



Ministry of Infrastructure  
and Water Management



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## **Fourth meeting of the global network of basins working on climate change adaptation**

**14-15 February 2019, Geneva  
Starting at 10 a.m., Palais des Nations**

### **CONCEPT NOTE AND PROVISIONAL AGENDA**

#### **Background and objectives**

Global temperatures have continued to rise in the past 10 months, with 2018 expected to be the fourth warmest year on record (WMO 2018). Average temperatures around the world so far this year were nearly 1C above pre-industrial levels. The past four years have been the hottest on record, and the 20 warmest have occurred in the past 22 years.

Extreme weather has affected all continents. The year 2018 was characterized by a record number of natural disasters: floods, droughts etc. – most of them related to water. Many of them affected transboundary basins, such as the Rhine, Danube, Mekong and Nile, among others.

In the face of these challenges, more and more basins worldwide are already or are planning to adapt their water management to climate change. The importance and usefulness of basin-wide cooperation in adaptation is increasingly being recognized not only by river basin organizations, but also by financial institutions etc. To support the basins in their efforts, the global network of basins working on climate change adaptation was created in 2013 under the Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes (Water Convention), serviced by the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe, and the International Network of Basin Organizations (INBO). It aims to offer a platform for comparing methodologies and approaches, fostering exchange of experience and promoting a shared vision between the participating basins. The network currently includes 15 basins. In 2017-2018, activities of the network focused on increasing the capacity of basins in raising funds for climate change adaptation.

The fourth meeting of the network on 14-15 February 2019 will have the following objectives:

- Share experiences, updates, progress and lessons learned by the basins since the last meeting of the global network in April 2016;
- discuss how to address water-related disasters in transboundary basins under the changing climate;
- discuss how to link basin-wide efforts on climate change adaptation with national strategies and plans;
- discuss how to further facilitate a regular exchange of experience between the participating basins and other similar initiatives.

## Thursday, 14 February 2019

### **10.00 – 11.00: Session 1: Introduction and welcome**

Welcome and introduction by the chairs, the Netherlands and Switzerland, UNECE and INBO

Introductory round

### **11.00 – 13.00: Addressing water-related disasters in transboundary basins under the changing climate**

Presentation of the recent publication: *Words into action guidelines: Implementation guide for addressing water-related disasters and transboundary cooperation*

- approaches in disaster risk reduction (mainstreaming DRM in transboundary basins), IWRM approach towards DRR, ecosystem-based approaches and nexus/intersectoral perspective, Climate Risk Informed Decision Analysis (CRIDA)
- dealing with and adapting to different types of disasters (e.g. floods and droughts): challenges, strategies and tools
- sharing of experiences by basins of the network
- implementation and financial aspects and needs

### **13.00 – 15.00: Lunch break**

### **15.00 – 18.00: Session 2 continued**

Interactive group discussion

### **19.30: Dinner**

## Friday, 15 February 2019

### **10.00 – 13.00: Session 3: Means of implementation: Linking transboundary climate change adaptation with national strategies and plans and financing**

Approaches, strategies and tools and their harmonization with neighboring countries, consideration of transboundary issues in the national strategies, cooperation with sectors in developing strategies and plans, financing national and transboundary strategies and plans

Presentation of the publication: *Financing climate change adaptation in transboundary basins: preparing bankable projects*

Interactive group discussions

### **13.00 – 15.00: Lunch-break**

### **15.00 – 16.15: Session 4: Future activities of the network vis-a-vis other global and regional developments and actors**

The participants will discuss future activities and ways of working of the network. The session will also make suggestions for the next global workshop on water and adaptation to climate change, scheduled for the second quarter of 2019.

Participants will consider linkages with global processes such as under the United Nations Framework Convention for Climate Change and the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction. Partnerships with other organizations will also be considered such as with the World Meteorological Organization, Alliance for Global Water Adaptation (AGWA) and others.

Participants will be requested to evaluate the meeting and come up with concrete suggestions for the themes of future meetings.

### **16.15 – 16.30: Session 5: Next meeting of the global network and closing**

#### **Practical information**

The meeting of the global network of basins working on climate change adaptation will start at 10.00 a.m. on Thursday, 14 February 2019 and end at 4.30 p.m. on Friday, 15 February 2019. It will be held in the Palais des Nations, Geneva. The working languages will be English, French, Russian and Spanish. Documents and other information for the meeting will be made available at: [www.unece.org/index.php?id=50185](http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=50185)

The meeting is open to representatives of the members of the network and selected other invited experts.

Eligible participants from countries with economies in transition and developing countries may apply for financial support to facilitate their participation in the meeting. Requests for financial support using the financial support form should be submitted to the UNECE secretariat ([mayola.lidome@un.org](mailto:mayola.lidome@un.org)) as soon as possible, but not later than **21 December 2018**.

Participants requiring entry visas should inform the UNECE secretariat as soon as possible. Since Switzerland is part of the Schengen Zone, obtaining a visa might take up to 5 weeks. Participants needing a visa are therefore requested to submit their application as soon as possible and initiate visa procedures at least four weeks before the meeting.

In accordance with United Nations accreditation procedures, participants are requested to register by 8 February 2019 using the following link:

[uncdb.unece.org/app/ext/meeting-registration?id=NGJeZM](http://uncdb.unece.org/app/ext/meeting-registration?id=NGJeZM)

For assistance with registration, please see the instructions on the meeting's web page or contact the secretariat by e-mail ([water.convention@un.org](mailto:water.convention@un.org)). On their way to the meeting, participants should obtain an identification badge at the Pass and Identification Unit of the United Nations Office at Geneva Security and Safety Section located at the Pregny Gate, 14 Avenue de la Paix (see map on the website below). Please allow time for this.

Practical information on the Palais des Nations, as well as on transport and accommodation in Geneva, is available online at:

[www.unece.org/meetings/practical.htm](http://www.unece.org/meetings/practical.htm).