



## Economic and Social Council

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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

##### Seventh session

Budapest, 17–19 November 2015

Item 6 of the provisional agenda

##### Cooperation with partners

### Draft decision on cooperation with partners for the implementation of the Convention

Submitted by the Bureau

#### *Summary*

Cooperation with partners has always been important for the implementation of the Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes (Water Convention) and has become even more crucial with the opening of the Convention to global accession. More than 50 partners, especially intergovernmental organizations, have already contributed to the implementation of the Convention's programmes of work. At its sixth session (Rome, 28–30 November 2012), the Meeting of the Parties decided in decisions VI/4 and VI/5 to strengthen cooperation with the Global Environment Facility and with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization respectively.

Recognizing the importance of partnerships and the need to further strengthen strategic ones, the Working Group on Integrated Water Resources Management at its tenth meeting (Geneva, 24–25 June 2015) entrusted the Bureau to prepare a draft decision for submission to the Meeting of the Parties on cooperation with partners for the implementation of the Convention (see ECE/MP.WAT/WG.1/2015/2, forthcoming).

The Meeting of the Parties is invited to consider and adopt the draft decision contained in the present document.



*The Meeting of the Parties,*

*Recognizing* the significant progress made since the entry into force in 1996 of the Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes (Water Convention), which provides a sound legal framework and an effective intergovernmental platform for the promotion of cooperation and the sustainable management of water resources at the basin, regional and international levels that are key for peace and sustainable development,

*Also recognizing* that such progress has only been possible thanks to the cooperation and contribution of many partners,

*Recalling* its decision III/1 opening the Convention for accession by all United Nations Member States,

*Also recalling* its decision VII/xx establishing a framework for the implementation of the Convention at the global level,

*Further recalling* the adoption by the international community of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including the establishment of Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 6 to “Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all”, with target 6.5 calling for transboundary cooperation to implement integrated water resources management,

*Affirming* the need to further strengthen partnerships in order to reach the objectives of the Convention at the global level and the water-related SDGs and targets, in particular as this will entail strengthening cross-sectoral cooperation,

*Recalling* its decision VI/4 on cooperation with the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and its decision VI/5 on cooperation with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO),

1. *Emphasizes* the importance of partnerships with international organizations, in particular regional commissions and other UN-Water members, financing institutions, joint bodies, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), academia and the business sector to strengthen transboundary water cooperation, support the Convention’s implementation on the ground and ensure the execution of its programme of work,

2. *Expresses its appreciation* for the results of the cooperation with GEF following decision VI/4,

3. *Decides* to continue cooperating closely with GEF, coordinate activities and exchange experience, in particular between the GEF International Waters Learning Exchange and Resource Network (IW:LEARN) and the different bodies and activities under the Convention,

4. *Entrusts* the secretariat and the Bureau to further strengthen the cooperation with GEF on different levels — including discussing modalities for formalizing the cooperation, the preparation and submission of project proposals according to GEF procedures and their implementation, and the use by GEF of the Convention and its tools in its interventions — and to report on this cooperation at the next meetings of the Working Group on Integrated Water Resources Management and at the eighth session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention;

5. *Expresses its appreciation* for the results of the cooperation with UNESCO following decision VI/5 and decides to continue and further strengthen this cooperation;

6. *Also expresses its appreciation* to the many partner organizations that have actively contributed to the implementation of the Convention and its programme of work in

the past intersessional period (see ECE/MP.WAT/2015/1), and for the efforts to ensure coordination and synergies;

7. *Decides* to continue and further enhance cooperation with existing partners and to seek new partnerships, in particular in the light of the global opening of the Convention and of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction and the outcome of the twenty-first session of the Conference of the Parties of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change in Paris;

8. *Invites* relevant international organizations, regional commissions and other UN-Water members, financing institutions, NGOs, joint bodies, the business sector, academia and other potential future partners to identify areas of mutual interest and cooperation possibilities and to signal those to the secretariat;

9. *Entrusts* the secretariat and the Bureau, to further develop and formalize the modalities of existing and future partnerships, as appropriate and needed;

10. *Decides* to regularly review progress and gaps in the development of partnerships, also in connection with the development of the strategies for the implementation of the Convention at the global level and its contribution to the achievement of the water-related SDGs, at the next meetings of the Working Group on Integrated Water Resources Management and the eighth session of the Meeting of the Parties;

11. *Greatly welcomes* the fact that non-Parties and partner organizations present at the seventh session have associated themselves with this decision.