be undertaken: The pilot projects on joint monitoring and assessment of transboundary waters, including data management and information exchange, are funded by the French Global Environment Fund and implemented by IWAC, in cooperation with the International Office for Water and the UNECE secretariat.

In two transboundary basins, the pilot projects will strengthen the capacity of data management and information exchange through the development and establishment of tools for information management (e.g., a metadata database), the improved interoperability of information management systems and the definition and adoption of rules for information-sharing (see ECE/MP.WAT/2009/12).

Resource requirements: costs will be covered by France.

3.1.3 Pilot projects on payments for ecosystem services

Lead Party: Switzerland.

Work to be undertaken: Pilot projects will support the implementation of the “Recommendations on Payments for Ecosystem Services in Integrated Water Resources Management” (ECE/MP.WAT/22) in (transboundary) basins. Depending on the specific situation in the pilot basin, the projects will focus on different steps identified by the Recommendations. Experience gained in implementing payments for ecosystem services (PES) under projects carried out by Parties, non-Parties and other actors will be exchanged and promoted.

⁶ Personnel costs for 2010 are covered by Germany.

The ongoing pilot project on the Lake Issyk-Kul basin, implemented by the Regional Environmental Centre for Central Asia (CAREC), will be continued. The project aims to enhance sustainable use of natural resources and preserve biodiversity by using PES and to review applicability of PES in a pilot area.

The possibility of a transboundary project between the Netherlands and Germany within the framework of their cooperation will also be explored.

Possible partners: Partners to be involved in the programme of pilot projects will vary depending on the focus of the specific pilot projects. They may include UNDP, the Ramsar Convention secretariat, the UNECE Timber Committee, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), UNEP, the Ministerial Conference for the Protection of Forests in Europe (MCPFE), WWF, OSCE, the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), GWP and the RECs.

Resource requirements: to be defined depending on activities foreseen under the pilot projects.

3.2 Other projects supporting implementation of the Convention

Activities in this area will be carried out by the UNECE Regional Adviser, supported by the Legal Board, as appropriate. They are reported to the Working Group on Integrated Water Resources Management.

Objectives: Assist Parties and non-Parties, at their request, in improving cooperation on their transboundary waters in general and, in particular, in ratifying and implementing the Convention. Assistance will include legal and technical assistance (e.g., to draw up, revise and/or adapt agreements on transboundary waters, to strengthen national and transboundary water institutions and to strengthen the capacity of joint bodies in integrated river basin management and water protection). Work will build on the guidance documents developed under the Convention (see also programme area 1.2).

Activities in this area will focus on three subregions: Central Asia; South-Eastern Europe; and Eastern Europe and the Caucasus, as follows.

3.2.1 Transboundary water management in Central Asia

Donors: Germany for the programme “Transboundary Water Management in Central Asia”; Finland for dam safety activities and the Chu Talas project; Switzerland for the Central Asia Regional Water Information Base (CAREWIB) project; and the secretariat for additional activities on water quality.

Work to be undertaken: Activities in Central Asia will include follow-up to ongoing projects, in particular activities promoting dam safety (in cooperation with the Executive Committee of the International Fund for Saving the Aral Sea), those promoting cooperation in the Chu Talas basin (in cooperation with OSCE), those supporting cooperation and policy related to water quality — measurement, exchange of information and joint assessment (in cooperation with CAREC) — and those supporting knowledge and information exchange on water and environmental issues

through CAREWIB (in cooperation with the Scientific Information Centre of the Interstate Commission for Water Coordination of Central Asia).

An important new activity in this subregion will be linked to the programme “Transboundary Water Management in Central Asia” launched in 2008 at the “Water Unites” Conference in Berlin as part of the Berlin Water Process. A programme component on “Regional dialogue and cooperation on water resources management” will be implemented by UNECE. The component will focus on: (a) building capacity of regional institutions with regard to water cooperation; (b) strengthening capacity in Central Asian countries regarding international water legislation and regional guidelines/principles for water management; (c) promoting reform of regional and bilateral agreements regarding water resources; and (d) supporting joint monitoring of water quality and data exchange.

Some of the above activities are part of the environmental and water pillar of the EU Strategy for Central Asia, coordinated by Italy. Coordination with the EU Strategy will be pursued for all activities.

Resource requirements: covered by the projects’ donors.

