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Sixth session

Rome, 28–30 November 2012

Items 4 and 9 of the provisional agenda

Review of past activities and discussion of future activities in the different areas of work

Programme of work for 2013–2015, terms of reference of bodies established to implement it and resources needed for its implementation

Draft programme of work for 2013–2015

Prepared by the Bureau

Summary

The present document summarizes the proposed activities for the 2013–2015 programme of work under the Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes (Water Convention), indicates bodies to support their implementation and provides estimates of needed human and financial resources.

The document was prepared by the Bureau of the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention, with the support of the secretariat. It was discussed, amended and endorsed by the Working Group on Integrated Water Resources Management and the Working Group on Monitoring and Assessment at their joint session (Geneva, 3–4 July 2012). The preparation of the document benefited from the ideas, discussions and views expressed in the strategic workshop on the future work under the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe Water Convention: “Building on the findings of the Second Assessment and other results achieved” (14–15 February 2012, Geneva), which gathered a representative group of Parties, partners, donors and other stakeholders. The document also builds on the discussions in other bodies under the Convention (in particular the Legal Board and the Task Force on Water and Climate).

The Meeting of the Parties is invited:

- (a) To thank the Parties and non-Parties that provided leadership and support to the activities which provided the basis for the current draft programme of work;
- (b) To convey its appreciation to the Parties and organizations that have already expressed their readiness to take a lead in the implementation of the draft programme work;
- (c) To report on the willingness of Parties and non-Parties to lead, contribute — including financially — or participate in the implementation of the various elements of the programme of work;
- (d) To report on the willingness of other stakeholders (e.g., non-governmental and international organizations) to contribute — including financially — or participate in the implementation of the various elements of the programme of work;
- (e) To examine the draft programme of work and its budget on the basis of the outcomes of discussions under the various items of the provisional agenda, and to amend it as needed, taking into account: (i) the priority and strategic importance of the proposed activities; (ii) the willingness of Parties and non-Parties to provide their leadership for the activities; and (iii) the availability of resources;
- (f) To adopt the programme of work and its budget as amended at the meeting, and to entrust the Bureau and the secretariat to estimate costs for those activities that need further definition;
- (g) To consider, on the basis of the agreed programme of work, the need to revise the terms of reference of its subsidiary bodies to implement it;
- (h) To call on Parties, non-Parties and relevant organizations to actively contribute to the activities contained in the programme of work, including through financial and in-kind contributions.

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I. Bodies to implement the programme of work for 2013–2015

A. Bureau of the Meeting of the Parties

1. In accordance with the rules of procedure for the meetings of the Parties to the Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes (Water Convention), 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 (see ECE/MP.WAT/19/Add.1).

2. The main responsibilities of the Bureau include: (a) making arrangements to further develop the programme of work, 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 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 programme of work. 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; 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 programme of work. The Working Groups may advise the Bureau to make arrangements to further develop the programme of work, 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 programme of work 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 (surface waters and groundwaters). 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 advance adaptation to climate change in the transboundary context — including flood and drought management — to promote understanding of the water-food-energy-ecosystems nexus and the reconciliation of multiple water uses in transboundary basins, to advance the understanding of benefits of transboundary cooperation, to promote the concept of ecosystem services and their payments and to prevent accidental water pollution. 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. In the 2013–2015 triennium, the Working Group on Integrated Water Resources Management will be led by Germany.

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 and assessing the pressures on and the conditions of transboundary waters, including floods and ice drifts, as well as transboundary impacts. Furthermore, this Working Group has a leading role in the preparation of periodic assessments of transboundary waters and international lakes in the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) region, which will allow for measuring progress in the implementation of the Water Convention. The Working Group also seeks to promote the exchange of data on 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 information on transboundary waters.¹

10. *Resource requirements*² for meetings of the Bureau and of the Working Group on Integrated Water Resources Management for the triennium 2013–2015 are US\$ 120,000.

C. Implementation Committee

11. In accordance with decision [XXX] of the Meeting of the Parties on support to implementation and compliance, the Implementation Committee shall facilitate, promote and safeguard the implementation and application of and compliance with the Convention.

12. In accordance with decision [XXX], the Committee shall:

(a) Consider any request for advice relating to specific issues concerning difficulties in implementation or application of the Convention;

¹ In the triennium 2013–2015, no activity is under the direct responsibility of the Working Group on Monitoring and Assessment. In accordance with its terms of reference, the Working Group will be the body responsible for overseeing the preparation of the third comprehensive assessment of transboundary waters to be prepared for publication in 2017–2019. Therefore, the Working Group on Monitoring and Assessment will only meet during the period 2013–2015 if need arises. Monitoring and assessment aspects will be mainstreamed into different activities, in the broader framework of cooperation and integrated management of transboundary water resources.

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 programmes of work 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. The estimated resources requirements do not include overheads costs.

