Economic Commission for Europe
Meeting of the Parties to the Convention on
the Protection and Use of Transboundary
Watercourses and International Lakes
Working Group on Integrated Water
Resources Management
Fifteenth meeting
Geneva, 30 September and 1 October 2020
Item 2 of the provisional agenda
Adoption of the agenda

Revised annotated provisional agenda for the fifteenth meeting

To be held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva, starting on Wednesday,
30 September 2020, at 10 a.m.*

I. Provisional agenda

1. Opening of the session.
2. Adoption of the agenda.
3. Adoption of the report of the previous meeting.
5. Increasing awareness of and accession to the Convention and application of its principles drawing on the benefits of cooperation:
   (a) Increasing capacity for implementation of the Convention and supporting national processes towards accession;

* Delegates attending the meeting at the Palais des Nations are requested to register no later than two weeks before the meeting using the new electronic procedure. Registration is available through the following link: https:// uncdb.unece.org/app/ext/meeting- registration?id=CBWyUL. For assistance with registration, please see the instructions on the meeting web page (www.unece.org/index.php?id=52818) or contact the secretariat by email (mayola.lidome@un.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 Security and Safety Section, located at the Pregny Gate, 14, Avenue de la Paix (see the map on the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe website: www.unece.org/meetings/practical.html). In case of difficulty, please contact the secretariat by telephone at +41 22 917 2596.
(b) Implementation of the Strategy for the implementation of the Convention at the global level;
(c) Promoting and communicating the benefits of transboundary cooperation, and supporting the development of agreements and the establishment of joint bodies;
(d) Implementation Committee.

6. Supporting monitoring, assessment and information-sharing in transboundary basins:
(a) Information exchange, monitoring and assessment in transboundary basins;
(b) International Water Assessment Centre.

7. Promoting an integrated and intersectoral approach to water management at all levels:
(b) Water-food-energy-ecosystems nexus in transboundary basins.
(c) Supporting equitable and sustainable water allocation in a transboundary context.

8. Partnerships, communication and knowledge management:
(a) Cooperation with UN-Water, global and regional partners and other multilateral environmental agreements;
(b) Contribution to global events, including the Ninth World Water Forum;
(c) Focal points to the Water Convention;
(d) Activities of the Joint Ad Hoc Expert Group on Water and Industrial Accidents.


10. Adapting to climate change in transboundary basins.

11. Reporting on Sustainable Development Goal indicator 6.5.2 and under the Convention.

12. Resources for the implementation of the programme of work.

13. Implementation of other decisions taken by the eighth session of the Meeting of the Parties:
(a) Proposed targets for a more sustainable and predictable funding of the work under the Convention;
(b) Developing a procedure for proposals to host future sessions of the Meeting of the Parties and call for proposals for hosting the tenth session.

14. Preparation of the ninth session of the Meeting of the Parties.


17. Other business.

18. Closure of the meeting.

II. Annotations

1. The fifteenth meeting of the Working Group on Integrated Water Resources Management under the Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes (Water Convention) will be held at the Palais des
Nations in Geneva, starting at 10 a.m. on Wednesday, 30 September 2020, and ending at 5 p.m. on Thursday, 1 October 2020. The working languages for the meeting will be English, French, Russian and Spanish. All relevant documentation will be made available on a dedicated page of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) Water Convention website.¹ The meeting will be followed by the eleventh meeting of the Convention’s Task Force on Water and Climate on 2 October.

2. The Working Group will review implementation of the Water Convention work programme for 2019–2021 (ECE/MP.WAT/54/Add.1), examine the implementation of decisions taken by the eighth session of the Meeting of the Parties (Nur-Sultan, 10–12 October 2018), discuss progress in the Convention’s global opening and consider future activities. It will also begin preparations for the ninth session of the Meeting of the Parties (Tallinn, 29 September and 1 October 2021) and the development of the future programme of work for 2022–2024 by discussing initial proposals in different programme areas.

