



# Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General  
13 April 2010

Original: English

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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 Fifth meeting

Geneva, 7–9 July 2010

Item 2 of the provisional agenda

#### Adoption of the agenda

### Annotated provisional agenda for the fifth meeting

To be held at the Palais des Nations  
starting on Wednesday, 7 July 2010, at 2.30 p.m.\*

#### I. Provisional agenda

1. Election of officers.
2. Adoption of the agenda.
3. Adoption of the report of the fourth meeting.
4. Status and finalization of the second assessment of transboundary rivers, lakes and groundwaters in the UNECE region.
5. Preparations for the Seventh Ministerial Environment for Europe Conference.
6. International Water Assessment Center.

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\* Delegates attending meetings at the Palais des Nations are requested to complete the registration form available on the UNECE website ([http://www.unece.org/env/water/meetings/documents\\_WGIWRM.htm](http://www.unece.org/env/water/meetings/documents_WGIWRM.htm)) and to transmit it to the UNECE secretariat no later than two weeks before the meeting by e-mail ([olga.carlos@unece.org](mailto:olga.carlos@unece.org)). On their way to the meeting, delegates should obtain an identification badge at the Pass and Identification Unit of the United Nations Office at Geneva Security and Safety Section, located at the Pregny Gate, 14, Avenue de la Paix (see the map on the UNECE website: <http://www.unece.org/meetings/practical.htm>). In case of difficulty, please contact the secretariat by telephone at +41 22 917 1926).

7. Dates and venues of the next meetings of the Working Group on Integrated Water Resources Management and the Working Group on Monitoring and Assessment.
8. Progress in the ratification process, including in the ratification of the amendments to articles 25 and 26 to open the Convention to countries outside the region.
9. Support to implementation and compliance.
10. Projects on the ground.
  - A. Pilot projects and platform for exchanging experience on water and adaptation to climate change.
  - B. Pilot projects on payments for ecosystem services.
  - C. Other projects supporting implementation of the Convention.
11. Sharing of experiences and capacity-building.
12. European Union (EU) Water Initiative and National Policy Dialogues.
13. Promotion of the Convention and the role of focal points.
14. Water and industrial accidents.
  - A. Joint Expert Group on Water and Industrial Accidents
  - B. Protocol on Civil Liability
15. Cooperation with the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol on Water and Health.
16. Coordination and synergies with activities of United Nations agencies and other organizations.
17. Programme of work on integrated water resources management for 2010-2012.
18. Other business.
19. Closure of the meeting.

## II. Annotations

1. The main objective of the fifth meeting of the Working Group on Integrated Water Resources Management is to review the implementation of the workplan (ECE/MP.WAT/29/Add. 1) as adopted at the fifth session of the Meeting of the Parties.
2. The meeting will be held in the Palais des Nations, Geneva. It will start at 2.30 p.m. on Wednesday, 7 July and end at 1 p.m. on Friday, 9 July. It will be held back to back with the eleventh meeting of the Working Group on Monitoring and Assessment, which will take place in Geneva on 6–7 July 2010. A joint session of the two working groups will be held on Wednesday, 7 July from 2.30 p.m. to 5.30 p.m., with the Chairs of both working groups presiding.
3. The working languages will be English, French and Russian.
4. All relevant documentation for the meeting of the Working Group will be available at [http://www.unece.org/env/water/meetings/documents\\_WGIWRM.htm](http://www.unece.org/env/water/meetings/documents_WGIWRM.htm).

### Item 1 Election of officers

Tentative timing: 2.30 p.m.–2.30 p.m., Wednesday, 7 July

5. The Working Group will elect its Chair and, if deemed necessary, one or more Vice-Chairs, taking into account that the Meeting of the Parties at its fifth session elected Ms. Heide Jekel (Germany) to prepare the current session of the Working Group.

