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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

Extraordinary meeting

Bratislava, 15–16 December 2010

Item 1 of the provisional agenda

Adoption of the agenda

Annotated provisional agenda for the extraordinary meeting

To be held at the Slovak Hydrometeorological Institute, Jeseniova 17, in
Bratislava, starting on Tuesday, 15 December 2010
at 9.30 a.m.

I. Provisional agenda

1. Adoption of the agenda.
2. Assessment of the status of transboundary waters in the UNECE¹ region:
 - (a) Developments since the eleventh meeting of the Working Group;
 - (b) Revision of the assessment of transboundary rivers, lakes and groundwaters in Eastern and Northern Europe;
 - (c) Maps and graphics for the subregional assessment of Eastern and Northern Europe;
 - (d) Next steps;
 - (e) Preparation of the executive summary of the second Assessment.
3. International Water Assessment Center.
4. Other business.

¹ United Nations Economic Commission for Europe

5. Closure of the meeting.

II. Annotations

1. The Working Group on Monitoring and Assessment at its eleventh meeting decided to hold an extraordinary meeting focusing on the assessment of transboundary rivers, lakes and groundwaters in Eastern and Northern Europe, with the participation of members from Belarus, Estonia, Finland, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Norway, the Republic of Moldova, Romania, the Russian Federation, Slovakia and Ukraine, as well as concerned international and non-governmental organizations (see report of the eleventh meeting ECE/MP.WAT/WG.2/2010/2).
2. The extraordinary meeting will be hosted by the International Water Assessment Center (IWAC) and held at the Slovak Hydrometeorological Institute, Jeseniova 17, in Bratislava. It will start at 9.30 a.m. on Wednesday, 15 December 2010 and will close at 1 p.m. on Thursday, 16 December.
3. The meeting will be chaired by Ms. Lea Kauppi (Finland) with the assistance of the Vice-Chair of the Working Group, Mr. Boris Minarik (Slovakia).
4. The working languages will be English and Russian.
5. All relevant documentation for the meeting will be available at http://www.unece.org/env/water/meetings/documents_WGMA.htm.
6. Participants are requested to complete the registration form available online (http://www.unece.org/env/water/meetings/documents_WGMA.htm) and to transmit it by e-mail to the UNECE secretariat (olga.carlos@unece.org) and to IWAC (boris.minarik@shmu.sk) as soon as possible, but not later than 29 November 2010. Participants needing a personal invitation letter for visa purposes should indicate it clearly on the registration form. Participants requiring visas should register before 1 November 2010.
7. Eligible participants from countries with economies in transition may apply for financial support to facilitate their participation in the meeting. Requests for financial support should be submitted by e-mail to both UNECE (olga.carlos@unece.org) and IWAC (boris.minarik@shmu.sk), together with the completed registration form, as soon as possible, but not later than 1 November 2010.
8. For practical questions, including accommodation, participants should contact IWAC (Ms. Andrea Majovska; phone: +421 2 594 15 415; e-mail: andrea.majovska@shmu.sk).

1. Adoption of the agenda

Tentative timing: 9.30 a.m.–9.50 a.m., Wednesday, 15 December 2010

9. A representative of the host country and the Chair of the Working Group will open the meeting.
10. The Working Group is expected to adopt the agenda as set out in the present document.

2. Assessment of the status of transboundary waters in the UNECE region

Tentative timing: 9.50 a.m.–1 p.m. and 3 p.m.–6 p.m., Wednesday, 15 December 2010 and 9.30 a.m.–11 a.m. Thursday, 16 December 2010

11. The discussion under this item will aim to undertake an in-depth review of the preliminary assessments prepared for the Eastern and Northern Europe subregion, looking closely at the assessments of all transboundary rivers, lakes and groundwaters.

(a) Developments since the eleventh meeting of the Working Group

12. The Chair and the secretariat will update the Working Group on developments related to the preparation of the second Assessment since the Group's eleventh meeting.

(b) Revision of the assessment of transboundary rivers, lakes and groundwaters in Eastern and Northern Europe

Information papers: Main findings of the assessment of transboundary rivers, lakes and groundwaters in Eastern and Northern Europe; Assessment of transboundary rivers, lakes and groundwaters in Eastern and Northern Europe discharging into the Baltic Sea, White Sea, Barents Sea and Kara Sea; Assessment of transboundary rivers, lakes and groundwaters in Eastern and Northern Europe discharging into the Black Sea

13. The Working Group will examine and comment on the revised main findings of the assessment of transboundary rivers, lakes and groundwaters in Eastern and Northern Europe based on the analysis of the filled in datasheets and on the comments received after the eleventh session of the Working Group.

14. The Working group will examine and comment on the preliminary assessments of transboundary rivers, lakes and groundwaters in Eastern and Northern Europe. It will agree on how to revise and finalize this subregional assessment.

(c) Maps and graphics for the subregional assessment of Eastern and Northern Europe

Information paper: Maps and graphics to be included in the second Assessment

15. The secretariat will inform the Working Group on the status of the development of maps and graphics to be included in the second Assessment. Draft maps prepared by the Institut F.-A. Forel of the University of Geneva in cooperation with UNEP/GRID Europe² and by the International Groundwater Resources Assessment Centre will be presented for review and validation.

16. Participants will be invited to discuss the proposed graphics, make related suggestions and decide on how to finalize the maps and graphics for Eastern and Northern Europe, in particular filling any remaining information gaps.

(d) Next steps

17. Participants will be invited to discuss and agree on future steps to be taken with a view to ensuring effective finalization of the Eastern and Northern Europe part of the second Assessment, including their timing.

² United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) Global Resource Information Database (GRID) European network.

(e) **Preparation of the executive summary of the second Assessment**

18. At their joint meeting, the Working Group on Monitoring and Assessment and the Working Group on Integrated Water Resources Management agreed that an executive summary with the main political messages of the second Assessment should be prepared for publication in time for the Seventh Ministerial Environment for Europe Conference (scheduled to be held in Astana on 21–23 September 2011). The Working Group will discuss the structure and main messages of the executive summary, as well as the graphic information to be included.

3. International Water Assessment Center

Tentative timing: 11 a.m.–12.45 a.m., Thursday, 16 December 2010.

19. Mr. Boris Minarik, Director of IWAC, will update the Working Group on IWAC work since the Group's eleventh meeting, including IWAC contribution to the second Assessment, IWAC involvement in the project to strengthen capacity in data administration for assessing and monitoring transboundary water resources in countries of Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia, as well as other ongoing or planned IWAC activities.

4. Other business

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

5. Closure of the meeting

21. The Chair will close the meeting at 1 p.m. on Thursday, 16 December 2010.