- (b) Consider any submission relating to specific issues concerning difficulties in implementation and compliance;
- (c) Consider undertaking a Committee initiative;
- (d) Examine, at the request of the Meeting of the Parties, specific issues of implementation of and compliance with the Convention;
- (e) Take measures, including recommendations, as appropriate;
- (f) Carry out any other functions that may be assigned to it by the Meeting of the Parties, including examination of general issues of implementation and compliance that may be of interest to all Parties, and report to the Meeting of the Parties accordingly.

13. Where the activities of the Committee with respect to particular issues overlap with the responsibilities of another body of the Convention, the Committee may consult with that body.

D. Legal Board

15. The Legal Board deals with legal questions related to the work under the Convention, upon the request of other Convention bodies.³

E. Task Force on Water and Climate and core group of pilot projects

16. The Task Force on Water and Climate, with the Netherlands and Switzerland as the lead Parties, is responsible for activities related to adaptation to climate change, including flood and drought management.

17. The core group of pilot projects on water and climate ensures exchange of experience, cross-fertilization and harmonization between the pilot projects.

F. Task Force on the Water-Food-Energy-Ecosystems Nexus

18. A Task Force on the Water-Food-Energy-Ecosystems Nexus, with Finland as the lead Party, is responsible for the preparation of the special edition of the thematic assessment on the water-food-energy-ecosystems nexus in transboundary basins.

G. International Water Assessment Centre

19. 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.

H. Joint Ad Hoc Expert Group on Water and Industrial Accidents

20. The Joint Ad Hoc Expert Group on Water and Industrial Accidents was established under the Water Convention and the Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial

³ In the triennium 2013–2015, no activity is under the direct responsibility of the Legal Board, thus it will only meet during the period 2013–2015 if need arises.

Accidents (Industrial Accidents Convention) to support work in the area of accidental water pollution and to respond to the needs identified by Parties.

21. The work of the Joint Ad Hoc Expert Group is regulated by its strategy adopted by the Meeting of the Parties at its fifth session (ECE/MP.WAT/29/Add.2, sect. II). The Joint Ad Hoc Expert Group is currently co-led by Hungary and Romania.

II. Areas of work and activities

A. Programme area 1: Support to implementation and accession

Responsible bodies: The secretariat, the ECE Regional Adviser on Environment and the Working Group on Integrated Water Resources Management, with the assistance of IWAC, as well as the Implementation Committee (for activity 1.2).

Objectives: Assist Parties and non-Parties, at their request, in improving cooperation on their transboundary waters and in ratifying and implementing the Convention and its amendment. Assistance will include legal and technical assistance (e.g., to draw up, revise and/or adapt agreements on transboundary waters, including transboundary groundwaters, to strengthen national and transboundary water institutions and to strengthen the capacity of countries and joint bodies in integrated river basin management, including joint monitoring and assessment). Work will build on the guidance documents developed under the Convention.

Assistance will also include support to Parties and non-Parties to prevent or manage existing or potential conflicts regarding transboundary waters, and support to implementation and compliance through the Implementation Committee.

Work to be undertaken:

1.1 Assistance supporting accession to and implementation of the Convention through projects on the ground and capacity-building

Assistance activities in this area will include the continuation of ongoing projects supported by the ECE Regional Adviser on Environment and the establishment of new ones in countries with economies in transition — in South-Eastern Europe, Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia — to assist Parties and non-Parties, at their request, in improving cooperation on their transboundary waters and in ratifying and implementing the Convention and its amendment. Projects touch upon a number of aspects of the Convention's implementation: legal and institutional; monitoring and assessment; as well as other aspects of transboundary water management and cooperation, such as dam safety. The support provided will build on the guidance documents developed under the Convention, including the Guide to Implementing the Convention, the model provisions on transboundary flood management (ECE/MP.WAT/19/Add.1 section III) and transboundary groundwaters,⁴ and the different guidelines on technical and strategic aspects of transboundary water management, in particular the ones on monitoring and assessment.

Activities will be carried out, pending availability of funding, in the following basins/subregions: Central Asia/Aral Sea Basin (water quality, dam safety, institutional development and capacity-building), Chu and Talas Basins, Afghan-Tajik transboundary

⁴ Reference to the model provisions on transboundary groundwaters in the final programme of work will depend on their formal adoption by the Meeting of the Parties at its sixth session.

waters (monitoring and assessment), Drin River Basin (development of cooperation in line with a recently signed memorandum of understanding between riparians), the Dniester Basin (support to the bilateral commission to be established under a new treaty to be signed by the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine), and the Kura Basin (support to the implementation of the Convention and to bilateral cooperation between Azerbaijan and Georgia). Also pending availability of funding, additional basins/subregions may be added upon request by concerned countries.

Work in this area will be closely coordinated with the National Policy Dialogues under the European Union (EU) Water Initiative (programme area 2) and will also benefit from and feed into activities in other programme areas, in particular programme areas 3 (quantifying the benefits of transboundary cooperation), 4 (adapting to climate change in transboundary basins) and 5 (water-food-energy-ecosystems nexus).

