



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

BUREAU/2012/1

BUREAU OF THE MEETING OF THE PARTIES

Fifteenth meeting
Geneva, 16-17 February 2012

ANNOTATED PROVISIONAL AGENDA FOR THE FIFTEENTH MEETING

Prepared by the secretariat

The fifteenth meeting of the Bureau will take place in the Palais des Nations in room S-4. It will be held on 16 - 17 February from 9.30 a.m. (on 16) to 5.00 p.m. (on 17). 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 “Strategic workshop on the future work under the UNECE Water Convention: Building on the findings of the Second Assessment and other results achieved”, that will be held on 14-15 February in the Palais des Nations in room VII. Information and documents for this workshop are available at:

http://www.unece.org/env/water/strategic_workshop.html

The main objectives of the Bureau meeting will be:

- To review the ongoing activities under the current programme of work of the Convention (2010-2012);
- To discuss and agree on the possible future programme of work for 2013-2015 of the Convention. The Working Groups on Monitoring and Assessment, and on Integrated Water Resources Management had entrusted the Bureau to prepare a proposal on the future programme of work for discussion at their next meetings in July 2012. The Strategic workshop is organized to assist the Bureau in this undertaking;
- To discuss the preparations of the sixth session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Water Convention planned to be held in Rome, Italy, from 28 to 30 November 2012.

- 1. Adoption of the agenda**
(16 February, 9.00 – 9.10)

- 2. Outcomes and follow-up to the Strategic workshop on the future work under the UNECE Water Convention**
(16 February, 9.10 – 12.30 and 13.30 - 17.00)

2.1 General analysis and discussion on the conclusions of the workshop

(16 February, 9.10 - 10.00)

The Bureau will hold a general discussion on the outcomes of the Strategic Workshop and will agree on the way forward. Particular attention will be given to the objectives and prioritization of areas of work identified at the workshop.

2.2 Review of the status of implementation of the current programme of work and discussion on the future programme of work for 2013-2015

(16 February, 10.00 - 16.00)

Based on the discussions at the Strategic Workshop, the Bureau will consider ongoing work, and discuss future areas of work for the 2013-2015 programme of work as well as possible relevant activities. As the past and ongoing work will already be discussed at the Strategic Workshop, the Bureau will only consider additional relevant information not discussed beforehand; discussions will mainly focus on the future programme of work.

(a) Amendment to the Water Convention opening it beyond the UNECE region

The secretariat will inform the Bureau about the status of ratification of the amendment, and on the actions taken since the previous Bureau meeting to ensure entry into force of the amendments. The Bureau will discuss how to ensure the entry into force of the amendments by the time of the Meeting of the Parties.

Subsequently, the Bureau will discuss implications of the opening of the Convention to non-UNECE countries, including their involvement in the future programme of work and participation in future activities, the exchange of experience with other regions, the promotion of the Convention's implementation beyond the UNECE region. The Bureau will also discuss the resulting budget implications and possible sources of financing.

(b) Support to implementation and compliance

The secretariat will inform the Bureau about the progress achieved in the Legal Board in drafting a possible future mechanism to facilitate and support implementation and compliance with the Convention.

The Bureau will discuss the finalization of the proposal to be submitted to the Meeting of the Parties. In addition, the Bureau will consider modalities for the election of members of the Implementation Committee as well as possible nominees.

The Bureau will also discuss the relationship between the Implementation Committee to be and the Legal Board.

(c) Promoting implementation of the Convention through capacity-building and projects on the ground

The Bureau will discuss current, but mainly future activities regarding promotion of the Convention's implementation through capacity-building and projects on the ground.

(d) Climate change adaptation in transboundary basins

The Bureau will discuss current, but mainly future work in this area, in particular the "going global" of the work in this area, possible partners as well as the request from the French Water Academy to UNECE to lead the development of a global network of river basins addressing uncertainty in climate change adaptation.

(e) Groundwater

The Bureau will discuss the finalization of the model provisions on transboundary groundwaters currently being developed by a core group, as well as future work in this area.

12.30- 13.30 Lunch break

(f) Water and ecosystems

The Bureau will discuss future activities in this area.

(g) Water and industrial accidents

The Bureau will discuss current and, possible future activities in this area.

