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ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

**WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION
REGIONAL OFFICE FOR EUROPE**

**MEETING OF THE SIGNATORIES TO
THE PROTOCOL ON WATER AND HEALTH
TO THE 1992 CONVENTION ON THE
PROTECTION AND USE OF TRANSBOUNDARY
WATERCOURSES AND INTERNATIONAL LAKES**

Second meeting,
Geneva, 2-4 July 2003

PROVISIONAL AGENDA FOR THE SECOND MEETING

to be held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva,
and starting on 2 July 2003 at 10 a.m.

1. Opening statements.
2. Meeting arrangements:
 - (a) Adoption of the agenda;
 - (b) Election of officers.
3. General overview on the interim implementation of the Protocol (MP.WAT/AC.1/2003/3 - EUR/03/5041120/3).
4. Ratification status and expected entry into force.
5. Procedural matters:
 - (a) Draft rules of procedure for the Meeting of the Parties (MP.WAT/AC.1/2003/4 - EUR/03/5041120/4);
 - (b) Draft guidance document on participation modalities;
 - (c) Draft guidance document on compliance review.
6. Reporting and surveillance of water-related diseases:
 - (a) Background paper by the World Health Organization (WHO);
 - (b) Progress review and assessment method and response systems.
7. Assessment of health risks:
 - (a) Rapid Environment and Health Risk Assessment (REHRA);
 - (b) Development of tools for the assessment of health impacts from long-term exposure to low-level chemicals.
8. International and regional political developments.
9. Public-private partnership.
10. Official Development Assistance.
11. Health impact and management of enclosed recreational water environments.
12. Priorities for technical consultations on regional matters.

13. Preparations for the first meeting of the Parties to the Protocol.
14. Fourth Ministerial Conference on Environment and Health.
15. Work-plan 2004-2006.
16. Reporting of the Meeting.
17. Closing.

EXPLANATORY NOTES

The Meeting of the Signatories will apply, mutatis mutandis, the rules of procedure for the meetings of the Parties to the Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes, revised at the second meeting of the Parties to the Convention (ECE/MP.WAT/5, annex III).

Working languages are English, French and Russian.

Documents of the second meeting of the Signatories to the Protocol on Water and Health can be downloaded from the Water Convention's web site at

<http://www.unece.org/env/water/meetings/documents.htm>

These documents are also available from the web site maintained by the World Health Organization Regional Office for Europe (WHO/EURO) at the address

http://www.euro.who.int/watsan/MainActs/20030130_1

Access to the Palais des Nations is restricted to pre-registered meeting participants. The registration form can be downloaded from the Water Convention's web site at.

<http://www.unece.org/env/water/meetings/registrationmeeting.htm>

This site also contains information on the access to the Palais as well as the office from which the entry badges shall be picked up.

The registration forms shall be submitted to the joint secretariat no later than 10 days before the meeting, i.e. 23 June 2003. The contact address is as follows:

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Item 1: Opening statements

The Chairperson of the Working Group on Water and Health, Mr. Mihaly KADAR (Hungary), will make an opening statement. Representatives of UNECE and the WHO Regional Office for Europe, which are jointly carrying out the secretariat functions for the Protocol, will also address the Meeting.

Item 2: Meeting arrangements

(a) Adoption of the agenda

The Meeting is expected to adopt its agenda as set out in the present document.

(b) Election of officers

The Meeting will elect a Chairperson and two Vice-Chairpersons and appoint a rapporteur.

Item 3: General overview on the interim implementation of the Protocol

Based on the relevant programme elements on water and health of the 2000-2003 work plan, the joint secretariat will report on the achievements under the Protocol (see document MP.WAT/AC.1/2003/3 - EUR/03/5041120/3) and make summary presentations on the outcome of previous meetings, including the ad hoc expert consultation on the evidence base, reporting and surveillance of waterborne diseases, and the workshop on sustainable water management and health, held during the Conference "Ecology, Water and Technology: ECWATECH – 2002".

Item 4: Ratification status and expected entry into force

A representative of the joint secretariat will make a presentation on the current ratification status and countries' plans for ratification.

Taking into account the possibility of convening the first meeting of the Parties to the Protocol in mid-June 2004, countries are expected to report on the steps they have taken, or they will take, to ratify the Protocol.

The Meeting will also consider strategies to successfully achieve the ratification targets of the countries.

Item 5: Procedural matters

(a) Draft rules of procedure for the Meeting of the Parties

Article 16, paragraph 3 (j), of the Protocol stipulates that the Parties at their first meeting shall consider, and by consensus adopt, rules of procedure for their meetings. These

rules of procedure shall contain provision to promote harmonious cooperation with the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention.

A representative of the joint secretariat will inform the Meeting on work undertaken to draw up draft rules of procedure for the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol (see document MP.WAT/AC.1/2003/4 - EUR/03/5041120/4). The Meeting will provide further guidance to the joint secretariat to finalize work on the draft rules of procedure for submission to the first meeting of the Parties.

(b) Draft guidance document on participation modalities

Article 16, paragraph 3 (e), of the Protocol stipulates that the Parties shall seek, where appropriate, the services of relevant bodies of the Economic Commission for Europe and of the Regional Committee for Europe of the World Health Organization. Paragraph 3 (f) of the same article calls for the establishment of the modalities for the participation of other competent international governmental and non-governmental bodies in all meetings and other activities pertinent to the achievement of the purposes of this Protocol.

The joint secretariat will inform the Meeting about relevant work undertaken within the framework of UNECE and WHO to involve competent international governmental and non-governmental bodies in their work. The Meeting is expected to provide advice to the joint secretariat for the preparation of a working document for consideration by the Working Group on Water and Health at its third meeting.

