



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

BUREAU/2015/1

BUREAU OF THE MEETING OF THE PARTIES

Twenty-first meeting

Geneva, 12–13 February 2015

ANNOTATED PROVISIONAL AGENDA FOR THE TWENTY-FIRST MEETING

Prepared by the secretariat

The 21st meeting of the Bureau will take place in the Palais des Nations in room IX. It will be held on 12–13 February 2015, from 9.30 a.m. on 12 February to 1.00 p.m. on 13 February. 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: katri.veldre@unece.org.

The main objectives of the Bureau meeting will be:

- To review the ongoing activities under the current programme of work of the Convention (2013–2015);
- To discuss and agree on the first draft of the programme of work for 2016–2018 of the Convention. The Working Group on Integrated Water Resources Management entrusted the Bureau to prepare a proposal on the future programme of work for discussion at its next meeting in June 2015.
- To discuss the preparation of the seventh session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention (MOP7), to be held in Budapest from 17 to 20 November 2015.

Thursday, 12 February

1. Adoption of the agenda (09.30-09.40)

2. Implementation of the programme of work for 2013–2015 (09.40-11.00)

The Bureau will discuss implementation of activities in certain critical and complicated areas of the programme of work.

- **Discussion on a possible reporting mechanism:** the Bureau will be informed about the work of the Core Group on Reporting and will be invited to comment on the first draft of the template for reporting. The Bureau will discuss how to proceed further.
- **Adapting to climate change in transboundary basins:** the Bureau will be informed about the status of preparation of the publication: collection of lessons learned and good practices on climate change adaptation in transboundary basins
- **Thematic assessment of the water-food-energy ecosystems nexus:** the Bureau will be informed about the status of preparations and the related difficulties and will discuss next steps.
- **Any other relevant areas**

3. Opening of the Water Convention beyond the UNECE region and establishment of strategic partnerships (11.00-12.30)

In view of the entry into force on 6 February 2013 of the amendments to the Water Convention, the Bureau will discuss how to ensure ratification of the amendments by all Parties as soon as possible, given that the deadline contained in the decision on accession by non-UNECE countries adopted at the sixth session of the Meeting of the Parties passed on 31 December 2013. The secretariat and Bureau members will provide an update on their follow up with individual Parties which have not yet ratified the amendments.

The Bureau will also discuss other issues related to the promotion of the Convention, such as past and upcoming events, the opening roadmap, financing and strategic partnerships for example with the GEF and UNESCO, as well as the relationship with the New York Convention. Germany will inform about the planned informal exchange of views among the Parties to the New York Convention.

4. International Water Assessment Centre (13.30-14.30)

A representative of Kazakhstan will inform about the country's offer to host the International Water Assessment Centre. The Bureau will discuss the offer, including location, resources, activities and workplan of the Centre. It will make arrangements for next steps, including for the preparation and signing of a Memorandum of Understanding and workplan and the related decision at MOP7.

5. Discussion on the future programme of work for 2016–2018 (14.30-18.00)

(a) Activities in the programme of work

Based on a document prepared by the secretariat, the Bureau will discuss the future programme of work for 2016–2018, starting with a general discussion on the principles and structure, followed by a more detailed discussion of the different programme areas. The Bureau will also consider possible lead Parties, funding options and partners.

(b) Institutional structure of subsidiary bodies under the Water Convention

Taking into account the discussions on the future programme of work under the Convention, the Bureau will discuss the future institutional structure under the Convention, in particular the continuation or not of currently established subsidiary bodies as well as the possible creation of new ones.

(c) Status of funding and resources needed to implement the programme of work 2016–2018

The secretariat will present an overview of the financial contributions, expenditures and needs related to the implementation of the Convention's programme of work.

The Bureau will discuss resources needed to implement the draft programme of work for 2016–2018, and make arrangements to raise the needed resources.

(d) Finalization of the programme of work for 2016-2018 and of its budget

The Bureau will discuss tasks, responsibilities and timeline to develop further the draft programme of work for 2016–2018, together with its budget, for submission to the Working Group and subsequently to MOP7.

