



# Economic and Social Council

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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 Integrated Water Resources Management

Nineteenth meeting\*

### Working Group on Monitoring and Assessment

Nineteenth meeting\*

Geneva, 6-8 May 2024

Item 2 of the provisional agenda

**Adoption of the agenda**

## **Annotated provisional agenda for the fifth joint meeting**

**To be held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva, starting on Monday,  
6 May 2024, at 10 a.m.\*\***

### **I. Provisional agenda**

1. Opening of the session.
2. Adoption of the agenda.
3. Adoption of the report of the previous meetings.
4. Status of ratification.
5. Global processes and recent developments related to transboundary water cooperation:

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\* Fifth joint meeting of the two Working Groups.

\*\* Delegates attending the meeting at the Palais des Nations are requested to register no later than two weeks before the meeting using the electronic procedure. Registration is available through the following link: [https://indico.un.org/e/5thjointwgiwrm\\_wgma\\_2024](https://indico.un.org/e/5thjointwgiwrm_wgma_2024). For assistance with registration, please see the instructions on the meeting web page ([https://unece.org/environmental-policy/events/5thjointWGIWRM-WGMA\\_2024](https://unece.org/environmental-policy/events/5thjointWGIWRM-WGMA_2024)) or contact the secretariat by email ([cammile.marcelo@un.org](mailto:cammile.marcelo@un.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 Security and Safety Section, located at the Pregny Gate, 14, Avenue de la Paix (see the map on the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe website: [www.unece.org/meetings/practical.html](http://www.unece.org/meetings/practical.html)). In case of difficulty, please contact the secretariat by telephone at +41 22 917 1606.



- (a) Input to global events focusing on water and progress towards achieving Sustainable Development Goals;
  - (b) Process for developing the draft future programme of work under the Water Convention for 2025-2027.
6. Increasing awareness of and accession to the Convention and application of its principles drawing on the benefits of cooperation:
  - (a) Increasing capacity for implementation of the Convention and supporting national processes towards accession;
  - (b) Supporting the development of agreements and the establishment of joint bodies;
  - (c) Implementation Committee.
7. Supporting monitoring, assessment and information-sharing in transboundary basins.
8. Promoting an integrated and intersectoral approach to water management at all levels:
  - (a) Promoting integrated water resources management in transboundary basins;
  - (b) Source-to-sea management;
  - (c) Supporting intersectoral dialogues and assessments through the application of the water-food-energy-ecosystems nexus approach;
  - (d) Supporting equitable and sustainable water allocation in a transboundary context;
  - (e) Supporting National Policy Dialogues on Integrated Water Resources Management under the European Union Water Initiative.
9. Adapting to climate change in transboundary basins.
10. Facilitating funding and financing of transboundary water cooperation and basin development.
11. Reporting on Sustainable Development Goal indicator 6.5.2 and under the Convention.
12. Partnerships:
  - (a) Cooperation with UN-Water, global and regional partners and other multilateral environmental agreements;
  - (b) Joint Expert Group on Water and Industrial Accidents.
13. Communication and knowledge management.
14. International Water Assessment Centre.
15. Future programme of work for 2025–2027.
16. Resources for the implementation of the programme of work.
17. Preparation for the tenth session of the Meeting of the Parties.
18. Date and venue of the next meetings of the Working Groups.
19. Other business.
20. Closure of the meeting.

## II. Annotations

1. The nineteenth meeting of the Working Group on Integrated Water Resources Management and the nineteenth meeting of the Working Group on Monitoring and Assessment under the Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes (Water Convention) will be held jointly at the Palais des Nations,

Geneva, starting at 10 a.m. on Monday, 6 May 2024, and ending at 1 p.m. on Wednesday, 8 May 2024. The meetings are being held jointly to exploit synergies in the work of the two bodies. This is the fifth joint meeting.