(c) Draft guidance document on compliance review

Article 15 of the Protocol contains provisions regarding compliance with the instrument. The joint secretariat will inform the Meeting about work undertaken as set out in programme element 4.2.1 of the 2000-2003 work-plan.

The Meeting is expected to provide advice to the joint secretariat for the preparation of a working document for consideration by the Working Group on Water and Health at its third meeting.

Item 6: Reporting and surveillance of water-related diseases

(a) Background paper by the World Health Organization (WHO)

A representative of the WHO Regional Office for Europe will make a presentation on the activities carried out under, or in relation to, this topic, which is linked to the programme elements 4.1.1 and 4.2.2 of the 2000-2003 work-plan. The presentation will include such issues as: current level of knowledge, WHO actions such as the development of the drinking water guidelines, the recreational water guidelines and cooperation with other agencies in data collection.

A representative of the UNECE secretariat will inform the Meeting about the decisions taken at the Kiev Ministerial Conference regarding the preparation of the fourth assessment report on Europe's environment that will include information of relevance to the implementation of the Protocol on Water and Health.

(b) Progress review and assessment method and response systems

In line with the work-plan 2000-2003, a representative of the joint secretariat will present a report on the work on "progress review and assessment method" (see articles 6 and 7 of the Protocol) and on "response systems" (see article 8 of the Protocol).

Item 7: Assessment of health risks

(a) Rapid Environment and Health Risk Assessment (REHRA)

A representative of Italy will make a presentation on work on rapid environment and health risk assessment (REHRA), its pilot application and its further use as a Type II project as presented at the World Summit on Sustainable Development. The activity is linked to programme element 4.1.2 of the 2000-2003 work-plan.

(b) Development of tools for the assessment of health impacts from long-term exposure to low-level chemicals

A representative of the WHO Regional Office for Europe will present a report on the development of tools for the assessment of health impacts from long-term exposure to low-level chemicals recently carried out in the context of a WHO programme.

Item 8: International and regional political developments

The Meeting will review the major international and regional political commitments made in the last years to ensure that the actions in the area of water and health are corresponding to the priorities set out by the Governments in the context of socio-economic and sustainable developments.

In particular, the Meeting will address issues linked to: (a) the Millennium Development Goals; (b) the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD); (c) the Third World Water Forum; and (d) the Kiev Ministerial "Environment for Europe" Conference.

A representative of UNECE will inform the Meeting on the Strategic Partnership on Water for Sustainable Development with the 12 countries in Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia (EECCA), formally adopted at the Kiev Ministerial Conference, and composed of the two main subject areas: (a) urban water supply and sanitation with the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) as lead agency; and (b) integrated water resources management, including transboundary waters and regional seas' issues, with UNECE as lead agency. The Meeting will examine progress made and consider its involvement in the work under the two subject areas.

Item 9: Public-private partnership

Following recommendations and declarations of international events, including those referred to under agenda item 8, which call for closer partnerships with the private sector, representatives of major private sector organizations will be invited to participate in the meeting as non-voting participants and present a statement exploring possible cooperation in areas of mutual interest.

Item 10: Official Development Assistance

Attainment of the Millennium Development Goals, complemented by the outcome of the WSSD and other meetings, will require considerable effort from national, multilateral and bilateral assistance sources. A review will be made of the most important donors of official development assistance and their work in the area of water and sanitation. Representatives of the major donor countries will be invited to address the meeting on their current priorities and policies.

Item 11: Health impact and management of enclosed recreational water environments

A representative from Hungary will formally address the issue as an emerging topic to be studied within an international cooperation framework. It is expected that the Meeting will adopt the theme as a technical topic to be included in the work-plan for the next three years.

Item 12: Priorities for technical consultations on regional matters

The Meeting will examine other issues requiring technical consultation on the European regional level. The topics acknowledged as high priority and requiring study under the Protocol will be included in the forthcoming work plan.

Item 13: Preparations for the first meeting of the Parties to the Protocol

The Meeting will address administrative, technical and financial issues linked to the organization of the first meeting of the Parties, provisionally scheduled for mid-June 2004 in conjunction with the Fourth Ministerial Conference on Environment and Health in Budapest. This will include the convening of the third meeting of the Working Group on Water and Health in late 2003 or early 2004 as a technical preparatory meeting for the meeting of the Protocol Parties.

The Meeting will also address financial assistance to eligible countries to participate in meetings under the Protocol as well as human and financial resources for the joint secretariat to perform secretariat functions determined by the Meeting of the Parties other than those stipulated in article 17, paragraph 1 (a) and (b), of the Protocol.

Item 14: Fourth Ministerial Conference on Environment and Health

A representative of the WHO Regional Office for Europe will inform the Meeting about the preparations for the Fourth Ministerial Conference on Environment and Health (Budapest, mid-June 2004). A representative of the UNECE secretariat will inform the Meeting about the outcome of the Kiev Ministerial Conference, particularly the future of the Environment-for-Europe process, and its implications for the Budapest Ministerial Conference on Environment and Health. The Meeting may wish to make arrangements for the submission of a report to the Ministerial Conference on the interim implementation of the Protocol.

Item 15: Work-plan 2004-2006

Based on the discussions on the above agenda items, the Meeting will draw up its work-plan for 2004-2006. Following established practice, the work-plan will be updated, if need be, in the light of new developments, particularly decisions expected to be taken by the Parties to the Protocol at their first meeting.

Item 16: Reporting of the Meeting

Following the practice of the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention, the Meeting of the Signatories may wish to entrust its officers with adopting on its behalf the report to be drawn up by the joint secretariat. The report will be published under document symbol MP.WAT/AC.1/2003/2 - EUR/03/5041120/2.

Item 17: Closing

The Chairperson will close the Meeting on 4 July 2003 at 1 p.m.