3.2.2 Transboundary water management in South-Eastern Europe

Donor: Sweden.

Work to be undertaken: Activities in South-Eastern Europe will be pursued in close cooperation with the Petersberg Phase II/Athens Declaration Process jointly coordinated by Germany, Greece and the World Bank, and serviced by GWP-Mediterranean. The main objective is to build capacity and share experience with respect to IWRM and to develop IWRM plans for shared water bodies as a response to the targets of the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, adopted at the World Summit on Sustainable Development in 2002.

Activities will include support to countries sharing the Drin Basin to develop a sustainable framework for transboundary water cooperation, and to the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, for its accession to and implementation of the Convention.

Resource requirements: covered by the projects’ donor.

3.2.3 Transboundary water management in Eastern Europe and the Caucasus

Donors: Sweden and Finland.

Work to be undertaken: Activities in Eastern Europe and the Caucasus will include follow-up to ongoing projects, in particular:

(a) Support for transboundary water cooperation in the Dniester basin, mainly through: (i) promoting the adoption of the new Dniester River Basin Agreement; (ii) facilitating cooperation between sanitary-epidemiological services of the two riparian Parties (Republic of Moldova and Ukraine); (iii) supporting activities on biodiversity conservation (with a focus on

fisheries); (iv) facilitating information exchange at the national and basin-wide levels; and (v) raising public awareness on and media coverage of Dniester River basin environmental issues;

(b) Support for transboundary water cooperation between Azerbaijan and Georgia to develop a bilateral agreement on the management of the shared transboundary waters, including the establishment of a joint body;

(c) Support for Georgia's accession to the Water Convention.

All projects will be implemented in cooperation with OSCE.

Resource requirements: covered by the projects' donors.
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PROGRAMME AREA 4: SHARING OF EXPERIENCES AND CAPACITY-BUILDING

Responsible bodies: The Working Group on Integrated Water Resources Management and the Working Group on Monitoring and Assessment, as appropriate, supported by the Legal Board, the Task Force on Water and Climate, and IWAC.

Objectives: To strengthen understanding of critical issues for transboundary water management, including emerging issues; to build capacity for cooperation on transboundary waters, in particular in countries with economies in transition; and to promote exchange of experience and good practices. Activities of different formats, such as conferences, workshops, training sessions and exercises, will be organized around different thematic issues.

4.1 Strategic conferences and seminars

Lead Party(ies): the Bureau.

Work to be undertaken: subject to confirmation by the Bureau of the Committee on Environmental Policy, the Water Convention Bureau, in cooperation with the Bureau of the Committee on Environmental Policy, will organize a seminar to prepare a substantial contribution to the Seventh "Environment for Europe" Ministerial Conference (Astana, Kazakhstan, 2011).

Resource requirements (per event)
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Participation of eligible experts: US\$ 50,000;

Consultancy fee for event preparation, including background material: US\$ 20,000.
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4.2 Capacity-building and exchange of experience on technical issues

Lead Party(ies): to be defined for each event. It is expected that the secretariat will not provide extended support to these activities.

Work to be undertaken: Activities at the regional, subregional and national levels will aim at strengthening the capacity of Parties and non-Parties to implement the Convention and the

different guidance documents developed under its auspices. They will mostly address countries with economies in transition and focus on technical issues.

Possible themes of such activities include:

- (a) Joint monitoring and assessment of transboundary waters, under the auspices of the Working Group on Monitoring and Assessment and with the assistance of IWAC;
- (b) Implementation of the Guidance on Water and Adaptation to Climate Change and promotion of transboundary cooperation in extreme events, under the auspices of the Task Force on Water and Climate;
- (c) Forests and water at the regional level with MCPFE and FAO, in particular focusing on the problems of countries with low-forest cover, and at the global level possibly in cooperation with the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF) through a UNFF Country-led Initiative with global participation.⁷
- (d) Agrofuels and water interlinkages, in cooperation with the International Panel for Sustainable Resource Management, serviced by UNEP and FAO.⁸

Resource requirements (per event):

Participation of eligible experts: US\$ 50,000.

4.3 Capacity for Water Cooperation project

Lead organization: The secretariat.

Objectives: To create a framework enabling cross-fertilization and exchange of experience between river basins and countries regarding regulatory, institutional, methodological and other aspects of integrated management of transboundary waters in countries in Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia, and at the same time bringing in valuable experience from other parts of the UNECE region. CWC also aims at establishing a network of experts from countries in Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia involved in transboundary water management who are used to cooperating and sharing knowledge.

