



Convention of the Protection and Use of
Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes
Task Force on Water and Climate
Ninth meeting
Geneva, Switzerland, 13 December 2017

ANNOTATED PROVISIONAL AGENDA FOR THE NINTH MEETING

To be held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva,
starting on Wednesday, 13 December 2017 at 9.30 a.m.

I. PROVISIONAL AGENDA

1. Opening
2. Adoption of the agenda
3. Programme of pilot projects and global network of transboundary basins working on adaptation to climate change
4. Preparation of a Words into Action guide on water and disasters
5. Contribution to global processes on water, climate and disasters
6. Financing climate change adaptation in transboundary basins
7. Future work on climate change in transboundary basins under the Water Convention
8. Cooperation with partners and other important actors
9. Other business
10. Closing

II. BACKGROUND AND PRACTICAL INFORMATION

Background

The Task Force on Water and Climate 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 (UNECE) is responsible for activities related to adaptation to climate change in transboundary basins, including flood and drought management, in accordance with the programme of work for 2016-2018 of the Water Convention (programme area 4), with the following objectives:

- (a) Increased adaptive capacity and improved cooperation on climate change mitigation and adaptation in transboundary basins worldwide;
- (b) Increased awareness of the importance of cooperation in climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction at the national level and in intergovernmental processes, such as the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

The ninth meeting of the Task Force on Water and Climate aims to discuss, plan and provide guidance to the implementation of the activities on water and climate under the programme of work for 2016-2018 of the Water Convention. These activities are to be implemented in the context of the global opening of the Water Convention to all the United Nations Member States.

Practical information

The ninth meeting of the Task Force will start at 9.30 a.m. and end at 5.30 p.m. on Wednesday, 13 December 2017. It will be held in the Palais des Nations, Geneva. The Task Force meeting will be preceded by the international workshop on water scarcity “Taking action in transboundary basins and reducing health impacts”, which will be held on 11-12 December 2017 in Geneva. The working languages will be English, French, Russian and Spanish.

The meeting is open to experts representing governmental authorities, the private sector, non-governmental and international organizations as well as other interested stakeholders. Focal points are requested to disseminate information on the meeting and to facilitate the nomination of relevant representatives of their respective countries.

Eligible participants from countries with economies in transition and developing countries may apply for financial support to facilitate their participation in the meeting using the financial support request form available on the meeting website. Requests for financial support should be submitted to the UNECE secretariat (mayola.lidome@unece.org) as soon as possible, but no later than **Monday, 30 October 2017**. No application will be accepted after this deadline.

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.

Delegates attending the meeting are requested to register by 1 December 2017 using the following link: <https://www2.unece.org/uncdb/app/ext/meeting-registration?id=RZNDRI>. In case of difficulties, please contact the secretariat by e-mail (mayola.lidome@unece.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 UNECE website). Please allow enough time for this.

Practical information on the Palais des Nations, as well as on transport and accommodation in Geneva, is available online at: <http://www.unece.org/meetings/practical.htm>

Further information and relevant material will be made available on the following website in due course: <http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=43636>

For the international workshop on Water Scarcity: <http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=43633>

III. ANNOTATIONS TO THE PROVISIONAL AGENDA

Item 1: Opening (9.30 a.m. - 9.40 a.m.)

1. The co-Chairs will open the meeting

Item 2: Adoption of the agenda (9.40 a.m. - 9.45 a.m.)

2. The Task Force is expected to adopt its agenda as set out in the present document.

Item 3: Programme of pilot projects and global network of transboundary basins working on adaptation to climate change (9.45 a.m. – 11.00 a.m.)

Background document: Overview of the activities of the basins in the global network of basins working on climate change (TFWC/2017/3)

3. The Task Force will be informed about the progress of the global network of basins working on climate change adaptation. Representatives of the pilot projects and other basins of the global network of basins working on climate change adaptation will briefly inform about their activities, challenges and lessons learned, followed by comments. In particular, the Task Force will welcome the new member of the network, namely the Sixaola basin.

Item 4: Preparation of a Words into Action guide on Water and disasters (11.00 a.m. - 11.45 a.m.)