Resource requirements: Project-driven activities; while co-funding is provided by ECE through the United Nations Regular Programme of Technical Cooperation, the main costs are covered by different project donors, including Finland, Germany, the Russian Federation, Sweden, the European Commission and the United Nations Development Account.⁵

Possible partners: The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) especially for groundwater activities, the Global Environment Facility (GEF), the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), the Global Water Partnership (GWP).

1.2 Implementation Committee

The work of the Implementation Committee will be ruled by Decision [XXX] of the Meeting of the Parties on support to implementation and compliance.

Resource requirements: US\$ 162,000.

1.3 Exchange of experience of joint bodies

The establishment of joint bodies (such as river and lake commissions) is a main obligation under the Convention and their role is key to implementing it and ensuring long-term transboundary water cooperation. The promotion of experience gathered under the different joint bodies is therefore beneficial to their performance and effectiveness and useful both for other joint bodies and for countries (in particular countries which have not yet established joint bodies). Regular (biennial) workshops (two in the period 2013–2015) will be organized to promote the exchange of experience and good practices of joint bodies worldwide and to develop recommendations. The topics for exchange will include, among others: working structures and arrangements; joint monitoring, assessment and information management; financing; and development of river basin management plans.

Lead Parties/organizations: Finland and Germany.

Possible partners: Existing joint bodies such as the International Commission for the Protection of the Danube River (ICPDR) and the Executive Committee of the International Fund for Saving the Aral Sea (EC-IFAS), GEF, UNDP, the United Nations Environment

⁵ The financing of the above projects is still under discussion with bilateral and multilateral donors. The Meeting of the Parties and the Working Group on Integrated Water Resources Management will be updated on the funding situation.

Programme (UNEP), UNESCO, the International Network of Basin Organizations (INBO), GWP and IUCN.

Resource requirements: US\$ 166,000.

1.4 Consideration of the need for reporting under the Convention

During the negotiations on the establishment of the Implementation Committee under the Legal Board, several Parties raised the need for the introduction of a reporting mechanism to monitor progress under the Convention and to foster implementation, as it exists under most other multilateral agreements. The Working Group on Integrated Water Resources Management, in consultation with the Implementation Committee, will carry out an analysis on the needs for reporting under the Convention, taking into account the capacity of countries and other relevant reporting mechanisms. Such 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.

Lead Parties/organizations: Bureau with the support of the Secretariat.

Resource requirements: US\$ 11,500.

1.5 Promoting ratification of the Protocol on Civil Liability

In order to jointly promote the entry into force of the Protocol on Civil Liability and Compensation for Damage Caused by the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents on Transboundary Waters to the Water and the Industrial Accidents Conventions, the Bureaux of the two Conventions decided to follow a three-step approach. Following the completion of step one, steps two and, possibly, three — pending confirmation of the continuing interest of the concerned countries — will be implemented in the period 2013–2015, i.e., to carry out case studies based on realistic potential accidents to understand the implications including the benefits of implementing the Protocol and/or other instruments, and to identify and recommend actions which would enable the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine to implement the Protocol (see ECE/MP.WAT/2012/5–ECE/CP.TEIA/2012/7).

Lead Parties/organizations: Bureaux of the two Conventions

Resource requirements: US\$ 50,000.⁶

B. Programme area 2: European Union Water Initiative and National Policy Dialogues

Responsible bodies: The Working Group on Integrated Water Resources Management with the assistance of IWAC.

Lead Parties/organizations: The secretariat, in cooperation with Romania, the European Commission and the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD).

Objectives: To strengthen water governance and the application of integrated water resources management (IWRM), in particular intersectoral cooperation, in countries in Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia, in line with the principles of the

⁶ The overall estimated resource requirements for this activity amount to US\$ 100,000, to be shared with the Industrial Accidents Convention.

Convention, the Protocol on Water and Health, the EU Water Framework Directive⁷ and other ECE 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 National Policy Dialogues shall 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 the corresponding 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 assist countries in achieving the water-related Millennium Development Goals, as well as setting and implementing targets and target dates on sustainable water management, safe drinking water and adequate sanitation.

National Steering Committees that include stakeholders of key importance to IWRM will lead the country-specific dialogue processes. Since 2006, the ECE 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, as well as financial aspects of water resources management. The outputs of the dialogues will include policy packages, such as new legislative acts, ministerial orders, development strategies and plans, as well as pilot projects for further replication. Activities under the National Policy Dialogues on IWRM presently involve Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, the Republic of Moldova, Ukraine, Tajikistan and Turkmenistan.

Exchange of experience with other components of the EU Water Initiatives will be promoted. Moreover, cooperation and synergies with the ECE Environmental Performance Review (EPR) Programme will be sought; National Policy Dialogues will build on the recommendations generated by the EPRs and will also inform the EPRs preparation, whenever possible.