2. The main objectives of the fifth joint meeting of the two Working Groups will be to:

(a) Review implementation of the Water Convention programme of work for 2022–2024 (ECE/MP.WAT/63/Add.1) and discuss progress in the Convention’s global opening;

(b) Discuss the draft programme of work for 2025–2027 under the Convention, to be submitted to the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention for adoption at its tenth session (Ljubljana, 23–25 October 2024);

(c) Discuss preparations for the tenth session of the Meeting of the Parties.

3. The working languages for the meeting will be Arabic, English, French, Russian and Spanish. All relevant documentation will be made available on a dedicated page of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) Water Convention website.<sup>1</sup>

4. To ensure the timely course of action at the meeting, participants are kindly requested to limit the length of their interventions to a maximum of two minutes. In addition, invited presentations will be limited to eight minutes. The Chair will strictly enforce these limits. Full statements or presentations provided to the secretariat can be posted on the meeting web page.

## 1. Opening of the session

*Tentative timing: Monday, 6 May, 10–10.10 a.m.*

5. Ms. Heide Jekel (Germany) and Mr. Peter Kovacs (Hungary) are Co-Chairs of the Working Group on Integrated Water Resources Management. Mr. Niokhor Ndour (Senegal) and Ms. Anna-Stiina Heiskanen (Finland) are Co-Chairs of the Working Group on Monitoring and Assessment. They will serve as Co-Chairs for the meeting and will open it.

## 2. Adoption of the agenda

*Tentative timing: Monday, 6 May, 10.10–10.15 a.m.*

6. The Co-Chairs will present the main objectives of the meeting (see para. 2 above). They will refer to the programme of work for 2022–2024, adopted by the Meeting of the Parties at its ninth session (Geneva, 29 September–1 October 2021), and the report on the implementation of activities under the Water Convention in 2023, as the Working Groups will review the status of implementation of the 2022–2024 programme of work. They will also refer to the draft programme of work for 2025–2027, as the Working Groups will discuss it in detail. The Working Groups are expected to adopt the agenda as set out in the present document.

### Documentation

Annotated provisional agenda for the fifth joint meeting (ECE/MP.WAT/WG.1/2024/1–ECE/MP.WAT/WG.2/2024/1)

Programme of work for 2022–2024 (ECE/MP.WAT/63/Add.1)

Report on the implementation of activities under the Water Convention in 2023 (ECE/MP.WAT/WG.1/2024/3–ECE/MP.WAT/WG.2/2024/3)

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<sup>1</sup> See [https://unece.org/environmental-policy/events/5thjointWGIWRM-WGMA\\_2024](https://unece.org/environmental-policy/events/5thjointWGIWRM-WGMA_2024).

### 3. Adoption of the reports of the previous meetings

*Tentative timing: Monday, 6 May, 10.15–10.20 a.m.*

7. The Working Group on Integrated Water Resources Management will be invited to adopt the report of its eighteenth meeting (Geneva, 19–21 June 2023). The Working Group on Monitoring and Assessment will be invited to adopt the report of its eighteenth meeting (Geneva, 17–18 October 2023).

#### Documentation

Report of the Working Group on Integrated Water Resources Management on its eighteenth meeting (ECE/MP.WAT/WG.1/2023/2)

Report of the Working Group on Monitoring and Assessment on its eighteenth meeting (ECE/MP.WAT/WG.2/2023/2, forthcoming)

### 4. Status of ratification

*Tentative timing: Monday, 6 May, 10.20–10.50 a.m.*

8. The secretariat will inform participants about the status of ratification of the Water Convention and its Protocol on Water and Health. Information will also be provided on the status of ratification of the Convention on the Law of the Non-navigational Uses of International Watercourses.

9. The Working Groups will be invited to welcome those countries that have become Parties to the Water Convention since the last meeting of the Working Group on Integrated Water Resources Management, namely Panama (6 July 2023) and the Gambia (17 July 2023).

#### Documentation

*Informal document*

Ratification status of the Water Convention, its amendments and Protocols (ECE/MP.WAT/WG.1/2024/INF.1-ECE/MP.WAT/WG.2/2024/INF.1)

### 5. Global processes and recent developments related to transboundary water cooperation

*Tentative timing: Monday, 6 May, 10.50–11.45 a.m.*

10. Before beginning the detailed discussion on current and future activities of the Convention, the Working Groups will be briefed on recent major global developments related to water and transboundary water cooperation that need to be taken into account in the work of the Water Convention.

