**Global workshop on exchange of data and information in transboundary basins**

To be held in Geneva, 4-5 December 2019

Palais des Nations, Geneva, Switzerland,

starting at 10.00 a.m. on Wednesday, 4 December 2019

Room XVI

**Session 5: Thursday, 5 December, 11.30-13.00**

**The architecture of effective data and information exchange on selected themes**

**Group discussions**

Integrated Water Resources Management requires diverse information and data. Transboundary waters present particularly monitoring, assessment and information-related challenges.

The guidance developed under the Convention (including the *Strategies for Monitoring and Assessment of Transboundary Rivers, Lakes and Groundwaters*;[[1]](#footnote-1) the *Guidelines on Monitoring and Assessment of Transboundary and International Lakes — Part A: Strategy Document*;[[2]](#footnote-2) the *Guidelines on Monitoring and Assessment of Transboundary and International Lakes — Part B: Technical Guidelines*;[[3]](#footnote-3) *Guidelines on Monitoring and Assessment of Transboundary Rivers*;[[4]](#footnote-4) and the *Guidelines on Monitoring and Assessment of Transboundary Groundwaters[[5]](#footnote-5)*) promotes a step-by-step approach, facilitating progressive improvement, as well as linking the definition of information needs to water management issues. However, significant challenges remain in the areas of monitoring, assessment and data exchange.

Considering that several aspects were not specifically covered by the guidelines and that developments such as technological developments and possibilities and also other international and regional guidelines and good practices, it is time to take stock of this and collect inputs to update these guidelines.

Groups will be divided by thematic area, comprising ideally not more than 10 participants coming from different backgrounds. Some of the topics will be discussed in more than one language. The discussions will be facilitated by an assigned facilitator.

Objectives:

* Map available guidance facilitating effective data and information exchange relevant for collection, processing, management and use at transboundary level, taking into account newly developed technical developments.
* Identify good practices in harmonizing and integrating into transboundary water management and planning specific types of information (incl. both legal and technical arrangements).

**Thematic areas and facilitators**

1. **Early warning systems for flood and drought period management** 
   1. *(English) Mr. Michael Schwab and Ms. Katrin Ehlert, WMO*
   2. *(Russian) Mr. Vladimir Korneev, Head of Monitoring and State Water Cadastre Department, Central Research Institute for Complex Use of Water, Belarus*
2. **Future Outlook: climate change and socio-economic demands** (population growth, sectoral uses)
   1. *(Russian) Ms. Hanna Plotnykova, Water Convention Secretariat*
   2. *(English) Mr. Callist Tindimugaya, Commissioner for Water Resources Planning and Regulation, Ministry of Water and Environment, Uganda.*
3. **Ecosystems and environmental information**
   1. *(English) Mr. Henrique Pinheiro Veiga, Deputy Director of Water Resources and Watershed Revitalization, Ministry of Regional Development, Brazil*
   2. *(Russian) Ms. Maryna Yanush,* *Environmental Affairs Officer, Aarhus Convention Secretariat, UNECE*
   3. *(French/Spanish) Ms. Claire Warmenbol, Communications and Partnership Manager, International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and Ms. Christine Kitzler, Water Convention Secretariat, UNECE.*
4. **Reporting obligations and other data exchange processes for cooperation** 
   1. *(French) Mr. Paul Haener, Expert in Water Information Systems, International Office for Water/International Network of Basin Organizations (INBO)*
   2. *(English) Mr. Hycinth Banseka, GWP Central Africa*
   3. *(Spanish) Ms. Sarah Tiefenauer-Linardon, Water Convention Secretariat, UNECE.*
5. **Groundwater**
   1. *(English) Mr. Neno Kukurić, Director, International Groundwater Resources Assessment Centre*
   2. *(French/Spanish) Mr. Jose Luis Martin, Expert in groundwater management*

**Questions to participants**

1. Review needs, map guidance and identify the gaps on the ***thematic area of the group***, as below:
2. **Type of information/data and its characteristics**
3. What type of information is gathered or should be gathered on ***thematic area of the group*** to support IWRM at transboundary basin level*?*
4. What is the scale of the data collected and assessed on ***thematic area of the group*** – basin level, transboundary, national, sub-regional?
5. How is and the frequency and time frame of the information exchange important? (Notably considering the variability: daily, seasonal, interannual; instantaneous events vs.long-term changes; planning cycles etc.)
6. What guidance exists and is used at the basin, aquifer or regional level?
7. Which legal and technical arrangements exist for sharing climate change data on transboundary and basin level and between sectors on the national level?
8. **Producers and users of information and data on decision-making, governance**
9. What are the different sources of the information and data on the ***thematic area of the group****?*
10. Who are the actors collecting, managing and sharing the data?
11. Who is using the data (which sectors and/or stakeholders)? Which decisions does the data inform?
12. Please identify, drawing upon the discussion, good practices regarding how these data and information are integrated and harmonized, also how they feed into planning processes and water management at a transboundary level, and/or what is not working (lessons). Reference to specific examples are welcome.

**Reporting back in plenary [30 min]**

A rapporteur identified by each group reports one conclusion from part 1 (guidance that is applied) and part 2 (good practice and lessons), so two points in total, ideally avoiding what other groups have reported previously.

1. United Nations publication, Sales No. E.06.II.E.15. Available from www.unece.org/index.php?id=11683. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. ECE Working Group on Monitoring and Assessment (2002), available from www.unece.org/index.php?id=20166. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. ECE Working Group on Monitoring and Assessment (2003), available from www.unece.org/index.php?id=20166. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. ECE Task Force on Monitoring and Assessment, Guidelines on Monitoring and Assessment of Transboundary Rivers: First Review of the 1996 Guidelines on Water-quality Monitoring and Assessment of Transboundary Rivers, Work Programme 1997–2000 (March 2000). Available from www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/env/documents/2018/WAT/05May\_2830\_IWRM\_WGMA/Transboundary\_Rivers.pdf [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. ECE Task Force on Monitoring and Assessment, Guidelines on Monitoring and Assessment of Transboundary Groundwaters: First Review of the 1996 Guidelines on Water-quality Monitoring and Assessment of Transboundary Rivers, Work Programme 1997–2000 (March 2000). Available from www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/env/documents/2018/WAT/05May\_2830\_IWRM\_WGMA/Transboudary\_Groundwaters.pdf. [↑](#footnote-ref-5)