Work under the National Policy Dialogues will be closely coordinated, will provide inputs and will benefit from activities under all the other programme areas.

Resource requirements: US\$ 2,018,200.

Possible partners: UNDP, OSCE, the Regional Environmental Centres in Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia, GWP, bilateral donors, in particular Denmark, Finland, Germany, Norway, Slovakia and Switzerland, the other components of the EU Water Initiative and the EU-Central Asia Strategy⁸ and its Environment and Water Pillar.

C. Programme area 3: Quantifying the benefits of transboundary cooperation

Responsible bodies: Working Group on Integrated Water Resources Management.

Lead Parties/organizations: Stockholm International Water Institute (SIWI).

⁷ Directive 2000/60/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 October 2000 establishing a framework for Community action in the field of water policy.

⁸ "The EU and Central Asia: Strategy for a New Partnership", available from http://eeas.europa.eu/central_asia/index_en.htm.

Objectives: To support countries to estimate 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. This activity will support other areas of work, and in particular programme area 1, by providing arguments for accession to and implementation of the Convention, and will be closely linked to programme area 5 (water-food-energy-ecosystems nexus).

Work in this area will aim to respond to the growing demand by countries for quantitative information on the benefits of different activities in the areas of transboundary water cooperation, including the accession to the Convention. Moreover, by enabling the identification of benefits to be shared in a broader sense — i.e., benefits derived from the use of water in the comprehensive understanding of the Convention (including, for instance, use related to human health, economic and social aspects) — rather than focusing on water allocation only, this activity should provide opportunities for further broadening cooperation.

Work to be undertaken:

3.1 Development of an approach for quantifying the benefits of cooperation and gathering of experience

In the first phase, the following activities will be undertaken with the support of an expert group of representatives of countries, organizations, academia, etc.:

- (a) Define cooperation in the context of transboundary water management;
- (b) Develop a typology of benefits from transboundary water cooperation;
- (c) Analyse existing methodologies to quantify the benefits within the identified typology;
- (d) Undertake a limited number of case studies to document practical experiences, including constraints, to quantify the benefits of transboundary cooperation in the pan-European region and beyond;
- (e) Organize a workshop to gather and share further experiences and refine the approach.

Resource requirements: US\$ 336,200.

3.2 Guidance note on the benefits of cooperation

On the basis of the first phase, a guidance note on how to identify, quantify and communicate the benefits of transboundary water cooperation will be produced and published.

Resource requirements: US\$ 204,400.

Possible partners: The World Bank, OECD, UNDP, GEF, the African Development Bank, the European Investment Bank, GWP, and others to be defined.

D. Programme Area 4: Adapting to climate change in transboundary basins

Responsible bodies: The Task Force on Water and Climate and the Working Group on Integrated Water Resources Management, with the assistance of IWAC.

Lead Parties/organizations: Netherlands and Switzerland.

Objectives:

- (a) Compile, analyse, publish and disseminate good practices and lessons learned from the programme of pilot projects under the Convention and other similar initiatives;
- (b) Promote cooperation in the development of adaptation strategies and in their implementation in transboundary basins, in particular within the programme of pilot projects on climate change adaptation in transboundary basins;
- (c) Provide a global platform for exchanging experience, good practices and lessons learned regarding adaptation to climate change in transboundary basins.

*Work to be undertaken:***4.1 Collection of good practices and lessons learned**

Existing knowledge, experience, good practices and lessons learned on climate change adaptation in transboundary basins, based on the Convention's pilot projects and other similar activities (see programme areas 4.2 and 4.3) will be compiled, analysed, synthesized, published and disseminated. This will serve as a complement to the *Guidance on Water and Adaptation to Climate Change*.⁹ The need for revising and updating the Guidance in the longer term will also be considered. The collection of good practices will be made available in electronic form, on the Internet or web platform, and in a printed publication. The collection of good practices will be elaborated and published in cooperation with partner organizations.

Resource requirements: US\$ 133,500.

4.2 Programme of pilot projects and global network of transboundary basins working on adaptation to climate change

The programme of pilot projects will promote adaptation to climate change in transboundary basins by: (a) promoting the implementation of some previously agreed adaptation strategies developed during the programme of work 2010–2012; and (b) adding new pilot projects — including at the borders of the ECE region or in other regions, which are already working on climate change adaptation and which will contribute to and benefit from the regular exchange of experience. New basins will primarily work on their adaptation activities themselves; the secretariat will only be involved in some of them or to a limited extent. Work in different basins will focus on different aspects of climate change adaptation, as decided by the riparian countries themselves. Other drivers on water resources, balancing multiple uses and awareness-raising will be considered, as appropriate.

These actions will allow the creation of a global network of transboundary basins working on adaptation to climate change that will enable the comparison of methodologies and approaches, foster the exchange of experience and promote a shared vision between the participating basins.