Discussion document: Draft “Words into Action” Implementation Guide for Addressing Water-Related Disasters and Transboundary Cooperation (TFWC/2017/4)

4. The Task Force will be updated by the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction on the latest developments with implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015 – 2030.
5. Subsequently, the Task Force will be informed about the progress with preparations of the Sendai Framework “Words into Action” Implementation Guide for Addressing Water-Related Disasters and Transboundary Cooperation. The Task Force will be invited to provide feedback and comments on the draft document. It will then discuss how to finalize the draft and how to promote its implementation and use.

Item 5: Contribution to global processes on water, climate and disasters (11.45 a.m.-12.30 p.m.)

6. The Task Force will be informed about the latest developments with regards to water and climate under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), namely the outcomes of the 23rd UNFCCC Conference of the Parties (Bonn, 6 - 17 November 2017), the Nairobi Work Programme, the Adaptation Committee etc. It will also be briefed about related processes such as the Marrakech Partnership, the Global Alliances for Water and Climate etc.
7. The Task Force will discuss how it can provide input to the UNFCCC processes. In particular, it will discuss how to raise attention to the importance of regional and transboundary cooperation when preparing Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs).

8. The outcomes of the “International summit of the great rivers of the world: "taking action for water and climate" (Rome, 23-25 October 2017) will be presented.

Item 6: Financing climate change adaptation in transboundary basin (2:30 p.m. - 3.00 p.m.)

9. The Task Force will be informed about the progress with regards to financing climate change adaptation in transboundary basins and the newly started cooperation with multilateral development banks in this field. Representatives of these banks will inform the Task Force about the outcomes of the training on how to prepare bankable project proposals for financing climate change adaptation in transboundary basins (Dakar, 21-23 June 2017). Participants will then discuss possible follow-up activities such as plans for a similar training workshop envisaged for the Eastern Europe and Asia regions in 2018.

Item 7: Future work on climate change in transboundary basins under the Water Convention (3.00 p.m. - 4.30 p.m.)

Background document: Strategy for future work on climate change adaptation in transboundary basins under the Convention (ECE/MP.WAT/2015/4)

10. At the eighth session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Water Convention in October 2018, a new programme of work for 2019-2021 will be presented and adopted. The discussions on the new strategy started in 2017 at the 12th meeting of the Working Group on Integrated Water Resources Management (WGIWRM, 5 and 6 July 2017), to be followed by a survey and discussions in the different Task Forces in late 2017. The Task Force on Water and Climate will be informed about the process and discussions so far on the new programme of work for 2019-2021 under the Water Convention as well as about initial ideas with regards to water and climate.

11. The Task Force will then review progress and lessons learned of the activities on water and climate carried out in the triennium 2016-2018 so far. Also considering the strategy for future work on climate change adaptation in transboundary basins under the Convention, adopted at the 11th meeting of the Working Group on IWRM (ECE/MP.WAT/2015/4), the Task Force will discuss and prioritize possible future activities on water and climate under the Water Convention in 2019-2021 with the aim of designing future work attractive to different target groups. Outcomes of discussions under previous agenda items will be taken into account in this discussion, such as on financing climate change adaptation in transboundary basins, NDCs etc.

12. In this context, the Task Force will also discuss potential future activities related to water scarcity, especially with a focus on transboundary cooperation, taking into account the main results of the Global Workshop on Water Allocation, held on 16-17 October 2017 in Geneva as well as the results of the International Workshop on Water Scarcity (11-12 December 2017), organised jointly with the Protocol on Water and Health.

13. Finally, the Task Force will decide how to further develop the proposed activities.

Item 8: Cooperation with partners and other important actors (4.30 p.m. - 5.15 p.m.)

14. The Task Force will discuss cooperation with important actors in the field of water and climate, such as the European Commission, the Alliance for Global Water Adaptation (AGWA), the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN), the International Network of Basin Organizations (INBO), the Stockholm International Water Institute (SIWI), the Global Water Partnership (GWP), the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), the Food and Agriculture

Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the Global Environment Facility, WWF and others. These and other partners will be invited to inform about their ongoing activities on water and adaptation to climate change and to present their suggestions for cooperation.

Item 9: Other business (5.15 p.m. - 5.30 p.m.)

15. At the time of writing, the secretariat had no points to propose under this item. Delegates wishing to propose points under this item should inform the secretariat as soon as possible.

Item 10: Closing

16. The co-Chairs will close the meeting at 5.30 p.m. on Wednesday, 13 December 2017.
