



Convention of the Protection and Use of
Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes
Task Force on Water and Climate
Third meeting
Geneva, Switzerland, 12 May 2010

ANNOTATED PROVISIONAL AGENDA FOR THE THIRD MEETING

To be held in the Palais des Nations, Geneva,
starting on Wednesday, 12 May 2010 at 9.30 a.m.

I. PROVISIONAL AGENDA

1. Opening and election of officers
2. Adoption of the agenda
3. Pilot projects on adaptation to climate change in transboundary basins
4. Platform for exchanging experience on water and adaptation to climate change
5. Cooperation with the Task Force on Extreme Weather Events under the Protocol on Water and Health
6. Implementation of the Guidance on Water and Adaptation to Climate Change
7. Preparation of the Seventh Ministerial Conference “Environment for Europe” in Astana
8. Other business
9. Closing

II. BACKGROUND AND PRACTICAL INFORMATION

Background

1. The fourth meeting of the Parties to the Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes (Water Convention) (Bonn, Germany, 20–22 November 2006) established the Task Force on Water and Climate, to be jointly led by Germany and the Netherlands. The Task Force was entrusted with activities in two main areas of work: transboundary flood management and water and climate change adaptation.
2. In 2007-2009, the Task Force prepared a Guidance on Water and Adaptation to Climate Change which provides governments with strategic recommendations on how to implement adaptation in the water sector and throughout water-related policy sectors addressing in particular transboundary aspects. The Guidance was adopted at the fifth session of the Meeting of the Parties (Geneva, 10-12 November 2009). The Meeting of the Parties also decided to foster implementation of the Guidance through a programme of pilot projects and a platform for exchanging experience with adaptation in the transboundary context. It entrusted the Task Force to facilitate the pilot projects programme. The Task Force will also serve as a venue for the exchange of experience between the pilot projects and other similar initiatives.
3. UNECE countries and transboundary basins were invited to submit proposals for pilot projects by end of December 2009. Several proposals were received by the Water Convention

secretariat, preparation for 3 pilot projects have started in Spring 2010. Most pilot projects supported directly by the UNECE secretariat are implemented and funded in the framework of the Environment and Security Initiative (ENVSEC).

4. The activities on water and adaptation to climate change in transboundary basins are implemented in cooperation with the Task Force on Extreme Weather Events established under the Protocol on Water and Health.

Practical information

5. The third meeting of the Task Force will start at 9.30 a.m. and end at 4.00 p.m. on Wednesday, 12 May 2010. It will be held in the Palais des Nations, Geneva. The Task Force meeting will be organized back-to-back with the Workshop on adaptation to climate change in transboundary basins, which will be held on 10-11 May 2010 in Geneva. The working languages will be English, French and Russian.

6. The meeting is open to experts from UNECE member States representing governmental authorities, the private sector, non-governmental and international organizations as well as other interested stakeholders. Focal points are requested to disseminate information on the meeting and to facilitate nomination of relevant experts from their respective countries.

7. Eligible participants from countries with economies in transition may apply for financial support to facilitate their participation in the meeting. Requests for financial support should be submitted to the UNECE secretariat (olga.carlos@unece.org) as soon as possible, but not later than **6 April 2010**. No application will be accepted after this deadline due to changes in visa and travel arrangement regulations.

8. Participants requiring entry visas should inform the UNECE secretariat as soon as possible. Due to the entry of Switzerland in the Schengen Zone in December 2008, visa procedures have become more complicated. The minimum amount of time needed for obtaining a visa is now 15 working days. Participants needing a visa are therefore requested to submit their application as soon as possible and initiate visa procedures at least three weeks before the meeting.

9. In accordance with United Nations accreditation procedures, participants are requested to complete the registration form available online (http://www.unece.org/env/water/water_and_climate.htm) and to transmit it to the UNECE secretariat by 1 May 2010 at the latest either by fax (+ 41 22 917 0621) or e-mail (olga.carlos@unece.org). On their way to the meeting, participants should obtain an identification badge at the Pass and Identification Unit of the United Nations Office at Geneva Security and Safety Section located at the Pregny Gate, 14 Avenue de la Paix (see map on the UNECE website). Please allow time for this. In case of difficulty, please contact the secretariat by telephone at +41 22 917 1926.

10. Practical information on the Palais des Nations, as well as on transport and accommodation in Geneva, is available online at: <http://www.unece.org/meetings/practical.htm>.

11. Further information, the registration form and relevant material will be made available on the following website in due course: http://www.unece.org/env/water/water_and_climate.htm

III. ANNOTATIONS TO THE PROVISIONAL AGENDA

Item 1: Opening and election of officers (9.30- 9.40 a.m.)

12. The outgoing co-Chairpersons will open the meeting. The Task Force will be asked to elect its officers for 2010-2012.

Item 2: Adoption of the agenda (9.40- 9.45 a.m.)

13. The Task Force is expected to adopt its agenda as set out in the present document.

Item 3: Pilot projects on adaptation to climate change in transboundary basins (9.45- 10.45 a.m.)

Background document: Guidance on Water and Adaptation to Climate Change (ECE/MP.WAT/30)

Overview of the pilot projects programme (TFWC/2010/3)

14. The Chairperson will present the programme of pilot projects and invite the Task Force to discuss the aims, modalities, relationship between the Task Force and the pilot projects as well as preliminary timeframe of the programme, including approximate dates for its future meetings until the next session of the Meeting of the Parties, tentatively scheduled in the second half of 2012.