#### (a) Input to global events focusing on water and progress towards achieving Sustainable Development Goals

11. The Working Groups will be informed of the outcomes of the following events:

- The High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (New York, 10–19 July 2023), where Sustainable Development Goal 6 on water was under in-depth review.
- The Sustainable Development Goal Summit 2023 (New York, 18–19 September 2023).

12. The Working Groups will be briefed on the planned contributions of the Water Convention at the Tenth World Water Forum (Bali, Indonesia, 18–25 May 2024) and to World Water Week 2024 (Stockholm (hybrid), 25–29 August 2024).

13. The Working Groups will be informed of the preparations for two major upcoming events:

- The Summit of the Future “Multilateral solutions for a better tomorrow” (New York, 22–23 September 2024), and the ongoing negotiation process of the Pact for the Future.
- The One Water Summit, on the margins of the seventy-ninth session of the General Assembly (New York, 10–24 September 2024).

14. The Working Groups will be invited to ask questions and discuss how to promote transboundary water cooperation and the Water Convention at such events.

**(b) Process for developing the draft future programme of work under the Water Convention for 2025-2027**

15. The Working Groups will be informed about the process of preparing the draft future programme of work of the Water Convention for 2025–2027. The process consisted of a consultation carried out for that purpose, including discussions in the different intergovernmental bodies and an online survey, and considered preliminary outcomes of the analysis of national reports submitted under the Water Convention and on Sustainable Development Goals indicator 6.5.2. On this basis, a draft programme of work for 2025–2027 was prepared by the Bureau, also considering the above-mentioned developments related to water and transboundary water cooperation.

16. The Working Groups will be invited to consider these elements, and how they might influence the future work of the Convention, when discussing future planned activities in subsequent items of the agenda.

**Documentation**

Draft programme of work for 2025–2027 (ECE/MP.WAT/WG.1/2024/4-ECE/MP.WAT/WG.2/2024/4)

Report on the implementation of activities under the Water Convention in 2023 (ECE/MP.WAT/WG.1/2024/3-ECE/MP.WAT/WG.2/2024/3)

*Informal documents*

Main outcomes of the online survey for the development of the programme of work for 2025–2027 (ECE/MP.WAT/WG.1/2024/INF.2-ECE/MP.WAT/WG.2/2024/INF.2)

**6. Increasing awareness of and accession to the Convention and application of its principles drawing on the benefits of cooperation**

*Tentative timing: Monday, 6 May, 11.45 a.m.–1 p.m. and 3–4.30 p.m.*

**(a) Increasing capacity for implementation of the Convention and supporting national processes towards accession**

17. The programme of work for 2022–2024 includes activities to increase awareness and knowledge of and support accession to the Convention (programme area 1, activity 1.1). The Strategy for the implementation of the Convention at the global level (ECE/MP.WAT/54/Add.2), adopted by the Meeting of the Parties at its eighth session (Astana, 10–12 October 2018), also foresees a number of priority actions to strengthen cooperation and partnerships for the management of transboundary waters worldwide in order to promote sustainable development and peace.

18. The Working Groups will be informed about progress towards accession in different countries of Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean. The Working Groups will be informed about the different activities organized at the national level at the request of countries (including national workshops and online briefings), jointly with partners, to raise awareness on the Water Convention and support national accession processes.

19. The Working Groups will also be informed about activities carried out by the secretariat, Parties and partners to build capacity and knowledge of the Convention at the regional levels, such as:

- Organization of or contribution to training sessions on transboundary water cooperation and international water law.
- Sessions and events (co-)organized at the regional level to raise knowledge about the Convention and support accession.
- Initiatives of regional organizations and river basin organizations to increase capacity for accession to and implementation of the Convention.

20. Countries in the process of acceding to the Water Convention will be invited to report on their progress.

21. The Working Groups will be informed about activities carried out to support implementation of the Convention by new Parties, including through the establishment of twinning arrangements.

