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and International Lakes****Second session**

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Items 5, 6 and 7 of the provisional agenda

Work of the Task Forces**Procedure and mechanisms facilitating the implementation
of the Protocol****Capacity-building and sharing of experience****Report on the implementation of the programme of work
for 2007– 2010, including an overview of contributions
and expenditures****Prepared by the Bureau with the assistance of the joint secretariat****Summary*

This document, in a first annex, reports on the implementation of the programme of work for the Protocol on Water and Health to the Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes for the period 2007–2010, adopted at the first session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol (ECE/MP.WH/2/Add.5–EUR/06/5069385/1/Add.5). It includes highlights of progress achieved and examines success factors and challenges encountered, as well as their consequences for the future work under the Protocol. This is followed by a summary of activities undertaken under each area of work. A second annex contains an overview of contributions and expenditures related to the Protocol on Water and Health to 31 July 2010.

* Late submission.

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Background and proposed action by the Meeting of the Parties

1. The Working Group on Water and Health, at its third meeting (26 and 27 May 2010, Geneva), entrusted the Bureau with the assistance of the joint secretariat to prepare a report on the implementation of the programme of work 2007–2010 to inform the second session of the Meeting of the Parties (ECE/MP.WH/WG.1/2010/2–EUR/10/56335/II, para. 73).
2. The Meeting of the Parties may wish:
 - (a) To endorse the report on the implementation of the programme of work for 2007–2010 and on contributions and expenditures (annexes I and II);
 - (b) To commend the members of the Working Group on Water and Health, the Bureau, the other subsidiary bodies and the joint secretariat for their work to provide support for the implementation of the Protocol through guidance documents, reports, projects and publications, and for their assistance in the organization of workshops, conferences, training courses and other meetings;
 - (c) To express its gratitude to Parties and cooperating non-Parties to the Protocol, especially to the lead countries of activities which have provided human and financial resources to implement the programme of work 2007–2010.

Annex I

Implementation of the programme of work for 2007–2010

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General overview

1. As of 1 September 2010, 24 countries have ratified the Protocol on Water and Health. Since the first session of the Meeting of the Parties, the Protocol has been ratified by Belarus (22 April 2009), the Netherlands (25 June 2009) and Spain (24 September 2009). The joint secretariat has also received signals from several other countries¹ of their willingness and preparations to ratify the Protocol.

2. All the bodies established at the first session of the Meeting of the Parties started their work and carried out most of the activities entrusted to them by the Meeting of the Parties. The intensification of activities at the international level has also provided an important impetus at the national level, where implementation of the Protocol has progressively gathered momentum. This has resulted in the successful completion of the first reporting exercise in which there was a very high participation of Parties — and even non-Parties.

3. Moreover, at the national level, the Ad Hoc Project Facilitation Mechanism has supported activities helping specific countries to implement the Protocol and in particular to set targets and targets dates in accordance with article 6. The growing number of requests for assistance to the Ad Hoc Project Facilitation Mechanism shows the need for continuation and further development of this initiative, as well as the importance of work under the Protocol at subregional and national levels.

4. In the last three years the Protocol's subsidiary bodies have delivered significant results. Several documents have been developed in order to support implementation. The most significant achievements are:

(a) The draft guidelines on the setting of targets, evaluation of progress and reporting (ECE/MP.WH/5–EUDHP1003944/4.2/2/1);

(b) The draft policy guidance on water-related disease surveillance (ECE/MP.WH/2010/L.2–EUDHP1003944/4.2/1/4) and the draft technical guidance for setting up, implementing and assessing surveillance systems of water-related disease (ECE/MP.WH/2010/L.3–EUDHP1003944/4.2/1/5);

(c) The draft guidance on water supply and sanitation in extreme weather events (ECE/MP.WH/2010/L.4–EUDHP1003944/4.2/1/6).

5. The development of the guidelines on the setting of targets, evaluation of progress and reporting was broadly welcomed and supported by numerous Parties. As targets need to be tailored to Parties' needs and capacities from the health, environmental, social and economic points of view, the guidelines provide an analytical and strategic basis to design and agree on the most appropriate targets and on the ways and means to achieve them.

6. The preparation of the guidelines relied on a broad consultative process, involving national authorities, academia, non-governmental and international organizations. A multidisciplinary core drafting group was decisive in their elaboration. The drafting was also informed by two workshops focusing on target setting and on reporting, held on February 2009 and February 2010, in Geneva. Parties, non-Parties, and other actors were repeatedly consulted and provided not only comments but also practical examples, direct experiences and lessons learned.

¹ Armenia, Georgia, Italy, Israel, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Serbia and Uzbekistan.

7. The results of the first reporting exercise (see ECE/MP.WH/2010/2–EUDHP1003944/4.2/1/8) showed that setting targets and target dates is a complex undertaking and that Parties do face difficulties in doing it. This underscores the usefulness and timeliness of the guidelines on the setting of targets, evaluation of progress and reporting. Moreover, several Parties have already used the guidelines to set national targets, thereby testing them, and found the document to be very useful.

8. The policy guidance on water-related disease surveillance and the technical guidance for setting up, implementing and assessing surveillance systems of water-related disease are intended to assist the Parties in establishing and/or strengthening outbreak detection and early warning systems, contingency plans and capacity response in accordance with article 8. The two guidance documents complement each other. The policy guidance is intended for decision makers and describes how to set up an elemental surveillance system for water-related disease and how to make it work in practice. The technical guidance goes more into details. In line with the holistic approach between water services and health, the technical guidance reviews the main threats to health related to water services, recalls basic concepts of epidemiology and disease surveillance and provides guidance on data management and analysis. The guidance will therefore also support national efforts towards national and international health security in line with the International Health Regulations (2005).

