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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 Monitoring and Assessment

Eighth meeting
Helsinki (Finland), 25–27 June 2007

ANNOTATED PROVISIONAL AGENDA FOR THE EIGHTH MEETING

To be held at the Finnish Environment Institute, Helsinki,
starting on Monday, 25 June at 10 a.m.

I. PROVISIONAL AGENDA

1. Opening statements
 2. Adoption of the agenda
 3. Adoption of the report of the seventh meeting
 4. Assessment of the status of transboundary waters in the UNECE region
 - (a) Preliminary assessments of transboundary rivers, lakes and groundwaters
 - (b) Executive summary and conclusions of the assessment
 5. Meta-database on the transboundary waters of the UNECE region
 6. International Water Assessment Centre (IWAC)
- GE.07-21469

7. Pilot programme on monitoring and assessment
 - (a) Pilot projects on transboundary rivers
 - (b) Pilot projects on transboundary groundwaters
 - (c) Pilot projects on transboundary/international lakes
8. Technical guidance and capacity-building for monitoring and assessment of transboundary waters
9. Assistance to Parties to the Protocol on Water and Health on issues related to target setting, indicators and reporting
10. Early warning and contingency plans in case of industrial accidents
11. Workplan for 2007–2009
12. Election of officers
13. Dates and venue of the ninth meeting of the Working Group
14. Other business
15. Closing

II. ANNOTATIONS TO THE PROVISIONAL AGENDA

1. The eighth meeting of the Working Group on Monitoring and Assessment will be held at the invitation of the Government of Finland at the Finnish Environment Institute, at the following address: Mechelininkatu 34 a
00260 Helsinki
2. The meeting will start on 25 June 2007 at 10 a.m. and close on 27 June at 1 p.m. Wednesday 27 June will be devoted to group discussions on the preliminary assessments of transboundary rivers, lakes and groundwaters (agenda item 4 (a)).
3. The meeting will be chaired by Ms. Lea Kauppi (Finland).
4. The working languages will be English and Russian. The group discussions on 27 June will be held in English or in Russian, without interpretation.
5. Experts from eligible countries may apply for financial support to facilitate their participation in the meeting. Requests for financial support should be addressed to the secretariat as soon as possible and in any case by 18 May 2007.

6. Participants requiring an entry visa should inform the secretariat as soon as possible. They should contact their local Finnish diplomatic representation to apply for the visa.
7. For help with organizational matters, the representative of the host country, Ms. Sirkka Haunia, can be contacted as follows:
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Item 1: Opening statements

8. Ms. Lea Kauppi, Director of the Finnish Environment Institute and Chairperson of the Working Group, will open the meeting.

Item 2: Adoption of the agenda

9. The Working Group is expected to adopt its agenda as set out in this document.

Item 3: Adoption of the report of the seventh meeting

10. The Working Group is expected to adopt the report of its seventh meeting (ECE/MP.WAT/WG.2/2006/2).

Item 4: Assessment of the status of transboundary waters in the UNECE region

(a) Preliminary assessments of transboundary rivers, lakes and groundwaters

11. The Working Group will examine preliminary assessments of transboundary rivers, lakes and groundwaters (documents ECE/MP.WAT/WG.2/2007/5– ECE/MP.WAT/WG.2/2007/19). It will agree on and endorse the information and the conclusions of the assessments and will make arrangements for any needed future work so that the text can be finalized by 6 July 2007, in time to be published for the Sixth Ministerial Conference “Environment for Europe” (Belgrade, Serbia, 10–12 October 2007).

(b) Executive summary and conclusions of the assessment

12. On the basis of the previous discussion, the Working Group will finalize the executive summary of the assessment (ECE/MP.WAT/WG.2/2007/3).
13. The Working Group will examine a draft of a document on the assessment which will be submitted as a category II document to the Belgrade Conference (ECE/MP.WAT/WG.2/2007/4).

It will also make arrangements for the organization of a side event on the assessment during the Conference.

