



**Economic and Social
Council**

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ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

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

Working Group on Monitoring and Assessment
Seventh meeting
Geneva, 3-5 May 2006

ANNOTATED PROVISIONAL AGENDA

To be held at the Palais des Nations
starting on Wednesday, 3 May at 10 a.m. *

* New accreditation procedures have been introduced for all delegates attending meetings held at the Palais des Nations. Delegates are therefore requested to complete the attached registration form, which is also available from the Water Convention's website (www.unece.org/env/water/meetings/registrationmeeting.htm), and to transmit it to the UNECE secretariat no later than 10 days before the meeting, i.e. by **24 April 2006**, either by fax (+ 41 22 917 0107) or by e-mail (water.convention@unece.org). Prior to the meeting, delegates are requested to present themselves at the Pass and Identification Unit of the UNOG Security and Safety Section, located at the Villa Les Feuillantines, 13, Avenue de la Paix (a map is attached) for the issuance of an identification badge.

- 1. Adoption of the agenda**
- 2. Adoption of the report of the sixth meeting (MP.WAT/WG.2/2005/2)**
- 3. Strategies for monitoring and assessment of transboundary waters**

- (a) Draft strategic guidance for monitoring and assessment of transboundary waters

The draft strategic guidance (ECE/MP.WAT/WG.2/2006/3 and ECE/MP.WAT/WG.2/2006/4) prepared by the editorial group will be examined and further developed. To facilitate this discussion, participants are invited to submit their comments and proposals in writing to Mr. Pertti Heinonen (pertti.heinonen@ymparisto.fi) with a copy to the secretariat (water.convention@unece.org) by **18 A pril 2006**.

The Working Group will also agree on the steps for finalizing the draft guidance in order to submit it for adoption by the Parties at their fourth meeting (Bonn, Germany, 20–22 November 2006).

- (b) Technical guidance for monitoring and assessment of transboundary waters

The Working Group will review the progress in the preparation of the inventory of existing technical guidance, tools and examples of monitoring and assessment practices developed within other frameworks (e.g. United Nations organizations, the EU Water Framework Directive), including a short description of the contents and scope, as well as an expert judgement, if possible.

During the discussion under agenda item 11, the Working Group will consider how to address possible gaps in existing technical guidance. It will also discuss and agree on future activities to meet the requests for assistance on technical aspects of monitoring and assessment made by countries in Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia (EECCA) at the International Workshop on Joint Monitoring and Assessments of Shared Water Basins, including early-warning and alarm systems (Tbilisi, 31 October – 2 November 2005) (see agenda item 7 and www.unece.org/env/water/cwc/monit_assess.htm).

4. Pilot programme on monitoring and assessment

- (a) Pilot projects on transboundary rivers

On the basis of a working paper prepared by Slovakia, lead Party for this programme element, the Working Group will discuss future initiatives to support the implementation phase of the rivers' pilot projects.

Under agenda item 11, the Working Group will discuss the future of pilot projects on transboundary rivers and possible links with activities on early warning for industrial accidents (see agenda item 8).

(b) Pilot projects on transboundary groundwaters

On the basis of a working paper prepared by Slovakia, lead Party for this programme element, the Working Group will examine the progress made and decide on future activities related to the preparation/implementation of pilot projects on groundwater monitoring and assessment.

Under agenda item 11, the Working Group will discuss future activities on transboundary groundwaters, including those in cooperation with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the International Association of Hydrogeologists under the Internationally Shared (Transboundary) Aquifer Resource Management project.

(c) Pilot projects on transboundary/international lakes

On the basis of a working paper prepared by Finland, lead Party for this programme element, the Working Group will examine the progress made in the preparation and/or implementation of pilot projects on lake monitoring and assessment.