9. The guidance on water supply and sanitation in extreme weather events has been prepared in response to the widely anticipated consequences of floods and droughts occurring with increasing frequency and intensity in the European region, and other risks compromising sustainable access to safe drinking water and adequate sanitation for a substantial number of people. Active participation by Parties, non-Parties and international partners — including industry — underlines the relevance of the issue. This guidance is intended to provide assistance on how water and sanitation services should assess their vulnerability and increase their resilience to extreme weather events. The guidance recalls the basic scientific findings related to extreme weather on water supply and sanitation systems, as well as on coastal areas and bathing waters; provides information on the impact on human health; places extreme weather events in the context of water safety plans; stresses the importance of communication skills in dealing with such events; and formulates advice for adaptation measures for water supply and sanitation services.

10. The Protocol has also proven to be fertile ground for discussion and exchange of experience on issues of growing social and political importance. This is the case for the work on equitable access to water, which is an emerging issue throughout the region and at the global level. The recent resolution by the United Nations General Assembly declaring that access to clean water and sanitation is a human right (A/RES/64/292) underlines the importance of the issue and the role that the Protocol can play to translate this right into practice.

11. Another example is the work on small-scale water supplies, which are the backbone of water supply in rural areas. Experience has shown that they are more vulnerable to breakdown and contamination than larger utilities, and that they require particular political attention due to their administrative, managerial or resource challenges. The work carried out under the Protocol contributes to raising awareness on this issue and to building capacity throughout the region.

12. Another important result of the first intersessional period is linked to the work on access to information and public participation. This has not only responded to a common challenge for most Parties to involve the public in the implementation of the Protocol, but has also built a broader awareness among civil society on the Protocol. As a result, actions by local and international non-governmental organizations (NGOs) linked to the Protocol have proliferated. It is noteworthy that several events organized by NGOs of the region

have devoted special attention to the Protocol, multiplying the impact of activities in the programme of work.

13. Finally the Compliance Committee has laid the basis for its future work by developing its rules of procedures and by drafting specific guidelines for the submission of communications from the public.

Success factors and opportunities for future work under the Protocol

14. The achievements in the programme of work 2007–2010 underline the strengths and comparative advantages of the Protocol. Success factors that also offer opportunities for further work include:

(a) The growing number of countries in the process of ratification or considering ratification of the Protocol, in particular in Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia, where the biggest needs are;

(b) The focus on supporting implementation and compliance with the Protocol's provisions through a set of tools: from theoretical guidance material, to capacity-building activities, to projects on the ground;

(c) The capacity to deliver quality products through a broad process of participation;

(d) The ownership by Parties and the important role played by lead Parties in several activities;

(e) Established partnerships and cooperation with intergovernmental organizations within and outside the United Nations system and with NGOs, including: the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the component of the European Union Water Initiative for Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia and the National Policy Dialogues in those countries, the important network of World Health Organization (WHO) Collaborative Centres, networks of NGOs such as Women in Europe for a Common Future and industry representations such as the European Federation of National Associations of Drinking Water Suppliers and Waste Water Services (EUREAU);

(f) The provision by Parties and international organizations of voluntary donations, as well as in-kind contributions, to support implementation of the programme of work for 2007–2010;

(g) The growing recognition and increased visibility of the Protocol achieved through intensive promotional work by the joint secretariat, Bureau members and the Protocol's focal points.

Main challenges

15. Due to the late provision of financial resources, the implementation of the work programme started almost a year later than expected. In many cases, funds for agreed activities were not available at the outset, and the secretariat had to focus on fund-raising rather than on the substantive and practical tasks. The lack of available funds for ongoing activities also created major administrative burdens, in particular when this was linked to contracts of extrabudgetary staff members. New administrative rules adopted by the United

Nations in July 2009 will require a stricter approach, and activities will only start when long-term funding is secured.

16. The lack of financial resources had direct impact on the human resources within the joint secretariat. The capacity of the joint secretariat did not match the workload of the ambitious programme of work, resulting in delays in documents and publications, inadequate preparation of events, and personal difficulties with servicing the Protocol in the best possible way. Especially because the staff assigned to the Protocol in the WHO secretariat decreased substantially. When adopting the programme for 2011–2013, Parties should ensure that the requisite resources are available and they should also clearly prioritize activities.

17. The lack of resources has also prevented the full implementation of the programme of work as adopted by the Meeting of the Parties. For instance the translation, editing, publication and distribution of the 2003 WHO Guidelines on Rapid Assessment of Drinking Water Quality in Russian had to be postponed to the programme of work for 2011–2013. Similarly, the expected intensification of work at national level under the Task Force on Surveillance could not be sustained.

18. The work carried out over the past three years, and the support required from the joint secretariat for activities set forth by the Parties, has continuously increased. The joint secretariat not only services intergovernmental meetings, but also supports implementation of projects on the ground, assists Parties in the development of capacity-building activities and carries out technical and strategic studies. If Parties wish the level of support from the joint secretariat to match their requests, more human resources are needed in the next triennium.

19. A further challenge is ensuring the engagement of lead countries in activities, in particular involving more countries as lead and/or participating countries in programme implementation. A particular challenge is to encourage countries that have not led activities under the Protocol, in particular Western European countries, to become involved in this way so that there is a broader sharing of experience and the burden is more fairly distributed. It is also a challenge for countries of Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia and South-Eastern Europe to host and help organize workshops and actively participate in all programme elements.

20. Awareness of the Protocol and its activities and products still needs to be stronger to support proper implementation, including better use of the guidance documents. Communication and promotion remain important priorities for the Protocol.

21. Although the number of ratifications of the Protocol has grown since the first session of the Meeting of the Parties, the countries which would definitively benefit from ratifying the Protocol are still lagging behind with the ratification process.

22. The first reporting exercise showed that the past activities and the future programme of work are targeting exactly the needs of countries and the main challenges faced. It also showed that Parties need to step up their efforts to fully comply with the Protocol. The future programme of work will be crucial to ensure a more appropriate implementation. At the same time, it is uncertain if it will be possible to meet the growing number of requests for assistance, given the current economic and financial crisis and the anticipated resulting budget restrictions.