3. Given the reduction of the duration of the meeting to two days, some items will be discussed very briefly, mostly on the basis of written reports such as the Report on the implementation of activities under the Water Convention in 2019 (ECE/MP.WAT/WG.1/2020/3). In addition, invited presentations will be limited to maximum eight minutes, and participants are kindly requested to limit the length of their interventions to a maximum of two minutes. The Co-Chairs will strictly enforce these limits. It is recommended to send statements and presentations to the secretariat in advance, so that they can be posted on the meeting web page.

1. Opening of the session

_Tentative timing: Wednesday, 30 September, 10–10.10 a.m._

4. The Working Group will be opened by its Co-Chairs, Ms. Heide Jekel (Germany) and Ms. Lea Kauppi (Finland).

2. Adoption of the agenda

_Tentative timing: Wednesday, 30 September, 10.10–10.15 a.m._

5. The Co-Chairs will present the main objectives of the meeting (see para. 2 above). They will refer to the programme of work for 2019–2021 adopted by the Meeting of the Parties at its eighth session (Nur-Sultan, 10–12 October 2018), as the Working Group will review the status of its implementation. The Working Group is expected to adopt the agenda as set out in the present document.

_Documentation_

Revised annotated provisional agenda for the fifteenth meeting (ECE/MP.WAT/WG.1/2020/1/Rev.1)

Programme of work for 2019–2021 (ECE/MP.WAT/54/Add.1)

Report on the implementation of activities under the Water Convention in 2019 (ECE/MP.WAT/WG.1/2020/3)

3. Adoption of the report of the previous meeting

_Tentative timing: Wednesday, 30 September, 10.15–10.20 a.m._

6. The Working Group will be invited to adopt the report of its fourteenth meeting (Geneva, 22–24 October 2019).

¹ See www.unece.org/index.php?id=52818.
4. **Status of ratification**

*Tentative timing: Wednesday, 30 September, 10.20–10:50 a.m.*

7. The secretariat will inform participants about the status of ratification of the Water Convention, the Convention on the Law of the Non-navigational Uses of International Watercourses and the Protocol on Water and Health.

8. Countries will be invited to report on significant progress regarding their accession.

**Documentation**

Ratification status of the Water Convention, its amendments and Protocols (ECE/MP.WAT/WG.1/2020/INF.1)

5. **Increasing awareness of and accession to the Convention and application of its principles drawing on the benefits of cooperation**

*Tentative timing: Wednesday, 30 September, 10.50 a.m.–1 p.m. and 3–3.15 p.m.*

(a) **Increasing capacity for implementation of the Convention and supporting national processes towards accession**

9. The programme of work for 2019–2021 includes activities to raise awareness and knowledge of and support accession to the Convention (programme area 1, activity 1.1). The Working Group will be informed about activities carried out by the secretariat, Parties and partners to build capacity and raise awareness of the Convention at the global and regional levels. Among others, the outcomes of the following regional events, organized by ECE and partners, will be shared:

- Pan–Africa training session on “International water law and water governance: Improved transboundary water investment in Africa” (Entebbe, Uganda, 11–14 November 2019), organized by the Global Water Partnership in cooperation with partners such as ECE.

- Conference on “The implementation of international water law: Global, regional and basin perspectives” (Geneva, 4 December 2019), organized by the Geneva Water Hub.

- Second regional workshop on “Understanding the challenges: Planning for regional and transboundary action” (Tela, Honduras, 17 and 18 February 2020), organized by Global Water Partnership-Central America.

- Regional workshop on “Enhancing transboundary water cooperation in the MENA region: Progress, challenges and opportunities” (Beirut, 3 and 4 March 2020), co-organized with the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia and Global Water Partnership-Mediterranean.

10. The Working Group will be informed about activities promoting accession at the country level. Outcomes of the different national workshops on the Water Convention, organized at the request of countries, jointly with partners, to support national accession processes will be presented, namely in Cameroon (Yaoundé, 5 and 6 November 2019) and Uganda (Kampala, 15 November 2019), as well as presentations and sessions at various other events.