22. New Parties that are in the process of developing implementation plans for the Convention will be invited to report on their progress.

23. The Working Groups will provide comments and discuss how to further promote accession to and implementation of the Convention, as well as future activities in this area in 2024 and beyond.

#### **Documentation**

Strategy for the implementation of the Convention at the global level (ECE/MP.WAT/54/Add.2)

*Frequently Asked Questions on the 1992 Water Convention: With the Road Map to Facilitate Accession Processes* (ECE/MP.WAT/59)

#### **(b) Supporting the development of agreements and the establishment of joint bodies**

24. The programme of work for 2022–2024 includes activities to promote and communicate the benefits of transboundary cooperation (programme area 1, activity 1.2) and to support countries in the development of agreements and the establishment of joint bodies (programme area 1, activity 1.3). The Working Groups will be provided with an update on the progress made in activities supporting cooperation processes at the basin and regional levels, in particular through:

- The Global workshop on the development of transboundary water cooperation agreements or other arrangements (Budapest, 7–8 November 2023).
- The promotion of the *Practical Guide for the Development of Agreements or other Arrangements for Transboundary Water Cooperation*,<sup>2</sup> in particular to support the development of agreements in some transboundary basins.

25. The Working Groups be invited to discuss future activities in this area in 2024 and beyond to further support cooperation processes at the basin and regional levels.

#### **(c) Implementation Committee**

26. The Implementation Committee will share with the Working Groups the outcomes of its sixteenth and seventeenth meetings (respectively, Geneva, 11–12 December 2023, and Campione d'Italia, Italy, 7–8 March 2024), including information on progress in advisory procedure WAT/IC/AP/1 (Montenegro and Albania) and on the Committee's efforts to support the Convention's globalization. The Committee will report on its decision to pilot the provision of its legal and technical support in a transboundary basin or aquifer. The Working Groups will be briefed on the future plans of the Committee.

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<sup>2</sup> United Nations publication, ECE/MP.WAT/68.

## Documentation

Report of the Implementation Committee on its sixteenth meeting  
(ECE/MP.WAT/IC/2023/2)

## 7. Supporting monitoring, assessment and information-sharing in transboundary basins

*Tentative timing: Monday, 6 May, 4.30–5.30 p.m.*

27. The programme of work for 2022–2024 includes support to countries in initiating or further developing joint and coordinated monitoring and assessment of transboundary waters and ensuring exchange of information (programme area 2). The Working Groups will be provided with an update on the progress made in activities, in particular the outcomes of the eighteenth meeting of the Working Group on Monitoring and Assessment (17–18 October 2023). It will discuss how to promote the publication *Updated Strategies for Monitoring and Assessment of Transboundary Rivers, Lakes and Groundwaters*, along with other guidance documents developed under the Convention.

28. The Working Groups will undertake the final review of the draft of the publication on good practices and lessons learned in transboundary data-sharing, and will be invited to provide comments on and endorse its key messages. The Working Groups will be invited to agree on next steps to finalize the publication by the tenth session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Water Convention.

29. The Working Groups will discuss future activities in this programme area, in 2024 and beyond, including proposed new activities focusing on water quality.

## Documentation

*Updated Strategies for Monitoring and Assessment of Transboundary Rivers, Lakes and Groundwaters* (ECE/MP.WAT/70)

Key messages of the draft publication on good practices and lessons learned in transboundary data-sharing (ECE/MP.WAT/WG.1/2024/6-ECE/MP.WAT/WG.2/2024/6)

### *Informal documents*

*Good practices and lessons learned in transboundary data-sharing (Final draft)*  
(ECE/MP.WAT/WG.1/2024/INF.3-ECE/MP.WAT/WG.2/2024/INF.3).