Work to be undertaken: In the period 2010–2012, two CWC workshops will be organized on specific aspects of transboundary water management, and will serve different purposes — e.g., preparation of the second Assessment or implementation of guidelines and strategies developed under the Convention.

Possible partners: Partners to be involved in the organization of activities in this area will vary depending on the focus of the specific activity. Cooperation will be sought with UNDP, UNEP, UNESCO, OSCE, REC-Central and Eastern Europe, RECs in Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia and others.

⁷ Switzerland will be responsible for these activities.

⁸ Finland will explore the possibility of organizing this workshop.

Resource requirements (per event):

Organization of the training — participation of eligible experts (2–4 per country) grant for local organization and other consultancy fees: US\$ 70,000.

PROGRAMME AREA 5: EUROPEAN UNION WATER INITIATIVE AND NATIONAL POLICY DIALOGUES

Responsible body: The Working Group on Integrated Water Resources Management.

Lead Parties/organizations: the UNECE secretariat, in cooperation with the European Commission, Romania and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD).

Objectives: To strengthen IWRM in countries in Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia in line with the principles of the Convention, the Protocol on Water and Health, the EU WFD and other UNECE and EU instruments.

Work to be undertaken: Within the framework of the component for countries in Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia of the EU Water Initiative, the Meeting of the Parties will support the development and implementation of IWRM in countries in Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia at the local, national and transboundary levels. Work under this programme element will strengthen IWRM and improve its legal, regulatory, administrative, technical and economic frameworks. It will also set priorities for financing water management activities, identify international assistance projects and develop capacity in countries in Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia through a dialogue process involving public authorities and civil society representatives. It will develop road maps to achieve the water-related Millennium Development Goals, as well as targets and target dates on sustainable water management, safe drinking water and adequate sanitation.

Steering committees that include stakeholders of key importance to IWRM will lead the country-specific dialogue processes. Since 2006, the UNECE secretariat has been the key strategic partner of the countries in Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia in conducting these National Policy Dialogues on IWRM, whereas OECD is the key strategic partner for water supply and sanitation issues. The outputs of the dialogues will include policy packages, such as new legislative acts, ministerial orders and development strategies and plans. Depending on availability of funding from the European Commission and from other donors, activities may involve up to 8 of the 12 countries in Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia. In the period 2010–2012, it is planned that activities will focus on follow-up to the National Policy Dialogues in Armenia, Kyrgyzstan and Ukraine, and on initiating and implementing new activities in Azerbaijan, Georgia, Tajikistan and Turkmenistan.

Possible partners: UNDP, the RECs in Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia, GWP, the Mediterranean component of the EU Water Initiative and others to be defined.

Resource requirements:

The majority of the funding to implement activities in this area, up to US\$ 970,000 until 2012, will be provided by the European Commission (through OECD). However, at least an additional US\$ 560,000 are needed to implement National Policy Dialogues in the eight countries that requested them.

PROGRAMME AREA 6: WATER AND INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENTS

Responsible bodies: The Bureau, the Working Group on Integrated Water Resources Management and the Ad Hoc Joint Expert Group on Water and Industrial Accidents, in cooperation with the Conference of the Parties to the Industrial Accidents Convention and the Legal Board, in relation to its advisory and assistance competence under point 1.2 in the workplan.

6.1 Protocol on Civil Liability

Lead Party: Hungary in cooperation with Switzerland, the secretariat and the Bureaux to the Water Convention and the Industrial Accidents Convention.

Objectives: Activities in this area will aim to promote ratification and implementation of the Protocol on Civil Liability and Compensation for Damage Caused by the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents on Transboundary Waters.

Work to be undertaken: Activities will focus on:

- (a) Addressing issues of concern for the Protocol's implementation, and promoting the understanding of its obligations and their consequences, including through the development of pilot activities. In particular, the possibility to develop a joint pilot project between the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine, in cooperation with Romania and Hungary will be explored;
- (b) Continuing communication with the European Commission on compatibility of the Protocol and the EU *acquis communautaire*;
- (c) Supporting ratifications by non-EU countries.

Resource requirements: to be defined, depending on activities.