Friday, 13 February

6. Promotion of the Water Convention and contribution to global processes (09.00-09.45)

(a) Seventh World Water Forum

The secretariat will inform the Bureau about the contribution of UNECE to the different processes of the seventh World Water Forum, to be held on 12–17 April 2015 in the Republic of Korea. Bureau members will share information about their country's ongoing and planned involvement in the regional, global and ministerial processes for the Forum, with a view to promoting the Convention in the Forum, including through interventions from high-level representatives of Bureau countries and other Parties.

(b) Negotiation of the post-2015 development agenda and SDGs

The Bureau will discuss opportunities for promoting water and transboundary water cooperation as well as the Water Convention and its opening to non-UNECE countries in negotiations on the post-2015 development agenda and the post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction.

7. UNECE initiative on sustainable funding (09.45-10.30)

The Chair of the Bureau will share the conclusions of the UNECE conventions' chairs meeting that was held on 27 October 2014. UNECE management will present an initiative related to making funding of the UNECE conventions more sustainable and to define core and implementation activities and a service package to be provided by the secretariat. The Bureau will discuss the issue.

8. Preparations for the seventh session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention (MOP7) and implementation of the Convention in 2016–2018 (10.30-12.30)

(a) Agenda and documentation

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

It will also examine a list of official documents to be submitted to MOP7 and make arrangements for their preparation. In particular, it will consider whether and, if so, which decisions on partnership to take, for example with UNEP and other regional commissions, and how to follow up on such decisions taken at the previous session of the Meeting of the Parties.

(b) Organization of a high-level segment or special event during or back-to-back with the MOP7

The Bureau will discuss the opportunity to organize a high-level segment and/ or a special event to be held back-to-back or during MOP7. 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, if appropriate. Other opportunities to raise the political profile of the event will be discussed, including the invitation of high-level speakers and the signing of agreements.

(c) Practical arrangements

- Chairing the MOP7

The Bureau may wish to agree on who will chair MOP7, taking into account Rules 17 and 18 of the Rules of Procedure.

- Invitations to non-UNECE countries

Given the opening of the Convention to countries outside the UNECE region, the Bureau will discuss which non-UNECE countries to invite and how, including the financial implications.

- Organization of work at the MOP7 and creation of ad hoc groups

The Bureau will discuss and agree on the need and opportunity to establish specific ad hoc groups during MOP7, as was done for example in previous sessions, for the discussion of the draft programme of work.

- Donors' meeting

As already done at previous sessions, a donors' meeting could be convened to raise funds to implement relevant items of the programme of work. The Bureau may wish to advise the secretariat on whether to organize such an event and, if so, on the countries and donor organizations that should be invited and on the practical arrangements.

- Side events during MOP7

There could be the possibility to invite some partner organizations and countries represented at the MOP7 to organize side events during the meeting of the Parties. The Bureau should advise on whether this should be pursued, what could be the themes of such side events and who should be invited to organize them.

- Hospitality

The host country will inform about tentative plans related to hospitality at MOP7.

- Promotion of MOP7

The Bureau will discuss and make arrangements on the steps to be taken in order to broadly disseminate information on MOP7.

- Budget of MOP7

In the 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 MOP7.

(d) Future Bureau and Implementation Committee

The Bureau will exchange views on the possible composition of the future Bureau of the Convention and the Implementation Committee, including potential new candidates.

9. Cooperation with the Protocol on Water and Health (12.30-12.40)

The Bureau will be informed about progress made in the implementation of the programme of work under the Protocol on Water and Health. The Bureau will consider ways and means how to strengthen cooperation on work and activities under the Convention and the Protocol.

10. Calendar of meetings and next Bureau meeting (12.40- 12.50)

The secretariat will present the calendar of meetings for 2015. The Bureau will discuss possible dates of its next meeting.

11. Other business

12. Closing (12.50-13.00)