



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

BUREAU/2014/1

BUREAU OF THE MEETING OF THE PARTIES

Nineteenth meeting
Geneva, 8 April 2014

ANNOTATED PROVISIONAL AGENDA FOR THE NINETEENTH MEETING

Prepared by the secretariat

The nineteenth meeting of the Bureau will be held on 8 April from 11.00 to 18.00, in English without interpretation. It will take place in the Palais des Nations, Geneva, in room S1.

The meeting will be held back-to-back with *Second workshop: River Basin Commissions and Other Joint Bodies for Transboundary Water Cooperation: Technical and Organizational Aspects* on 9–10 April in Geneva. Information and documents for the workshop are available at:
http://www.unece.org/env/water/joint_bodies_workshop_2014.html

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.

1. Adoption of the agenda
(11.00)

2. Opening of the Water Convention beyond the UNECE region and establishment of strategic partnerships
(11.00-13.00)

In view of the entry into force on 6 February 2013 of the amendments to the Water Convention, the Bureau will discuss how to ensure ratification of the amendments by all Parties as soon as possible, given that the deadline contained in the decision on accession by non-UNECE countries adopted at the sixth session of the Meeting of the Parties passed on 31 December 2013. 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, including planned (sub)regional events on the Convention for the Arab States (June 2014), for Africa during the African Water Week (26–30 May 2014) and for Central America (tentatively in autumn 2014). The Bureau will also discuss the draft roadmap for a global Water Convention as well as its further development and implementation. In particular, the Bureau is expected to discuss priority target non-UNECE countries, sources of funding as well as donors, potential partners and responsibilities of Bureau members. In addition, the Bureau will consider major events for promoting the Convention, such as the World Water Week and the World Water Forum. Finally, the

Bureau will also discuss and make arrangements, as far as possible, for the planned event on the opening of the Convention, including the identification of possible dates for the event.

The Bureau will discuss strategic partnerships, in particular those with UNESCO and the GEF, in view of the decisions taken on these partnerships by the Meeting of the Parties. The Bureau will consider future steps in this regard, including potential new partnerships.

Taking into account the expected entry into force of the United Nations Watercourses Convention in 2014¹ and the planned event on the opening of the Water Convention, the Bureau will discuss the relationship between the two global conventions, and how to achieve synergies, in particular in relation to the institutional framework.

3. International Water Assessment Centre (IWAC)

(14.00 – 14.15)

The secretariat will inform the Bureau of the latest developments regarding IWAC. The Bureau will then discuss the future of IWAC, mainly focussing on potential host countries.

4. Implementation of the programme of work for 2013–2015

(14.15 – 15.30)

The Bureau will discuss the implementation of the programme of work for 2013–2015 focusing on areas requiring special attention such as:

- Consideration of the need for reporting under the Convention
- Cooperation with the Industrial Accidents Convention, in particular the elaboration by the Joint Expert Group of a checklist on contingency planning.

5. Funding for the Water Convention

(15.30-16.30)

The secretariat will present an updated overview of contributions and expenditures, pledges and expected contributions. In the light of this information, the Bureau will discuss additional resources needed to implement the programme of work for 2013–2015, exchange information on their countries' perspective for financing future work, and make arrangements to raise the missing resources, especially resources for extrabudgetary staff. The Bureau will focus in particular on additional resources needed due to the opening of the Convention.

The Bureau will discuss possibilities for more sustainable funding under the Convention in the future, considering also the discussions among EU countries in this regard, as well as possible mechanisms for increasing regular budget resources for the Convention and the Protocol on Water and Health in the future. The Bureau is expected to consider criteria for financial support to eligible experts under the Convention.

6. 7th session of the Meeting of the Parties in 2015

(16.30-17.40)

The Bureau will start discussions on the seventh session of the Meeting of the Parties, planned for 17–20 November 2015 in Hungary, in particular in relation to the agenda items, a possible high-

¹ As of 10 March, the Watercourses Convention had 34 of the 35 Parties required for its entry into force.

level segment and its linkages with other major events during the year such as the UNFCCC COP21, the MDG/ SDG summit etc. The Bureau will also start initial discussions on the programme of work for 2016–2018 and consider the process for its further development.

7. Calendar of meetings
(17.40 – 17.55)

The secretariat will present the revised draft calendar of meetings in 2014 and 2015. The Bureau might wish to discuss dates of its next meetings.

The Chair of the Bureau will provide information on the Alpine Convention conference planned for September 2014 and the Bureau will discuss opportunities for cooperation. Switzerland will present plans in relation to its presidency of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe in 2014, where water is one of the priority topics and several events in this regard are planned.

8. Other business
(17.55 – 18.00)

9. Closing
(18.00)