Resource requirements: US\$ 1,033,400.

4.3 Global platform for exchanging experience on water and adaptation to climate change in transboundary basins

On the basis of the work in the triennium 2010–2012 and the experience gained, the platform for exchanging experience will be transformed into a global platform. This will

⁹ United Nations publication, Sales No. 09.II.E.14.

include the organization of two international workshops in 2013–2015, annual meetings of the Task Force on Water and Climate and regular annual meetings of the core group on pilot projects. A workshop on flood management, considering experiences from the implementation of the EU Flood Directive,¹⁰ will also be organized, under the leadership of Germany, in late 2014 or early 2015.

Cooperation will be expanded with other global partners, in particular the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and its Nairobi Work Programme, on impacts, vulnerability and adaptation to climate change where water is now receiving greater attention. This could include sharing information and knowledge on adaptation in water management. Direct inputs into the work on water and adaptation under UNFCCC might be provided on request of the relevant UNFCCC bodies. The UNECE platform could further function as an informal network among water experts which countries can use for facilitating preparation of their inputs on adaptation and water for the UNFCCC process.

Resource requirements: US\$ 498,900.

Possible partners: The World Meteorological Organization (WMO), UNFCCC, UNESCO, other United Nations regional commissions, the Environment and Security Initiative (ENVSEC) and its members — in particular UNDP, UNEP, OSCE and the Regional Environmental Centres in Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia — GEF, the European Commission, INBO, GWP (in particular the Integrated Drought management Programme), IUCN, IWAC, the Alliance for Global Water Adaptation (AGWA), EC-IFAS and the Scientific Information Centre of its Interstate Water Coordination Commission (SIC ICWC) and joint bodies involved in adaptation to climate change.

E. Programme area 5: Water-food-energy-ecosystems nexus

Responsible bodies: The Task Force on the Water-Food-Energy-Ecosystems Nexus and the Working Group on Integrated Water Resources Management, with the support of the Stockholm Environment Institute, SIWI and IWAC.

Lead Parties/organizations: Finland.

Objectives: Improve the understanding of the interactions between water, food, energy and water-related ecosystems in transboundary basins, and strengthen synergies and policy coherence between water, food and agriculture and land management sectors in the transboundary context, with the aim of reducing conflicts, enhancing sustainability and promoting transition to a green economy.

Work to be undertaken:

A thematically focused “special edition” of the assessment of transboundary waters limited to less than 10 selected basins will be prepared during the period 2013–2015, examining the water-food-energy-ecosystems nexus.

For each basin, the assessment will aim to provide a picture of the interdependencies (or their understanding) across water, energy, food, water-related ecosystems and other areas — such as climate change and biodiversity — in terms of uses, needs, economic and social benefits. The assessment will seek to identify intersectoral synergies, as well as reduction of trade-offs or support to decision making on trade-offs.

¹⁰ Directive 2007/60/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 October 2007 on the assessment and management of flood risks.

The assessment will in particular address the transboundary dimension and aim to analyse interdependencies, synergies and mutually beneficial solutions, as well as potential conflicts and trade-offs, not only across sectors, but also across borders, thereby highlighting the potential of transboundary cooperation. By focusing on the transboundary dimension, the assessment will incorporate a security perspective into the study of interconnections and impacts.

Work will be based on the findings and recommendations of the international conference, “The Water Energy and Food Security Nexus — Solutions for the Green Economy” organized by the German Government (Bonn, 16–18 November 2011), as well as the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Conference, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, 20–22 November 2012) (“The Future We Want”).

Drawing upon the *Second Assessment of Transboundary Rivers, Lakes and Groundwaters*,¹¹ the process will involve selection of a representative set of transboundary basins (less than 10). These basins will feature the different ECE subregions as well as informative examples from outside the region, or shared by ECE and non-ECE countries. These basins will illustrate a diversity of sector importance, natural/climatic conditions and riparian relationships.

Viable and practical solutions (from the ECE region and beyond) will be sought to reconcile the different sectors’ needs in a transboundary context. Despite the context specificity of solutions, e.g., in terms of climate and systems of production, recurring areas of opportunity will be sought, as well as transferable and inspiring lessons. In particular, the assessment will aim to produce relevant information for regional, national and basin level policymakers and other stakeholders. Cost-effective and long-term sustainable solutions will be sought, for instance taking into account ecosystem services.

The assessment will also aim to present the suite of sectoral policies together with an analysis of their integration, coherence and capacity to positively address the water, energy, and food security nexus and improve water, energy and food security, taking into account linkages between water and land management.

The predicted impacts of climate change on water resources and water-related ecosystems in the basins, the implications for the different sectors’ water uses and the impacts of envisaged adaptation measures will also be taken into account as much as possible. In this regard, the thematic assessment will draw upon findings from the programme of pilot projects and platform for exchanging experience on climate change adaptation in transboundary basins (programme area 4) as well as other similar initiatives and projects.