5. Assessment of the status of transboundary waters and international lakes in the UNECE region

The Working Group will review the progress in the preparation of the report on the status of transboundary waters (ECE/MP.WAT/WG.2/2006/5). It will also examine a preliminary draft assessment report prepared by Finland and will make arrangements for future work. In particular, it will agree on:

- (a) Transboundary water bodies for which information needs to be collected or completed for the first report as well as information sources to be used (data sheets, reports of international commissions, etc.);
- (b) The main message of each chapter/paragraph;
- (c) Relevant issues not covered by the previously agreed outline (see MP.WAT/WG.2/2004/4);
- (d) Information (such as maps, tables or pictures) to be included, along with its source; and
- (e) A work schedule and work sharing arrangements so that a final draft can be submitted for the fourth meeting of the Parties and the final report can be published in time for the Sixth Ministerial Conference "Environment for Europe" (Belgrade, Serbia and Montenegro, September/October 2007).

On the basis of a working paper, the Working Group will also discuss the need for the establishment of a database on transboundary waters and its requirements and functionalities. The outcome of this discussion will be taken into account under agenda item 11.

6. International Water Assessment Centre (IWAC)

On the basis of a report by a representative of IWAC, the Working Group will examine IWAC achievements and activities in 2005–2006.

Under agenda item 11, the Working Group will discuss the role of IWAC under the Convention, its planned activities and proposed priorities for 2007–2009.

7. The Convention's "Capacity for Water Cooperation" project

The Working Group will be informed of the outcome of the two workshops under the "Capacity for Water Cooperation" project in Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia, on "Information management and public participation in transboundary water cooperation" (St. Petersburg, Russian Federation, 8-10 June 2005) and "Joint monitoring and assessments of shared water basins, including early-warning and alarm systems" (Tbilisi, 31 October – 2 November 2005) (see www.unece.org/env/water/cwc.htm). The workshops' conclusions and recommendations will be taken into account in the discussion under agenda item 11.

8. Integration of early warning for accidents at industrial installations and monitoring and assessment systems

A representative of the German Federal Environmental Agency will inform the Working Group on ongoing and future projects relating to the development of international warning and alarm systems on transboundary rivers for industrial accidents and the link with transboundary monitoring systems. This information will be taken into account in the discussion under agenda item 11.

9. Indicators and reporting mechanisms for water supply and sanitation under the Protocol on Water and Health

The Working Group will be informed of the Working Group on Water and Health's activity to comply with the provisions of the Protocol on Water and Health on setting targets for and monitoring the performance of water supply and sanitation services (see MP.WAT/WG.4/2005/4 – EUR/05/5047554/4 available at www.unece.org/env/water/meetings/documents.htm#wh). This information will be taken into account in the discussion under agenda item 11.

10. Work-plan for 2004–2006

The Working Group will consider its work-plan (ECE/MP.WAT/15/Add.2, programme area III) as adopted by the Parties at their third meeting and will update it if necessary.

11. Work-plan on monitoring and assessment for 2007–2009 and beyond

On the basis of a document (ECE/MP.WAT/WG.2/2006/6) prepared by the Chairperson, Mrs. Lea Kauppi, and the discussion under previous agenda items, the Working Group will establish a priority list of possible activities, including lead countries, and will consider opportunities for extending its mandate to guide the implementation of the 2007–2009 work-plan. It will make work-sharing arrangements with a view to finalizing a draft work plan on monitoring and assessment to be submitted to the Parties at their fourth Meeting.

12. Date and venue of the eighth meeting of the Working Group

In order to finalize the Assessment of the status of transboundary waters and international lakes in the UNECE region for the sixth Ministerial Conference “Environment for Europe”, the Working Group will agree on a tentative schedule for its eighth meeting in March – April 2007, pending approval by the Parties at their fourth meeting of the Working Group’s mandate and work-plan.

13. Other business

14. Closing

The Chairperson will close the meeting on 5 May at 5.30 p.m.

Financial assistance is available to support the participation of eligible experts. Because of limited funding, priority will be given to participants actively involved in the Working Group – those who will provide written comments on the draft strategic guidelines for monitoring and assessment of transboundary waters (see agenda item 3 (a)), and who contribute to the assessment of the status of transboundary waters and international lakes in the UNECE region (see agenda item 5). Requests for financial assistance should be submitted not later than **10 April 2006** to the Water Convention’s secretariat.

Documents and unofficial working papers for the meeting can be downloaded from www.unece.org/env/water/meetings/documents.htm.



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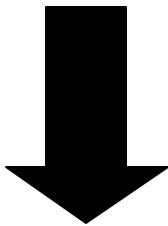
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