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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 16 of the provisional agenda

Resources for the implementation of the programme of work**Provisional report on contributions and expenditures from
January until December 2023****Note by the secretariat***Summary*

The present document reports on the contributions and provisional expenditures related to the implementation of the programme of work for 2022–2024 for the Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes (Water Convention) (ECE/MP.WAT/63/Add.1), adopted at the ninth session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention (Geneva, 29 September–1 October 2021). The document contains detailed contributions and expenditures from 1 January to 31 December 2023 for all Water Convention-related trust funds, including for the Convention's global opening, the reporting on indicator 6.5.2 of the Sustainable Development Goals and the European Union National Policy Dialogues in Eastern Europe and the Caucasus. This document complements the 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).

* Fifth joint meeting of the two Working Groups.



I. Approximate balance as of 31 December 2022

1. The approximate provisional balance of the Water Convention's trust funds as of 31 December 2022 was \$5,166,842.¹

II. Contributions received from 1 January to 31 December 2023²

2. A breakdown of contributions received from 1 January to 31 December 2023 is set out in table 1.

Table 1
Breakdown of contributions

<i>Contributor</i>	<i>Date received</i>	<i>Currency</i>	<i>Amount</i>	<i>Amount (in US dollars)^a</i>	<i>Earmarked/explanation</i>
Luxembourg	7 Mar. 2023	€	3 600	3 814	Unearmarked
UN Water	10 Mar. 2023	\$	36 609	36 609	Reporting on SDG indicator 6.5.2
UN Water	16 Mar. 2023	\$	12 223	12 223	Reporting on SDG indicator 6.5.2
Kazakhstan	14 Apr. 2023	\$	30 000	30 000	Unearmarked
France	27 Apr. 2023	€	70 000	76 839	Unearmarked
UN Water	8 May 2023	\$	34 388	34 388	Reporting on SDG indicator 6.5.2
European Union	11 May 2023	€	25 000	27 503	Unearmarked
Austria	16 May 2023	€	15 000	16 358	Unearmarked
Switzerland (FOEN)	17 May 2023	CHF	100 000	111 732	Climate change workshop, WGIWRM
Germany	15 June 2023	€	25 000	26 969	WGIWRM
Estonia	15 June 2023	€	5 000	5 394	Unearmarked
Hungary	20 June 2023	\$	10 000	10 000	Unearmarked
France	26 June 2023	€	20 000	21 575	Implementation plan development in Chad
Bulgaria	1 Sept. 2023	€	3 000	3 282	Unearmarked
Sweden	11 Sept. 2023	SKr	1 000 000	92 601	Train the trainer, Workshop on conjunctive management, WGMA
European Union	27 Sept. 2023	€	663 000	712 137	EU4Environment in Eastern Partner countries
(Refund to European Union)	3 Oct. 2023	€	(46 172)	(48 705)	EUWI+ Eastern Partnership countries project surplus
Finland (Ministry of Foreign Affairs)	4 Oct. 2023	€	200 000	210 970	Unearmarked
Finland (Ministry of the Environment)	11 Oct. 2023	€	20 000	21 097	Unearmarked
Poland	16 Oct. 2023	\$	13 500	13 500	Unearmarked

¹ ECE/MP.WAT/WG.1/2023/4, para. 4.

² This includes contributions to the Water Convention trust fund, the UN-Water trust fund, the opening of the Convention phase 2 project trust funds and the European Union "Water Resources and Environmental Data" programme in Eastern Partner Countries.

Contributor	Date received	Currency	Amount		Earmarked/explanation
			Amount	(in US dollars) ^a	
(Refund to European Union)	16 Oct. 2023	€	(313 498)	(333 154)	Promoting accession to Water Convention phase 1 project surplus
Luxembourg	17 Oct. 2023	€	15 000	15 940	Unearmarked
France	27 Oct. 2023	€	30 000	31 881	Transboundary Cooperation Water Coalition
Slovenia (Ministry of the Environment, Climate and Energy)	1 Nov. 2023	€	10 000	10 941	Unearmarked
Slovenia (Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs)	1 Nov. 2023	€	10 000	10 627	Unearmarked
Switzerland (FOEN)	3 Nov. 2023	CHF	30 000	33 259	Workshop on conjunctive management, WGMA
Germany	8 Nov. 2023	€	70 000	74 231	Workshop on agreements
Switzerland (SDC)	15 Nov. 2023	\$	550 000	550 000	Unearmarked
Luxembourg	15 Nov. 2023	€	267 000	284 952	Climate change ^b
UN Water	17 Nov. 2023	\$	96 565	96 565	Reporting on SDG indicator 6.5.2
France	28 Nov. 2023	€	19 000	20 277	Unearmarked
Croatia	6 Dec. 2023	\$	12 160	12 160	Unearmarked
European Union	7 Dec. 2023	€	1 600 000	1 707 577	Promoting accession to Water Convention phase 2
Finland (Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry)	12 Dec. 2023	€	12 000	13 158	Unearmarked
Estonia	15 Dec. 2023	€	10 000	10 787	Source-to-sea activities
Italy	15 Dec. 2023	€	363 600	385 761	Transboundary cooperation in Western Balkans
Netherlands	21 Dec. 2023	€	200 000	215 750	Unearmarked
Netherlands	21 Dec. 2023	€	50 000	53 937	Transboundary Cooperation Water Coalition
Portugal	27 Dec. 2023	€	15 000	16 181	Implementation plan development in Guinea-Bissau
Total				4 629 118	