Programme Area 1 Implementation

1.1 Surveillance and early warning systems, contingency plans and response capacities

23. Activities in this programme area aimed at providing assistance to Parties in establishing and/or strengthening outbreak detection and response systems, including assessment and improvement of national and/or local surveillance, outbreak detection and early warning systems, contingency plans and capacity response.

24. To this end, the Task Force on Surveillance, led by Italy, was established at the first session of the Meeting of the Parties with a mandate linked to article 8 of the Protocol (response systems) and with the main objective to develop guidance material for water-related disease surveillance.

25. The Task Force on Surveillance, mostly supported by the World Health Organization Regional Office for Europe (WHO-EURO), prepared the draft technical guidance for setting up, implementing and assessing surveillance systems of water-related disease (ECE/MP.WH/2010/L.3-EUDHP1003944/4.2/1/5). The guidance document reviews the main threats to health related to water services, recalls basic concepts of epidemiology and disease surveillance, and provides guidance on data management and analysis.

26. The process of preparation of the draft guidance involved three meetings of the Task Force (24–25 September 2007, Rome; 28–29 April 2009, Rome; and 11–12 February 2010, Durres, Albania), as well as comments from experts by e-mail. The contribution by the Chair of the Task Force and the support from the Italian Higher Institute of Public Health were crucial.

27. In addition to the technical guidance, the Task Force prepared draft policy guidance on water-related disease surveillance (ECE/MP.WH/2010/L.2-EUDHP1003944/4.2/1/4). This document is also the product of a participatory process through which the draft was consulted and commented at the second and third meetings of the Task Force on Surveillance and at the second and third meetings of the Working Group on Water and Health (2–3 July 2009 and 27–28 May 2010, Geneva).

28. An important step in the preparation of the technical and policy guidance documents has been the survey of the status of water-related diseases surveillance systems in the region. The survey allowed for an assessment of the current capacity for water-related diseases surveillance in Parties and non Parties of the pan-European Region.² The results of the survey have been submitted for publication to a peer reviewed journal.

29. The programme of work for 2007–2010 also foresaw that to support the guidelines' implementation, assistance would have been provided upon request to Parties and non-Parties through in-country missions. One country mission was organized in Tajikistan. The mission was conducted in November 2008 and allowed for a better understanding of the country situation, in particular the conditions that had caused water-related outbreaks, as well as for the elaboration of proposals and recommendations for tackling these issues. A report of this mission was finalized in March 2009. Findings from the mission will contribute to an integrated assessment report covering policy, the current state of drinking

² The results of the survey are contained in Information paper 3 prepared for the second meeting of the Working Group on Water and Health, available at: http://www.unece.org/env/documents/2010/wat/MP_WH/wg/unofficial_docs/Inf_3_status_of_WRDs.pdf.

water quality, the application of water safety plans and recommendations for the strengthening of the health system. In consultation with the Tajik authorities, priority has been given to implementing water safety plans in hospitals. Cooperation with the World Plumbing Council has resulted in an in-depth assessment of a Government-designated hospital. Training programmes for plumbers are recognized as key for the implementation of water safety in health settings. A new mission to Turkmenistan is planned before the end of 2010.

30. Besides the above-mentioned activities mandated by the Meeting of the Parties, the Task Force on Surveillance, and in particular its Chair, supported other activities in the Protocol's programme of work, namely:

- (a) The work on small-scale water supplies, by carrying out a literature review of the available evidence of the connection between water-related diseases and small-scale water supply for campylobacteriosis in rural areas;
- (b) The Protocol Day organized immediately preceding the fifth Ministerial Conference on Environment and Health (10–12 March 2010, Parma, Italy);
- (c) The work of the Task Force on Extreme Weather Events.

1.2 Ad Hoc Project Facilitation Mechanism

31. The Meeting of the Parties at its first session established the Ad Hoc Project Facilitation Mechanism (AHPFM) with the aim to assist Parties in implementing articles 12 and 14 of the Protocol in relation to the improved formulation of projects in order to facilitate access to sources of finance (see terms of reference of the AHPFM in ECE/MP.WH/2/Add.4–EUR/06/5069385/1/Add.4).

32. The AHPFM held three meetings (25 June 2008, 1 July 2009 and 26 May 2010, Geneva; see the related meeting reports, ECE/MP.WH/AC.1/2008/2–EUR/08/5086361/8, ECE/MP.WH/AC.1/2009/2–EUR/09/5086361/4, and ECE/MP.WH/AC.1/2010/2–EUR/10/56335/13).³ At its first meeting, the Mechanism adopted the criteria for consideration of project proposals (ECE/MP.WH/AC.1/2008/2/Add.1–EUR/08/5086361/9).

33. Since its establishment, several countries have submitted proposals for funding to be considered by the AHPFM.

34. The Republic of Moldova and Ukraine submitted proposals at the first meeting. The two proposals were developed in the framework of the European Union (EU) Water Initiative's National Policy Dialogue and were supported by Switzerland and Norway, respectively. The proposals were further developed under specific agreements between the donor country, the implementing organization and the country concerned. The two projects are currently ongoing; both are based on the draft guidelines on setting targets, evaluating progress and reporting (ECE/MP.WH/5–EUDHP1003944/4.2/2/1) and should allow the two countries to develop draft targets and target dates by the end of 2010. The AHPFM allowed for exchanging experience between the two projects and for learning lessons for similar future activities.

35. The proposals by Armenia and Kyrgyzstan — also developed in the framework of the EU Water Initiative's National Policy Dialogue — submitted at the second meeting are

³ All information and documentation related to the Ad Hoc Project Facilitation Mechanism, including presentations given at the different meetings, are available at:
http://www.unece.org/env/water/meetings/documents_AHPFM.htm.

under consideration for funding from Finland and Norway, respectively, but the follow-up with the project implementations has not been as swift as for the two previous cases, partly due to the internal political situation in Kyrgyzstan.

36. At the third meeting, three proposals were presented: from Tajikistan, Georgia and Montenegro. Interest in the proposal of Georgia was expressed by the German Federal Environment Agency and a formal submission has since been made. The proposal from Tajikistan is under advisement for a joint WHO-Norwegian response.