11. The secretariat will introduce the new publication *Frequently Asked Questions on the 1992 Water Convention, with the Road Map to Facilitate Accession Processes* (ECE/MP.WAT/59), developed to provide guidance on and address common questions
related to the Water Convention, the obligations arising therefrom and the benefits of accession to and implementation of the Convention.

12. The Working Group will discuss future activities in this area to further promote and raise awareness of the Convention globally.

Documentation

Frequently Asked Questions on the 1992 Water Convention, with the Road Map to Facilitate Accession Processes (ECE/MP.WAT/59)

(b) Implementation of the Strategy for the implementation of the Convention at the global level

13. The Bureau will report on steps taken to implement the Strategy for the implementation of the Convention at the global level (ECE/MP.WAT/54/Add.2), adopted by the Meeting of the Parties at its eighth session, which aims to strengthen cooperation and partnerships for the management of transboundary waters worldwide in order to promote sustainable development and peace. The Working Group will discuss how to further strengthen implementation of the Strategy.

Documentation

Strategy for the implementation of the Convention at the global level (ECE/MP.WAT/54/Add.2)

(c) Promoting and communicating the benefits of transboundary cooperation, and supporting the development of agreements and the establishment of joint bodies

14. The programme of work for 2019–2021 includes activities to promote and communicate the benefits of transboundary water cooperation (programme area 1, activity 1.2) and to support countries in developing and revising agreements and arrangements in transboundary basins (programme area 1, activity 1.3). The Working Group will be provided with an update on the status of activities on promoting and communicating the benefits of transboundary cooperation – particularly in the Cubango-Okavango River Basin and the North-Western Sahara Aquifer System – on the basis of the Policy Guidance Note on the Benefits of Transboundary Water Cooperation: Identification, Assessment and Communication. The Working Group will be invited to provide comments and ask questions.

15. The Working Group will also be informed about the progress achieved in different projects supporting the development of agreements and the establishment of joint bodies in various regions, carried out together with partners, such as the launch of a regional working group for transboundary collaboration on the Senegalese-Mauritanian Aquifer Basin. The Working Group will be invited to provide comments, ask questions and discuss needs for future work under this area.

16. The Working Group will be informed about the Global workshop on the development of transboundary water cooperation agreements or other arrangements (28 and 29 July 2020, to be confirmed), including the elaboration of a checklist for developing agreements. The Working Group will be invited to provide comments and ask questions.

Documentation

Identifying, assessing and communicating the benefits of transboundary water cooperation: Lessons learned and recommendations (ECE/MP.WAT/NONE/11)

Principles for effective joint bodies for transboundary water cooperation (ECE/MP.WAT/50)

Draft outline of the checklist for developing agreements (ECE/MP.WAT/WG.1/2020/INF.2)

(d) Implementation Committee

17. The Implementation Committee will share with the Working Group an update on its activities and meetings since the last meeting of the Working Group, including information
on a request for an advisory procedure received in November 2019. The Working Group will also be briefed on the Committee’s efforts to raise awareness of its role and mandate, as well as the future plans of the Committee.

6. **Supporting monitoring, assessment and information-sharing in transboundary basins**

   *Tentative timing: Wednesday, 30 September, 3.15–3.40 p.m.*

   **(a) Information exchange, monitoring and assessment in transboundary basins**

   18. The programme of work for 2019–2021 includes support to countries in initiating or further developing joint and coordinated monitoring and assessment of transboundary waters and ensuring exchange of information (programme area 2). The Working Group will be informed about the outcomes of the Global workshop on exchange of data and information in transboundary basins (Geneva, 4 and 5 December 2019) and the outcomes of the fifteenth meeting of the Working Group on Monitoring and Assessment (Geneva, 6 December 2019).

   19. Taking into account the outcomes of the above-mentioned events, including the needs and priorities raised in regional discussions, the Working Group will be invited to discuss future work in this area, such as regional workshops or sessions, and needs for updating existing guidance documents.