The assessment will also, as far as possible, provide recommendations for the different basins to further exploit synergies, reduce tensions between sectoral objectives, avoid unintended consequences and resolve trade-offs, in order to meet increasing demand without compromising sustainability.

There is also the option to include for some basins — if time, data and resources available allow — the development of scenarios and predictions on how the water-food-energy-ecosystems demands will evolve in the future.

The assessment process will involve representatives of the concerned sectors and main water users in the different basins. Intersectoral basin-level meetings that bring together the key sectors and other relevant stakeholders in each basin to assess the situation and trends, and identify hindrances to and opportunities for additional benefits from stronger

¹¹ United Nations publication, Sales No. E.11.II.E.15. Available from http://www.unece.org/env/water/publications/pub/second_assessment.html.

integration across sectors, will be an important part of the process of preparation and will also promote the exchange of experience and the building of capacity.

Resource requirements: US\$ 1,520,800.

Possible partners: River basin commissions, national and international statistics agencies, relevant ministries (environment/water, energy and agriculture, but also finance and foreign affairs), the World Bank, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the International Food Policy Research Institute, OECD, the secretariat of the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance especially as Waterfowl Habitat (Ramsar Convention), GWP, IUCN, the International Energy Agency, the European Environment Agency, the International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis and the World Business Council for Sustainable Development.

F. Programme area 6: Opening of the Convention to countries outside the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe region

Responsible bodies: Working Group on Integrated Water Resources Management, Bureau, secretariat, with the assistance of IWAC.

Lead Parties/organizations: Italy, France (tbc), Switzerland.

Objectives: Support the global opening of the Convention by:

- (a) Raising awareness and building capacity on the Convention in non-ECE countries, including by involving them in activities under the Convention;
- (b) Promoting exchange of experience with other regions of the world;
- (c) Ensuring synergies and coordination with the 1997 Convention on the Law of the Non-navigational Uses of International Watercourses;
- (d) Supporting accession to the Convention by non-ECE countries.

Work to be undertaken:

6.1 Building capacity on the Convention outside the ECE region and promoting exchange of experience worldwide

A number of different events targeting countries or subregions outside ECE at different levels (experts, decision makers) will be organized to promote understanding of the Convention, build capacity for its application and, at the same time, foster the exchange of experience to be able to benefit from good practices worldwide. Such events will be organized in cooperation with international and national partners, including the United Nations regional commissions, river basin commissions, Governments and international and non-governmental organizations.

In particular, a workshop will be organized jointly with the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean for the exchange of experience on transboundary water cooperation between the pan-European and the Latin American subregions.

Some further workshops will be organized in other regions such as Africa and Asia.

Moreover, the Meeting of the Parties and the secretariat will contribute to relevant events and activities organized by other actors that will enable the promotion of the Water Convention worldwide and support non-UNECE countries interested in acceding to it.

Responding to the increased interest expressed by non-UNECE countries in participating in activities under the Convention such as training and workshops, representatives from

outside the ECE region will be invited to different meetings under the Convention. This will require funds for financial support, and in some cases for translation and interpretation. Targeted fund-raising efforts will be made to increase the means available for this purpose.

6.2 Synergies with the 1997 Convention on the Law of the Non-navigational Uses of International Watercourses

The Meeting of the Parties will promote synergies and coordination with the 1997 Convention on the Law of the Non-navigational Uses of International Watercourses by sharing the experience collected under the Water Convention to support the implementation of the 1997 Convention, promoting exchanges and coordination between the Parties to the two Conventions and by offering an intergovernmental framework for discussion on the two Conventions.

The Meeting of the Parties, in particular Parties to both Conventions, will develop a clear message on the relationship between the two Conventions and on the advantages for countries to accede to both.

6.3 Cooperation with the Global Environment Facility

A strategic long-term partnership will be established with GEF, in accordance with GEF rules and procedures, with the objective to support implementation of the Convention and improvement of transboundary water cooperation, within and beyond the ECE region, especially in view of the opening of the Water Convention to non-ECE members.

Resource requirements for programme area 6: US\$ 297,500.

Possible partners: other regional commissions, UN-Water, GEF, INBO, GWP, Dundee University, the World Wildlife Fund (WWF), IUCN, the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) and Green Cross International.

H. Programme area 7: Promotion of the Convention and establishment of strategic partnerships

Responsible bodies: Working Group on Integrated Water Resources Management, Convention focal points, the Bureau and the secretariat, with the assistance of IWAC.

Objectives: To promote the Convention, its products and achievements, and transboundary water cooperation in general, and to enhance the Convention's relevance, impact and efficiency through strategic partnerships and cooperation with other actors.

Work to be undertaken:

7.1 Promotion of the Convention, its activities and guidelines

To increase the visibility and impact of the work under the Convention, efforts will be devoted to promoting the Convention, its activities and the guidelines developed under it on various occasions, including through relevant national- and basin-level meetings, as well as international meetings of strategic importance, such as the World Water Forum and the World Water Week in Stockholm.