Item 5: Meta-database on the transboundary waters of the UNECE region

14. The Working Group will discuss and make arrangements for the phased development and population of a meta-database on transboundary waters in the UNECE region. As was agreed at the fourth meeting of the Parties, the database should be linked to existing databases of Parties, joint bodies and relevant international organizations dealing with transboundary water management, and should initially focus on two subject areas: (a) protection of surface water resources against pollution and overuse and (b) protection of groundwaters against pollution and overuse.

Item 6: International Water Assessment Centre (IWAC)

15. A representative of the Slovak Hydrometeorological Institute will inform the Working Group on the Slovak arrangements for transferring IWAC to the institute. The Working Group will discuss the future role of IWAC, its planned activities and proposed priorities for 2007–2009.

Item 7: Pilot programme on monitoring and assessment

(a) Pilot projects on transboundary rivers

16. The Working Group will examine progress to date and planned activities under the ongoing pilot projects.

17. It will also discuss and make arrangements for the initiation of new pilot projects, taking into account the proposal to develop a pilot in the Sava River Basin which was made at the fourth meeting of the Parties.

(b) Pilot projects on transboundary groundwaters

18. The Working Group will examine progress to date and planned activities under the ongoing pilot projects.

19. It will also discuss and make arrangements for the initiation of new pilot projects, taking into account the recommendations of the two subregional workshops on transboundary groundwaters in South-Eastern Europe (SEE) (Thessaloniki, Greece, 23–24 April 2007) and in Caucasus and Central Asia (Almaty, Kazakhstan, 31 May – 1 June 2007).

(c) Pilot projects on transboundary/international lakes

20. The Working Group will examine progress and planned future activities under the ongoing pilot projects.

21. It will also discuss and make arrangements for the initiation of new pilot projects, taking into account the proposal to develop a pilot project for Jandar Lake (shared by Azerbaijan and Georgia), which was made at the fourth meeting of the Parties.

Item 8: Technical guidance and capacity-building for monitoring and assessment of transboundary waters

22. The Working Group will discuss the opportunity to prepare specific guidelines on technical aspects of monitoring and assessment, in particular to support the implementation of the Strategies for Monitoring and Assessment of Transboundary Rivers, Lakes and Groundwaters.

23. It will also discuss possible future workshops, training and other capacity-building activities, with a special focus on countries in Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia (EECCA) and in SEE, in order to, *inter alia*, harmonize monitoring and assessment programmes and develop joint programmes via a step-wise approach; promote the exchange of experience among EU countries on joint monitoring and assessment programmes developed in accordance with the EU Water Framework Directive and promote the lessons learned in non-EU countries; and support the implementation of the Strategies for Monitoring and Assessment of Transboundary Rivers, Lakes and Groundwaters.

24. The Working Group will consider its input into activities under the EU Water Initiative's Component for EECCA, particularly workshops under the National Policy Dialogues on integrated water resources management.

Item 9: Assistance to Parties to the Protocol on Water and Health on issues related to target setting, indicators and reporting

25. The Working Group will be informed of the plans under the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol on Water and Health to develop targets, indicators and reporting guidelines, and will make arrangements to contribute to these activities.

Item 10: Early warning and contingency plans in case of industrial accidents

26. The Working Group will be informed of plans under the Joint Expert Group on Water and Industrial Accidents to develop guidance for establishing cross-border contingency plans in case of industrial accidents, and will make arrangements to contribute to this activity.

Item 11: Workplan for 2007–2009

27. The Working Group will consider its workplan (ECE/MP.WAT/19/Add.2, programme area III) as adopted by the Parties at their fourth meeting, and will update it if necessary.

Item 12: Election of officers

28. The Working Group is expected to elect a Chairperson and a Vice-Chairperson.

Item 13: Dates and venue of the ninth meeting of the Working Group

29. The Working Group will determine a preliminary venue and dates for its ninth meeting.

Item 14: Other business

30. At the time of writing, the secretariat had no points to propose under this item.

Item 15: Closing

31. The Chairperson will close the meeting on 27 June at 1 p.m.
