



**Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary
Watercourses and International Lakes**

BUREAU/2012/2

BUREAU OF THE MEETING OF THE PARTIES

Sixteenth meeting
Geneva, 5 July 2012

ANNOTATED PROVISIONAL AGENDA FOR THE SIXTEENTH MEETING

Prepared by the secretariat

The sixteenth meeting of the Bureau will take place in the Palais des Nations in room XVI. It will be held on 5 July from 9.00 a.m. to 6.00 p.m. The meeting will be held in English without interpretation.

Bureau members should be in possession of a long-duration badge to enter the Palais des Nations. If this is not the case please contact: cammile.marcelo@unece.org.

The meeting will be held back-to-back with the joint meeting of the Working Group on Monitoring and Assessment and the Working Group on Integrated Water Resources Management (3–4 July 2012) in the Palais des Nations in room XVI. Information and documents for this joint meeting are available at: http://www.unece.org/env/water/joint_meeting_wgiwrm_wgma.html

The main objectives of the Bureau meeting will be:

- To review the decisions taken by the Working Groups at their joint meeting and especially to discuss any critical or unresolved issues;
- To agree on the finalization of the draft programme of work for 2013-2015 as well as other draft decisions by the Meeting of the Parties for submission to the sixth session of the Meeting of the Parties (Rome, 28–30 November 2012);
- To further discuss the preparations of the sixth session of the Meeting of the Parties.

1. Adoption of the agenda
(9.00)

2. Amendment to the Water Convention opening it beyond the UNECE region
(9.00-10.00)

The Bureau will discuss how to ensure ratification of the amendments by all Parties and will share responsibilities to follow up with individual Parties which have not yet ratified the amendments.

Based on the outcomes of the joint meeting of the Working Groups, the Bureau will also discuss the procedure for accession by non-UNECE countries and the implications of the decision taken in this regard by the Working Groups as well as the way forward.

Finally, the Bureau will discuss the relationship with the UN Watercourses Convention which is

expected to enter into force in 2013 or 2014 and how to achieve synergies, taking into account latest developments at the sixth World Water Forum, the Rio+20 Conference etc.

3. Future programme of work of the Convention for 2013-2015
(10.00-11.00)

The Bureau will discuss critical outcomes as well as issues not resolved by the joint meeting of the Working Group on Monitoring and Assessment and the Working Group on Integrated Water Resources Management related to the programme of work for 2013-2015, and will agree on the way forward.

In discussing these items the Bureau will consider the institutional structure of intergovernmental bodies under the Convention, lead parties, resources and potential partners for the different activities.

The Bureau will also discuss the draft vision on the future of the Convention.

The Bureau will agree how to finalize the draft programme of work as well as the vision for submission to the Meeting of the Parties.

4. Candidates for the new Implementation Committee
(11.00-11.40)

Bureau members will exchange information on their countries' intention to propose candidates for the Implementation Committee. Moreover they will brainstorm on eminent experts whom it might be interesting to have as possible future Committee members.

5. Status of funding and resources needed to implement the programme of work for 2013-2015
(11.40-12.30)

The secretariat will present an updated overview of contributions and expenditures.

The Bureau will discuss resources needed to implement the draft programme of work for 2013-2015, will exchange information on their countries' perspective for financing future work, and make arrangements to raise the missing resources, especially resources for extrabudgetary staff.

6. IWAC
(12.30 – 13.00)

Mr. Minarik, director of IWAC, will update the Bureau on the future perspectives for IWAC and its future support to the work under the Convention, including the renewal of the MoU with the Slovak Government on the hosting of IWAC.

The Bureau will further discuss and agree on the future work of IWAC and on the finalization of IWAC strategy and programme of work for submission to the sixth session of the Meeting of the Parties.

13.00- 14.00 Lunch break

7. Cooperation with GEF

(14.00 – 14.30)

Massimo Cozzone will inform the Bureau on the steps taken to support cooperation with the Global Environment Facility (GEF) in particular aiming at getting the support of the GEF Council for a stronger cooperation with the Convention. The Bureau will discuss additional initiatives that can be taken in this respect.

8. Preparations for the sixth session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention (MOP6) and implementation of the Convention in 2013-2015

(14.30-17.30)

(a) Agenda and documentation

The Bureau will consider the draft agenda prepared by the secretariat, advice on the different session and make arrangements, as appropriate, to ensure the smooth, efficient and successful running of the meeting.

It will also reconsider the list of official documents to be submitted to the MOP6 and make arrangements for their preparation.

(b) Organization of a special session during the MOP6

The Bureau will discuss the special session devoted to the 20th anniversary of the Convention and its opening to non-UNECE countries to be organized at the beginning of the MOP6. In particular, the Bureau will discuss the format, aim, potential speakers and level of participation.

The Bureau will discuss the possible focus of this event and provide its guidance to the secretariat and to the host country on the substantial and practical aspects of the organization.

(c) Organization of a workshop for Southern Mediterranean countries to be held back-to-back with the Meeting of the Parties

The secretariat will inform about the preparations of a subregional workshop on transboundary water management in the South of the Mediterranean, to be held back-to-back with the Meeting of the Parties on 27 November in Rome in cooperation with the Global Environment Facility IW:Learn, the Global Water Partnership Mediterranean and the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA). The Bureau will provide comments as needed and will discuss its input to the event.

(d) Practical arrangements

- Invitations

The Bureau will consider a list of international and non-governmental organizations to be invited.

- Organization of work at the MOP6 and creation of ad hoc groups

Based on the decisions taken at the joint meeting of the Working Groups the Bureau will make arrangements should the need to establish specific ad hoc groups during the MOP6 arise in Rome.

- Donors' meeting

The host country will convene a donors' meeting on 29th November to raise funds for the implementation of the programme of work. The Bureau may wish to advise on the countries and donor organizations that should be invited to the donors' meeting and on the specific arrangements.

- Side events during the MOP6

Based on indications from the host country on the availability of meeting rooms, the Bureau will discuss possible themes and potential organizers of side events during the Meeting of the Parties.

- Hospitality

The host country will update the Bureau members about tentative plans related to hospitality at the MOP6.

- Budget of the MOP6

In light of the previous discussions and on the basis of information from the host country and of a draft budget prepared by the secretariat, the Bureau will discuss and make arrangements related to possible additional resources needed for the MOP6.

(e) Future Bureau

The Bureau will exchange information about preliminary feedback received from countries approached in relation to a possible future membership in the Bureau. It will further exchange views on the possible composition of the future Bureau of the Convention, including potential new Parties.

(f) Date and venue of the seventh session of the Meeting of the Parties

The Bureau will further discuss possibilities for the date and venue of the seventh session of the Meeting of the Parties as well as the future chairmanship of the Convention.

9. Calendar of meetings

(17.30 - 17.40)

The secretariat will present the draft calendar of meetings for 2013. The Bureau might wish to discuss possible dates of its next meeting.

10. Other business

(17.40 – 18.00)

The secretariat will update the Bureau members on the progress of the ongoing review of the 2005 ECE Reform.

The Chair of the Bureau will share the outcomes of the fifty-first meeting of the ECE Executive Committee (Geneva, 21 May 2012), in particular the implications for the ECE Subprogramme on Environment, as well as the conclusions of the preceding second meeting of the ECE MEA's chairs (Geneva, 16 April 2012) that was held back-to-back with the eighteenth session of the Committee on Environmental Policy (Geneva, 17-20 April 2012).

11. Closing

(18.00)