15. The Chairperson will invite representatives of the pilot projects to briefly describe their projects. The Task Force will provide comments as relevant and discuss how to support the pilot projects in the future.

16. The Chairperson will invite participants to report on other planned or on-going projects aimed at promoting adaptation to climate change, implemented by other partners. The Task Force will discuss how to bring together the different efforts in the region so that they are mutually supportive.

Item 4: Platform for exchanging experience on water and adaptation to climate change (10.45 a.m. - 12.15 p.m.)

Background document: Concept note on the platform for exchanging experience (TFWC/2010/4)

17. Exchanging good practices and lessons learned is especially essential for improving and enhancing effective action. Exchange of experience should also include as much as possible adaptation projects and activities developed by other organizations and countries. This can for example be done by ensuring links with ongoing or planned initiatives.

18. Representatives of other similar initiatives such as the planned EU clearing house on adaptation, the activities under the Nairobi work programme¹ of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), e.g. the Adaptation Practices Interface² and other ongoing and new initiatives will be invited to report on their planned and ongoing activities and

¹ The Nairobi work programme on impacts, vulnerability and adaptation to climate change.

² See http://unfccc.int/adaptation/nairobi_work_programme/knowledge_resources_and_publications/items/4555.php.

how the pilot projects can benefit from them. The Task Force will in particular discuss how to cooperate with the Expert Group on Climate Change and Water³ under the European Union.

19. The Task Force will be invited to discuss how to ensure a continuous exchange of experience, good practices and lessons learnt between the pilot projects and other similar initiatives through different means. It will agree on which means are most suitable and how the platform should be designed, taking into account time and resources available as well as other already ongoing initiatives. The Task Force will also discuss responsibilities and financial resources for implementing the selected means for exchanging experience.

Item 5: Cooperation with the Task Force on Extreme Weather Events established under the Protocol on Water and Health (12.15 p.m. – 12.30 p.m.)

Background document: Draft Guidelines on Water Supply and Sanitation in Extreme Weather events

20. The Task Force on Water and Climate will be informed about the ongoing work under the Protocol's Task Force on Extreme Weather Events led by Italy, which is elaborating draft guidelines for water supply and sanitation in extreme weather events for adoption at the second Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol in November 2010. This document is targeted at, among others, managers of public and private utilities, and it should be read together with the Guidance on Water and Adaptation to Climate Change.

21. The Task Force will discuss how to contribute to the work under the Protocol Task Force as well as ways and means to ensure coordination and integration of future work, in particular following the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol in November 2010.

Item 6: Implementation of the Guidance on Water and Adaptation to Climate Change (2.30 – 3.10 p.m.)

22. The Chairperson will invite representatives of countries to report on their experiences and future plans with regard to the implementation of the Guidance on Water and Adaptation to Climate Change⁴.

Item 7: Preparation of the Seventh Ministerial Conference “Environment for Europe” in Astana (3.10 p.m. – 3.55 p.m.)

Background document: Report of the Extended Bureau Meeting of the Committee on Environmental Policy (Geneva, 16-17 March 2010)

23. The seventh Ministerial Conference “Environment for Europe” (EfE) will be held in September/ October 2011 in Astana, Kazakhstan. The UNECE Committee on Environmental Policy (CEP), mandated to serve as the convening body for the preparatory process of the EfE Ministerial Conferences, agreed at its sixteenth session (Geneva, 20-23 October 2009) on the two main themes for the Astana Ministerial Conference: (a) sustainable management of water and water-related ecosystems, and (b) greening the economy: mainstreaming the environment into economic development. Furthermore, the Committee decided to convene a meeting of its Extended

³ Previously named : Strategic Steering Group.

⁴ Available online at : http://www.unece.org/env/water/publications/documents/Guidance_water_climate.pdf

Bureau in March 2010 with a view to advance in the development of the provisional agenda for the Astana Ministerial Conference, as well as work on a number of pending issues.

24. A brainstorming meeting of the CEP Bureau and of the Bureau of the Water Convention (Geneva, 28 January 2010) proposed two subtopics under the water topic as follows: (a) water for sustainable development and (b) water and climate change. The subtopics, input and output documents of the conference as well as the provisional agenda will be discussed at the Extended Bureau Meeting of the Committee on Environmental Policy (Geneva, 16-17 March 2010), but it is expected that water and climate change will in any case play an important role as part of the water theme.

25. Depending on the outcomes of the Extended Bureau Meeting of the Committee on Environmental Policy (Geneva, 16-17 March 2010), the Task Force will discuss how it can contribute to the preparations of the Astana Ministerial Conference.

26. The Task Force will also discuss how it can promote its work at the Astana Ministerial Conference, for example through preparation of a document on the pilot projects, organization of a side event etc.

Item 8: Other business (3.55 p.m. – 4.00 p.m.)

27. At the time of writing, the secretariat had no points to propose under this item. Delegates wishing to propose points under this item are requested to inform the secretariat as soon as possible.

Item 9: Closing

28. The Chairperson will close the meeting at 4.00 p.m. on Wednesday, 12 May 2010.
