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ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

**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

First meeting
Geneva, 17–19 January 2007

ANNOTATED PROVISIONAL AGENDA FOR THE FIRST MEETING

To be held at the Palais des Nations, Room V
starting on Wednesday, 17 January 2007 at 10 a.m.*

* New accreditation procedures have been introduced for all delegates attending meetings at the Palais des Nations. Delegates are therefore requested to complete the registration form, which is available from the Water Convention's website (www.unece.org/env/water/meetings/registrationmeeting.htm), and to transmit it to the UNECE secretariat no later than two weeks before the meeting – namely, by **3 January 2007** – either by fax (+ 41 22 917 0107) or by e-mail (olga.carlos@unece.org). On their way to the meeting, delegates should obtain an identification badge at the Pass and Identification Unit of the UNOG Security and Safety Section, located at the Pregny Gate, Avenue de la Paix (see the map on the Convention's website). In case of difficulty, please contact the secretariat by telephone at +41 22 917 1926.

I. PROVISIONAL AGENDA

1. Opening ceremony and constitution
 - (a) Opening ceremony
 - (b) Constitution of the first Meeting of the Parties
 - (c) Election of officers for the first Meeting of the Parties
 - (d) Report on the credentials submitted by Parties
2. Adoption of the agenda
3. Adoption of the rules of procedure
4. Status of implementation of the Protocol on Water and Health
 - (a) Reports by Parties, Signatories and other observers
 - (b) Reports on activities of relevance under UNECE, including the Water Convention
 - (c) Report on activities of relevance under the World Health Organization Regional Office for Europe (WHO-EURO) and mainstreaming of activities under the Protocol into the policymaking of WHO-EURO
5. Amendment to the Protocol
6. Target setting, review and assessment of progress and guidelines for reporting under the Protocol
 - (a) Obligations deriving from article 6 of the Protocol
 - (b) Obligations deriving from article 7 of the Protocol
7. Surveillance and early-warning systems, contingency plans and response capacities
8. Compliance procedure
9. Ad hoc project facilitation mechanism
10. Partners in cooperation: links with other organizations and programmes
 - (a) Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights

- (b) Task Force for the Implementation of the Environmental Action Programme (EAP Task Force) for Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia (EECCA) countries
 - (c) Other partners
11. Designation and responsibilities of focal points
 12. Programme of work, terms of reference of bodies established to implement it and resources needed
 13. Financial arrangements
 14. Declaration of the first Meeting of the Parties
 15. Date and venue of the second Meeting of the Parties
 16. Other business
 17. Adoption of the report
 18. Closing of the meeting

II. ORGANIZATIONAL DETAILS

Documents for the first Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol on Water and Health can be downloaded from the secretariat website at <http://www.unece.org/env/water/welcome.html>.

Some funds are available to support the participation of experts from countries with economies in transition eligible for financial support. Requests for financial support, using the form available at www.unece.org/env/water/whmop1/form-financialsupportrequest.doc, should be submitted together with the registration form to the secretariat as soon as possible **and not later than 4 December 2006**.

Additional practical information is available at www.unece.org/env/water/whmop1/info.htm.

III. ANNOTATIONS TO THE PROVISIONAL AGENDA

The Working Group on Water and Health, established under the UNECE Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes (Water Convention), has been responsible for the preparation of the first Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol on Water and Health. Most of the documents submitted for adoption by the Meeting of the Parties have been prepared and endorsed by the Working Group. Background information on the preparatory process is included in the documentation for the previous meetings of the Working Group (in particular MP.WAT/WG.4/2006/2 and MP.WAT/WG.4/2005/2).

Item 1. Opening ceremony and constitution

(a) Opening ceremony

Mr. Marek Belka, Executive Secretary of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe, and Mr. Marc Danzon, Director of the Regional Office for Europe of the World Health Organization (WHO-EURO), will be invited to address the meeting.