This will also include production of communication and promotion material (e.g., brochures in all United Nations languages, leaflets, media work, interviews and press releases) and regular revision and update of the website.

This will also include activities carried out by focal points in accordance with the guide on promoting the Convention and the Protocol on Water and Health (ECE/MP.WAT/2009/13). Focal points will regularly report on their promotion efforts.

7.2 European Riverprize

As a way of improving the Water Convention's visibility and outreach, as well as promoting transboundary cooperation in general, support will be provided to the realization of the European Riverprize, recently established by the International River Foundation and to be delivered for the first time in September 2013. The European Riverprize will celebrate successful approaches that have overcome the challenges to river restoration, ecosystem health, water quality and climate change within the social and political context of the European continent.

7.3 Cooperation with other international multilateral environmental agreements

Continuous exchange of information will be ensured with relevant multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs), in particular other ECE MEAs and the Protocol on Water and Health.

Opportunities for enhanced cooperation and synergies will be explored at three levels, i.e., between the MEA secretariats, the MEA bureaux and governing bodies, and among focal points at the national level, in order to make the work of MEAs more robust and efficient and to strengthen implementation of MEAs.

On the basis of common interests and shared demands and needs, joint activities will be carried out, as needed.

In particular, the joint implementation of the Convention and the Protocol on Water and Health and of their respective programmes of work will be promoted. Possible areas of close cooperation include monitoring and assessment and setting targets and reporting in accordance with the Protocol, climate change activities and activities on the water-food-energy-ecosystems nexus.

Cooperation with the Industrial Accidents Convention will be regulated by the strategy of the Joint Ad Hoc Expert Group adopted by the Meeting of the Parties at its fifth session. This will include the finalization of the checklist for contingency planning in the transboundary context, currently under development by the Joint Ad Hoc Expert Group, under the leadership of Hungary and Romania.

7.4 Cooperation with UN-Water and other partners

The Convention will be promoted through coordination and seeking synergies with activities of other United Nations agencies and bodies, in particular through UN-Water and its Thematic Priority Area on Transboundary Waters, coordinated by ECE and UNESCO. In particular, the International Year of Water Cooperation in 2013 will be used to promote the Convention and its global application. The Convention will also contribute to the follow-up of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, 20–22 June 2012).

The Meeting of the Parties will also ensure coordination and join forces with ongoing projects implemented by other organizations, as relevant and feasible.

The Meeting of the Parties will also strive to take advantage of existing EU instruments, such as the European Neighbourhood Policy Instrument (ENPI) and the EU Strategy for Central Asia, with the aim of maximizing the benefits for the Convention.

7.5 Follow-up to the Seventh “Environment for Europe” Ministerial Conference

The Astana Water Action — developed by the Chair of the Bureau of the Convention, assisted by the Bureau, the secretariat and a drafting group composed of members nominated by the ECE Committee on Environmental Policy — was one of the main outcomes of the Seventh “Environment for Europe” Ministerial Conference (Astana, 21–23 September 2011). Ministers endorsed the Astana Water Action (ECE/ASTANA.CONF/2011/5) and welcomed the initiatives launched by interested countries and organizations during the Conference aimed at improving water management and strengthening transboundary cooperation. They invited countries and other actors to implement the Astana Water Action and to report progress to the Committee on Environmental Policy.

The Water Convention Bureau and secretariat will support the Committee on Environmental Policy in organizing the reporting of progress as needed and requested.

Resource requirements for programme area 7: US\$ 285,800.

Potential partners: UN-Water members, GEF, the Ramsar Convention, INBO, GWP, the Dundee University/UNESCO IHP-HELP Centre for Water Law, Policy and Science, IUCN, the International Waters Learning Exchange and Resource Network (IW:Learn), the World Water Council, SIWI, the International River Foundation and others.

III. Overview of resource requirements

22. 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 programmes of work and may vary according to the further definition of the activities during implementation, as well as according to United Nations administrative regulations.

Overview of resources requirements for 2013–2015 (in thousands of United States dollars)

No.	Programme area or activity	Item	Resource requirements
	Organization of meetings of the Working Group on IWRM and of the Bureau	Travel of eligible experts to meetings of the Working Group on IWRM (3 meetings, 18 experts per meeting) and of the Bureau (3 meetings, 2 experts per meeting)	120.0
1	Support to implementation and accession		
1.1	Assistance supporting accession to and the implementation of the Convention through projects on the ground and capacity-building	Project-driven activities, resources provided by individual projects	
1.2	Implementation Committee	Travel of eligible experts to meetings of the Committee (4 meetings, 9 experts per meeting)	72.0
		Other travel costs	6.0
		P-2 staff time (6 months)	69.0
		Consultancy costs (translation)	15.0
1.3	Exchange of experience of joint bodies	Travel of eligible participants (2 workshops, 25 participants per workshop)	100.0
		Consultancy costs (translation and background studies)	20.0
		P-2 staff time, 4 months	46.0

