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Dear focal points and points of contact of the Water Convention,

The tenth meeting of the Working Group on Integrated Water Resources Management (Geneva, 24–25 June 2015) under the Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes (Water Convention) is approaching and we are writing to you as co-chairs of the Working Group to raise your attention to the great importance of this meeting.

After three years of hard work, the meeting will review the implementation of the Convention's programme of work for 2013–2015 and, most importantly, agree on a draft programme of work for 2016–2018 as well as take a number of decisions important for the future of the Water Convention. These will be submitted for adoption at the seventh session of the Meeting of the Parties (Budapest, Hungary, 17–19 November 2015).

Your active participation in the meeting and your preparation for the debate on all different issues is crucial. We would in particular like to raise your attention to two strategic documents that have been prepared by the Bureau and the Core Group on Reporting for the meeting, as well as to a draft publication:

A key document for discussion at the Working Group meeting is the **Draft programme of work for 2016–2018** (ECE/MP.WAT/WG.1/2015/L.1). This draft programme foresees continuation of work in many successful areas, such as the water-food-energy-ecosystems nexus and climate change adaptation, as well as a few new topics such as water allocation in transboundary basins. The future work programme should respond to the needs of Parties and other States interested in the Convention and to relevant international developments, ensure a good balance between projects on the ground and policy issues and take into account the global opening of the Convention. Therefore, we need clear feedback and a strong signal of endorsement by Parties and other States on the different proposed activities, as well as indications on priorities and expressions of interest in leading or co-leading and supporting the different areas of work. Moreover, we look forward to indications of financial support for the implementation of the programme.

**The possible introduction of a reporting mechanism under the Water Convention will be another important topic for discussion.** As you probably know, at the sixth Meeting of the Parties the Working Group was requested to carry out an analysis on the needs for reporting under the Convention which was to serve as a basis for the possible elaboration of a reporting mechanism. To support this analysis, a questionnaire was sent to Parties, other States and organizations in October 2013. At its ninth meeting, the Working Group decided to create a core group to elaborate a proposal for a possible reporting mechanism. The core group

met twice (15–16 December 2014 and 30–31 March 2015) and its work resulted in a proposal for such a mechanism contained in document (ECE/MP.WAT/WG.1/2015/5).

The Working Group will discuss the proposal and decide whether to submit a draft decision on reporting to the Meeting of the Parties. **It is therefore crucial that all delegates consult widely on the proposal in their capitals.**

Finally, we invite you to review carefully the draft **Policy Guidance on identifying, assessing and communicating the benefits of transboundary water cooperation** (ECE/MP.WAT/WG.1/2015/4), which will be posted on the meeting website by the end of May. This product, aimed at estimating the benefits of transboundary cooperation (including the costs of non-action), has attracted a lot of interest. The Working Group will discuss the draft policy guidance note and next steps for its finalization and subsequent submission to the Meeting of the Parties.

The documents for the Working Group meeting are available at [http://www.unece.org/env/water/10th\\_wgiwrm\\_2015.html#/. The few missing documents, as well as translations, will be posted in the coming days.](http://www.unece.org/env/water/10th_wgiwrm_2015.html#/)

Please do not hesitate to contact us in case of questions or for sharing your views ahead of the meeting.

We thank you in advance for your good work and cooperation and look forward to meeting you in Geneva.

Best regards



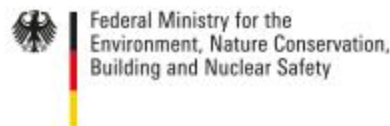
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