37. Moreover, substantial work has been done to develop cooperation mechanisms with the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development and in particular the recently created Water Fund. The aim of the Fund is to finance projects and/or programmes in the water sector of certain of the Bank's recipient countries (which are eligible for official development assistance).

38. The creation of the Water Fund offers great opportunities for cooperation with the AHPFM. In particular, it would be an asset to ensure that projects under the AHPFM are coordinated with and followed up by the Water Fund: for instance, the Water Fund could support the implementation of the programmes of measures to achieve targets set under projects financed through the AHPFM.

39. An important element of the AHPFM is the Facilitator who is a member of the joint secretariat, based at WHO-EURO. The Facilitator's tasks include, inter alia: identifying strategic areas of international assistance related to water and health, reviewing and analysing project proposals by countries in Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia and South-Eastern Europe and relevant NGOs; and assisting countries in Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia and South-Eastern Europe and relevant NGOs in drawing up proposals and helping them to streamline these proposals to meet the requirements of donor countries and organizations; presenting such proposals in a standardized form to the meeting of the AHPFM. Unfortunately the post of the Facilitator has been vacant from August 2009 until September 2010. But the new Facilitator is expected to take up the position before the second session of the Meeting of the Parties.

1.3 Support to ratification and implementation

40. No specific activities have been carried out under this area as work at the national level to support Parties has been mostly accomplished through the projects under the Ad Hoc Project Facilitation Mechanism.

1.4 Public awareness, education, training, research and development and information

41. This area of work aimed to promote the implementation of articles 9 and 10 of the Protocol.

42. The main activity has been the organization of the Workshop on information and public participation in water and health-related issues held in Bucharest on 15 and 16 June 2010.⁴ The workshop was jointly organized by the Ministry of Environment and Forests and the Ministry of Health of Romania and the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE), in cooperation with Women in Europe for a Common Future. The Global Water Partnership Romania assisted with the practical arrangements. The workshop

⁴ See www.unece.org/env/water/meetings/public_participation_protocol_workshop.html.

was co-funded by the United Nations Development Account, the Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety of Germany and the German Environment Agency. The workshop aimed to:

- (a) Raise awareness on the linkage between people's health and water management;
- (b) Overview the existing tools/mechanisms for public participation in policy planning/decision-making, in the water and health sectors and facilitate the exchange of experiences and lessons learned;
- (c) Analyse possible tools for national focal points to promote and better communicate the provisions of the Protocol between sectors (e.g., water, environment and health sectors), to other public authorities (e.g., tourism, development) and to the general public;
- (d) Develop a set of recommendations on public participation in water and health related issues.

43. The workshop provided case studies and practical examples of public participation for the concept note on access to information and public participation under the Protocol on Water and Health prepared for the second session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol (ECE/MP.WH/2010/4–EUDHP1003944/4.2/1/10). Moreover, the concept of the activities to be included in the programme of work for 2011–2013 in this area of work was developed on the basis of the workshop's discussions.

44. With reference to article 16, paragraph (g), of the Protocol, no need for further provisions on access to information, public participation in decision-making and public access to judicial and administrative review of decisions within the scope of the Protocol was brought to the attention of the Working Group on Water and Health; thus this activity was postponed to the programme of work for 2011–2013.

Programme area 2

Activities to support compliance with the Protocol

2.1 Development of targets and indicators

45. Activities in this programme area aimed at providing assistance to Parties in setting targets and target dates, as stipulated in article 6. To this end the Task Force on Indicators and Reporting, led by Switzerland, was established at the first session of the Meeting of the Parties and was entrusted with the preparation of guidelines on target-setting.

46. The Task Force was mostly supported by UNECE and held three meetings (13–14 March 2008, 12 February 2009 and 17–18 February 2010).⁵ To assist the Task Force, Switzerland invited a core group of experts to help in the preparation of documents. The core group met three times: in January, September and December 2008, in Geneva.

47. The work of the core group, good attendance, active participation and useful contributions during the Task Force meetings made it possible to prepare *the Guidelines on the setting of targets, evaluation of progress and reporting* (ECE/MP.WH/5–

⁵ All information and documentation related to the Task Force on Indicators and Reporting, including presentations given at the different meetings, are available at:
http://www.unece.org/env/water/meetings/documents_TFIR.htm.

EUDHP1003944/4.2/2/1). The guidelines were drawn up during the first two meetings of the Task Force; additional comments were provided at the second meeting of the Working Group on Water and Health and at the third meeting of the Task Force.

48. Since the draft guidelines had been available for comments for over a year and had already been the subject of several consultations, in order to increase their user-friendliness the Working Group on Water and Health, at its third meeting, agreed to submit the guidelines to the Meeting of the Parties as a printed publication and not as an official document.

49. Moreover, a workshop on setting targets and reporting under the Protocol was held on 10 and 11 February 2009 in Geneva.⁶ The workshop was organized under the leadership of the Government of Switzerland, with financial support from the Government of Germany. The workshop provided the opportunity to present the approach and the main steps for setting targets and target dates under the Protocol, and to illustrate these with concrete examples. It offered a platform for exchange of experience and lessons learned by Parties that had set targets under the Protocol, and provided assistance to Parties that were currently undergoing or were planning to initiate the target-setting process. The workshop was also an important step in the preparation of the guidelines as it allowed for them to be reviewed and provided additional input.

2.2 Reporting, including development of guidelines

50. The Task Force on Indicators and Reporting was also entrusted with the preparation of guidelines for the summary reports to be submitted by Parties in accordance with article 7, paragraph 5, for adoption by the Meeting of Parties at its second session.

51. The guidelines and template for summary reports were elaborated during the first two meetings of the Task Force. Additional comments were provided at the second meeting of the Working Group on Water and Health, which also agreed to use the guidelines and template for summary reports for the first pilot reporting exercise under the Protocol. The reporting exercise took place between November 2009 and March 2010.

