



Convention on the Protection and Use of  
Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes  
Task Force on Water and Climate  
First meeting  
Bonn, Germany, 22–23 November 2007

**EXCERPTS FROM  
THE WORKPLAN FOR THE PERIOD 2007–2009  
ADOPTED BY THE FOURTH MEETING OF THE PARTIES TO THE WATER  
CONVENTION (Bonn, 20-22 November 2006)  
AND FROM THE  
PROGRAMME OF WORK FOR 2007–2009 ADOPTED BY THE FIRST MEETING OF THE  
PARTIES TO THE  
PROTOCOL ON WATER AND HEALTH (Geneva, 17–19 January 2007)**

**WATER CONVENTION WORK PLAN**

**2.1.3 Water and Climate adaptation in transboundary basins, including flood and drought risk management**

Work to be undertaken:

1. The Flood Task Force will be transformed into a Water and Climate Task Force, and will prepare a guidance on “Water and Climate Adaptation” for presentation and possible adoption by the Meeting of the Parties at its fifth session.  
This work will be targeted to support cooperation and decision making in transboundary basins on a range of relevant or emerging issues resulting from climate change, including issues not covered by the 2000 Guidelines on Sustainable Flood Prevention.  
The work will address possible impacts of climate change on flood and drought occurrences, health related aspects as well as practical ways to cope with the transboundary impacts through adaptation. The adaptation responses to be considered in the context of integrated water resource management (IWRM) include, inter alia, integrated management of surface and groundwater for flood and drought mitigation and response, including benefits of floods to increase water availability and to improve the ecological status of waters. Land use, regional and spatial planning as well as land use management, and their role in reducing flood and drought risks and damage potential, in particular in the transboundary context, will also be considered.  
Appropriate use will be made of the analysis of some successful cases and/or ongoing projects on transboundary cooperation.
2. The Task Force should support the transfer of the experience and results of the European Network of Expertise on Flood Risk Management to non-European Union (EU) countries. To this end, two workshops should be organized on flood forecasting and flood risk mapping. Furthermore, the Task Force and the Legal Board should assist Parties to the Convention as well as non-Parties in using the model provisions for transboundary flood management. On the basis of legal developments in the region and experience gained, the two bodies should further develop the provisions and their supporting commentary, as needed.

Lead Party/Organization: Germany, the Netherlands and Switzerland in cooperation with Hungary and Greece (lead Party for the flood model provisions).

Participating countries<sup>1</sup>: Bulgaria, Finland, Georgia, Poland, Portugal, Romania, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Ukraine and others to be defined.

Main partners: The Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol on Water and Health for health-related aspects. Cooperation will be sought with the WMO Commission for Hydrology, the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, UNESCO, UNDP, UNEP, OECD, WHO, EU, DG Research, the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (ISDR), the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands, the GEF, REC and the Environment and Security Initiative and ICWC.

### **PROTOCOL ON WATER AND HEALTH PROGRAMME OF WORK**

#### **3.2 Water supply and sanitation in short-term critical situations and adaptation to climate change**

Objective and expected outcome: Share experience on the safe operation of facilities for, and maintenance of adequate, water supply and sanitation in short-term critical situations (floods; extreme – given prevalent local conditions – temperatures) and develop guidelines to respond to such situations. Develop strategies to satisfy water supply and sanitation needs in the long term, given the potential impacts of climate change and the need for adaptation and mitigation programmes.

Work to be undertaken: A Task Force on Extreme Weather Events will:

- (a) Share experience on, and identify relevant local/national good practices regarding, the safe operation of water supply and sanitation facilities in urban and rural areas which are subject to the impact of short-term critical situations; and prepare guidelines to respond to short-term critical situations; and
- (b) Draft a strategy paper on how to cope with the potential impact of climate change, and on adaptation and mitigation programmes for water supply and sanitation.

The Parties at their second meeting will consider both documents.

Lead Party: To be defined.

Participating countries: Croatia, Romania and the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.

Main partners: Water Convention Task Force on Water and Climate, UNDP, WHO Collaborating Centre for Health Promoting Water Management and Risk Communication. Cooperation will be sought with the World Meteorological Organization (WMO).

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<sup>1</sup> Countries listed under “Participating countries” have stated their interest in joining the related activity at the meeting of the Parties. The list serves as an indication for the lead Party and does not exclude any other interested country or organization from participation.