Abbreviations: EU4Environment, European Union for Environment; EUWI+, European Union Water Initiative Plus; NPDs, National Policy Dialogues; FOEN, Federal Office for the Environment; SDC, Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation; SDG, Sustainable Development Goal; WGIWRM, Working Group on Integrated Water Resources Management; WGMA, Working Group on Monitoring and Assessment.

^a United States dollars. Exchange rate from currency of contribution to United States dollars is calculated on the date of funds transfer. Figures are rounded.

^b The project “Strengthening climate resilience in the water and sanitation sector and in transboundary basins through capacity-building and policy action” supports activities both under the Water Convention and its Protocol on Water and Health. About 50 per cent of the contribution aims to support activities under the Protocol.

III. Provisional expenditures in 2023

3. Total provisional expenditures from 1 January to 31 December 2023 were \$3,948,655. At the time of preparing this report, the 2023 United Nations accounts had not been closed. Amounts listed below are therefore provisional and might be subject to changes at the time of closure of the United Nations accounts. A breakdown of costs by programme area is set out in table 2.

Table 2
Breakdown of costs by programme area

<i>Description^a</i>	<i>Amount in US dollars</i>
(a) Official meetings (Working Groups, Bureau meetings)	
Staff and personnel costs ^b	100 620
Contract service ^c	9 381
Operating and other direct costs ^d	112 326
Travel ^e	143 188
Subtotal (a)	365 516
(b) Programme area 1: Increasing awareness of and accession to the Convention and application of its principles drawing on the benefits of cooperation	
Staff and personnel costs	705 766
Contract service	35 298
Operating and other direct costs	60 076
Travel	395 298
Subtotal (b)	1 196 438
(c) Programme area 2: Supporting monitoring, assessment and information-sharing in transboundary basins	
Staff and personnel costs	117 071
Contract service	8 503
Operating and other direct costs	10 489
Travel	55 036
Subtotal (c)	191 099
(d) Programme area 3: Promoting an integrated and intersectoral approach to water resources management at all levels^f	
Staff and personnel costs	875 912
Contract service	23 902
Operating and other direct costs	126 084
Travel	152 952
Subtotal (d)	1 178 851
(e) Programme area 4: Adapting to climate change in transboundary basins	
Staff and personnel costs	177 982
Contract service	2 034
Operating and other direct costs	8 723
Travel	35 939
Subtotal (e)	224 679

<i>Description^a</i>	<i>Amount in US dollars</i>
(f) Programme areas 5: Facilitating funding and financing of transboundary water cooperation and basin development	
Staff and personnel costs	149 940
Contract service	4 983
Operating and other direct costs	36 457
Travel	40 304
Subtotal (f)	231 684
(g) Programme area 6: Reporting on Sustainable Development Goal indicator 6.5.2 and under the Convention	
Staff and personnel costs	324 938
Contract service	1 551
Operating and other direct costs	4 758
Travel	3 970
Subtotal (g)	335 218
(h) Programme area 7: Partnerships, communication and knowledge management	
Staff and personnel costs	149 691
Contract service	4 748
Operating and other direct costs	5 388
Travel	65 344
Subtotal (h)	225 170
Total ((a)–(h))	3 948 655

Note: All figures include 13 per cent United Nations standard programme support costs. For contributions from the European Union and UN-Water, programme support costs are 7 per cent.

^a Categories of expenditures in the present report follow the categories in the Umoja administrative and financial system. The footnotes below explain the different categories.

^b This includes staff costs, consultancies costs and consultants' travel costs.

^c This includes costs for individual contractors, including for outsourced translations, as well as for low value procurement, for example for catering services for conferences and events, etc.

^d This includes all logistics costs, for example, for events organized outside Geneva, and costs for translation, layout and printing of publications by the United Nations Office at Geneva, as well as extrabudgetary interpretation costs.

^e This includes staff travel costs, as well as travel support to eligible participants.

^f Expenses reported under programme area 3 reflect expenditures related to the contribution from the European Union for Eastern Partner Countries (in the framework of the EU4Environment Water and Data project). However, it should be noted that the project funded activities beyond the Convention's programme of work. In particular, at least 20 per cent of the expenditures are related to the implementation of the Protocol on Water and Health to the Water Convention and its programme of work.

IV. Approximate provisional balance as of 31 December 2023

4. The approximate provisional balance of the various Water Convention trust funds as at 31 December 2023 was \$5,847,305.