   **Documentation**

   Report of the fifteenth meeting of the Working Group on Monitoring and Assessment (ECE/MP.WAT/WG.2/2019/2)

   **(b) International Water Assessment Centre**

   20. The Working Group will be informed about the progress of activities implemented by the International Water Assessment Centre hosted by Kazakhstan.

   **Documentation**

   Programme of work of the International Water Assessment Centre for 2019–2021 (ECE/MP.WAT/54/Add.2)

7. **Promoting an integrated and intersectoral approach to water management at all levels**

   *Tentative timing: Wednesday, 30 September, 3.40–5.40 p.m.*

   **(a) Supporting National Policy Dialogues on Integrated Water Resources Management under the European Union Water Initiative**

   21. The programme of work for 2019–2021 includes support to the European Union Water Initiative National Policy Dialogues on Integrated Water Resources Management (programme area 3, activity 3.4). Representatives from selected Eastern Partnership countries (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine) will share updates on activities and progress under the National Policy Dialogues funded by the European Union within the European Union Water Initiative Plus programme and implemented jointly by ECE, OECD, Environment Agency Austria and the International Office for Water of France. Representatives of countries of Central Asia will share such updates in relation to a project funded by the European Union within the regional European Union-Central Asia Enhanced Regional Cooperation on Environment, Climate Change and Water programme² and implemented by ECE in cooperation with OECD.

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² Detailed information about the project is available at https://wecoop2.eu/project.
22. The Working Group will be informed about overall developments, lessons learned and challenges, as well as future activities. It will then be invited to provide comments and to discuss future work in this area.

(b) Water-food-energy-ecosystems nexus in transboundary basins

23. The programme of work for 2019–2021 includes support for intersectoral dialogues and assessments through the application of the water-food-energy-ecosystems nexus approach (programme area 3, activity 3.2) in order to contribute to an integrated and intersectoral approach to water management at all levels. The Working Group will be informed about the progress achieved in the following activities in transboundary basins, applying the Methodology for assessing the water-food-energy-ecosystems nexus in transboundary basins:

- the North-Western Sahara Aquifer System nexus assessment
- the Drina River Basin nexus assessment follow-up
- the Drin River Basin nexus assessment

24. The countries sharing these water resources, as well as partners, including Global Water Partnership-Mediterranean, will be invited to comment.

25. The Working Group will be updated on the development of a synthesis document for taking stock of solutions to the nexus issues in transboundary basins from the experience under the Water Convention and of partners. A draft of the synthesis document will be discussed at the sixth meeting of the Task Force on the Water-Food-Energy-Ecosystems Nexus (Geneva, 22 and 23 October 2020), with focus on promoting joint or coordinated technical and policy solutions (including investments) in the light of different regions’ experiences. The Working Group will be invited to provide comments.

26. The Working Group will be informed about the progress made in the joint work with the ECE Sustainable Energy Division on the nexus and renewable energy. The new publication Towards sustainable renewable energy investment and deployment: Trade-offs and opportunities with water resources and the environment will be presented, including its tool-kit for policymakers for strategic planning and sustainable policy and projects related to renewable energy.

27. The Working Group will discuss future activities of this programme area.

Documentation

A nexus approach to transboundary cooperation: The experience of the Water Convention (ECE/MP.WAT/NONE/12)

Methodology for assessing the water-food-energy-ecosystems nexus in transboundary basins and experiences from its application: synthesis (ECE/MP.WAT/55)

Deployment of Renewable Energy: The Water-Energy-Food-Ecosystem Nexus Approach to Support the Sustainable Development Goals. Good practices and policies for intersectoral synergies to deploy renewable energy (ECE/MP.WAT/NONE/7)

Towards sustainable renewable energy investment and deployment: Trade-offs and opportunities with water resources and the environment (ECE/ENERGY/127)

Thematic report on the resource nexus (Phase I of the water-food-energy-ecosystems nexus assessment of the Drin basin) (ECE/MP.WAT/WG.1/2020/INF.3)

Nexus solutions and investments in transboundary basins: draft report (ECE/MP.WAT/WG.1/2020/INF.4–TFWFEEN/2020/3)

