



**Economic and Social
Council**

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MP.WAT/SEM.4/2004/2
15 November 2004

ENGLISH ONLY

ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

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

Seminar on the role of ecosystems as water suppliers
(Geneva, 13-14 December 2004)

PROVISIONAL AGENDA FOR THE SEMINAR

to be held at the Palais des Nations^{*}
starting at 10 a.m. on Monday, 13 December 2004

* 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 also available from the Water Convention's web site (<http://www.unece.org/env/water/meetings/registrationmeeting.htm>) and to transmit it to the UNECE secretariat, at the latest 10 days prior to the meeting, i.e. by **3 December 2004**, 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. In case of difficulty, please contact the Convention's secretariat (Tel: +41 22 917 24 63).

1. Opening of the Seminar.
2. Adoption of the agenda.
3. Election of officers.
4. Session I - Protection and restoration of water-related ecosystems.
5. Session II - The integrated approach as a development opportunity.
6. Session III - Legal and administrative dimension.
7. Conclusions and recommendations of the Seminar.
8. Other business.
9. Closing.

EXPLANATORY NOTES TO THE PROVISIONAL AGENDA

The Seminar is being held at the invitation of the Swiss Agency for the Environment, Forests and Landscape and prepared by the secretariat of the Convention in consultation with the secretariat of the 1971 Ramsar Convention on Wetlands and the UNECE secretariat of the Timber Committee.

Information on the Seminar, including official documents, discussion papers and national reports, can be found at
<http://www.unece.org/env/water/meetings/ecosystem/seminar.htm>.

Item 1: Opening of the Seminar

Mr. Philippe ROCH, State Secretary, Swiss Agency for Environment, Forests and Landscape, will open the Seminar and make a statement on behalf of the host country. Mr. Kaj Bärlund, Director of the UNECE Environment and Human Settlements Division, will also address the Seminar.

Item 2: Adoption of the agenda

The Meeting is expected to adopt its agenda as set out in the present document.

Item 3: Election of officers

Following the Convention's rules of procedure, Mr. Philippe ROCH will chair the meeting. Participants will be invited to elect three vice-chairpersons; who will each chair one of the three sessions.

In consultation with the host country, the secretariat proposes the following candidates:

Session I: Mr. Arthur Askew, International Association of Hydrological Sciences;

Session II: Mr. Ilya Trombitsky, ECO-TIRAS (Republic of Moldova);

Session III: Ms. Elisabeth Hosner, Federal Ministry for Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management, International Water Policy Unit (Austria).

The Meeting may also wish to elect a rapporteur.

Item 4: Session I - Protection and restoration of water-related ecosystems

To introduce this Seminar session, the following keynote lectures will be delivered:

- “Integrated mountain watershed management in the Alps - Future needs,” Mr. Peter Greminger, Swiss Forest Agency;
- “From the mountains to the sea: focus on vital links in the catchment basin,” Mr. Tobias Salathe, Secretariat of the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands;
- “Protection of water-related ecosystems in Belarus,” Academy of Science, Minsk.

The Chairperson and a Vice-Chairperson will lead the debate on the topic, following the items for discussion contained in document MP.WAT/SEM.4/2004/1.

Seminar participants who have submitted discussion papers will be invited to share their experience.

Item 5: Session II - The integrated approach as a development opportunity

To introduce this Seminar session, the following keynote lectures will be delivered:

- “Social and economic aspects of balancing needs: the IUCN Water and Nature Initiative experience,” Ms. Danièle Perrot-Maître, World Conservation Union (IUCN);
- “Institutional opportunities for an integrated approach: the European Forestry Commission Working Party on the Management of Mountain Watersheds, the Mountain Partnership and FAO,” representative of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) (to be confirmed);
- “GEF experience on integrated management of water ecosystems for people and nature,” Mr. Gonzalo Castro, Global Environment Facility (GEF).

The Chairperson and a Vice-Chairperson will lead the debate on the topic, following the items for discussion contained in document MP.WAT/SEM.4/2004/1.

Seminar participants who have submitted discussion papers will be invited to share their experience.

Item 6: Session III - Legal and administrative dimension

To introduce this Seminar session, the following keynote lectures will be delivered:

- “Sustainable water development through ecosystem protection: An effective interface of international legal regimes,” Mr. Sergei Vinogradov, Centre for Energy, Petroleum and Mineral Law and Policy, University of Dundee (United Kingdom);
- “Development of water-related ecosystems conservation framework in Armenia and perspectives for transboundary conservation,” Mr. Karen Jenderedjian, Ministry of Nature Protection, Agency of Bioresource Management (Armenia);
- “Protection, sustainable use and restoration of wetlands in relation to water management in Serbia - legal aspects,” Ms. Dragana Milovanovic, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management, Directorate for Water (Serbia and Montenegro).

The Chairperson and a Vice-Chairperson will lead the debate on the topic, following the items for discussion contained in document MP.WAT/SEM.4/2004/1.

Seminar participants who have submitted discussion papers will be invited to share their experience.

Item 7: Conclusions and recommendations of the Seminar

Based on the outcome of the previous agenda items, the Chairman will present for discussion a conference room paper that contains draft conclusions and recommendations on possible global, UNECE-wide, subregional and national measures to promote policies and strategies integrating forests and wetlands in sustainable water management and to facilitate their implementation.

The Seminar will provide guidance on follow-up, in particular on the seminar on environmental services and financing for the protection and sustainable use of ecosystems, planned for 2005, for submission to the Working Group on Integrated Water Resources Management at its next meeting (Geneva, 15 December 2004).

The Seminar will also agree on the modalities for the preparation of its report by the secretariat as well as the printing of the proceedings.

Item 8: Other business

At the time of writing, the secretariat had no points to propose under this item.

Item 9: Closing

A representative of Switzerland will close the meeting on 14 December around 6 p.m.



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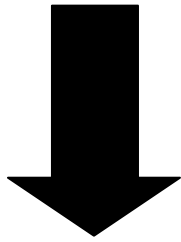
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