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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 Integrated Water Resources Management

Second meeting
Geneva, 26–27 June 2006

ANNOTATED PROVISIONAL AGENDA FOR THE SECOND MEETING*

To be held at the Palais des Nations
starting on Monday, 26 June at 10 a.m.**

* This document is being issued on the above date owing to a lack of human resources in the secretariat.

** New accreditation procedures have been introduced for all delegates attending meetings at the Palais des Nations. Delegates are therefore requested to complete the registration form, which is 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 – namely, by **12 June 2006** – either by fax (+ 41 22 917 0107) or by e-mail (olga.carlos@unece.org or water.convention@unece.org). On their way to the meeting, delegates should obtain an identification badge at the Pass and Identification Unit of the UNOG Security and Safety Section, located at the Villa Les Feuillantines, 13, Avenue de la Paix (see the map on the Convention's website).

Item 1. Adoption of the agenda

Item 2. Adoption of the report of the first meeting (MP.WAT/WG.1/2004/2)

Item 3. Progress in the ratification process

1. As of March 2005, Hungary has ratified the Protocol on Civil Liability and Compensation for Damage Caused by the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents on Transboundary Waters; and Hungary, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Poland and Sweden have ratified the amendment of articles 25 and 26 of the Convention.
2. Representatives of the other countries will report on their progress towards ratification. When discussing the workplan for 2007–2009, the Working Group will agree on activities to foster the ratification process (see agenda item 13).

Item 4. Code of conduct on payments for ecosystem services in integrated water resources management

3. The delegation of Switzerland, lead country, will inform the Working Group about the outcome of the seminar on environmental services and financing for the protection and sustainable use of ecosystems (Geneva, 10–11 October 2005) and about the resulting initiative to develop a code of conduct on payments for ecosystem services in integrated water resources management.
4. A number of presentations will illustrate the objective, scope and main provisions of the draft code of conduct prepared by a drafting group made up of representatives of Parties, international organizations and non-governmental organizations (ECE/MP.WAT/WG.1/ 2006/3).
5. The Working Group will discuss the draft code of conduct and its provisions and make arrangements to submit it for adoption by the Parties at their fourth meeting (Bonn, Germany, 20–22 November 2006).
6. Under agenda item 13, the Working Group will discuss future activities in this area, including activities to support the implementation of the code of conduct.

Item 5. Flood prevention, protection and mitigation

7. The delegation of Germany, lead country, will inform the Working Group about the activities undertaken by the Task Force on Floods to draw up a common framework for flood prevention, protection and mitigation, which consists of three pillars: (a) a legal component developed by the Task Force member from Greece with the assistance of the Legal Board; (b) a soft-law component developed by Germany in consultation with the European Commission; and (c) a capacity-building component developed by the Task Force member from Hungary.
8. In particular, the Working Group will examine the draft model provisions for transboundary flood prevention, protection and mitigation prepared by the Task Force on Floods

in cooperation with the Legal Board, and will make arrangements to submit them for adoption by the Parties at their fourth meeting.

9. When discussing the workplan for 2007–2009, the Working Group will take into account the proposals of the Task Force for future activities in this area (see agenda item 13).

Item 6. EU Water Initiative in Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia (EECCA)

10. The secretariat will inform the Working Group about the recent developments under the EU Water Initiative and the role of UNECE in the development of National Policy Dialogues in EECCA countries (see also document ECE/MP.WAT/WG.1/ 2006/4).

Item 7. Water and industrial accidents

11. The Working Group will be informed about the outcome of the sixth and seventh meetings of the Joint Expert Group on Water and Industrial Accidents (Geneva, 16 December 2005 and 10–11 April 2006; reports available at www.unece.org/env/teia/water.htm). In particular, the Working Group will examine the results of activities of the Joint Expert Group that are to be presented at the fourth meeting of the Parties: the report on the implementation of the recommendations of the Seminar on the Prevention of Chemical Accidents and Limitation of Their Impact on Transboundary Waters (Hamburg, Germany, 4–6 October 1999) in countries with market economies; the draft safety guidelines/best practices for pipelines; and the progress report of the Joint Expert Group on Water and Industrial Accidents.

12. When discussing the workplan for 2007–2009, the Working Group will take into account the Joint Expert Group's proposals for future activities (see agenda item 13).

