



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

BUREAU/2013/1

BUREAU OF THE MEETING OF THE PARTIES

Seventeenth meeting
Geneva, 10 April 2013

ANNOTATED PROVISIONAL AGENDA FOR THE SEVENTEENTH MEETING

Prepared by the secretariat

The seventeenth meeting of the Bureau will take place in the Palais des Nations in room IV. It will be held on 10 April 2013 from 9.00 a.m. to 5.30 p.m. The meeting will be held in English without interpretation.

Bureau members should be in possession of a long-duration badge to enter the Palais des Nations. If this is not the case please contact: cammile.marcelo@unece.org.

The meeting will be held back-to-back with the first meeting of the Task Force on the Water-Food-Energy-Ecosystems nexus on 8-9 April. Information and documents for this meeting are available at: http://www.unece.org/env/water/tfnexus_2013.html

- 1. Adoption of the agenda**
(9.00)
- 2. Opening of the Water Convention beyond the UNECE region**
(9.10-11.00)

In view of the amendments' entry into force on 6 February 2013 the Bureau will discuss how to ensure ratification of the amendments by all Parties by end of 2013, as contained in the decision on accession by non-ECE countries adopted at the sixth session of the Meeting of the Parties. The secretariat and Bureau members will provide an update on their follow up with individual Parties which have not yet ratified the amendments.

Subsequently, the Bureau will discuss how to promote the Convention outside the UNECE region, by targeting specific countries and through regional workshops. In particular, priority target non-UNECE countries, sources of funding as well as donors, potential partners and responsibilities of Bureau members will be discussed which will lay the basis for a strategy for the opening of the Convention. In this regard, the secretariat will also inform on the preparations for the workshop on transboundary water management in Latin America to be organized on 11-12 June 2013 in Buenos Aires, Argentina, in cooperation with the Economic Commission for Latin American and the Caribbean, UNESCO, GEF: IW-Learn, IUCN and the University of Buenos Aires.

Finally, the Bureau will discuss the relationship with the UN Watercourses Convention which is expected to enter into force in 2013 or 2014 and how to achieve synergies, in particular in relation

to the institutional framework, taking into account latest developments.

3. Establishment of strategic partnerships and contribution to global processes
(11.00-12.30)

(a) Cooperation with GEF

Massimo Cozzone and the secretariat will inform the Bureau on the steps taken to support cooperation with the Global Environment Facility (GEF) in particular aiming at getting the support of the GEF Council for a stronger cooperation with the Convention. The Bureau will discuss future steps in this regard.

(b) Cooperation with UNESCO

The secretariat will inform about preliminary discussions with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) following the decision on this topic adopted at the Meeting of the Parties.

(c) International Year of Water Cooperation

The secretariat as well as Bureau members will inform about their past and future planned events and activities in the framework of the International Year of Water Cooperation. The Bureau member from Hungary will in particular inform about the Budapest Water Summit. The Bureau will discuss how to promote the Convention in these events.

(d) Water in the post-2015 Development Agenda

The secretariat will provide an update on the discussions about water in the post-2015 development agenda and the potential future sustainable development goals. The Bureau will discuss how to work towards consideration of the importance of transboundary water management in the SDGs.

(e) Other global and regional processes

Finally, the Bureau will discuss the involvement in other global and regional processes, such as the Alpine Water Conference in 2014 organized by the Alpine Convention and the World Water Week in Stockholm.

12.30- 13.30 Lunch break

4. International Water Assessment Centre (IWAC)
(13.30 – 14.00)

The Bureau will be informed about latest developments regarding IWAC and will then discuss the future of IWAC, including potential future host countries.

5. Implementation of the programme of work for 2013-2015, status of funding and resources needed
(14.00-15.30)

The Bureau will discuss the implementation of the programme of work for 2013-2015. In this regard, the secretariat will present an updated overview of contributions and expenditures, pledges

and expected contributions.

In light of this information, the Bureau will discuss resources needed to implement the programme of work for 2013-2015, will exchange information on their countries' perspective for financing future work, and make arrangements to raise the missing resources, especially resources for extrabudgetary staff.

6. Cooperation with other ECE MEAs
(15.30-16.10)

The Chair of the Bureau will share the conclusions of the third meeting of the ECE MEA's chairs (Geneva, 27 February 2013) as well as the outcomes of the ECE review in particular the implications for the ECE Subprogramme on Environment and the status of preparations for the review of the Environment for Europe process, including in relation to the Astana Water Action.

7. Cooperation with the Industrial Accidents Convention
(16.10-16.50)

The Bureau will discuss future work of the Joint Expert Group (JEG) in light of discussions at the last meeting of the Industrial Accidents Convention Bureau on 29-30 January 2013.

8. Protocol on Water and Health
(16.50-17.10)

The Bureau will be informed about latest developments under the Protocol, in particular the preparations for the third session of the Meeting of the Parties (Oslo, Norway, 25-27 November 2013). Opportunities for strengthening cooperation will be discussed.

9. Calendar of meetings
(17.10-17.20)

The secretariat will present the draft calendar of meetings for 2013 and 2014. The Bureau might wish to discuss possible dates of its next meeting.

10. Other business
(17.20-17.30)

11. Closing
(17.30)