6.2 Joint Ad Hoc Expert Group on Water and Industrial Accidents

Lead Parties: Germany and Hungary.

Objectives: The mission of the Joint Ad Hoc Expert Group on Water and Industrial Accidents is to assist Parties to both Conventions in drawing up and implementing measures aimed at strengthening the prevention of and preparedness to accidental water pollution in a transboundary context. The Strategy for the Joint Ad Hoc Expert Group on Water and Industrial Accidents is contained in part three of this report (ECE/MP.WAT/29/Add.2).

Work to be undertaken: As a first step, a simple questionnaire will be sent to focal points to identify an activity truly responsive to the needs of countries. The two Bureaux thereafter will decide on the next steps in accordance with the Strategy.

Resource requirements: to be defined depending on activities.
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PROGRAMME AREA 7: COOPERATION WITH THE MEETING OF THE PARTIES TO THE PROTOCOL ON WATER AND HEALTH

Responsible bodies: The Bureau, the Working Group on Integrated Water Resources Management and the Working Group on Monitoring and Assessment.

Objectives: To promote joint implementation of the Convention and the Protocol on Water and Health, in particular implementation of the workplans under the two instruments.

Work to be undertaken: Cooperation will in particular focus on setting targets in accordance with article 6, paragraph 2, of the Protocol in the areas of water management, as well as the review of progress achieved vis-à-vis such targets and on adaptation to climate change.

Resource requirements: covered through activities under other programme areas.

PROGRAMME AREA 8: PROMOTION OF THE CONVENTION

Responsible body: The Bureau, with the assistance of all Parties, the secretariat and the Legal Board.

Objectives: To promote the Convention and its products and achievements, to encourage non-Parties to ratify the Convention and Parties to ratify the amendments to articles 25 and 26, opening the Convention to countries outside the UNECE region. Activities in this programme area also aim to develop new partnerships and synergies.

Work to be undertaken: The Meeting of the Parties will disseminate information on activities carried out under the Convention or related to it, will raise the profile of the Convention and its Protocols and will provide Parties and non-Parties with information to help them implement the Convention. Efforts will be devoted to promoting the Convention and its success in all possible contexts, including meetings and workshops organized under the workplan. Activities will also support compliance with decision III/1 of the Meeting of the Parties on the amendments to the Convention, and will promote the Convention's achievements outside the UNECE region. Activities will include:

(a) Activities carried out by focal points in accordance with the guide to promote the Convention and the Protocol on Water and Health (ECE/MP.WAT/2009/13). Focal points will regularly report on their promotion efforts;

(b) Presentations of the Convention and its achievements at high-level meetings in UNECE countries and at international meetings, in particular at the Seventh "Environment for

Europe” Ministerial Conference (Astana, 2011), the annual World Water Week in Stockholm and the sixth World Water Forum in 2012;

(c) Development of relevant tools to raise the profile of the Convention (e.g., informative leaflets, the Convention website);

(d) Development of an interactive online electronic version of the Guide to implementing the Convention and of promotional material on it;

(e) Promotion of the Convention, its Protocols and its soft-law tools outside the UNECE region through: (i) inviting experts from non-UNECE countries to meetings under the Convention with priority given to non-UNECE countries sharing waters with UNECE member States; and (ii) participating in relevant global events or events organized outside the region;

(f) Promotion of the Convention through coordination and synergies with activities of United Nations agencies and other organizations, in particular through UN-Water and its Task Force on Transboundary Waters.

Main partners: Cooperation will be sought with the other United Nations regional commissions, UNESCO, UN-Water, ICWC, the International Network of Basin Organizations (INBO), the International Waters Learning Exchange and Resource Network (IW: LEARN), GWP, the World Water Council and the Stockholm International Water Institute (SIWI).

Resource requirements:

Participation of the secretariat and experts in events to promote the Convention (including travel and accommodation, preparation of the events and background materials): US\$ 50,000;

Promotion of the Convention in global conferences (side-events, stands, etc.): US\$ 40,000;

Production of communication material for the Convention’s promotion: US\$ 35, 000;

Production of a CD-ROM and an interactive online electronic version of the Guide to

Implementing the Convention and promotional material: US\$ 30,000;

Participation of experts from countries outside the UNECE region, in particular countries sharing waters with UNECE countries, in selected meetings under the Convention: US\$ 60,000.
