

## Seventh session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Water Convention 17-19 November 2015 in Budapest, Hungary

The seventh session of the Meeting of the Parties (MOP7) to the UNECE Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes (Water Convention) will take place on 17-19 November 2015 in Budapest, at the invitation of the Hungarian Ministry of Interior, in the Budapest Congress Centre.



### Snapshot of MOP7

- ✓ Only UN intergovernmental forum focusing on transboundary water cooperation
- ✓ Over 300 participants expected from all over the world
- ✓ Rich agenda covering progress and challenges in transboundary water cooperation
- ✓ High-level segment on 17 November
- ✓ 10 side events

### WHY IS MOP7 IMPORTANT

#### *The Water Convention Goes Global*

Following the entry into force in 2013 of the amendment allowing accession by all United Nations Member States to the Convention, MOP7 will **mark the Convention's transition into a global legal and intergovernmental framework for transboundary water cooperation.**

#### *New tools and important decisions at MOP7*

MOP 7 will adopt new tools to assess the benefits of transboundary water cooperation and the water-food-energy-ecosystems nexus. MOP7 will also consider the establishment of a reporting mechanism under the Convention.

#### *Future programme of work for 2016-2018*

Participants will review the status of transboundary cooperation and discuss how to address related challenges. Subsequently, they will decide on the main priorities and activities under the Convention until 2018.

### HIGH-LEVEL SEGMENT

The high-level segment on 17 November, which will be opened by the Hungarian President, will focus on the Convention's opening to all United Nations Member States, and the Convention's contribution to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development as well as other global commitments, including the Sendai Framework for disaster risk reduction and adaptation to climate change.

### THE WATER CONVENTION



**Global participation at meetings  
under the auspices of the Water  
Convention**

The Convention was adopted in Helsinki in 1992 and entered into force in 1996. It strengthens transboundary water cooperation and measures for the sustainable management of transboundary surface waters and groundwaters. It requires Parties to prevent, control and reduce transboundary impacts, to use transboundary waters in a reasonable and equitable way and to enter into agreements on their shared waters. The Meeting of the Parties is the Convention's highest decision-making body; it meets every three years to review progress and discuss future activities. To date, the Convention counts 41 Parties, almost all countries sharing waters in the Pan-European region. In 2013, amendments entered into force allowing accession by all United Nations Member States and several countries have started national accession processes.



## Important topics at MOP7

### Benefits of transboundary cooperation

At MOP7, the *Policy Guidance Note on the Benefits of Transboundary Cooperation* will be launched. The Guidance helps to identify and assess benefits of water cooperation which often reach well beyond the water sector. For instance, better management of shared waters can help to limit human and economic losses from floods, to reduce the costs of generating electricity from hydropower thanks to energy trading, and to improve water quality through shared monitoring. A number of countries and basins will be applying the guidance in the framework of the next programme of work (2016-2018).

### Water-food-energy nexus

The meeting will see the launching of the publication *Reconciling Different Resource Uses in Transboundary Basins: Assessment of the Water-Food-Energy-Ecosystems Nexus*, which presents a methodology to assess the interdependencies across the water, ecosystems, energy and food sectors, as well as other areas - such as climate change and biodiversity. The methodology promotes an integrated approach that brings together the different dimensions of sustainable development through multistakeholder cooperation across borders and across sectors.



### Climate change cooperation in transboundary basins



Cooperation on adaptation in transboundary basins is essential for addressing climate change in an effective and efficient matter. The Water Convention has been one of the first fora to address the transboundary dimension of adaptation since 2006 through the development of policy guidance and the promotion of transboundary cooperation on the ground. More recently under the Convention, a global network of basins working on this topic was created to exchange concrete experience. In light of the forthcoming COP21 in Paris, discussions at MOP7 will be considering how to design policies as well as actions in transboundary basins which can reduce harmful effects of climate change.

### National Policy Dialogues (NPDs)

The programme of National Policy Dialogues (NPDs) is jointly implemented by the UNECE and the OECD since 2006 to provide policy advice in the water sector for EECCA countries. At the Meeting of Parties, plans for NPD activities for 2016-2019 will be presented and discussed during high-level plenary session and at a special side event. Several respective documents will also be signed at the MOP with countries that are recipients of NPD support.

### Important deadlines for MOP7:

- a) Deadline for requests for visa support: **6 October 2015**
- b) Registration deadline for all others: **9 November 2015**

For further information please consult the meeting webpage:  
<http://www.unece.org/env/water/mop7.html>



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Water Convention Secretariat  
Palais des Nations  
8-14, avenue de la Paix  
CH - 1211 Geneva 10, Switzerland  
Water.convention@unece.org