(c) Supporting equitable and sustainable water allocation in a transboundary context

28. The programme of work for 2019–2021 includes support to equitable and sustainable water allocation in a transboundary context (programme area 3, activity 3.3). The Working Group will be informed about the status of preparation of the handbook on water allocation in a transboundary context, including the outcomes of the second meeting of the Expert
Group on the Transboundary Water Allocation Handbook (videoconference, 30 and 31 March 2020). The Working Group will discuss both the outline and available chapters of the handbook on water allocation in a transboundary context. It will be invited to provide comments and discuss the next steps in the process of the handbook’s development.

29. The Working Group will also be informed about outcomes of, and plans for, regional discussions on water allocation, and the incorporation of case studies into the handbook

**Documentation**

Draft handbook on water allocation in a transboundary context (ECE/MP.WAT/WG.1/2020/INF.5)

8. **Partnerships, communication and knowledge management**

*Tentative timing: Wednesday, 30 September, 5.40–6 p.m. and Thursday 1 October, 9.30–10 a.m.*

30. The programme of work for 2019–2021 includes the strengthening of cooperation with different partners and with other multilateral agreements at the global and regional levels, communication and knowledge management in order to improve the implementation of the Convention and enhance the impact of activities (programme area 7). Increasing partnerships and synergies with other actors is also one of the objectives of the Strategy for the implementation of the Convention at the global level (see ECE/MP.WAT/54/Add.2).

(a) *Cooperation with UN-Water, global and regional partners and other multilateral environmental agreements*  

31. The Working Group will be presented with an update of ongoing cooperation with different global and regional partners, including other conventions. Partners will be invited to report on their activities with regard to transboundary water cooperation, including how they support awareness-raising and implementation of the Convention and its principles at the global and regional levels. In particular, the Working Group will be informed about: cooperation with partners working at the global level, such as the Global Environment Facility, International Waters Learning Exchange and Resource Network and its Massive Online Open Course on Governance for Transboundary Freshwater Security, Global Water Partnership, the International Union for Conservation of Nature and UN-Water; and opportunities for cooperation with the Inter-Parliamentary Union. The Working Group will also be informed about efforts by UN-Water and others to accelerate achievement of Sustainable Development Goal 6, including the 2023 United Nations Conference on the Midterm Comprehensive Review of the Implementation of the Objectives of the International Decade for Action, “Water for Sustainable Development”, 2018–2028 and the event on water to be held by the President of the General Assembly of the United Nations in 2021.

32. Representatives of institutions working on support to transboundary water cooperation at regional level, including the United Nations regional economic commissions, regional organizations such as the African Ministers’ Council on Water, the Union for the Mediterranean and the Organization of American States, and regional economic communities such as the Economic Community of West African States and the Economic Community of Central African States, will be invited to report on joint efforts and synergies with the Water Convention to support a better understanding and implementation of the Convention and its activities in different regions.

33. The Working Group will be informed about the outcomes of the fifth session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol on Water and Health (Belgrade, 19–21 November 2019), including the newly adopted programme of work for 2020–2022, and will discuss options for cooperation.

**Documentation**

Programme of work for 2020–2022 under the Protocol on Water and Health (ECE/MP.WH/19/Add.1–EUPCR/1814149/1.2/2019/MOP-5/06/Add.1)
(b) Contribution to global events, including the Ninth World Water Forum

34. The Working Group will be briefed on the preparations for and the Water Convention’s contribution to global events on water, such as the Ninth World Water Forum (Dakar, 22–27 March 2021).

35. The Working Group will discuss how to promote transboundary water cooperation and the Water Convention at such events, in particular the Ninth World Water Forum.

(c) Focal points to the Water Convention

36. The Co-Chairs will recall decision VIII/2 on the designation and responsibilities of focal points (see ECE/MP.WAT/54/Add.2) and provide an update on the status of nomination of focal points and on related guidance materials.