(h) European Union Water Initiative and National Policy Dialogues

The Secretariat will inform the Bureau on the progress achieved and remaining challenges with the implementation of the NPDs on IWRM. The Bureau will discuss the vision of the future of the Dialogues and agree on further ways and means to ensure appropriate support and continuation of the NPDs.

(i) Possible additional areas of work identified at the Strategic Workshop

The Bureau will discuss additional areas of future work identified at the Strategic Workshop, if any, including specific activities that could be pursued, partners to be involved, etc.

(j) Planned thematic assessment of transboundary rivers, lakes and groundwaters in the UNECE region

The Bureau will discuss the option(s) proposed at the Strategic Workshop on the focus of the special thematic edition of the transboundary water assessment, expected to be finalized by 2015, also taking into account previous decisions that the thematic assessment should be linked to and support other areas of work under the Convention. The Bureau will also discuss possible partners, basins to be assessed, as well as resource requirements and funding opportunities.

The Bureau will agree on the ways and means to finalize a proposal on this issue for discussion by the Working Groups and subsequently by the Meeting of the Parties.

The Bureau will also shortly discuss other ongoing activities on monitoring and assessment and discuss and agree on possible future ones.

(k) IWAC

Mr. Minarik, director of IWAC, will inform the Bureau about the future perspectives for IWAC and its possible future involvement to support the work under the Convention, including the possible renewal of the MoU with the Slovak Government, which is hosting IWAC.

Mr. Minarik will also present his experience of the past triennium with IWAC and advise on how IWAC can further support the work under the Convention.

The Bureau will discuss and agree on the possible future work of IWAC.

2.3 Institutional structure of subsidiary bodies under the Water Convention

(16 February, 16.00- 16.30)

Taking into account results of the strategic workshop and the discussions on the future programme of work under the Convention, the Bureau will discuss the future institutional structure under the Convention, in particular the continuation or not of currently established subsidiary bodies as well

as possible new ones.

2.4 Status of funding and resources needed to implement the programme of work 2013-2015

(16 February, 16.30 - 17.10)

The secretariat will present an overview of the donations, expenditures and needs related to the implementation of the Convention's programme of work and their evolution over time.

The Bureau will discuss resources needed to implement the draft programme of work for 2013-2015, and make arrangements to raise the needed resources.

2.5 Finalization of the programme of work for 2013-2015 and of its budget

(16 February, 17.10 - 17.45)

The Bureau will discuss tasks, responsibilities and timeline to develop the draft programme of work for 2013-2015 together with its budget for submission to the two Working Groups and subsequently to the sixth session of the Meeting of the Parties.

The Bureau might also wish to discuss and agree on the need to prepare an additional document highlighting the medium term vision for the Water Convention based on the outcomes of the Strategic Workshop and the Bureau's discussions, including, if relevant the ways and means to prepare such document.

3. Promotion of the Water Convention

(16 February, 17.45 - 18.30 and 17 February 9.00 - 10.10)

(a) Activities related to the 20th anniversary of the Water Convention

(16 February, 17.45- 18.30)

Finland will inform the Bureau about its plans for celebrating the 20th Anniversary of the Convention.

Based on a short presentation by the secretariat, the Bureau will discuss other possible activities to mark the 20th Anniversary of the Convention, including the possibility to promote it in correspondence with other international events, such as the Rio+20 Conference (see also item 3 (c)), the 2012 Stockholm World Water Week and the sixth session of the Meeting of the Parties (see also item 4).

The Bureau will also discuss national events to be organized in Parties to the Convention.

[Possible aperitif followed, if the group's stamina allows, by further discussions]

Friday, 17 February

(b) Sixth World Water Forum

(17 February, 09.00-9.20)

The secretariat will inform the Bureau about the contribution of UNECE to the different processes of the sixth World Water Forum, to be held on 12-17 March 2012 in Marseille, France.

Bureau members will share information about their country's ongoing and planned involvement in the regional, global and ministerial processes at the Forum, with a view to promoting the Convention in the Forum, including through interventions from high-level representatives of Bureau countries and other Parties

(c) Contribution to the Rio +20 process

(17 February, 9.20–10.00)

The UNECE Secretariat will brief the Bureau about the preparations for the Rio+20 Conference, and in particular the involvement of UNECE. The Bureau will discuss opportunities for promoting the Convention and its upcoming opening to non UNECE countries in the Rio+20 process through, inter alia:

- The promotion of the Convention and transboundary water management through interventions of Parties in the preparatory process
- The possibility to organize a side event
- The possibility to include a reference to the Convention in the final negotiated declaration of the Conference.

