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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**

Legal Board

Fourth meeting  
Geneva, 15–16 May 2006

**ANNOTATED PROVISIONAL AGENDA FOR THE FOURTH MEETING\***

To be held at the Palais des Nations\*\*  
starting on Monday, 15 May 2006, at 10 a.m.

The fourth meeting of the Legal Board will be held jointly with the fourth meeting of the Task Force on Floods. During the meeting, the two bodies will discuss and agree on joint and independent activities to be finalized for submission to the fourth meeting of the Parties (Bonn, Germany, 20–22 November 2006) as well as on proposals for activities to be carried out within the work plan for 2007–2009 under the Convention.

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\* This document was submitted on the above date owing to a lack of human resources in the secretariat.

\*\* New accreditation procedures have been introduced for all delegates attending meetings at the Palais des Nations. Delegates are therefore requested to complete the registration form, which is available from the Water Convention's website (<http://www.unece.org/env/water/meetings/registrationmeeting.htm>), and to transmit it to the UNECE secretariat no later than 10 days prior to the meeting, that is, by **5 May 2006**, either by fax (+41 22 917 0107) or by e-mail ([marichu.cardenas@unece.org](mailto:marichu.cardenas@unece.org) or [water.convention@unece.org](mailto:water.convention@unece.org)). On their way to the meeting, delegates should obtain an identification badge at the Pass and Identification Unit of the UNOG Security and Safety Section, located at the Villa Les Feuillantines, 13, Avenue de la Paix (see the map on the Convention website).

**Item 1. Adoption of the agenda**

**Item 2. Election of officers**

**Item 3. Adoption of the report on the third meeting of the Legal Board (MP.WAT/AC.4/2005/2)**

1. When adopting the report, the meeting might wish to note that the Working Group on Water and Health at its fifth meeting (Geneva, 5–7 December 2005) endorsed the draft compliance review mechanism under the Protocol on Water and Health and the draft rules of procedure for the Meetings of the Parties to the Protocol on Water and Health, both prepared by the Legal Board. Germany made a scrutiny reservation on the text of paragraph 3 of rule 20 of the rules of procedure.

**FLOOD PREVENTION, PROTECTION AND MITIGATION**

2. In accordance with the recommendations of the Seminar on Flood Prevention, Protection and Mitigation (Berlin, 21–22 June 2004), activities in this field focus on three areas: (a) legal instruments and support; (b) capacity-building; and (c) policy guidance and advice (see MP.WAT/SEM.3/2004/3). In preparation for the fourth meeting of the Parties, the Flood Task Force is expected to report to the second meeting of the Working Group on Integrated Water Resources Management (Geneva, 26–27 June 2006) on the progress achieved and on proposed activities to be carried out under the work plan 2007–2009.

**Item 4. Draft model provisions on transboundary flood protection, prevention and mitigation**

3. Participants will examine the draft model provisions on transboundary flood protection, prevention and mitigation, prepared by Ms. Daskalopoulou-Livada (Greece), Mr. Malek (Germany) and Mr. Kolliopoulos (Greece) and revised on the basis of the comments received at and after the third meeting of the Legal Board. Participants will discuss and agree on the proposed text and make arrangements to finalize the model provisions and submit them to the fourth meeting of the Parties.

4. Participants will also discuss and agree on possible future activities to be carried out under the work plan 2007–2009 that relate to legal aspects of transboundary flood management.

**Item 5. Capacity-building**

5. A representative of Hungary, lead Party for this focus area, will present opportunities for future work. Participants will discuss and agree on activities to be carried out under the work plan 2007–2009 related to capacity-building for transboundary floods management.

**Item 6. Policy guidance and advice**

6. A representative of Germany, lead Party for this focus area, will present opportunities for future work, taking into account the recommendations of the Seminar (see MP.WAT/SEM.3/2004/3, annex) and recent developments in the European Union.
7. Participants will also consider opportunities for cooperation with the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol on Water and Health on activities related to the health-related aspects of floods (see document MP.WAT/WG.4/2005/7 – EUR/05/5047554/7).
8. Participants will agree on activities to be carried out under the work plan 2007–2009 that relate to policy guidance and advice.

## **OTHER LEGAL ISSUES**

### **Item 7. Proposed legal activities for the work plan 2007–2009**

9. At its third meeting, the Legal Board proposed that its future work include: (a) activities to be undertaken at the request of countries and other bodies under the Convention; (b) activities developed according to the Legal Board's own vision and priorities; and (c) participation by members of the Legal Board in meetings of the Working Groups in order to be more involved in the work of these bodies.

10. So far, the following activities with a legal component have been identified by the Convention's Working Groups and proposed for inclusion in the work plan under the Convention and its Protocol on Water and Health:

- (a) Support to the ratification of the amendment to articles 25 and 26 opening the Convention for accession to countries outside the UNECE region, and promotion of the Convention achievements outside the UNECE region;
- (b) Advisory service to Parties and non-Parties to support the Convention's implementation, in particular with regard to drafting and adaptation of bilateral and multilateral agreements;
- (c) Strategic guidance on integrated management of transboundary water resources;
- (d) Support to the ratification of the Protocol on Civil Liability; and
- (e) Support to the ratification and implementation of the Protocol on Water and Health.

Proposals (a)–(d) above appear in document ECE/MP.WAT/WG.1/2006/5.

11. The Legal Board will discuss and further define its possible contribution to the above proposals.

12. The Legal Board will also discuss and agree on additional legal activities, including the provision of legal advice to support the interpretation and implementation of the Convention and its Protocols (see MP.WAT/AC.4/2005/2, paras. 30 and 31).

**Item 8. Other business**

**Item 9. Closing of the meeting**

13. The meeting will be closed on 16 May 2006 at 5.30 p.m.

14. Some financial assistance is available to support the participation of experts from countries in transition. Due to the limited availability of funds, priority will be given to participants from countries involved in the activities of the Flood Task Force and/or of the Legal Board. Requests for financial assistance should be submitted to the Water Convention's secretariat no later than **1 May 2006**.