## **Item 2**

### **Adoption of the agenda**

Tentative timing: 2.35 p.m.–2.40 p.m., Wednesday, 7 July

6. The Working Group is expected to adopt the agenda as set out in the present document.

## **Item 3**

### **Adoption of the report of the fourth meeting**

Tentative timing: 2.40–2.45 p.m., Wednesday, 7 July

Official documentation: Report of the Working Group on Integrated Water Resources Management on its fourth meeting (ECE/MP.WAT/WG.1/2009/2)

7. The Working Group is expected to adopt the report of its fourth meeting.

## **Joint session with the Working Group on Monitoring and Assessment**

### **Item 4**

#### **Status and finalization of the second assessment of transboundary rivers, lakes and groundwaters in the UNECE region**

Tentative timing: 2.45 p.m.–4.15 p.m., Wednesday, 7 July

Official documentation: Main findings of the assessment of transboundary rivers, lakes and groundwaters in the Caucasus (ECE/MP.WAT/2010/WG.1/3 – ECE/MP.WAT/2010/WG.2/4)

Information paper: Preliminary findings of the assessment of transboundary rivers, lakes and groundwaters in Eastern and Northern Europe; Note on the final layout and content of the second Assessment and road map for its finalization

8. During the joint session, the two working groups will discuss strategic issues related to the preparations of the second assessment of transboundary rivers, lakes and groundwaters in the UNECE region as well as the main findings and messages for the different subregional assessment. A more in-depth discussion on the second Assessment, in particular on the specific assessments of all transboundary basins and groundwaters, will take place during the eleventh session of the Working Group on Monitoring and Assessment.

9. The Chair of the Working Group on Monitoring and Assessment and the secretariat will update the two working groups on developments related to the second Assessment since the fifth session of the Meeting of the Parties (Geneva, 10–12 November 2009), specifically focusing on (a) working arrangements and fundraising; (b) cooperation between UNECE and the European Environment Agency and (c) outcomes of the

subregional meetings for the Caucasus (Tbilisi, Georgia, 8–10 December 2009) and Eastern and Northern Europe (Kiev, Ukraine, 27–29 April 2010) and plans for the subregional meeting for Central Asia, tentatively scheduled for October 2010.

10. The two working groups will be invited to comment on the draft summary of the assessment of transboundary rivers, lakes and groundwaters in the Caucasus and the preliminary conclusions for the assessment for Northern and Eastern Europe.

11. The two working groups will be invited to discuss and agree on future steps to be taken with the view of ensuring effective preparation and finalization of the second Assessment and its executive summary for the Seventh Ministerial Environment for Europe Conference, to be held on 21–23 September 2011 in Astana, Kazakhstan. In particular, they will discuss the organization of the next subregional meetings, focusing on possible synergies with other activities, possible partners and fundraising.

## **Item 5**

### **Preparations for the Seventh Ministerial Environment for Europe Conference**

Tentative timing: 4.15 p.m.–4.45 p.m., Wednesday, 7 July

12. The Seventh Ministerial Environment for Europe Conference is scheduled to take place in Astana (Kazakhstan) from 21–23 September 2011.<sup>1</sup> The Conference is being prepared in accordance with the provisions of the Reform Plan of the “Environment for Europe” process (ECE/CEP/S/152 and corr.1). The UNECE Committee on Environmental Policy (CEP), mandated to serve as the convening body for the preparatory process of the Environment for Europe (EfE) Ministerial Conferences, agreed at its sixteenth session (Geneva, 20–23 October 2009) on the two main themes for the Astana Ministerial Conference: (a) sustainable management of water and water-related ecosystems and (b) greening the economy: mainstreaming the environment into economic development. A draft outline of the Conference agenda was discussed at the meeting of the Extended Bureau of the Committee on Environmental Policy (Geneva, 16–17 March 2010). The draft agenda outline will be developed further by the Bureau of the Committee with support from the secretariat with a view to its endorsement at the seventeenth session of the Committee (Geneva, 2–5 November 2010).