Mr. Mihály Kádár (Hungary), Chairperson of the Working Group on Water and Health, will open the meeting. He will invite the meeting to apply ad interim the draft rules of procedure (ECE/MP.WH/2007/1) until their formal adoption (see item 3 below).

(b) Constitution of the first Meeting of the Parties

The secretariat will inform the Meeting of the Parties about the status of ratification of the Protocol and any declarations made by the Parties upon the deposit of their instruments of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession, whereupon the Meeting of the Parties will be declared to be duly constituted.

Following the procedure established under the Water Convention, the Meeting of the Parties may wish to establish two ad hoc groups, one on the draft programme of work and the other one on the draft declaration.

(c) Election of officers for the first Meeting of the Parties

According to rules 17 and 20 of the draft rules of procedure (ECE/MP.WH/2007/1), the Meeting of the Parties will elect a chairperson, two vice-chairpersons and additional officers as it deems necessary.

(d) Report on the credentials submitted by Parties

The officers will report on the credentials submitted by the Parties according to the draft rules of procedure.¹ Parties to the Protocol are therefore invited to inform the secretariat of the name(s) of their representative(s) at their earliest convenience, and to submit the credentials to the secretariat, if possible not less than one week before the opening of the meeting.

Item 2. Adoption of the agenda

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

¹ Credentials, which are normally issued either by the Head of State or Government or by the Minister for Foreign Affairs, should indicate the composition of the delegation, including the head of the delegation, and state that the respective delegation is empowered to participate in the meeting and take decisions on behalf of the respective Government, following the applicable rules of procedure.

Item 3. Adoption of the rules of procedure

Document for action by the Meeting of the Parties:	
Draft rules of procedure	ECE/MP.WH/2007/1 - EUR/06/5069385/7

Following article 16, paragraph 3 (j), of the Protocol, the Meeting of the Parties will be invited to adopt its rules of procedure as drawn up by the Working Group on Water and Health.

Item 4. Status of implementation of the Protocol on Water and Health

(a) Reports by Parties, Signatories and other observers

Representatives of Parties, Signatories, other States and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations will be invited to deliver general statements on the implementation of the Protocol, including main challenges and priorities of their work until 2009 and beyond. The outcome of the discussion will be taken into account under the relevant agenda items. Delegations are invited to provide written versions of their statements and any supplementary information beforehand, if possible by **22 December 2006**.

(b) Reports on activities of relevance under UNECE, including the Water Convention

Background documents:	
Report on the implementation of the workplan for 2004–2006 under the Water Convention, including an overview of contributions and expenditures	ECE/MP.WAT/2006/2
Draft workplan for the period 2007–2009 under the Water Convention (including a cost estimate)	ECE/MP.WAT/2006/3

According to article 16, paragraph 3 (c) of the Protocol, the secretariat will inform the Meeting of the Parties on progress made in the implementation of the Convention and the decisions taken at the fourth Meeting of the Parties to the Water Convention (Bonn, 20–22 November 2006), including the opportunities for joint action by the two governing bodies.

The secretariat will also inform the Meeting of the Parties on the preparations for the sixth Ministerial Conference “Environment for Europe” (Belgrade, 10–12 October 2007).

(c) Report on activities of relevance under the World Health Organization Regional Office for Europe (WHO-EURO) of relevance to the Protocol and mainstreaming of activities under the Protocol into the policymaking of WHO-EURO

Document for action by the Meeting of the Parties:	
Mainstreaming activities and priorities of work under the Protocol into the policymaking of WHO-EURO	ECE/MP.WH/2007/2 - EUR/06/5069385/8

The joint secretariat will report on progress under the European Health and Environment process and in particular under the Children's Environment and Health Action Plan for Europe (CEHAPE). The Meeting of the Parties will be informed of the preparations for the Intergovernmental Mid-term Review Meeting (Vienna, 13-15 June 2007) which will assess progress in the implementation of commitments made by Member States, International Governmental Organizations and NGOs since the Fourth Ministerial Conference on Environment and Health (23-25 June 2004).