52. To support Parties and non-Parties in the preparation of their national summary reports, a workshop on reporting under the Protocol on Water and Health was held in Geneva on 16 and 17 February 2010.⁷ The workshop was organized under the leadership of the Government of Switzerland and was funded by the United Nations Development Account. The workshop provided the opportunity to exchange experiences and lessons learned by Parties and non-Parties engaged in the process of preparing their summary reports, as well as to clarify possible questions related to the reporting template.

53. Preliminary results of the reporting were presented at the third meeting of the Working Group on Water and Health, where additional comments to the template for reporting were made.

54. The Working Group on Water and Health entrusted the Chair of the Task Force on Indicators and Reporting, with the assistance of a small group of experts and the joint secretariat, to finalize the template for reporting, taking into account the comments received. The draft guidelines and template for summary reports in accordance with article 7 are contained in document ECE/MP.WH/WG.1/2010/L.2–EUR/10/56335/X.

⁶ See http://www.unece.org/env/water/meetings/target_setting_workshop.htm.

⁷ See http://www.unece.org/env/water/meetings/reporting_workshop.html.

55. The national reports submitted within the first reporting cycle by Parties and non-Parties⁸ provided the basis for the preparation of the regional report on the status of implementation of the Protocol (ECE/MP.WH/2010/2–EUDHP1003944/4.2/1/8).

2.3 Compliance procedure

56. In the first intersessional period, the Compliance Committee focused its work on the development of its rules of procedure, as required by Decision I/2 of the Meeting of the Parties (and para. 8 of the annex thereto). The Compliance Committee was only serviced by UNECE.

57. The rules of procedure were developed by the Committee during its first three meetings, on the understanding that they should be considered as an evolving document, to be supplemented or amended over time as necessary in the light of experience.

58. In addition, the Committee developed guidelines for communications from the public. The objective of these guidelines is to assist members of the public intending to submit a communication to present the information in a clear and logical way that would facilitate the work of the Committee. The document provides a detailed explanation of the Committee's procedures for dealing with communications and provides guidance to members of the public on the criteria for admissibility of communications, as well as practical arrangements for the submission of communications, including a checklist of information required. The Guidelines are available on the Committee's website: http://www.unece.org/env/water/meetings/documents_CC.htm.

59. Recognizing that awareness of the compliance procedure is key to its impact and efficiency, and thereby to implementation and compliance with the Protocol, the Committee prepared a short leaflet on its work and the main features of the compliance procedure.

60. In accordance with its mandate under decision I/2 (annex, para. 11 (c)), the Committee reviewed the compliance by Parties with the reporting requirements under article 7, paragraph 5, of the Protocol. Specifically, it looked into whether and how the Parties had prepared their summary reports, whether reports were submitted in a timely manner, the quality and the accuracy of data and information provided and the consultations in preparing the reports.

61. The Committee also established cooperation with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and the Independent Expert on the issue of human rights obligations related to access to safe drinking water and sanitation

62. A detailed account of the activities of the Committee, including the findings of the Committee on the reporting exercise, is contained in its report to the second session of the Meeting of the Parties (ECE/MP.WH/2010/3–EUDHP1003944/4.2/1/9). The report also contains a draft decision on general issues of compliance for possible adoption by the Meeting of the Parties.

63. On the basis of the analysis of the summary reports, the Committee recognized that a number of Parties were facing difficulties in complying with the Protocol, in particular with its core obligation to set targets and target dates. To respond to that situation, the Committee decided to enhance its facilitation and assistance functions, in accordance with Decision I/2. To that end, the Committee will enter into consultations with a number of

⁸ All summary reports submitted during the first reporting exercise are available at http://www.unece.org/env/water/Protocol_implementation_reports.html.

Parties which, on the basis of the national summary reports, appear to have problems in implementing the Protocol.

Programme area 3

Sharing of experience

64. Activities in this programme area supported exchange between Parties and non-Parties on progress achieved in the implementation of the Protocol. The goal was to promote common approaches and sharing of problems and identified solutions at the regional and subregional levels, including the preparation and implementation of guidelines and documents on good practices.

3.1 Equitable access

65. Work on equitable access was led by France and mostly supported by UNECE; it aimed to support access to water and sanitation for poor, vulnerable and socially excluded people. A main activity in this area was the organization of the workshop on equitable access to water held on 5 and 6 July 2007, in Paris.⁹ The workshop was organized by the French Ministry of Health and Sports, in cooperation with the Water Academy and the International Office for Water. The workshop sought to work towards a common understanding of the issue of equitable access and exchange views and experience on measures implemented in the pan-European region.

66. On the basis of the workshop, France elaborated a questionnaire in order to collect systematic information on existing (a) targeted measures to overcome water affordability issues; and (b) solidarity measures to improve access to water and sanitation in rural areas.

67. The questionnaires were disseminated in April 2010 to Parties and non-Parties. The analysis of the replies and the preparation of a good practices document have been postponed to the programme of work 2011–2013 with a view to producing the good practices document for the Sixth World Water Forum, which will be held in Marseille, France, in March 2012.

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

68. The Task Force on Extreme Weather Events was established at the first session of the Meeting of the Parties with the mandate to facilitate sharing of experience on good practices regarding the safe operation of water supply and sanitation facilities in urban and rural areas that are subject to the impact of short-term critical situations, and to prepare guidance to respond to such situations.

69. Italy took the leadership of the Task Force, which met twice (21–22 April 2008, Rome; and 27–28 October 2009, Geneva).¹⁰ The Task Force was mostly supported by WHO-EURO.

⁹ See http://www.unece.org/env/water/meetings/equitable_access/Equitable_access_main.htm.

¹⁰ All information and documentation related to the Task Force on Extreme Weather Events, including presentations given at the different meetings, are available at: http://www.unece.org/env/water/meetings/documents_TFEWE.htm.

