

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

PROTOCOL ON WATER AND HEALTH

JOINT BUREAU/2007/1

JOINT BUREAUX MEETING

First meeting
Geneva, 13 September 2007

ANNOTATED PROVISIONAL AGENDA FOR THE FIRST MEETING

Prepared by the joint secretariat

The first joint meeting of the Bureaux of the Water Convention and of the Protocol on Water and Health will take place in the Palais des Nations in room A-206. The meeting will be held on 13 September 2007 from 11.00 to 13.00.

The meeting will be held in English.

It will be devoted to (a) exchange information on activities carried out under one of the two bodies which have a relevance or need an input from the other body; and (b) decisions on the future programme of work for activities which are closely linked to both bodies.

The meeting will be co-chaired by the two chairpersons.

- 1. Adoption of the agenda**
(Thursday 13 September, 11.00-11.10)
- 2. Activities in the programme of work of the Water Convention which have a relevance for the Protocol**
(Thursday 13 September, 11.10-11.40)

The two Bureaux will be informed about progress to date and future plans concerning the following activities carried out under the Water Convention:

- EU Water Initiative and National Policy Dialogues (secretariat);
- Third International Conference on Sustainable Management of Transboundary Waters in the UNECE Region (Adriana Dembowska);
- Project “Capacity for Water Cooperation” (CWC) (secretariat).

Both Bureaux will be invited to discuss cooperation on the above mentioned activities.

3. Activities in the programme of work of the Protocol which have a relevance for the Water Convention

(Thursday 13 September, 11.40-12.20)

The two Bureaux will be informed about progress to date and future plans concerning the following activities carried out under the Protocol:¹

- Issues related to target setting, assessment and reporting;
- Improved formulation of projects and Ad Hoc Project Facilitation Mechanism.

4. Common activity: water and climate adaptation

(Thursday 13 September, 12.10-13.00)

In both the programme of work of the Convention and the one of the Protocol there is an activity related to climate change.

1. The activity under the **Convention** aims to develop a guidance on Water and Climate Adaptation for presentation and possible adoption by the fifth Meeting of the Parties to the Water Convention in 2009.

This work will be targeted to support in particular cooperation and decision making in transboundary basins on issues related to climate change. The guidance will in particular address possible impacts of climate change on flood and drought occurrences, as well as practical ways to cope with transboundary impacts through adaptation measure (e.g. integrated management of surface and groundwater for flood and drought mitigation and response). Land use, regional and spatial planning as well as land use management, and their role in reducing flood and drought risks and damage potential, in particular in the transboundary context, will also be considered.

According to the decision of the Meeting of the Parties, health related aspects should also be covered by the guidance.

The work should be carried out under the auspices of the Convention's Water and Climate Task Force, lead by Germany, The Netherlands and Switzerland in cooperation with Hungary.

2. The activity under the **Protocol** focuses on water supply and sanitation in short-term critical situations and adaptation to climate change.

The objective is to share experience on the safe operation of facilities for, and maintenance of adequate, water supply and sanitation in short-term critical situations (e.g. floods and extreme – given prevalent local conditions – temperatures) and develop guidelines to respond to such situations. In addition it is also foreseen to develop strategies to satisfy water supply and sanitation needs in the long term, given the potential impacts of climate change and the need for adaptation and mitigation programmes.

Recently Italy informed the secretariat that it would take the leadership of the Task Force on

¹ An in depth discussion on these activities will also take place during the meeting of the Bureau of the Protocol. The focus under this item should only be on the cooperation aspects.

Extreme Weather Events responsible for the above-mentioned activities under the Protocol on Water and Health.

These two activities are obviously closely related and the two Bureaux should decide how to define and organize future work in order to avoid duplications and ensure the needed coordination and cooperation.

From the secretariat's point of view, the two activities do require a separate and distinct kind of expertise that justifies the creation of two bodies. However the two bodies should cooperate closely and meetings should be held back-to-back as far as possible.

For what concerns the final product, it would be a great added value to produce one single integrated guidance that address (a) adaptation measure in water management; (b) short term critical situation and climate change adaptation related to water supply and sanitation; (c) interlinkages between activities in both areas.

The Bureaux is invited to consider these comments and to decide on the final product/products to be prepared.