(d) Activities of the Joint Ad Hoc Expert Group on Water and Industrial Accidents

37. The Working Group will be informed of the activities of the Joint Ad Hoc Expert Group on Water and Industrial Accidents, including the outcomes of the Seminar on accidental transboundary water pollution prevention: Contingency planning, early warning, mitigation (Budapest, 4 and 5 November 2019) and of the nineteenth meeting of the Joint Ad Hoc Expert Group on Water and Industrial Accidents (Budapest, 5 November 2019).

9. Facilitating financing of transboundary water cooperation

_Tentative timing: Thursday, 1 October, 10–10.40 a.m._

38. The programme of work for 2019–2021 includes activities to support countries in facilitating financing of transboundary water cooperation (programme area 5). The Working Group will be informed about the preparation of the Global workshop on financing transboundary water cooperation and basin development (Geneva, 16–18 December 2020), to be organized with partners with the aim of reviewing existing sources of funding, discussing good and innovative practices and developing recommendations on the financing of cooperation. The Working Group will also be informed about progress in the development of the background study analysing the key opportunities and challenges related to the financing of transboundary water cooperation and basin development, including available financial mechanisms, good practices and challenges in accessing funding. The Working Group will be invited to provide comments and suggestions on the Global workshop and the background study.

39. The Working Group will be updated on the increasing cooperation between the Water Convention and global and regional financial institutions, banks and other partners, such as the Global Environment Facility, the African Development Bank, the Asian Development Bank, the European Investment Bank, the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), the United Nations Capital Development Fund and the World Bank Group.

40. The Working Group will be invited to provide comments on accomplished and planned activities and will discuss directions for future work in this area.

Documentation

Concept note of the Global workshop on financing transboundary water cooperation and basin development (ECE/MP.WAT/WG.1/2020/INF.6)

Draft background study on financing transboundary water cooperation (ECE/MP.WAT/WG.1/2020/INF.7)
10. **Adapting to climate change in transboundary basins**

*Tentative timing: Thursday, 1 October, 10.40–11.10 a.m.*

41. The programme of work for 2019–2021 includes activities to support countries in adapting to climate change and in financing climate change adaptation in transboundary basins (programme area 4). The Working Group will be briefed on: the progress of activities, in particular under the pilot projects on climate change adaptation in transboundary basins and other activities within the framework of the Global Network of Basins Working on Climate Change; inputs to global processes on water, climate change and disasters, in particular to the twenty-fifth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (Madrid, 2–13 December 2019); and World Water Day 2020 (22 March), which focused on water and climate change and provided opportunities to highlight the role of water in climate change adaptation and mitigation.

42. The Working Group will provide comments, as needed, on the work accomplished and will discuss future activities in this area, such as contributions to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction, the Global Commission on Adaptation and UN-Water.

43. The Working Group will also discuss the opportunity to include water-specific commitments to build climate resilience, particularly with a transboundary perspective, in the updated or new Nationally Determined Contributions, which countries are developing in 2020 in the framework of the Paris Agreement.

**Documentation**

*Financing Climate Change Adaptation in Transboundary Basins: Preparing Bankable Projects*[^3]

*Words into Action Guidelines: Implementation Guide for Addressing Water-Related Disasters and Transboundary Cooperation (ECE/MP.WAT/56)*

*UN-Water Policy Brief on Climate Change and Water*[^4]

11. **Reporting on Sustainable Development Goal indicator 6.5.2 and under the Convention**

*Tentative timing: Thursday, 1 October, 11.10 a.m.–12.10 p.m.*

44. The programme of work for 2019–2021 includes support for reporting on Sustainable Development Goal indicator 6.5.2 and under the Water Convention (programme area 6). The Working Group will be updated on developments at the global level regarding measurement of progress relating to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, in particular Sustainable Development Goal 6 (Water), including under the UN-Water Integrated Monitoring Initiative for Sustainable Development Goal 6, with the 2020 data drive for Sustainable Development Goal 6.