13. The working groups will discuss how they can contribute to the preparations for the Astana Ministerial Conference and to the water theme. In particular they will discuss how to ensure political attention and a prominent place on the agenda of the Astana Ministerial Conference for the main input of the Water Convention to the Conference, the second Assessment. The working groups will also discuss how they can promote the work of the Water Convention at the Astana Ministerial Conference, for example by preparing documents and publications, organizing side events and other means. In this regard, the working groups will discuss cooperation with the UNECE Committee on Environmental Policy.

## **Item 6**

### **International Water Assessment Center**

Tentative timing: 4.45 p.m.–5.15 p.m., Wednesday, 7 July

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.unece.org/env/efe/Astana/welcome.html>

14. Mr. Boris Minarik, director of IWAC, will update the working groups on its work since the fifth session of the Meeting of the Parties (Geneva, 10–12 November 2010) and its future plans. The working groups will be invited to discuss how IWAC can work most effectively for the benefit of Parties and non-Parties alike.

#### **Item 7**

### **Dates and venues of the next meetings of the Working Group on Integrated Water Resources Management and the Working Group on Monitoring and Assessment**

Tentative timing: 5.15 p.m.–5.30 p.m., Wednesday, 7 July

15. The working groups will discuss the advantages and disadvantages of the new format of holding their meetings back to back, including a joint session between the two groups. Taking into account the outcome of this discussion, they will determine preliminary dates and venues of their next meetings.

### **Session of the Working Group on Integrated Water Resources Management only**

#### **Item 8**

### **Progress in the ratification process, including in the ratification of the amendments to articles 25 and 26 to open the Convention to countries outside the region**

Official documentation: Opening the Convention beyond the region: Why the amendments to articles 25 and 26 should enter into force soon (ECE/MP.WAT/2009/1), Amendments to articles 25 and 26 of the Convention (ECE/MP.WAT/14)

Tentative timing: 10 a.m.–10.45 a.m., Thursday, 8 July

16. Since the fifth session of the Meeting of the Parties (Geneva, 10–12 November 2009) Bosnia and Herzegovina has ratified the Convention and the amendments to articles 25 and 26 of the Convention.

17. Delegations will be invited to report on any recent or anticipated developments with respect to the ratification of the Convention and the amendments to articles 25 and 26 in their respective countries.

18. The Working Group will discuss how to foster ratification of the Convention. It will also discuss how to promote ratification of the amendments so to ensure their entry into force by the sixth session of the Meeting of the Parties in 2012.

19. Finally the Working Group will discuss ways and means to support implementation of the Convention and its soft law tools in countries outside the UNECE region, in particular in countries sharing waters with UNECE countries.

#### **Item 9**

### **Support to implementation and compliance**

Tentative timing: 10.45 a.m.–12.15 p.m., Thursday, 8 July

Official documentation: Report of the seventh meeting of the Legal Board (ECE/MP.WAT/AC.4/2010/2)

Information papers: Considerations on a facilitative implementation mechanism under the Water Convention: Discussion paper (prepared for the seventh meeting of the Legal Board), Application of the UNECE Water Convention to groundwater and possible developments: Discussion paper (prepared for the seventh meeting of the Legal Board)

20. The Chair of the Legal Board will recall the key outcomes of the seventh meeting of the Legal Board (Geneva, 15–16 April 2010) and the agreed way forward. The Working Group will also be informed of future work arrangements (e.g. modality of work, timeline, financial needs) to complete the study of options and to develop the proposal on the mechanism in time for its possible adoption at the sixth session of the Meeting of the Parties in 2012.

21. The Chair of the Legal Board will inform the Working Group about the discussion and decisions at the Legal Board meeting related to the preparation of a preliminary study 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 to determine whether further action is needed. The Working Group will exchange views on such a preliminary study, its scope, structure and content, as well as the future work arrangements for its completion, in cooperation with the Legal Board.