70. The draft guidance on water supply and sanitation in extreme weather events (ECE/MP.WH/2010/L.4–EUDHP1003944/4.2/1/6) was developed during these two meetings. Moreover, Italy invited countries and organizations to join an ad hoc drafting group of experts to assist in the preparation of the guidance. The drafting group met twice, in October 2008 in Madrid, and in February 2009 in Rome. The draft guidance was also presented at the second and third meetings of the Working Group on Water and Health.

71. To foster the involvement of experts from countries in Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia, the draft guidance was also presented at the workshop, “Climate Change, Water and Health”, hosted by the Romanian Ministry of the Environment and Forests back to back with the Joint Meeting of the European Union Water Initiative EECCA¹¹ Working Group and the Environmental Action Programme Task Force’s Group of Senior Officials for Water Sector Reform in Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia of OECD (24–25 November 2009, Bucharest,).

72. The involvement of water utilities was deemed crucial for the development of the guidance. EUREAU hosted a meeting in London, in January 2010, between the main authors of the guidance and EUREAU climate change experts for further inputs. The Italian federal gas utility also provided important contributions to the development of the guidance document.

73. Finally, the Italian Ministry of the Environment, Land and Sea printed a booklet to present the main messages of the draft guidance to the Fifth Ministerial Conference on Environment and Health (10–12 March 2010, Parma, Italy).

74. It should also be noted that following the decision of the joint meeting of the Bureaux of the Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes (Water Convention) and of the Protocol on Water and Health (13 September 2007), the Task Force on Extreme Weather Events cooperated with the Water Convention’s Task Force on Water and Climate to prepare the *Guidance on water and adaptation to climate change* (ECE/MP.WAT/30)¹² which was adopted at the fifth session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Water Convention (10–12 November 2009, Geneva). The *Guidance* represents the first joint product under both the Convention and the Protocol on Water and Health.

3.3 Integrated management of small water supply and sanitation systems

75. Work in the area of integrated management of small water supply and sanitation systems only focused on small-scale water supplies, with the objective of assessing problems and health-related risks linked to small water supply systems, taking into account the social and economic aspects. It also aimed to share information on the management of small and very small water supply systems. The work was led by Germany and mostly supported by WHO-EURO.

76. A workshop, “Water Safety in Small-Scale Water Supplies in the European Region: Common Challenges and Needs”, was held on 26 and 27 November 2008 in Bad Elster, Germany (see ECE/MP.WH/WG.1/2009/9–EUR/5086344/7, para. 47). The workshop reviewed the importance of small-scale water supply systems and the evidence of the burden of water-related diseases from small-scale water services, and explored the relevance of water safety plans.

¹¹ Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia.

¹² Available at <http://www.unece.org/env/water/publications/pub74.htm>.

77. A main outcome of the workshop was a consensus statement on challenges for safe water supply in small-scale water services. The work done resonated in the work at the EU level on the revision of the Drinking Water Directive.

78. On the basis of the outcomes of the workshop, the German Federal Environment Agency, jointly with the WHO Collaborating Centre for Research on Drinking Water Hygiene, prepared a brochure on “Small-scale Water Supplies in the European Region: Background — Challenges — Improvements” (ECE/MP.WH/6–EUDHP1003944/4.2/2/2).

79. The brochure supports decision makers in the drinking-water sector to better appreciate and address the specifics and characteristics of small-scale water supplies. It provides a range of background information and gives guidance for addressing the issue of small-scale water supplies in national programmes.

3.4 Regional and subregional workshops

80. The second and third Pool and Spa International Conferences were held on 14 and 16 March 2007 in Munich, Germany, and on 17–20 March 2009 in London. The Conferences addressed a number of subjects, including adequate pool surveillance and technical management of pool hygiene; the health impact of disinfection by-products; infections associated with pools and spas; and new technologies for water treatment and risk management. The series of conferences proved to be a good forum to review the practical issues of the application of the WHO Guidelines for Safe Water-recreational Environments and provided valuable inputs for effective implementation of the Protocol’s obligations related to enclosed waters generally available for bathing.

81. The workshop on the use of groundwater as a source of drinking water was held on 14 and 15 April 2008 on Krk Island, Croatia, at the invitation of the Ministry of Regional Development, Forestry and Water Management of Croatia in cooperation with UNECE.¹³ The workshop addressed the health risks for drinking water quality related to karst groundwater contamination, and provided a platform for sharing information and experience on groundwater management, potential diseases related to drinking water and potential pollution and deterioration of groundwater. The workshop allowed for sharing lessons learned and good practices for the management of karstic aquifers.

82. The Capacity for Water Cooperation (CWC) workshop on the topic “Water and Health” (14–16 May 2008, Bucharest,) organized by UNECE with the support of Romania, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), UNDP and the European Commission, was devoted to the implementation of the Protocol on Water and Health. The workshop focused on the relationship between water, health and related aspects, namely: access to safe drinking water and adequate sanitation; prevention, control and reduction of water-related disease; sustainable management and protection of water resources; and social and equity aspects related to the human right to water. It allowed for an exchange of experience between countries in Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia regarding national strategies and plans designed to facilitate and integrate all these components, as well as the challenges related to their implementation. The CWC Project has proven to be very useful in terms of: (a) promoting and contributing to products and activities under the Convention and the Protocol; (b) providing a reality check on needs and capacity in countries of Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia; (c) broadening the network of

¹³ See http://www.unece.org/env/water/meetings/karst_groundwater_workshop_Croatia.htm.

experts from Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia involved in all activities under the Convention and the Protocol, and thus in generally benefiting work in many areas.¹⁴

Programme area 4

Promotion of the Protocol and advocacy

83. Activities under this programme element aimed to promote the Protocol and disseminate information on its achievements in order to increase its visibility, win political support, encourage new countries to ratify or accede to it, and to establish new partnerships and synergies. To raise the profile of the Protocol and to provide focal points and other experts with information to help them implement it, the following publications and brochures were prepared and distributed:

(a) The publication: Guidelines on the setting of targets, evaluation of progress and reporting (ECE/MP.WH/5–EUDHP1003944/4.2/2/1);

(b) The brochure: Small-scale Water Supplies in the European Region: Background — Challenges — Improvements (ECE/MP.WH/6–EUDHP1003944/4.2/2/2);

(c) The document for the fifth Ministerial Conference on Environment and Health (10–12 March 2010, Parma, Italy): “Progress and challenges on water and health: The role of the Protocol on Water and Health”;¹⁵

(d) The brochure “Protocol on Water and Health”, available in English, French, Russian and Spanish;¹⁶

(e) The leaflet: Improving Compliance with the Protocol on Water and Health.