45. In February 2020, all countries sharing transboundary waters were requested by ECE and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), as co-custodian agencies, to submit their second report on Sustainable Development Goal indicator 6.5.2 by 30 June 2020. For Parties only, this exercise is combined with the second reporting exercise under the Water Convention. The Working Group will be updated on the status and initial outcomes of the second reporting exercise, common inquiries and general questions, considerations related to the quality and comparability of national reports received to date, as well as supporting materials available, including the reporting template, the *Guide to*[^5]


reporting under the Water Convention and as a contribution to SDG indicator 6.5.2 and the Step-by-step monitoring methodology for Sustainable Development Goal indicator 6.5.2.

46. The Working Group will also be informed about the efforts carried out to support countries in preparing national reports. The outcomes of the following events organized by ECE, UNESCO and other partners to raise awareness about reporting, foster high quality reporting and coordination of reports at the basin level and highlight the use and benefits of reporting, will be presented:

- regional events in Central America and the Caribbean (La Antigua, Guatemala, 5–7 November 2019), Central Africa (Douala, Cameroon, 7 and 8 November 2019) and the Arab region (Beirut, 5 March 2020);
- series of four webinars (12–28 May 2020).

47. The Working Group will then be informed about the planned next steps for analysing progress on the Convention’s implementation and indicator 6.5.2, in particular with regard to developing the report on progress on transboundary water cooperation under the Water Convention and the progress report on Sustainable Development Goal indicator 6.5.2 for different high-level international fora. The Working Group will be invited to provide comments and suggestions.

48. Countries will be invited to share experiences of their second reporting process, including challenges faced and good practices.

Documentation

Decision VIII/I on reporting under the Convention (see ECE/MP.WAT/54/Add.2)

Reporting template for the second reporting exercise

Guide to reporting under the Water Convention and as a contribution to SDG indicator 6.5.2 (ECE/MP.WAT/60)

Step-by-step monitoring methodology for SDG indicator 6.5.2 (revised version “2020”)


12. Resources for the implementation of the programme of work

Tentative timing: Thursday, 1 October, 12.10–12.30 p.m. and 2.30–2.50 p.m.

49. The Working Group will be informed about the status of the financial resources for implementing the programme of work for 2019–2021, in particular the status of the different trust funds related to the Convention, including financial contributions, items of expenditure and financial needs. The Working Group will be invited to provide comments.

50. Parties and other interested States and organizations will be invited to inform the Working Group of their intention to contribute financially to the programme of work’s implementation. Unearmarked contributions are especially welcome. Donors are encouraged to use the overall aggregated financial report (ECE/MP.WAT/WG.1/2020/INF.9) prepared annually for the Working Group instead of individual reports for each contribution.

51. At the eighth session of the Meeting of the Parties, countries had requested the secretariat to take all necessary measures, including the provision of additional human and financial resources from the regular budget, to ensure the effective management and full implementation of the programme of work (ECE/MP.WAT/54, para. 103 (jj)). The Working Group will be informed about the status of the financial resources for implementing the programme of work for 2019–2021, in particular the status of the different trust funds related to the Convention, including financial contributions, items of expenditure and financial needs. The Working Group will be invited to provide comments.

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50. Parties and other interested States and organizations will be invited to inform the Working Group of their intention to contribute financially to the programme of work’s implementation. Unearmarked contributions are especially welcome. Donors are encouraged to use the overall aggregated financial report (ECE/MP.WAT/WG.1/2020/INF.9) prepared annually for the Working Group instead of individual reports for each contribution.

51. At the eighth session of the Meeting of the Parties, countries had requested the secretariat to take all necessary measures, including the provision of additional human and financial resources from the regular budget, to ensure the effective management and full implementation of the programme of work (ECE/MP.WAT/54, para. 103 (jj)). The Working Group will be informed about the status of the financial resources for implementing the programme of work for 2019–2021, in particular the status of the different trust funds related to the Convention, including financial contributions, items of expenditure and financial needs. The Working Group will be invited to provide comments.
Group will be informed of any development regarding this request and will discuss the next steps.

