



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

Core Group on Groundwater

First meeting
Geneva, 30 January 2012

Annotated provisional agenda for the first meeting

**To be held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva, starting at 10 a.m.
on Monday, 30 January 2012***

I. Provisional agenda

1. Adoption of the agenda
2. Draft model provisions on groundwater
3. Capacity for Water Cooperation (CWC) project under the Convention: upcoming workshop on transboundary groundwater
4. Other business
5. Closing of the meeting

II. Annotations

1. The first meeting of the Core Group on Groundwater will be held in the Palais des Nations, Geneva, in Room V. It will start at 10 a.m. and end at 6 p.m. on Monday, 30 January 2012.
2. The working languages will be English, French and Russian.
3. All relevant documentation for the meeting of the Core Group on Groundwater will be available at http://www.unece.org/env/water/meetings/legal_board/core_group_groundwater.html.

1. Adoption of the agenda

Tentative timing: 10–10.10 a.m.

L

* Delegates attending meetings at the Palais des Nations are requested to complete the registration form available on the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) website (http://www.unece.org/env/water/meetings/legal_board/core_group_groundwater.html) and to transmit it to the UNECE secretariat **by 17 January 2012** by e-mail (pamela.okeyo@unece.org). On their way to the meeting, delegates should obtain an identification badge at the Pass and Identification Unit of the United Nations Office at Geneva's Security and Safety Section, located at the Pregny Gate, 14, Avenue de la Paix (see the map on the UNECE website, http://www.unece.org/meetings/UN_Map.pdf). In case of difficulty, please contact the secretariat by telephone at +41 22 917-2439. Experts from eligible countries may apply for **financial support** to facilitate their participation in the meeting. Requests for financial support should be addressed to the UNECE secretariat together with the registration form as soon as possible, and in any case **by 20 December 2012**.

4. The Core Group on Groundwater is expected to adopt its agenda as set out in the present document.

2. Draft model provisions on groundwater

Tentative timing: 10.10 a.m.–1 p.m. and 3–5.00 p.m.

5. The Meeting of the Parties at its fifth session entrusted the Legal Board to prepare a preliminary study, jointly with the Working Group on Integrated Water Resources Management, on the application of the principles of the Convention to transboundary groundwaters, to be submitted to the sixth session of the Meeting of the Parties for consideration as to whether further action is needed.

6. The Legal Board had addressed the application of the principles of the Convention to transboundary groundwater at its seventh and eighth meetings. At its eighth meeting, the Legal Board discussed the document “Application of the UNECE Water Convention to groundwater: explicatory recognition of the existing UNECE regulatory language” (LB/2011/INF.2) submitted by the Chair, and the possibility of additional action with respect to groundwater and suggested that a set of model provisions on groundwater be developed by the Legal Board in cooperation with the Working Group on Integrated Water Resources Management for possible adoption at the sixth session of the Meeting of the Parties in 2012.

7. The proposal to develop model provisions on groundwater was endorsed by both the Bureau and the Working Group on Integrated Water Resources Management (ECE/MP.WAT/WG.1/2011/2). Furthermore, the Working Group decided to create a core group on groundwater in order to develop these model provisions.

8. The Core Group on Groundwater under the Legal Board will discuss the first draft of the model provisions submitted by the Chair and further elaborate the text by taking decisions on the drafting language.

9. The Core Group on Groundwater will discuss and agree on future work arrangements (e.g., modality of work, timeline) to complete model provisions on groundwater, in time for possible adoption at the sixth session of the Meeting of the Parties in 2012.

3. Capacity for Water Cooperation (CWC) project under the Convention: upcoming workshop on transboundary groundwater

Tentative timing: 5.00–5.40 p.m

10. The Core Group on Groundwater will discuss possible synergies with the workshop on transboundary groundwater in the framework of the Capacity for Water Cooperation (CWC)¹ project under the Convention.

4. Other business

Tentative timing: 5.40–5.45 p.m

11. At the time of writing, the secretariat had no points to propose under this item.

5. Closing of the meeting

Tentative timing: 5.45–6 p.m.

12. The Chair will summarize the major outcomes of the meeting and will formally close the meeting on Monday, 30 January 2012 at 6 p.m.

L

¹ The CWC project aims to create a framework enabling cross-fertilization and exchange of experience between countries and river basins regarding regulatory, institutional, methodological and other aspects of integrated management of transboundary waters in countries of Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia, and at the same time sharing of valuable experience from other parts of the ECE region (see <http://www.unece.org/env/water/cwc.htm>).