



UNECE



**World Health
Organization**

REGIONAL OFFICE FOR **Europe**

Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol on
Water and Health to the Convention on
the Protection and Use of Transboundary
Watercourses and International Lakes

Meeting of the Parties
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Programme of work for 2017–2019, terms of reference
for the bodies established to implement it and resources
needed for its implementation

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INFORMAL DOCUMENT

Overview and consolidation of financial arrangements

Prepared by the Bureau

Introduction

At its third session (Oslo, 25–27 November 2013), the Meeting of the Parties of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) – World Health Organization Regional Office for Europe (WHO/Europe) Protocol on Water and Health requested the Bureau to examine the possibilities for sustainable financing to support implementation of future programmes of work, to review decision I/5 on the financial arrangements to support the implementation of the Protocol and to present a draft decision in that regard for consideration at the next session of the Meeting of the Parties.

The Bureau subsequently presented a proposal for a draft decision on a sustainable financing arrangement under the Protocol to the Working Group at its eighth meeting (Geneva, 21–22 October 2016). However, following discussions at that meeting as well as at the sixteenth meeting of the Bureau (Geneva, 10 March 2016) — and also taking into account the outcomes of similar processes to introduce sustainable financial mechanisms under other ECE multilateral environmental agreements — it was determined that there was not enough consensus at this stage to introduce a sustainable financial mechanism under the Protocol.

The Bureau then decided to prepare an informal document that would provide an overview and consolidation of financial arrangements under the Protocol. At its ninth meeting (Geneva, 29–30 June 2016), the Working Group took note of the document and decided to submit it as an informal document to the fourth session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol.

Overview and consolidation of financial arrangements

I. Objective

1. The financial arrangements refer to extrabudgetary resources¹ provided on a voluntary basis.
2. The objective of the financial arrangements is to assist in establishing the necessary financial foundations for achieving the main objective of the Protocol on Water and Health – protecting human health and well-being by better water management, including the protection of water ecosystems, and by preventing, controlling and reducing water-related diseases – through implementing the activities stipulated in the programmes of work.
3. To achieve the overall objective the financial arrangements should:
 - (a) Assist in establishing the necessary basis for preparing realistic and relevant programmes of work with defined and predictable resource requirements;
 - (b) Introduce a fair way for sharing the responsibility among all Parties to provide the necessary resources for the implementation of the programmes of work;
 - (c) Encourage all Parties, as well as Signatories, other countries and stakeholders to support the implementation of the programmes of work.

II. Elements of the financial arrangements

A. Planning

4. The following elements are taken into account when planning future activities and drafting budgets:
 - (a) The Meetings of the Parties, when deciding on the next intersessional programme of work, will at the same time specify the budget for its implementation and possible sources of appropriate additional extrabudgetary resources;
 - (b) The responsibility for securing the necessary extrabudgetary resources to implement the work programme lies with the Parties as well as the lead countries and organizations for the respective areas of the programmes of work;
 - (c) The draft programmes of work will indicate resource requirements (in United States dollars) for all the proposed activities;
 - (d) Extrabudgetary resource requirements will also consider staff costs of the joint secretariat — both professional and general service staff — needed to serve the subsidiary bodies of the Protocol and implement the programmes of work.

B. Financial contributions

¹ The term “extrabudgetary resources” refers to funds financed from voluntary contributions or from all sources other than those derived from assessed contributions by Member States and revenue-producing activities.

5. Financial contributions should be made to the UNECE Technical Cooperation Trust Fund and the WHO/Europe Voluntary Fund in accordance with the programmes of work.
6. All Parties are encouraged to provide resources for the implementation of the activities of the programme of work and invited to consider contributions that reflect their economic strength, or higher.² Other stakeholders including, but not limited to, Signatories, other countries, international and regional organizations, international financial institutions (IFIs), non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and private sector, as appropriate, are also encouraged to provide financial contributions.
7. Insofar as possible, and subject to the internal budgetary procedures of the Parties, contributions for a given calendar year should be made by the end of the preceding year, so as to secure staff costs for the effective and reliable functioning of the joint secretariat, as a priority, and the timely and effective implementation of the activities of the programmes of work.
8. Financial contributions should preferably be made towards the overall implementation of the programme of work, but could also be earmarked for a particular programme area or activity.
9. To the extent possible, and unless that specific budgetary provision is made by the Parties, the financial contributions to the trust funds under the Protocol should be “unconditional”, that is, they should be provided without signed agreements or other exchange of written communication, other than written requests for payment, and requiring no specific financial or substantive reporting by the joint secretariat on their use other than that provided in the financial reports produced by the joint secretariat for the Meeting of the Parties.

C. In-kind contributions

10. In addition to extrabudgetary financial contributions to the trust funds under the Protocol, Parties as well as Signatories, other countries, international and regional organizations, IFIs, NGOs and private sector, as appropriate, will be encouraged to make in-kind contributions. These could include:
 - (a) Covering the cost of services linked to the specific activities of the programme of work (including expert support, organization of meetings, support to publications, promotional activities etc.);
 - (b) Funding directly the participation of representatives of countries with economies in transition, NGOs, experts and staff of the joint secretariat, rather than through contributions to the trust funds;
 - (c) Provision of leadership and expertise within the subsidiary bodies and technical working groups established under the Protocol.

² Upon request by Parties, the joint secretariat can provide an overview of suggested contributions based on the programme of work and the United Nations scale of assessments (a scale for the apportionment of the expenses as the basis for national contributions to the regular budget of the United Nations).

11. Parties should also be encouraged to provide human resources for the implementation of the activities by the Protocol's joint secretariat, for example through secondment or associate experts or junior professional programmes.³

D. Call for Contributions from Parties

12. The joint secretariat should write to Parties to encourage timely financial contributions.

13. In the years when sessions of the Meeting of the Parties are held, the Parties will receive a draft programme of work with the resource requirements, prepared by the Working Group on Water and Health together with a letter prepared by the joint secretariat inviting them to provide contributions. The letters should be sent out not later than 90 days before the session of the Meeting of the Parties.

14. After the adoption of the programme of work by the Meeting of the Parties, the Parties should receive a letter prepared by the joint secretariat at the end of the following calendar year, referring to the adopted programme of work and reporting on ongoing activities and the status of the trust funds under the Protocol, and should be invited to provide contributions.

15. Those Parties that have previously made significant contributions should be invited to maintain the level of their past contributions for the actual programme of work. Other Parties should be encouraged to provide contributions reflecting their economic strength.

16. Parties that have not made a contribution to the trust funds, and that have not made an in-kind contribution to the implementation of the work programme, will be encouraged to do so. Should Parties request advice as to the amount of financial contributions or the nature of possible in-kind contributions, the joint secretariat will provide such advice.

³ Parties that participate in the UN Associate Experts Programme / WHO Junior Professional Programme may wish to consider providing an associate expert / junior professional officer.