<i>No.</i>	<i>Programme area or activity</i>	<i>Item</i>	<i>Resource requirements</i>
1.4	Consideration of the need for reporting under the Convention	P-2 staff time, 1 month	11.5
1.5	Promoting ratification of the Protocol on Civil Liability ^a	Carrying out steps identified to assist countries in the ratification of the Civil Liability Protocol (second and third steps)	50.0
Subtotal Programme Area 1			389.5
2	EU Water Initiative and National Policy Dialogues	Travel of eligible experts, staff travel, consultancies, organization of meetings, materials, printing and other costs	1 000.0
		P-4 staff time, 36 months	666.0
		P-2 staff time, 12 months	138.0
		G staff time, 18 months	214.2
Subtotal Programme Area 2			2 018.2
3	Quantifying the benefits of transboundary cooperation		
3.1	Development of an approach for quantifying the benefits of cooperation and gathering of experience	P-2 staff time, 7 months	80.5
		G staff time, 3 months	35.7
		Consultancy costs	120.0
		Organization of an expert group meeting to develop the approach (mostly travel costs)	40.0
		Organization of a workshop to gather and share experiences (mostly travel of eligible participants)	60.0
3.2	Guidance note on the benefits of cooperation	P-2 staff time, 5 months	57.5
		G staff time, 1 month	11.9
		Consultancy costs	55.0
		Organization of a drafting workshop (mostly travel of eligible participants)	20.0
		Publication costs (editing, layout, translation and printing)	60.0
Subtotal Programme Area 3			540.6
4	Adapting to climate change in transboundary basins		
4.1	Collection of good practices and lessons learned	Consultancy costs	20.0
		P-3 staff time, 4 months	61.6
		G staff time, 1 month	11.9
		Publication costs (editing, layout, translation and printing)	40.0
4.2	Programme of pilot projects and global network of transboundary basins working on adaptation to climate change	Consultancy costs (national and international consultants in the different basins)	300.0
		Grants for the organization of local meetings and other services	280.0

<i>No.</i>	<i>Programme area or activity</i>	<i>Item</i>	<i>Resource requirements</i>
		P-3 staff time, 24 months	369.6
		G staff time, 2 months	23.8
		Travel of experts and of the secretariat	60.0
4.3	Global platform for exchanging experience on water and adaptation to climate change in transboundary basins	Consultancy costs	20.0
		Organization of 2 global workshops, 3 meetings of the Task Force and 3 meetings of the core group on pilot projects	320.0
		P-3 staff time, 8 months	123.2
		G staff time, 3 months	35.7
Subtotal Programme Area 4			1 665.8
5	Water-food-energy-ecosystems nexus	P-3 staff time, 36 months	554.4
		G staff time, 6 months	71.4
		Organization of a meeting for exploring the methodological options, scope, format, indicators, etc. and pilot data collection based on a pilot basin; including travel of staff and participants	30.0
		Consultancy costs for developing a methodology tailored for this assessment, for advice on the application of the methodology to the pilot basin, for the development of scenarios, etc.	430.0
		Basin-level process: organization of working meetings for around 15 to 20 basins	200.0
		Organization of two sessions of the Task Force for review and endorsement of the assessment	60.0
		Consultancy costs (finalization and technical editing of the assessment, translations into Russian, graphical layout, production of maps, printing and online version)	175.0
Subtotal Programme Area 5			1 520.8
6	Opening of the Convention to countries outside the ECE region	Organization of capacity-building events in other regions	100.0
		Travel of secretariat and experts	100.0
		P-2 staff time, 5 months	57.5
		Translation/interpretation costs	40.0
Subtotal Programme Area 6			297.5
7	Promotion of the Convention and establishment of strategic partnerships	Travel of secretariat and experts	60.0
		Development of communication and promotion material	60.0
		Organization of promotional events, including relevant costs such as interpretation	30.0
		Meeting of the Joint Ad Hoc Expert Group on Water and Industrial Accidents for the elaboration of a checklist or methodology for harmonized contingency planning for accidents with potential impacts on transboundary waters	20.0 ^b
		P-2 staff work time, 8 months	92.0

<i>No. Programme area or activity</i>	<i>Item</i>	<i>Resource requirements</i>
	G staff time, 2 months	23.8
Subtotal Programme Area 7		285.8
Subtotal (Programme Areas 1–7)		6 838.2
Overhead (13%) (rounded)		889.0
Total (rounded)		7 727.2

^a The overall costs for this activity amount to US\$ 100,000 (plus overhead), to be shared with the Industrial Accidents Convention.

^b The overall costs for this activity amount to US\$ 40,000 (plus overhead), to be shared with the Industrial Accidents Convention.