



Progress under the Protocol on Water and Health

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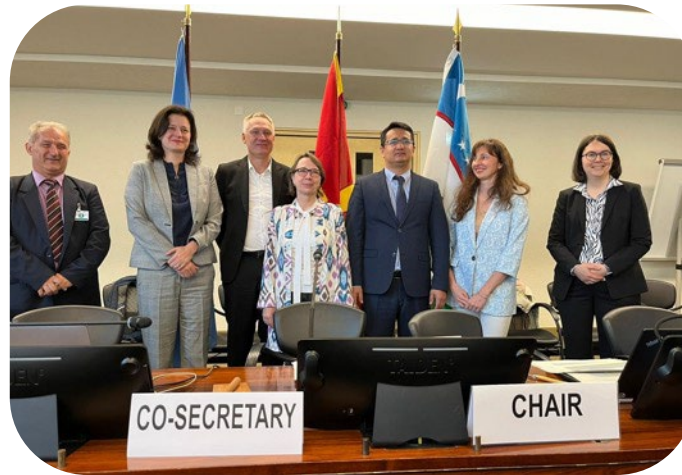
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Status of accession



North Macedonia
(October 2023)



Uzbekistan
(January 2024)

With two new accessions, there are now 29 Parties to the Protocol

Further progress towards accession

- Italy and Kazakhstan are in the process of accession
- High level calls for accession in various events (UN Secretary General at the MoP, WHO Regional Director at the 7th Ministerial Conference on Environmental Health, several mentions from delegations at the UN Water Conference)
- Budapest Declaration also calls all countries in the WHO European Region to accede
- EU directives (DWD, UWWTD) referring to the Protocol tools on equitable access

UN Water Conference



UN
2023 WATER
CONFERENCE

NEW YORK
22-24
MARCH
2023



- First such event in almost 50 years
- New York, 22-24 March, 2023
- Over 6,500 participants
- Protocol mentioned by several delegations in the Interactive Dialogue on Water and Health
- Dedicated **side event on the Protocol**
 - Showcasing examples of tools and resources developed under the Protocol
 - Very high attendance
- Water Action agenda – compendium of voluntary commitments
 - Several Protocol related commitments (e.g. ITA, ALB, HUN, UZB)
 - Bureau commitment on promoting accession



7th Ministerial Conference on Environment and Health

- Under the World Health Organization WHO European Environment and Health Process
- Hosted Budapest, Hungary, 5–7 July 2023,
- Over 600 high-level representatives of 44 Member States, institutional stakeholders, youth organizations and nongovernmental organizations
- 7 plenary sessions and 21 parallel session
 - Including one dedicated to the Protocol on Water and Health

Objectives

- To determine regional environment and health priorities and actions
- Addressing the health dimension of the “triple crisis” of climate change, environmental pollution and loss of biodiversity



Budapest Declaration



Water and health related priorities in the Declaration:

- Increase efforts to address the environmental determinants of health
- Reduce the health impacts of pollution, both established and emerging environmental risk factors
- Provide universal and equitable access to essential services, such as safe drinking water, sanitation and hygiene
- Promote a safe, clean and healthy built environment across all settings

Roadmap for healthier people, a thriving planet and a sustainable future 2023–2030:

- Universal and equitable access to safe drinking water, sanitation and hygiene services for all in all settings, with special emphasis on healthcare facilities
- Safe and climate-resilient management of the drinking-water supply and sanitation
- Promotion of hand hygiene and menstrual hygiene
- **Protocol on Water and Health** supports national implementation of commitments and calls for capitalizing on the Protocol's technical tools and resources

Declaration explicitly calls for accession to the Protocol on Water and Health

Highlights on the progress of priority areas

Past events

- PA3** • Global event on WASH in health care facilities (Amman, June 2023)
- PA7** • Strategic roundtable on increasing resilience to climate change in the water and sanitation sector (Geneva, Nov 2023)
- PA3** • Subregional workshop on WASH in schools (Astana, Dec 2023)
- PA2** • Meeting on risk-based drinking-water quality surveillance in Nordic-Baltic countries (Tallin, April 2024)

Upcoming

- PA1** • Subregional workshop on target setting and Protocol accession for the Mediterranean region Lisbon, June 2024
- PA6** • Seventh Expert Group meeting on Equitable access to water and sanitation (online, May 2024)
- PA6** • Regional meeting on Equitable access to water and sanitation

Continued country support

- Central-Asian countries, Ukraine



Thank you for your attention!

- More information on the Protocol is available [here](#)
- You can contact the Protocol's secretariat at: protocol.water_health@un.org.