84. The following publications are being finalized and will be printed after formal adoption by the Meeting of the Parties:

(a) Draft policy guidance on water-related disease surveillance (ECE/MP.WH/2010/L.2–EUDHP1003944/4.2/1/4);

(b) Draft technical guidance for setting up, implementing and assessing surveillance systems of water-related disease (ECE/MP.WH/2010/L.3–EUDHP1003944/4.2/1/5);

(c) Draft guidance on water supply and sanitation in extreme weather events (ECE/MP.WH/2010/L.4–EUDHP1003944/4.2/1/6).

85. The document “How to better promote the Convention and its Protocol on Water and Health: a guide for focal points” (ECE/MP.WAT/2009/13) was jointly prepared by the Chair of the Meeting of the Parties to the Water Convention and the Chair of the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol on Water and Health. The guide was already submitted and endorsed by the Meeting of the Parties to the Water Convention at its fifth session (Geneva, 10–12 November 2009).

86. Substantial efforts were made by the Bureau members, the Chairs of the subsidiary bodies of the Protocol and the joint secretariat to promote the Protocol at the fifth Ministerial Conference on Environment and Health. Contributions to the Ministerial Conference were manifold and included the provision of inputs related to the Protocol in the negotiation of the Ministerial Declaration, the organization of the “Protocol Day” and

¹⁴ See http://www.unece.org/env/water/cwc/water_and_health_workshop.htm.

¹⁵ Available at http://www.euro.who.int/__data/assets/pdf_file/0014/100940/Parma_water_BD3.pdf.

¹⁶ Available at http://www.unece.org/env/water/text/text_protocol.htm.

the preparation by the Bureau of a document on the progress and challenges related to water and health.

87. Other means of promoting the Protocol and its activities included press releases and articles by the joint secretariat in various newsletters, including the *UNECE Weekly*, the Water-L list, the *MEA Bulletin*, and in journals and on relevant websites.

88. In addition, members of the joint secretariat, of the Bureau and representatives of Parties presented the work and outputs of the Protocol at events such as the fifth World Water Forum, the World Water Week in Stockholm, and other international meetings.

89. Finally the Protocol's UNECE website was revised during 2009.

Annex II

Overview of contributions and expenditures related to the Protocol on Water and Health

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I. UNECE trust fund

A. Contributions from 1 September 2006 to 31 July 2010

<i>Country</i>	<i>Date received</i>	<i>Currency</i>	<i>Amount</i>	<i>Amount in U.S. dollars</i>	<i>Earmarked</i>
Cyprus	28 Sep 2006	EUR	500	641	1st MOP
Hungary	12 Dec 2006	EUR	5 000	6 588	1st MOP ^b
Germany	15 Dec 2006	EUR	10 000	13 175	1st MOP
Norway	18 Dec 2006	USD	4 480	4 480	1st MOP ^b
Norway	02 Jan 2007	USD	15 850	15 850	1st MOP ^b
Switzerland	08 Feb 2007	EUR	2 429	2 429	1st MOP
Netherlands	14 Feb 2007	EUR	9 500	12 322	1st MOP
Netherlands	12 Nov 2007	EUR	30 000	43 228	Compliance and implementation
Finland	04 Dec 2007	EUR	10 000	14 749	Unearmarked
Switzerland	07 Dec 2007	CHF	40 000	35 714	Indicators and reporting
Norway	27 Dec 2007	USD	36 000	36 000	Compliance Committee and WGWH
Switzerland	29 Jan 2008	CHF	60 000	55 046	Indicators and reporting
Finland	4 Feb 2008	EUR	10000	15 773	Unearmarked
Norway	30 Jun 2008	EUR	10 000	15 552	Stockholm Water Week
Switzerland	09 Jul 2008	EUR	10 000	15 723	Stockholm Water Week
Norway	11 Jul 2008	EUR	5 722	8 997	First meeting AHPFM
Switzerland	11 Jul 2008	CHF	60 000	58 365	Indicators and reporting
Finland	31 Jul 2008	EUR	5 000	7 861	Unearmarked
Germany	25 Sep 2008	EUR	22 500	31 337	UNECE secretariat
Italy	24 Oct 2008	EUR	40 000	53 908	Extreme weather events
Norway	02 Dec 2008	USD	29 970	29 970	WGWH and Compliance Committee
Interest income				6 975	
Germany	04 Feb 2009	EUR	23 000	30 184	Indicators and reporting
Switzerland	05 Feb 2009	CHF	55 000	48 035	Indicators and reporting
Finland	21 Apr 2009	EUR	5 000	6 588	Unearmarked
Romania	09 Jun 2009	EUR	120 000	167 364	Unearmarked
Switzerland	25 Aug 2009	USD	204 975	204 975	Target-setting project in the Republic of Moldova
Norway	02 Nov 2009	EUR	34 970	34 970	WGWH and Compliance Committee
France	30 Dec 2009	EUR	30 000	45 181	Parma Ministerial Conference and Compliance Committee
Finland	18 Jan 2010	EUR	5 000	7 215	—
Switzerland	2 Mar 2010	CHF	25 000	23 063	Target setting and reporting
Total				1 045 280	

Abbreviations: 1st MOP, first session of the Meeting of the Parties; WGWH, Working Group on Water and Health; AHPFM, Ad Hoc Project Facilitation Mechanism.

^a The exchange rate from the currency of the contribution to dollars is calculated on the date of funds transfer.