## 8. Promoting an integrated and intersectoral approach to water management at all levels

*Tentative timing: Monday, 6 May, 5.30–6 p.m., and Tuesday, 7 May, 10 a.m.–12 p.m.*

### (a) Promoting integrated water resources management in transboundary basins

30. The programme of work for 2022–2024 includes promoting integrated water resources management in transboundary basins (programme area 3, activity 3.1) in order to contribute to an integrated and intersectoral approach to water management at all levels. The Working Groups will be informed about the outcomes of the Global workshop on conjunctive management of surface water and groundwater: National to transboundary level (Geneva, 16–17 October 2023).

31. The Working Groups will discuss future activities of this programme area in 2024 and beyond.

## Documentation

*Informal documents*

Conclusions and key outcomes of the Global workshop on conjunctive management of surface water and groundwater: National to transboundary level (Geneva, 16–17 October 2023) (ECE.MP.WAT/WG.1/2024/INF.4-ECE/MP.WAT/WG.2/2024/INF.4)

**(b) Source-to-sea management**

32. The Working Groups will be updated on progress and plans for the elaboration of a guidance note for the implementation of the source-to-sea approach in transboundary basins, based on the outcomes of the Global workshop on source-to-sea management (Geneva, 14–16 December 2022). The Working Groups will be invited to provide comments on the draft outline of the guidance note.

33. The Working Groups will discuss future activities of this programme area in 2024 and beyond.

**Documentation**

*Informal documents*

Draft outline of the guidance note for the implementation of the source-to-sea approach in transboundary basins (ECE/MP.WAT/WG.1/2024/INF.5-ECE/MP.WAT/WG.2/2024/INF.5)

**(c) Supporting intersectoral dialogues and assessments through the application of the water-food-energy-ecosystems nexus approach**

34. The programme of work for 2022–2024 includes support for intersectoral dialogues and assessments through the application of the water-food-energy-ecosystems nexus approach (programme area 3, activity 3.2). The Working Groups will be informed about the outcomes of the eighth meeting of the Task Force on the Water-Food-Energy-Ecosystems Nexus (Geneva, 7–8 December 2023).

35. The Working Groups will also be provided with an update on efforts to promote the methodology for assessing the water-food-energy-ecosystems nexus in transboundary basins, contributions to dialogues related to cross-sectoral cooperation efforts in transboundary basins, and basin and regional level processes and projects aiming at fostering intersectoral dialogues in transboundary basins.

36. The Working Groups will discuss future activities of this area in 2024 and beyond.

**Documentation**

*Solutions and Investments in the Water-Food-Energy-Ecosystems Nexus: A Synthesis of Experiences in Transboundary Basins* (ECE/MP.WAT/66)

*Informal documents*

Report of the eighth meeting of the Task Force on the Water-Food-Energy-Ecosystems Nexus (forthcoming) (TFWFEEN/2023/3)

Leaflet “Transboundary Nexus Assessment (TBNA) Methodology: A participatory approach to facilitate cross-sectoral cooperation in transboundary basins”<sup>3</sup>

**(d) Supporting equitable and sustainable water allocation in a transboundary context**

37. The programme of work for 2022–2024 includes support to equitable and sustainable water allocation in a transboundary context (programme area 3, activity 3.3). The Working Groups will be provided with an update on the progress made in activities, including the Preparation of the *Summary handbook on Water Allocation in a Transboundary Context* and efforts made to promote it.

38. The Working Groups will discuss future activities in this area in 2024 and beyond.

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<sup>3</sup> Available at <https://unece.org/environment-policy/water/areas-work-convention/nexus-methodology>.

## Documentation

*Handbook on Water Allocation in a Transboundary Context* (ECE/MP.WAT/64)

*Summary Handbook on Water Allocation in a Transboundary Context* (ECE/MP.WAT/71)

### (e) **Supporting National Policy Dialogues on Integrated Water Resources Management under the European Union Water Initiative**

39. The programme of work for 2022–2024 includes support to the European Union Water Initiative National Policy Dialogues on Integrated Water Resources Management (programme area 3, activity 3.4). The Working Groups will be updated on the project entitled “EU4Environment in the Eastern Partnership: Water Resources and Environmental Data”, implemented jointly by ECE, the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, Environment Agency Austria and the International Office for Water of France.