## **Item 10**

### **Projects on the ground**

Tentative timing: 12.15 p.m.–1 p.m. and 3 p.m.–4.45 p.m., Thursday, 8 July

Information papers: Report of the third meeting of the Task Force on Water and Climate and progress report on pilot projects on water and adaptation to climate change

#### **A. Pilot projects and platform for exchanging experience on water and adaptation to climate change**

22. The Co-Chairs of the Task Force on Water and Climate will brief participants on the outcomes of the third meeting of the Task Force (Geneva, 12 May 2010) and of the workshop, “Water and Climate Change–How to Develop an Adaptation Strategy in Transboundary Basins” (Geneva, 10–11 May 2010), in particular in relation to the pilot projects on water and adaptation to climate change and the planned platform for exchanging experience on adaptation in transboundary basins.

23. The Working Group will also be informed about other relevant activities in this area, including those taking place under the auspices of the Common Implementation Strategy for the Water Framework Directive (2000/60/EC) of the EU.

24. Participants will be invited to report on the implementation and promotion of the *Guidance on Water and Adaptation to Climate Change* (United Nations, Economic Commission for Europe, 2009) in their countries, about progress made and difficulties encountered.

25. The Working Group will discuss the programme of pilot projects in general and in particular the design of and needed resources for the platform for exchanging experience on adaptation to climate change in transboundary basins.

#### **B. Pilot projects on payments for ecosystem services**

26. The Working Group will be informed about progress achieved and future plans in implementing pilot projects on payments for ecosystem services, in particular the project to establish payments for ecosystem services in the Lake Issyk Kul Basin.

27. Delegates will be invited to report on the implementation of the *Recommendations on Payments for Ecosystem Services in Integrated Water Resources Management* (United Nations, Economic Commission for Europe, 2007) in their respective countries and on the advancement made to introduce payments for ecosystems services. Links will be made to the concept of ecosystem services and payment for these at the global level and the Working Group will be invited to discuss how to contribute to such global developments.

### C. Other projects supporting implementation of the Convention

28. The secretariat will inform the Working Group on the progress achieved in other projects supporting implementation of the Convention and transboundary water management in South-Eastern Europe, Eastern Europe and Caucasus as well as Central Asia. The Working Group will provide comments as needed.

#### Item 11

#### Sharing of experiences and capacity-building

Tentative timing: 4.45–5.15 p.m., Thursday, 8 July

29. The Working Group will be invited to make proposals related to possible activities aimed at the sharing of experience and capacity-building in the period 2010–2012, in particular related to water and ecosystems and the implementation of the *Guidance on Water and Adaptation to Climate Change*. Switzerland will be invited to report on its plans for organizing a workshop on forest and water in low-forest-cover counties in February 2011. The Working Group will provide comments as needed.

30. The secretariat will inform the Working Group about plans for future workshops under the Capacity for Water Cooperation (CWC) project, in particular the plans related to a workshop on transboundary groundwater. The Working Group will discuss this proposal, including possible partners, locations, dates and the overall programme and aims of such a workshop. The Working Group will also discuss possible future themes for workshops under the CWC project, which should serve the implementation of the Convention and its products.

#### Item 12

#### European Union (EU) Water Initiative and National Policy Dialogues

Tentative timing: 5.15–6.00 p.m., Thursday, 8 July

Official documentation: Report on National Policy Dialogues and vision for the future developments of the Dialogues (ECE/MP.WAT/WG.1/2010/4)

31. The Working Group will be informed about recent developments under the EU Water Initiative and its National Policy Dialogues process regarding integrated water resources management activities conducted by UNECE and water supply and sanitation activities carried out by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development as key strategic partners of the countries in Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia. Particular attention will be given to the ongoing dialogue process, mainly financed by the European Commission, in Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Kyrgyzstan, the Republic of Moldova, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Ukraine and Uzbekistan.

32. The Working Group will examine the lessons learned and the added value of the dialogue process for the Convention. It will discuss the vision of future developments of the Dialogues and agree on ways and means to further strengthen the dialogues.

