



**Economic and Social
Council**

Distr.
GENERAL

ECE/MP.WAT/AC.4/2010/1
18 January 2010

Original: ENGLISH

ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

**MEETING OF THE PARTIES TO THE CONVENTION ON
THE PROTECTION AND USE OF TRANSBOUNDARY
WATERCOURSES AND INTERNATIONAL LAKES**

Legal Board

Seventh meeting
Geneva, 15-16 April 2010

ANNOTATED PROVISIONAL AGENDA FOR THE SEVENTH MEETING

To be held at the Palais des Nations, in Salle VIII
starting on Thursday, 15 April 2010, at 10.00 a.m. *

I. PROVISIONAL AGENDA

1. Adoption of the agenda.
2. Election of officers.

* 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 (www.unece.org/env/water/meetings/legal_board/legal_board.htm) and to transmit it to the UNECE secretariat **by 1 April 2010**, by e-mail (olga.carlos@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/practical.htm>). In case of difficulty, please contact the secretariat by telephone at +41 22 917 1926. 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 1 March 2010**.

3. Mechanism to facilitate and support implementation and compliance:
 - (a) Scope and objectives;
 - (b) Investigation and development of possible options;
 - (c) Future work arrangements.
4. Application of the principles of the Convention to transboundary groundwaters.
5. Capacity building activities on legal and institutional aspects of the Convention's implementation.
6. Other business.
7. Closing of the meeting.

II. ANNOTATIONS TO THE AGENDA

Item 1: Adoption of the agenda

Tentative timing: 10 – 10.10 a.m., Thursday, 15 April 2010

1. The Legal Board is expected to adopt its agenda as set out in the present document.

Item 2: Election of officers

Tentative timing: 10.10 – 10.20 a.m., Thursday, 15 April 2010

2. The Legal Board will elect its chairperson and, if it deems necessary, one or more vice-chairpersons.

Item 3: Mechanism to facilitate and support implementation and compliance

Tentative timing: 10.20 a.m. – 1 p.m. and 3 p.m. – 6 p.m., Thursday, 15 April 2010, and 9.30 – 11.30 a.m., Friday, 16 April 2010

3. The Meeting of the Parties to the Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes, at its fifth session (Geneva, 10-12 November 2009), agreed on the need to establish a mechanism under the Convention through which problems related to implementation and possible differences on the Convention's interpretation could be addressed, recognizing at the same time the Convention's distinctive cooperative spirit, which requires riparian Parties to work together. This mechanism could serve as a platform for dialogue of a non-confrontational nature, in which countries might seek advice

and address possible disputes, thereby facilitating the Convention's implementation (see also document ECE/MP.WAT/2009/3).

4. The Meeting of the Parties also underlined that the Guide to implementing the Convention adopted during the same session (document ECE/MP.WAT/2009/L.2) should be a key reference document for this activity.

5. To this end, the Meeting of the Parties entrusted the Legal Board with the following tasks:

(a) To study possible options for assisting Parties with solving implementation problems and preventing or settling differences regarding the interpretation and application of the Convention, taking into account countries' needs and the Convention's distinctive cooperative spirit;

(b) On the basis of such a study, to prepare a proposal on the objectives, structure, tasks, functions, measures and procedures of an institutional and procedural mechanism to facilitate and support implementation and compliance, for possible adoption at the sixth session of the Meeting of the Parties in 2012.

(a) Scope and objectives

6. Ms. Sibylle Vermont, Chairperson of the Meeting of the Parties, will recall the mandate of the Legal Board and the scope and objectives of the work on the mechanism to facilitate and support implementation and compliance.

(b) Investigation and development of possible options

7. Mr. Attila Tanzi (Italy) will introduce a discussion paper on possible options to facilitate and support implementation and compliance.

8. The Legal Board will discuss the paper and agree on how to further investigate and develop possible options.

9. The Legal Board will also discuss how to proceed from the study of the possible options to the development of a proposal on an institutional and procedural mechanism to facilitate and support implementation and compliance.

(c) Future work arrangements

10. The Legal Board will discuss and agree on future work arrangements (e.g. modality of work, timeline, financial needs) to complete the study of options and to develop the proposal on the mechanism in time for its possible adoption at the sixth session of the Meeting of the Parties in 2012.

Item 4: Application of the principles of the Convention to transboundary groundwaters

Tentative timing: 11.30 – 12.30 a.m. and 2.30 – 3.30 p.m., Friday, 16 April 2010

11. The Meeting of the Parties at its fifth session also 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 whether further action is needed.

12. The Legal Board will exchange views on the modalities to prepare such preliminary study, jointly with the Working Group on Integrated Water Resources Management, and discuss the general approach for preparing the study, the scope, structure and content of the study, as well as the future work arrangements for developing it.

13. The secretariat will inform the Legal Board about the plans related to a workshop on transboundary groundwater in the framework of the Capacity for Water Cooperation (CWC)¹ project under the Convention. The Legal Board will discuss possible synergies between the work on developing the preliminary study and the CWC workshop.

Item 5: Capacity building activities on legal and institutional aspects of the Convention's implementation

Tentative timing: 3.30 – 4.10 p.m., Friday, 16 April 2010

14. The secretariat will inform the Legal Board on the requests received and the planned capacity building activities in Central Asia in the framework of the project "Regional Dialogue and Cooperation on Water Resources Management".²

15. The Legal Board will discuss the approach and modality of its involvement in these and similar activities and on how further requests for capacity building activities related to the legal and institutional aspects of the Convention's implementation could be met in the future.

Item 6: Other business

Tentative timing: 4.10 – 4.15 p.m., Friday, 16 April 2010

¹ The Capacity for Water Cooperation (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 in Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia (EECCA) and at the same time bringing in valuable experience from other parts of the UNECE region. CWC also aims at establishing a network of EECCA experts involved in transboundary water management who are used to cooperating and sharing knowledge. See <http://www.unece.org/env/water/cwc.htm>.

² The project "Regional Dialogue and Cooperation on Water Resources Management" aims to empower the countries of Central Asia to develop and implement long-term solutions to improve cooperation on transboundary water resources. The project is implemented by UNECE and financed by the Government of Germany through the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit (GTZ) in the framework of the Berlin Water Process. See <http://www.unece.org/env/water/cdialogue/cadwelcome.htm>.

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

Item 6: Closing of the meeting

Tentative timing: 4.15 – 4.30 p.m., Friday, 16 April 2010

17. The Chairperson will summarize the major outcomes of the meeting and will close it on Friday, 16 April 2010 at 4.30 p.m.