40. The Working Groups will discuss future activities in this area in 2024 and beyond, considering existing challenges.

## 9. **Adapting to climate change in transboundary basins**

*Tentative timing: Tuesday, 7 May, 12–12.40 p.m.*

41. The programme of work for 2022–2024 includes activities to support countries in adapting to climate change and in financing climate change adaptation in transboundary basins (programme area 4). The Working Groups will be informed about the outcomes of the Global workshop on droughts in transboundary basins (Geneva, 26–27 February 2024) and the fourteenth meeting of the Task Force on Water and Climate (Geneva, 28 February 2024).

42. The Working Groups will be briefed on contributions by the Convention secretariat to global processes on water, climate change and disasters, in particular to the twenty-eighth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (Dubai, United Arab Emirates, 30 November–12 December 2023), where efforts focused on highlighting the role of transboundary water cooperation in climate change adaptation, among other things. The Working Groups will be informed about preparations for the twenty-ninth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (Baku, 11–22 November 2024). The Working Groups will be invited to discuss how to highlight water and transboundary cooperation at the above-mentioned events.

43. The Working Groups will discuss future activities in this area in 2024 and beyond.

## 10. **Facilitating funding and financing of transboundary water cooperation and basin development**

*Tentative timing: Tuesday, 7 May, 12.40–1 p.m. and 3–3.15 p.m.*

44. The programme of work for 2022–2024 includes activities to support countries in facilitating financing of transboundary water cooperation (programme area 5). The Working Groups will be informed about the outcomes of the Global workshop on funding and financing transboundary water cooperation and basin development (Geneva, 5–6 December 2023).

45. The Working Groups will also be updated on the progress made in the promotion of guidance documents related to the funding and financing of transboundary water cooperation and basin development, as well as the activities carried out at the country level to raise awareness on funding opportunities for transboundary water cooperation.

46. The Working Groups will discuss future activities in this area in 2024 and beyond.

### **Documentation**

*How to Accelerate the Funding and Financing of Transboundary Water Cooperation and Basin Development? Opportunities and Challenges (ECE/MP.WAT/72)*

*Funding and Financing of Transboundary Water Cooperation and Basin Development (ECE/MP.WAT/61)*

## **11. Reporting on Sustainable Development Goal indicator 6.5.2 and under the Convention**

*Tentative timing: Tuesday, 7 May, 3.15–4.15 p.m.*

47. The programme of work for 2022–2024 includes support for reporting on Sustainable Development Goal indicator 6.5.2 and under the Water Convention (programme area 6). The Working Groups will be updated on developments at the global level regarding measurement of progress relating to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, in particular Sustainable Development Goal 6 (Water), including under the UN-Water Integrated Monitoring Initiative for Sustainable Development Goal 6.

48. The Working Groups will be briefed by representatives of ECE and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), co-custodian agencies for indicator 6.5.2, about the process and initial outcomes of the third reporting exercise on indicator 6.5.2 in 2023–2024, including the submission of data to the United Nations Statistics Division. The Working Groups will also be updated on the preparation by ECE and UNESCO of the third global report on progress on transboundary water cooperation based on the outcomes of the third reporting exercise on indicator 6.5.2.

49. For Parties only, the reporting exercise on Sustainable Development Goal indicator 6.5.2 is combined with the third reporting exercise under the Water Convention. The secretariat will provide an overview of initial outcomes of the third reporting exercise under the Water Convention, including on the development of the third report on progress on transboundary water cooperation under the Convention.

50. Countries will be invited to ask questions and share experiences of their third reporting process, especially on efforts made to coordinate responses in the preparation of reports. Partners will be invited to share ideas on their plans to make use of the information collected through the third reporting cycle.

51. The Working Groups will discuss future activities in this area in 2024 and beyond.

### **Documentation**

Decision VIII/1 on reporting under the Convention (ECE/MP.WAT/54/Add.2)

Decision IX/2 on reporting (ECE/MP.WAT/63/Add.2)

## **12. Partnerships**

*Tentative timing: Tuesday, 7 May, 4.15–5.10 p.m.*

52. The programme of work for 2022–2024 includes the strengthening of cooperation with different partners and with other multilateral agreements at the global and regional levels, and communication and knowledge management in order to improve the implementation of the Convention and enhance the impact of activities (programme area 7).