Item 8. “Capacity for Water Cooperation - CWC” project

13. The secretariat will inform the Working Group about the outcome of the second and third workshops under the Convention's CWC project: the Workshop on Information Management and Public Participation in Transboundary Water Cooperation (Saint Petersburg, Russian Federation, 8–10 June 2005) and the Workshop on Joint Monitoring and Assessment of Shared Water Basins, Including Early Warning and Alarm Systems (Tbilisi, Georgia, 31 October – 2 November 2005).

14. The Working Group will also examine information from the secretariat on the forthcoming workshop on the work of transboundary water commissions. The Working Group is expected to assist in the further preparations.

15. When discussing the workplan for 2007–2009, the Working Group will take into account the proposals for the continuation of the CWC project and for follow-up activities identified in the project (see agenda item 13).

Item 9. Synergies between the Water Convention and the EU Water Framework Directive

16. The Working Group will be informed by the representatives of Poland and the European Commission, respectively the lead country and organization, about the outcome of the Workshop on Transboundary Water Management at the North-Eastern Border of the European Union: The Complementary Roles of the EU Water Framework Directive and the UNECE Water Convention (Debe, Poland, 18–19 October 2005) and about proposed future activities in this area of work.

17. A representative of Italy, lead country, will inform the Working Group about the outcome of the Workshop on Transboundary Water Management in South-Eastern Europe: The Complementary Roles of the EU Water Framework Directive and the UNECE Water Convention (Belgrade, 2–3 March 2006) and about proposed future activities in this area of work.

18. The above proposals will be taken into account in the discussion on the workplan for 2007–2009 (see agenda item 13).

Item 10. Management of transboundary waters in the UNECE region

19. A representative of Poland, lead country, will inform the Working Group about the plans for the preparations for the third International Conference on Sustainable Management of Transboundary Waters in Europe to be held in Poland in 2007.

20. When discussing the workplan for 2007–2009, the Working Group will agree on further arrangements to organize the Conference (see agenda item 13).

Item 11. Contribution of the Water Convention to activities of the United Nations and other bodies

(a) UN-Water and the UN *World Water Development Report*

21. The secretariat will inform the Working Group about UNECE's contribution to the activities of UN-Water and in particular to the second edition of the *World Water Development Report*.

(b) Environment and Security Initiative

22. The secretariat will inform the Working Group about UNECE's contribution to the Environment and Security Initiative launched by the United Nations Environment Programme, the United Nations Development Programme and the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe in May 2003, and in particular about a project to support the development of transboundary cooperation between the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine on the Dniester River.

23. The Working Group will provide its comments and give guidance on future cooperation with the initiative.

(c) United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

24. A representative of UNDP will present the Shared Waters Initiative and the opportunities for cooperation with the Convention. This will be taken into account in the discussion on the workplan for 2007–2009 (see agenda item 13).

(d) Joint ESCWA-ECA-UNECE project “Capacity-building for sustainable utilization, management and protection of internationally shared groundwater in the Mediterranean region”

25. The secretariat will inform the Working Group about the above-mentioned project, the progress achieved and the planned future activities.

(e) Sixth Ministerial Conference “Environment for Europe”

26. The Working Group will discuss opportunities to increase the Convention’s visibility and provide an input to the sixth Ministerial Conference “Environment for Europe” (Belgrade, 10–12 October 2007). Specific activities and products for the Conference will be agreed upon during the discussion on the workplan for 2007–2009 (see agenda item 13).

Item 12. Ongoing workplan for 2004–2006 on integrated water resources management

27. The Working Group will examine the progress in the implementation of the ongoing workplan under programme area II (ECE/MP.WAT/15/Add.2) and will update the workplan, if necessary. The Working Group will entrust its chairperson with the task of reporting (with the assistance of the secretariat) to the Parties at their fourth meeting on the progress achieved.

Item 13. Workplan on integrated water resources management for 2007–2009 and beyond

28. On the basis of a document (ECE/MP.WAT/WG.1/2006/4) prepared by the Chairperson, Ms. Sibylle Vermont, 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 workplan. It will make work-sharing arrangements with a view to finalizing a draft workplan on integrated water resources management to be submitted to the Parties at their fourth meeting.

Item 14. Other business

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

Item 15. Closing

30. The Chairperson will close the meeting of Working Group on 27 June at 6.00 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 code of conduct for payments for ecosystem services in integrated water resources management (see agenda item 4), and who are will contribute to the preparation of the workplan on integrated water resources management in the UNECE region (see agenda item 13). Requests for financial assistance should be submitted not later than **1 June 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.