



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

BUREAU/2008/1

BUREAU OF THE MEETING OF THE PARTIES

Eleventh meeting
Geneva, 17-18 September 2008

ANNOTATED PROVISIONAL AGENDA FOR THE ELEVENTH MEETING

Prepared by the secretariat

The meeting of the Bureau will take place in the Palais des Nations in room A-206. It will start on 17 September 2007 at 9 a.m. and finish on 18 September at 11.30 a.m. A joint meeting of the Bureaux of the Water Convention and of the Protocol on Water and Health will be held back-to-back, from 11.30 to 16.30 on 18 September.

The meetings will be held in English.

In line with the accreditation procedures for meetings held at the Palais des Nations, participants of the Bureau meeting are requested to complete the registration form available from the Water Convention's web site

(<http://www.unece.org/env/water/meetings/registrationmeeting.htm>) and to transmit it to the UNECE secretariat by **10 September 2007**, by e-mail (olga.carlos@unece.org). Prior to the meeting, participants are requested to present themselves at the Pass and Identification Unit of the UNOG Security and Safety Section, located at the Pregny Gate (across from the Red Cross building - buses 8, Z, V, 28, at stop "Appia"), 14, Avenue de la Paix (working hours 8am-5pm) a map is available at the above web address. Please allow enough time for accreditation.

1. Opening and adoption of the agenda

(Wednesday 17 September, 9.00-9.10)

2. Implementation of the work plan by the Bureau and the Working Groups

(Wednesday 17 September, 9.10-15.30)

On the basis of information provided by the secretariat, by the Chairpersons of the Working Groups and other lead countries, the Bureau will examine progress made and difficulties accounted in the implementation of the work plan that fall under the auspices of: (a) the Bureau (programme area I)¹; and (b) the Working Groups on Integrated Water Resources Management (WGIWRM),² Monitoring and Assessment (WGMA).

The following areas of activities will be discussed. The focus should be on: (a) assessing progress achieved and challenges encountered, (b) identifying needs of countries and ways and means to make progress in the areas where activities are less advanced and (c) identifying strategic areas for future development:

- Practical guidance to support ratification of the Convention and activities of the Legal Board (secretariat or Attila Tanzi);
- Second Assessment of the status of transboundary waters and international lakes in the UNECE region (secretariat and Lea Kauppi);
- Ecosystem services and payments for such services in integrated water resources management (Sibylle Vermont);
- Water and industrial accidents and future work of the Joint Expert Group (Maria Galambos)
- Synergies between the Water Convention and the EU Water Framework Directive (Adriana Dembowska and Massimo Cozzone);
- Management of transboundary groundwaters in the UNECE region (secretariat);
- Third International Conference on Sustainable Management of Transboundary Waters in the UNECE Region (Adriana Dembowska)
- Establishment of a meta-database on the transboundary waters of the UNECE region (Lea Kauppi);
- Capacity-building for monitoring and assessment of transboundary waters (Lea Kauppi).

3. International Water Assessment Centre (IWAC) and pilot projects

(Wednesday 17 September, 15.30-16.00)

The Bureau will be informed on the developments related to IWAC.

¹ Activity 1.1, Promotion of the Convention will be considered under item 6 for what concerns World Water Day 2009 on transboundary waters and jointly with the Bureau of the Protocol on Water and Health on 18 September.

² Activities related to Water and Adaptation to Climate Change, the EU Water Initiative and National Policy Dialogues, the Project “Capacity for Water Cooperation” (CWC) will be discussed jointly with the Bureau of the Protocol on Water and Health on 18 September.

The secretariat and Ms. Lea Kauppi will also inform about progress related to the pilot projects on the Sava River and on the Jandar Lake.

4. Strategic areas for work and future plans in preparation of the fifth meeting of the Parties

(Wednesday 17 September, 16.00-17.30)

- Work in Central Asia (background info from the Secretariat)
- Amendment to article 25 and 26 to open the Convention outside UNECE region, including the relationship with WWF (Sibylle Vermont)
- Future strategy and workplan of the Working Group on Monitoring and Assessment (Lea Kauppi)
- Future strategy and workplan of the Working Group on Integrated Water Resources Management (Sibylle Vermont)

5. Cooperation with key partners³

(Wednesday 17 September, 17.30-18.00)

The secretariat will inform about the development under UN Water and UNECE role in implementing UN Water workplan.

The Bureau will discuss the need and opportunity to strengthen cooperation with partners, such as the Petersberg /Athens Declaration process, the Ramsar Convention, GWP, INBO and others, as well as ways and means to implement this.

6. Promotion of the Convention in relation to World Water Day 2009 on transboundary waters⁴

(Thursday 18 September, 9.00-10.00)

World Water Day 2009 will be devoted to transboundary waters. This is a great opportunity to promote the Convention work at the global, regional, national and local level.

The Bureau should discuss and agree on a strategy to do so and on the role and activities of the secretariat, the Bureau itself, focal points and other partners.

7. Resources to implement the workplan and management of the Water Convention's trust fund

(Thursday 18 September, 10.00-11.00)

On the basis of a report by the secretariat on contributions and expenditures, the Bureau will overview the management of the Water Convention's trust fund and take appropriate action to raise missing funds according to the Bureau's mandate (see decision III/1 on the establishment of a trust fund under the Convention, ECE/MP.WAT/15/Add.1, annex II).

³ Cooperation with the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol on Water and Health will be discussed during the joint meeting on 18 September.

⁴ Other aspects related to the Convention's promotion and communication plan will be discussed jointly with the Bureau of the Protocol on Water and Health on 18 September.

The Bureau will also discuss ways and means to strengthen the human resources in the secretariat.

5. Next Bureau meetings
(Thursday 18 September, 11.00-11.15)

The Bureau will preliminarily schedule its next meeting taking into account the dates for the fifth meeting of the Parties.

6. Other business
(Thursday 18 September, 11.15-11.30)

7. Closing

The Chairperson will close the meeting on 18 September at 11.30. The joint meeting with the Bureau of the Protocol on Water and Health will start immediately after.