### **Item 13**

#### **Promotion of the Convention and the role of focal points**

Tentative timing: 10 a.m.–11 a.m., Friday, 9 July

Official documentation: How to better promote the Convention and its Protocol on Water and Health: a guide for focal points (ECE/MP.WAT/2009/13)

33. The Working Group will discuss ways and means to better promote the Convention and its achievements based on the guide for focal points for promoting the Water Convention and the Protocol on Water and Health jointly prepared by the Chair of the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention and the Chair of the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol on Water and Health. Focal points will be invited to report and exchange ideas and experiences on their efforts to promote the Convention and the Protocol at the national and subnational levels in accordance with the Guide. The Working Group will also be invited to discuss and provide comments on the new website and options for promoting the Convention, for example at international events such as the World Water Week and the 6th World Water Forum, to be held in Marseille in 2012.

### **Item 14**

#### **Water and industrial accidents**

Tentative timing: 11 a.m.–12 p.m., Friday, 9 July

##### **A. Joint Expert Group on Water and Industrial Accidents**

Official documentation: Strategy for the Joint Ad Hoc Expert Group on Water and Industrial Accidents (ECE/MP.WAT/29/Add. 2)

34. The Chair of the Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents (Industrial Accidents Convention) will inform the Working Group on the outcomes and decisions of its Bureau meeting in January 2010 regarding possible future activities of the Joint Expert Group on Water and Industrial Accidents.

35. On the basis of this information, the Working Group will discuss and agree on possible future activities in this area of work taking also into account the strategy of the Joint Expert Group as adopted at the fifth session of the Meeting of the Parties (Geneva, 10–12 November 2010) and the results of the questionnaire sent to focal points of the Water Convention regarding future activities on water and industrial accidents.

##### **B. Protocol on Civil Liability**

36. The Working Group will consider ways and means to jointly promote the Protocol's entry into force with the Conference of the Parties to the Industrial Accidents Convention. Representatives of the Republic of Moldova, Romania, Ukraine and Hungary will inform the meeting on their plans for a pilot activity regarding the Protocol on Civil Liability. The Working Group will discuss how to promote the understanding of the obligations under the Protocol and their consequences, including through the development of pilot activities, how to support ratification by non-EU countries and how to continue the communication with the European Commission on the compatibility of the Protocol and the EU *acquis communautaire*. In this regard, the Chair of the Industrial Accidents Convention will inform the Working Group on the proposal of its Bureau regarding the Protocol on Civil Liability.

**Item 15**  
**Cooperation with the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol on Water and Health**

Tentative timing: 12 p.m.–12.15 p.m., Friday, 9 July

37. The secretariat will brief participants on progress achieved under the Protocol since the first session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol (Geneva, 17–19 January 2007), in particular on the findings of the first pilot reporting exercise under the Protocol and on the preparations for the second session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol on Water and Health (Bucharest, Romania, 23–25 November 2010).

38. The Meeting will discuss options for cooperation with activities under the Protocol, in particular in the areas of (a) adaptation to climate change, (b) the setting of targets and target dates according to article 6 of the Protocol and (c) reviewing progress and reporting according to article 7.

**Item 16**  
**Coordination and synergies with activities of United Nations agencies and other organizations**

Tentative timing: 12.15 p.m.–12.30 p.m., Friday, 9 July

39. The secretariat will inform the Working Group about the contributions of UNECE to the activities of UN-Water, and in particular to the UN-Water Thematic Priority Area on Transboundary Waters and the organization of World Water Day 2010, which was devoted to water quality.

**Item 17**  
**Programme of work on integrated water resources management for 2010–2012**

Tentative timing: 12.30 p.m.–12.50 p.m., Friday, 9 July

Official documentation: Programme of work for 2010–2012 (ECE/MP.WAT/29/Add.1)

40. The Working Group will review progress made on the implementation of the Convention's programme of work on integrated water resources management for 2010–2012, and revise it, if necessary.

**Item 18**  
**Other business**

Tentative timing: 12.50 p.m.–1 p.m., Friday, 9 July

41. Delegates wishing to propose points under this item are requested to inform the secretariat as soon as possible.

**Item 19**  
**Closure of the meeting**

42. The Chair will close the meeting at 1 p.m. on Friday, 9 July 2010.