### **(a) Cooperation with UN-Water, global and regional partners and other multilateral environmental agreements**

53. The Working Groups will be briefed on some of the key messages of the United Nations World Water Development Report 2024 “Water for prosperity and peace”. They will also be informed about initiatives undertaken on the occasion of World Water Day 2024 (22 March 2024) and focusing on “Water for Peace” to promote the role of the Water Convention

in preventing water-related conflict related to waters and to provide a unique framework for peaceful management of transboundary waters and basin development. Participants will be invited to share information, in particular about activities at the national level, on the occasion of World Water Day.

54. The Working Groups will be informed of ongoing cooperation with different global and regional partners, including other conventions, such as the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance Especially as Waterfowl Habitat (Ramsar Convention). The Working Groups will be informed of the outcomes of discussions at the sixth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly of the United Nations Environment Programme (Nairobi, 26 February–1 March 2024) that are relevant to the work of the Water Convention.

55. Partners will be invited to report on their activities with regard to transboundary water cooperation, including how they support awareness-raising and implementation of the Convention and its principles at the global and regional levels. In particular, the Working Groups will be informed about cooperation with partners working at the global level, such as the Global Environment Facility and its International Waters Learning Exchange and Resources Network, the Global Water Partnership, the International Union for Conservation of Nature, UN-Water and the Inter-Parliamentary Union.

56. Representatives of institutions working on support to transboundary water cooperation at the regional level, including the regional commissions and regional organizations, will be invited to report on joint efforts and synergies with the Water Convention to support a better understanding and implementation of the Convention and its activities in different regions.

57. The Working Groups will be informed about cooperation with the Protocol on Water and Health.

58. The Working Group will discuss how to further strengthen partnerships, including how to discuss them at the tenth session of the Meeting of the Parties, for example through a possible decision(s).

59. The Working Groups will discuss future activities in this area in 2024 and beyond.

#### **Documentation**

Programme of work for 2023–2025 under the Protocol on Water and Health (ECE/MP.WH/24/Add.1-EUCHP/2219533/3.1/2022/MOP-6/06/Add.1)

#### **(b) Joint Expert Group on Water and Industrial Accidents**

60. The Working Groups will be briefed on activities of the Joint Expert Group on Water and Industrial Accidents, including the outcomes of the International workshop on increasing capacities to prevent, prepare for and respond to accidental water pollution from tailings facilities, combined with the Joint Expert Group meeting (Bratislava, 23–24 April 2024).

61. The Working Groups will discuss future activities in this area in 2024 and beyond.

### **13. Communication and knowledge management**

*Tentative timing: Tuesday, 7 May, 5.10–5.30 p.m.*

62. The Working Groups will be presented with an update on communication efforts, such as through social media and regularly issued press releases, news stories and the trimestral newsletter of the Water Convention and its Protocol on Water and Health.

63. The Working Groups will discuss future activities in this area in 2024 and beyond.

## 14. International Water Assessment Centre

*Tentative timing: Tuesday, 7 May, 5.30–6 p.m.*

64. The Meeting of the Parties adopted the programme of work of the International Water Assessment Centre for 2022–2024, hosted by Kazakhstan. The Working Groups will be informed about the implementation of International Water Assessment Centre activities, as well as planned future activities.

### Documentation

Programme of work of the International Water Assessment Centre for 2022–2024 and decisions (ECE/MP.WAT/63/Add.2)

## 15. Future programme of work for 2025–2027

*Tentative timing: Wednesday, 8 May, 10–11 a.m.*

65. The Working Groups will review overall progress made in the implementation of the Convention's programme of work for 2022–2024 and lessons learned.