^b Allowed using unspent funds for other activities in the Protocol's programme of work.

In addition US\$ 352,000 were received from UNECE on 19 November 2009 from the United Nations Development Account (but not transferred to the UNECE trust fund for target-setting activities, surveillance, public participation, Meeting of the Parties). Including this sum, the **overall total is US\$ 1,397,280**.

B. Expenditures up to 31 July 2010¹⁷

1. First Meeting of the Parties of the Protocol on Water and Health: US\$ 22,800.
2. Meetings of the Bureau (travel of one Bureau member): US\$ 7,840.
3. Cost of staff in UNECE secretariat (one staff member from February 2008 until July 2010 — two months budgeted to the project on target setting in the Republic of Moldova): US\$ 360,000.
4. Meetings of the Ad Hoc Project Facilitation Mechanism and of the Working Group on Water and Health:

<i>Description</i>	<i>Amount in United States dollars</i>
Travel of participants	96 400
Travel of UNECE staff to preparatory meetings	4 920
Total	101 320

5. Development of targets and indicators

<i>Description</i>	<i>Amount in U.S. dollars</i>	<i>Activity</i>
Travel of participants	96 190	Meetings of the Task Force on Indicators and Reporting and its core group, Workshops on target setting and reporting under the Protocol
Consultancy costs	15 180	Preparation of the analytical study based on national summary reports, translation of the guidelines on target setting
Total	111 370	

¹⁷ All expenditures include 13% programme support costs. Some of the expenditures were budgeted to the Water Convention Trust Fund when incurred due to lack of funds in the Protocol Trust Fund (e.g., for the organization of the first session of the Meeting of the Parties).

6. Compliance procedure:

<i>Description</i>	<i>Amount in U.S. dollars</i>	<i>Activity</i>
Travel of Compliance Committee members	63 250	5 meetings
Total	63 250	

7. Surveillance and early warning systems:

<i>Description</i>	<i>Amount in U.S. dollars</i>	<i>Activity</i>
Travel of UNECE secretariat	2 000	Second and third meetings
Total	2 000	

8. Water supply and sanitation in short-term critical situation and adaptation to climate change:

<i>Description</i>	<i>Amount in U.S. dollars</i>	<i>Activity</i>
Travel of participants and of the Chair	42 670	Meeting of the Task Force on Extreme Weather Events and its drafting group
Consultancy costs	12 330	To translate the draft Guidance on Water Supply and Sanitation in Extreme Weather Events into Russian
Promotion, travel of Chair	6 370	
Total	55 000	

9. Regional and subregional workshops:

<i>Description</i>	<i>Amount in U.S. dollars</i>
Travel of participants	5 210
Travel of UNECE staff	10 640
Total	15 850

10. Public participation and awareness-raising:

<i>Description</i>	<i>Amount in U.S. dollars</i>
Travel of participants, organization of the workshop	30 050
Travel of UNECE staff	6 000
Total	36 050

11. Promotion:

<i>Description</i>	<i>Amount in U.S. dollars</i>
Travel of UNECE Secretariat	13 310
Consultancy costs for background documents and promotion material	7 210
Travel of experts	6 020
Stockholm World Water Week Seminar 2008	30 000
Total	56 540

12. Target-setting project in the Republic of Moldova:¹⁸

<i>Description</i>	<i>Amount in U.S. dollars</i>
UNECE staff costs	43 740
Travel of UNECE staff	15 320
Travel of consultant	23 540
Consultancy	54 240
Eco-TIRAS International Environmental Association of River Keepers	94 020
Total	210 420

13. Total for the UNECE trust fund:

<i>Description</i>	<i>Amount in U.S. dollars</i>
Total expenditures through 31 July 2010	1 035 730
Total Available Fund	361 550
Of which available outside the project in the Republic of Moldova and the United Nations Development Account project	46 570

II. WHO-EURO voluntary fund

A. Contributions from 1 September 2006 to 31 July 2010

<i>Country</i>	<i>Amount in U.S. dollars</i>	<i>Earmarked</i>
Norway	324 000	Facilitator
Germany	66 568	Workshop on small scale water supply systems
Hungary	6 963	-
Finland	14 535	WHO Secretariat
Total	412 066	

¹⁸ Includes expenditures until October 2010.

B. Expenditures from 1 September 2006 to 31 July 2010

<i>Description</i>	<i>Amount in U.S. dollars</i>
Project Facilitator	281 213
Workshop on Water Safety in Small Scale Water Supplies in the European Region	51 419
General operational expenses, translation, travel expenses of WHO Secretariat	8 635
Third Meeting of the Task Force on Water-related disease surveillance and translation of technical guidance reports (through the United Nations Development Account project)	57 472
Total	398 739

III. Contributions directly provided by Parties and organizations¹⁹

<i>Donor country/organization</i>	<i>Amount</i>	<i>Sponsored activity</i>
France	40 000 EUR	Workshop on equitable access
Italy	6 250 EUR	First meeting of the Task Force on Surveillance
Croatia	9 100 EUR	Workshop on the protection of groundwater as a source of drinking water in karst areas
Sweden (through UNDP as an ENVSEC project)	74 900 USD	CWC Workshop on Water on Health (Bucharest)
OSCE	20 000 EUR	
European Commission	8 500 EUR	
Italy	20 000 EUR	First meeting of the Task Force on Extreme Weather Events
Germany (UBA)	46 840 EUR	Workshop on public participation
Italy	20 230 EUR	Second meeting of the Task Force on Water-related Disease Surveillance
Switzerland	16 000 CHF	Development and printing of the brochure on Protocol on Water and Health (through the Water Convention trust fund)
European Commission (through the EU Water Initiative)	41 200 USD	Support to the preparations of the project proposals for the Ad Hoc Project Facilitation Mechanism in Armenia, Kyrgyzstan, Republic of Moldova and Ukraine (through UNECE)

¹⁹ As these amounts were not paid through the Protocol's funds, the joint secretariat cannot certify them; data are based on information received from Parties and other partners.