**Documentation:**
Report on contributions and expenditures from January until December 2019 (ECE/MP.WAT/WG.1/2020/5)

### 13. Implementation of other decisions taken by the eighth session of the Meeting of the Parties

**Tentative timing:** Thursday, 1 October, 2.50–3.30 p.m.

**(a) Proposed targets for a more sustainable and predictable funding of the work under the Convention**

52. The Meeting of the Parties, at its eighth session, requested the secretariat, in cooperation with the Bureau, to prepare options for a more sustainable and predictable funding of the work under the Convention for discussion at the ninth session of the Meeting of the Parties (ECE/MP.WAT/54, para. 103 (h)). The Working Group will be presented a proposal in this regard, including, in particular, potential targets for financial sustainability of the work under the Convention. The Working Group will discuss the proposal and possible ways forward.

**Documentation**
Draft proposal for targets for financial sustainability of the work under the Water Convention (ECE/MP.WAT/WG.1/2020/INF.8)

**(b) Developing a procedure for proposals to host future sessions of the Meeting of the Parties and call for proposals for hosting the tenth session**

53. The Meeting of the Parties at its eighth session requested the secretariat, in cooperation with the Bureau, to formalize the procedure for proposals to host future sessions of the Meeting of the Parties and to disseminate this on time at the next session of the Meeting of the Parties (ECE/MP.WAT/54, para. 105 (c)). The proposal for this procedure will be presented. The Working Group will be invited to provide comments on the proposed procedure.

54. The secretariat will present the call for proposals to host the tenth session of the Meeting of the Parties in 2024, disseminated to all focal points of Parties in line with the decisions of the fourteenth meeting of the Working Group (ECE/MP.WAT/WG.1/2019/2, para. 102 (a)). The Working Group will be invited to make comments and ask questions. Potentially interested Parties will be invited to express their preliminary interest in hosting the tenth session of the Meeting of the Parties.

**Documentation**
Possible procedure for proposing to host future sessions of the Meeting of the Parties (ECE/MP.WAT/WG.1/2020/4)

Call for proposals to host the tenth session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Water Convention in 2024 (ECE/MP.WAT/WG.1/2020/INF.9)

### 14. Preparation of the ninth session of the Meeting of the Parties

**Tentative timing:** Thursday, 1 October, 3.30–3.45 p.m.

55. A representative of Estonia will inform the Working Group about plans and the status of preparation for the ninth session of the Meeting of the Parties, scheduled to be held from 29 September to 1 October 2021 in Tallinn.

Tentative timing: Thursday, 1 October, 3.45–4.40 p.m.

56. The Working Group will review overall progress made in the implementation of the Convention’s programme of work for 2019–2021 and make adjustments, if necessary. Preliminary lessons learned will be presented and discussed.

57. The secretariat will inform the Working Group about the process and milestones for the preparation of the programme of work for 2022–2024. The Working Group will then be invited to share ideas on priorities for the work under the Convention during the next triennium. In particular, to facilitate the discussion at its sixteenth meeting on the future priority areas of work for the period 2022–2024 and the related activities, the Working Group will exchange views on the future programme of work. The Working Group is expected to entrust its Co-Chairs, in cooperation with the Bureau, with preparing a proposal for the future programme of work for consideration at its next meeting.

Documentation
Report on the implementation of activities under the Water Convention in 2019 (ECE/MP.WAT/WG.1/2020/3)
Programme of work for 2019–2021 (ECE/MP.WAT/54/Add.1)

16. Dates and venue of the next meeting of the Working Group

Tentative timing: Thursday, 1 October, 4.40–4.50 p.m.

58. The Working Group will determine the preliminary dates and venue for its next meeting. It will also be informed of the schedule of other meetings under the Convention and its Protocol on Water and Health.

17. Other business

Tentative timing: Thursday, 1 October, 4.50–5 p.m.

59. Delegates wishing to propose points under this item are requested to inform the secretariat as soon as possible.

18. Closure of the meeting

60. The Co-Chairs will close the meeting at 5 p.m. on Thursday, 1 October 2020.