66. The secretariat will provide the Working Groups with a summary of planned activities for 2025–2027. Considering the discussions under previous agenda items, as well as additional information about proposed new activities focusing on ecosystems, the Working groups will discuss the draft future programme of work for 2025–2027, including:

- Overall objective and structure
- Potential lead Parties for the various work areas
- Cooperation with partner organizations under the various work areas
- Financial and other resources needed for the implementation of proposed activities and how to mobilize them

67. The Working Groups will also discuss how to mainstream gender into the future programme of work, taking into account the outcomes of the third reporting exercise on indicator 6.5.2 and under the Convention related to gender and transboundary water cooperation.

68. The Working Groups will also discuss and agree upon the future institutional structure under the Convention and the mandate of the different subsidiary bodies to guide the implementation of the 2025–2027 programme of work.

69. The Working Groups will also agree on how to finalize the draft programme of work for 2025–2027. The Working Groups are expected to entrust their Co-Chairs, in cooperation with the Bureau, with finalizing the programme of work for submission to the Meeting of the Parties for adoption at its tenth session.

### Documentation

Draft programme of work for 2025–2027 (ECE/MP.WAT/WG.1/2024/4-ECE/MP.WAT/WG.2/2024/4)

## 16. Resources for the implementation of the programme of work

*Tentative timing: Wednesday, 8 May, 11 a.m.–12.15 p.m.*

70. The Working Groups will be informed about the status of the financial resources for implementing the programme of work for 2022–2024, in particular the status of the different trust funds related to the Convention, including financial contributions, items of expenditure and financial needs. The Working Groups will also be informed on the status of progress with implementing Decision IX/3 on targets for a more sustainable and predictable funding of the

work under the Convention (ECE/MP.WAT/63/Add.2) adopted by the Meeting of the Parties at its ninth session.

71. Parties and other interested States and organizations will be invited to inform the Working Groups of their intention to contribute financially to the programme of work's implementation, in line with decision IX/3 on targets for a more sustainable and predictable funding of the work under the Convention

72. The Bureau will inform the Working Groups about initial discussions on a possible mechanism for a more sustainable and predictable funding of the work under the Convention. The Working Groups will be invited to provide feedback and ask questions.

#### **Documentation**

Report on contributions and expenditures from January until December 2023 (ECE/MP.WAT/WG.1/2024/5-ECE/MP.WAT/WG.2/2024/5)

Decision IX/3 on targets for a more sustainable and predictable funding of the work under the Convention (ECE/MP.WAT/63/Add.2)

#### *Informal documents*

Note on the usefulness of a more predictable and sustainable funding mechanism of the Water Convention (ECE/MP.WAT/WG.1/2024/INF.6–ECE/MP.WAT/WG.2/2024/INF.6)

### **17. Preparation for the tenth session of the Meeting of the Parties**

*Tentative timing: Wednesday, 8 May, 12.15–12.45 p.m.*

73. The Working Groups will be informed about the preparations for the tenth session of the Meeting of the Parties (Ljubljana, 23–25 October 2024), including the high-level segment. The Working Groups will be invited to ask questions and make comments.

74. At its tenth session, the Meeting of the Parties to the Water Convention is expected to elect a new Bureau of the Meeting of the Parties. The secretariat will inform the Working Groups about the procedure for proposing future Bureau members.

#### **Documentation**

Rules of procedure of the Meetings of the Parties (ECE/MP.WAT/54/Add.2)

Draft agenda of the tenth session of the Meeting of the Parties (ECE/MP.WAT/WG.1/2024/INF.7-ECE/MP.WAT/WG.2/2024/INF.7)

### **18. Date and venue of the next meetings of the Working Groups**

*Tentative timing: Wednesday, 8 May, 12.45–12.55 p.m.*

75. The Working Groups will be informed of the dates and venue for its next meeting. It will also be informed of the schedule of other meetings under the Convention and its Protocol on Water and Health.

### **19. Other business**

*Tentative timing: Wednesday, 8 May, 12.55–1 p.m.*

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

### **20. Closure of the meeting**

77. The Chair will close the meeting at 1 p.m. on Wednesday, 8 May 2024.