



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

Working Group on Integrated Water

Resources Management

Tenth meeting

Geneva, 24 and 25 June 2015

Item 14 of the provisional agenda

Programme of work for 2016–2018 and preparations
for the seventh session of the Meeting of the Parties

WG.1/2015/INF.8

**DRAFT PROGRAMME OF THE
SEVENTH SESSION OF THE MEETING OF THE PARTIES
TO THE UNECE WATER CONVENTION (BUDAPEST, 17-19 NOVEMBER 2015)**

Prepared by the secretariat in consultation with the Chair and host country

The present document gives an overview of the provisional agenda of the seventh session of the Meeting of the Parties, in particular the high-level segment on 17 November. The Working Group on Integrated Water Resources Management is expected to review the draft programme and provide comments, in particular on the aims, objectives, format and questions for discussion at the high-level segment. In addition, delegations are invited to indicate their country's expected level of participation in the meeting in order to facilitate planning of the high-level segment and preparations of the host country.

TUESDAY, 17 NOVEMBER 2015

1. Opening and adoption of the agenda (10.00-10.50)

Opening speech by the President of Hungary

Speech by the United Nations Deputy Secretary-General or Video or text message by United Nations Secretary General Ban Ki-moon

Speech by the Executive Secretary of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe

Opening speech by the Hungarian Minister of Interior (tbc)

Opening speech by Italian Minister of Environment (tbc)

2. Constitution of the seventh Meeting of the Parties (10.50-11.00)

3. High-level segment – the global opening of the Water Convention and its contribution to the post-2015 era (11.00-13.00 and 15.00-16.00)

Background and objectives

In 2015, several major global negotiations are taking place which will shape the post-2015 development agenda: the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction was already adopted in March in Japan, the high-level United Nations summit in September is expected to adopt the post-2015 Development Agenda, including the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and the twenty-first Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP 21) in Paris in December is expected to result in a new climate agreement. These commitments can only be achieved through an integrated approach. Water is crucial for all these processes: about 90 per cent of all disasters are water-related and most climate change impacts are expressed through the water cycle. Since more than half of all freshwater resources are located in transboundary basins and more than 40 per cent of the world's population live in such basins, transboundary water cooperation is crucial for peace and security, sustainable development, prosperity and economic growth.

The legal and institutional framework of the Water Convention as well as many of the guidance materials and tools that have been developed can support countries in their achievement of the draft water SDG as well as water-related aspects of the two other outcome documents negotiated in 2015. The regular assessments and other activities carried out under the Convention may support the monitoring and review of the commitments decided upon in 2015. In addition, the three-year programmes of work, both of the Convention and of the Protocol on Water and Health, foresee numerous projects and other activities at the national and basin level that can further assist in this regard.

The high-level segment will therefore:

- take stock of countries' experience in implementing the Convention and in transboundary water cooperation to reflect on future challenges of the post 2015 era,
- discuss how the activities under the Convention and its institutional framework can best help countries in implementing the SDGs, the Sendai framework and the Paris agreement, including aspects of monitoring and review,
- discuss partnerships with international organizations, including financing institutions, NGOs and academia.

Possible programme of the high-level segment

Signing of transboundary agreements (tbc, if any)

Keynote speech, followed by Panel discussion with representatives of important actors under the Convention e.g. Parties and non-Parties from within and outside the UNECE region, followed by interventions from the floor.

Possible questions for discussion:

1. What experiences do you have that have demonstrated the benefits of transboundary water cooperation, including going beyond the water area? How has the Water Convention helped to build such cooperation? What challenges do you face or foresee?
2. What will be the greatest challenges your country faces in reaching the water-related SDGs? Which tools will help your country overcome those challenges and what kinds of support

- will be needed? For organizations: what kind of support could you provide?
3. How could the Convention and its institutional structure help to implement the post-2015 development agenda, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, the expected outcome of COP 21 and, in particular, their water-related aspects? How could the institutional structure and programme of work of the Water Convention be adapted to best support countries in meeting their commitments?
 4. How should the global opening of the Convention now move forward? How should the Convention's institutional framework now develop, including in relation to relevant partners, processes, initiatives and other treaties—in particular the United Nations Watercourses Convention?

DURING LUNCH BREAK: SIDE EVENTS (13.00-15.00)

4. Review of past activities and discussion of future activities in the different areas of work (16.00-18.00, and Wednesday 10.00-13.00 and 15.00-16.15)

The Meeting will review the achievements under the current programme of work and examine proposals for activities under the 2016–2018 programme of work.

- (a) Identifying, assessing and communicating benefits of transboundary water cooperation (16.00-16.45)
Adoption of the policy Guidance note
- (b) Water and adaptation to climate change (16.45-17.30)
Presentation/ endorsement of the good practice and lessons learned publication
- (c) Assistance supporting accession to and implementation of the Convention through projects on the ground and capacity-building (17.30-18.00)

RECEPTION ORGANIZED BY THE HOST COUNTRY (19.00-21.30)

WEDNESDAY, 18 NOVEMBER (10.00-13.00)

- (d) Consideration of the need for reporting under the Convention (10.00-10.45)
Possible adoption of a decision on reporting
- (e) Implementation Committee (10.45-11.15)
Adoption of the report of the committee and election of candidates
- (f) Exchange of experience of joint bodies (11.15-11.45)
Adoption of the principles for effective joint bodies
- (g) European Union Water Initiative and National Policy Dialogues (11.45-12.30)
- (h) Water and industrial accidents (12.30-13.00)
Endorsement of the checklist for contingency planning for accidents affecting transboundary waters

DURING LUNCH BREAK: SIDE EVENTS (13.00-15.00)

- (i) Thematic assessment of the water-food-energy-ecosystems nexus (15.00-15.50)

Adoption of the stocktaking report

- (j) Monitoring of transboundary waters and future comprehensive assessment of the status of transboundary waters in the UNECE region (15.50-16.15)
- 5. Opening of the Convention to countries outside the ECE region (16.15-17.15)
- 6. Cooperation between the Convention, other relevant multilateral environmental agreements and international partners (17.15-18.00)

SIDE EVENT (18.00-19.00) (tbc)

EVENING: social event (19.00-20.00) (tbc.)

THURSDAY, 19 NOVEMBER 2015 (9.30-12.30)

- 7. Cooperation with the Protocol on Water and Health (9.30-10.00)
- 8. International Water Assessment Centre (10.00-10.15) (tbc)
- 9. Programme of work for 2016-2018 (10.15-12.30)
Discussion and adoption of the programme of work
 - a) *Activities*
 - b) *Bodies to implement it*
 - c) *Resources*

LUNCH BREAK: SIDE EVENTS (12.30-14.30)

- 2. Constitution of the seventh Meeting of the Parties (continued if needed) (14.30-15.00)
Report on credentials
 - 4. (b) (continued if needed) Implementation Committee (15.00-15.15)
Election of members of the Implementation Committee (if not done on the first day).
 - 10. Election of officers (15.15-15.30)
 - 11. Date and venue of the eighth Meeting of the Parties (15.30-15.45)
 - 12. Other business (15.45-16.00)
 - 13. Adoption of the report and presentation of the main decisions (16.00-17.00)
 - 14. Closing of the meeting (17.00-17.30)
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