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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

Ninth meeting
Geneva, 17–18 June 2008

ANNOTATED PROVISIONAL AGENDA FOR THE NINTH MEETING

To be held in room V at the Palais des Nations, Geneva,
starting on Tuesday, 17 June at 3 p.m.*

I. PROVISIONAL AGENDA

1. Opening statements.
2. Adoption of the agenda.
3. Adoption of the report of the eighth meeting.
4. Assessment of the status of transboundary waters in the UNECE region.

* Delegates attending meetings at the Palais des Nations are requested to complete the registration form, which is available on the UNECE website (http://www.unece.org/env/water/meetings/documents_WGMA.htm) and to transmit it to the UNECE secretariat no later than two weeks before the meeting by e-mail (olga.carlos@unece.org). On their way to the meeting, delegates should obtain an identification badge at the Pass and Identification Unit of the United Nations Office at Geneva's Security and Safety Section, located at the Pregny Gate, 14, Avenue de la Paix (see the map on the UNECE website: <http://www.unece.org/meetings/practical.htm>). In case of difficulty, please contact the secretariat by telephone at +41 22 917 1926.

5. Metadata database on transboundary waters under the Convention.
6. International Water Assessment Centre.
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. Assistance to Parties to the Protocol on Water and Health on issues related to target-setting, indicators and reporting.
9. Early warning and contingency plans in case of industrial accidents.
10. Workplan for 2007–2009.
11. Workplan on monitoring and assessment for 2010–2012 and beyond.
12. Election of officers.
13. Dates and venue of the tenth meeting of the Working Group.
14. Other business.
15. Closing of the meeting.

II. ANNOTATIONS TO THE PROVISIONAL AGENDA

1. The ninth meeting of the Working Group on Monitoring and Assessment will be held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva, back-to-back with the Seminar on Monitoring and Assessment of Transboundary Waters (16–17 (a.m.) June 2008).
2. The meeting will start on 17 June 2008 at 3 p.m. and will close on 18 June at 5 p.m.
3. The meeting will be chaired by Ms. Lea Kauppi (Finland).
4. The working languages will be English, French and Russian.
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 21 April 2008.

6. Participants requiring an entry visa should inform the secretariat as soon as possible. They should contact the nearest Swiss diplomatic representation to apply for the visa.

Item 1: Opening statements

7. The Chairperson of the Working Group will open the meeting.

Item 2: Adoption of the agenda

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

Item 3: Adoption of the report of the eighth meeting

9. The Working Group is expected to adopt the report of its eighth meeting (ECE/MP.WAT/WG.2/2007/2).

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

Documentation: Note on the Second Assessment of Transboundary Rivers, Lakes and Groundwaters in the UNECE region (ECE/MP.WAT/WG.2/2008/3).

10. The first Assessment of Transboundary Rivers, Lakes and Groundwaters in the UNECE region¹ was launched at the Sixth Ministerial Conference “Environment for Europe” (Belgrade 10–12 October 2007). Ministers noted the Assessment with appreciation and invited the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention to prepare the second assessment of transboundary waters for the next Ministerial Conference (ECE/BELGRADE.CONF/2007/8).

11. Participants will be invited to exchange views on: (a) how the first Assessment was received and used by different stakeholders in their countries and organizations; (b) its strengths; (c) aspects which need to be revised; and (d) ways and means for the Assessment can effectively support overall work under the Convention. In addition, taking into consideration the lessons learned from the preparation of the first Assessment, the Working Group will be invited to discuss and agree on the preparation of the second Assessment, specifically focusing on:

- (a) Scope and content;
- (b) Time frame and working arrangements;
- (c) Budget estimate and fund-raising.

Item 5: Metadata database on transboundary waters under the Convention

Documentation: Note on the metadata database on transboundary waters in countries of Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia (ECE/MP.WAT/WG.2/2008/4).

12. Following the request put forward by the Working Group at its eighth meeting, Mr. Paul Haener, International Water Office (France), will present a proposal on developing a metadata

¹ See <http://www.unece.org/env/water/publications/pub76.htm>.

database on transboundary waters in countries of Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia (EECCA). The Working Group will be invited to: (a) comment on the proposal; (b) discuss possible arrangements for its implementation; and (c) propose sources for funding. Countries wishing to participate in pilot projects for the metadata database are encouraged to inform the secretariat about their interest prior to the meeting.

Item 6: International Water Assessment Centre

Documentation: Proposal for International Water Assessment Centre activities for 2008–2009 (ECE/MP.WAT/WG.2/2008/5)

13. Mr. Peter Roncak of the Slovak Hydrometeorological Institute will inform the Working Group on the arrangements for transferring the International Water Assessment Centre (IWAC) to the Institute and will introduce a proposal for activities for 2008–2009. Participants will discuss the proposal and inform the meeting about the possible involvement of their organizations in IWAC work. Countries and organizations wishing to propose a project to be included in IWAC activities are requested to inform the secretariat prior to the meeting.

Item 7: Pilot programme on monitoring and assessment

(a) Pilot projects on transboundary rivers

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

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

(b) Pilot projects on transboundary groundwaters

16. The Working Group will examine progress to date and planned activities under the ongoing pilot projects. In particular, it will be informed on the implementation of Aggtelek/Slovak Karst groundwater pilot project.

17. The Working Group will also discuss and make arrangements for the initiation of new pilot projects, based on proposals by countries and taking into account the recommendations of 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

18. The Working Group will examine progress 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 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: Assistance to Parties to the Protocol on Water and Health on issues related to target-setting, indicators and reporting

20. The Working Group will be informed of the progress in developing targets, indicators and reporting guidelines under the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol on Water and Health and will discuss its possible contribution to this activity.

Item 9: Early warning and contingency plans in case of industrial accidents

21. On the basis of an informal paper, the Working Group will be updated about progress achieved under the Joint Expert Group on Water and Industrial Accidents to develop guidance for establishing cross-border contingency plans in case of industrial accidents. The Working Group will examine and comment the draft guidance and will discuss its contribution to this activity, in particular how it could facilitate the involvement of relevant experts in the work of the Joint Expert Group.

Item 10: Workplan for 2007–2009

22. The Working Group will consider its workplan as adopted by the Parties at their fourth meeting, and will and agree whether there is any need to amend it.

Item 11: Workplan on monitoring and assessment for 2010–2012 and beyond

23. Taking into account the outcome of the Seminar on Monitoring and Assessment of Transboundary Waters, the Working Group will discuss a mid-term (until 2012) and long-term (beyond 2012) strategy under the Convention related to monitoring and assessment, including a list of priority activities to be included in the 2010–2012 workplan.

24. Possible elements of the 2010–2012 workplan might include: (a) future assessments of transboundary rivers, lake and groundwaters in the UNECE region; (b) capacity-building activities with a special focus on EECCA and SEE countries, inter alia, to transfer experience of implementation of the European Union (EU) Water Framework Directive to non-EU countries; (c) pilot projects; and (d) input into activities under the EU Water Initiative's Component for EECCA, particularly under the National Policy Dialogues on integrated water resources management.

25. The Working Group will make work-sharing arrangements with a view to finalizing a draft workplan on monitoring and assessment for its next meeting.

Item 12: Election of officers

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

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

27. The Working Group will determine a preliminary venue and dates for its tenth meeting.

Item 14: Other business

28. Delegates wishing to propose points under this item are requested to inform the secretariat as soon as possible.

Item 15: Closing of the meeting

29. The Chairperson will close the meeting on 18 June at 5 p.m.