(d) 2013 International Year of Water Cooperation

(17 February, 10.00-10.10)

The secretariat will inform the Bureau about the preparations for the 2013 International Year of Water Cooperation; the Bureau will discuss the possible involvement of the Water Convention.

4. Preparations for the sixth session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention (MOP6) and implementation of the Convention in 2013-2015

(17 February, 10.10 - 12.30 and 13.30 - 16.00)

(a) Agenda and documentation

The Bureau will consider a draft agenda prepared by the secretariat and make arrangements, as appropriate, to ensure the smooth, efficient and successful running of the meeting.

It will also examine a list of official documents to be submitted to the MOP6 and make arrangements for their preparation.

(b) Opening of the Convention

With the upcoming entry into force of the amendments opening the Convention outside the UNECE region, the Bureau might wish to discuss the opportunity to prepare a document for the MOP6 outlining what the procedure for accession by non-UNECE countries would be, taking into account the text of Decision III/1, introducing the amendment.

(c) Organization of a special event during the MOP6

The Bureau will discuss the opportunity to organize a special event to be held back-to-back or during the MOP6, devoted to the 20th anniversary of the Convention and its opening to non-UNECE countries.

The Bureau will discuss the possible focus of this event and provide its guidance to the secretariat and to the host country on the substantial and practical aspects of the organization, if appropriate.

(d) Practical arrangements

- Chairing the MOP6

The Bureau may wish to agree on who will chair the sixth Meeting of the Parties, taking into account Rules 17 and 18 of the Rules of Procedure.

- Invitations to non-UNECE countries

Given the future opening of the Convention to countries outside the UNECE region, the host country might wish to invite non-UNECE countries to the MOP6. The secretariat will present different options sending invitations to non-UNECE countries for the MOP6. The Bureau will discuss which non-UNECE countries to invite and how, including financial implications.

- Organization of work at the MOP6 and creation of ad hoc groups

The Bureau will discuss and agree on the need and opportunity to establish specific ad hoc groups during the MOP6 – as it was done for example in previous meetings for the discussion of draft programme of work.

- Donors' meeting

As already done at the last sessions, a donors' meeting could be convened to raise funds to implement relevant items of the programme of work. The Bureau may wish to advise the secretariat on the countries and donor organizations that should be invited to the donors' meeting and on the practical arrangements.

- Side events during the MOP6

There could be the possibility to invite some partner organizations and countries represented at the MOP6 to organize side events during the meeting of the Parties. The Bureau should advise on whether this should be pursued, what could be the themes of such side events and who should be invited to organize them.

- Hospitality

The host country will inform about tentative plans related to hospitality at the MOP6.

- Promotion of the MOP6

The Bureau will discuss and make arrangements on the steps to be taken in order to broadly disseminate information on the MOP6.

- Budget of the MOP6

In light of the previous discussions and on the basis of information from the host country and of a draft budget prepared by the secretariat, the Bureau will discuss and make arrangements related to possible additional resources needed for the MOP6.

(e) Future Bureau

The Bureau will exchange views on the possible composition of the future Bureau of the Convention, including potential new candidates.

(f) Date and venue of the seventh meeting of the Parties

The Bureau will discuss possibilities for the date and venue of the seventh session of the Meeting of the Parties.

5. ECE Reform and review
(17 February, 16.00 - 16.30)

The secretariat will present the ongoing review of ECE, its modalities and progress. The Chair of the Bureau will share the conclusions of the ECE conventions' chairs meeting that was held on 22 November 2011. The Bureau will discuss how to ensure a high consideration of the work under the Water Convention in the ECE review process.

6. Cooperation with the Protocol on Water and Health
(17 February, 16.30 - 16.50)

The Bureau will be informed about progress made in the implementation of the programme of work under the Protocol on Water and Health. The Bureau will consider ways and means how to strengthen cooperation on work and activities under the Convention and the Protocol.

7. Calendar of meetings and next Bureau meeting
(17 February, 16.50- 16.55)

The secretariat will present the calendar of meetings for 2012. The Bureau will discuss possible dates of its next meeting.

8. Other business
(17 February, 16.55)

9. Closing
(17 February, 17.00)