The Meeting of the Parties will also be invited to examine and adopt a decision on mainstreaming activities and priorities of work into the policymaking of WHO-EURO.

Item 5. Amendment to the Protocol

Document for action by the Meeting of the Parties:	
Amendment to articles 22 and 23 of the Protocol	ECE/MP.WH/2007/3 - EUR/06/5069385/9

The Meeting of the Parties will be invited to examine and adopt a proposal by Hungary to amend articles 22 and 23 of the Protocol on ratification, acceptance, approval and accession to the effect that UN member States, other than those belonging to UNECE and WHO-EURO, can also become Parties to the Protocol.

Item 6. Target setting, review and assessment of progress and guidelines for reporting under the Protocol

Background document:	
Overview of existing reporting mechanisms of relevance for the Protocol	ECE/MP.WH/2007/5 - EUR/06/5069385/11
Documents for action by the Meeting of the Parties:	
Preliminary guidelines for review and assessment of progress under the Protocol	ECE/MP.WH/2007/6 - EUR/06/5069385/12
Draft programme of work for 2007–2009	ECE/MP.WH/2007/4 - EUR/06/5069385/10

(a) Obligations deriving from article 6 of the Protocol

Parties and non-Parties will inform each other about their progress towards establishing targets and target dates according to article 6, paragraph 2, of the Protocol. To this end, they are invited to submit brief written reports to the joint secretariat by **22 December 2006**.

The meeting will take note of progress made by the Parties on their own in establishing targets and target dates and will agree on future joint activities as set out in the draft programme of work for 2007–2009.

(b) Obligations deriving from article 7 of the Protocol

The Meeting of the Parties will also review the outcome of activities of the Working Group on Water and Health related to the development of guidelines for reporting on progress in achieving the targets under article 6, paragraph 2, of the Protocol.

A representative of the WHO Collaborating Centre for Health Promoting Water Management and Risk Communication (Bonn, Germany) will present a report on the use of existing database and reporting mechanisms in support to the requirements of the Protocol.

The Meeting of the Parties will agree on (a) the preparation of draft guidelines on reporting, for consideration at the second meeting; and (b) the preparation by end of 2008 of an interim report on water supply and sanitation issues, based on these draft guidelines. In addition to tests of these draft guidelines, these activities include the development of indicators for reporting on progress in water management related targets, of indicators showing the effectiveness of measures (including social and economic aspects) as well as in-country assistance programmes to support reporting as set out in the draft programme of work for 2007–2009.

Moreover, the Meeting of the Parties will decide on the frequency of publication of the results of data collection and evaluation, in accordance with article 7, paragraph 2, of the Protocol, and on the frequency of reviews of progress towards targets, in accordance with article 7, paragraph 4.

Item 7. Surveillance and early-warning systems, contingency plans and response capacities

Background document:	
Report on the implementation of the workplan for 2004–2006 under the Water Convention, including an overview of contributions and expenditures, chapter IV	ECE/MP.WAT/2006/2
Documents for action by the Meeting of the Parties:	
Surveillance of water related diseases	ECE/MP.WH/2007/7 - EUR/06/5069385/13
Draft programme of work for 2007–2009	ECE/MP.WH/2007/4 – EUR/06/5069385/10

The Meeting of the Parties will examine progress in this area under the Working Group on Water and Health and will agree on future activities, such as assistance to Parties in establishing and/or strengthening response systems, including assessment and improvement of national and/or local surveillance, outbreak detection and early warning systems, contingency plans and capacity response. The Meeting of the Parties may wish to draw up guidelines and agree on in-country missions to support the guidelines' implementation as set out in the draft programme of work for 2007–2009.

Item 8. Compliance procedure

Document for action by the Meeting of the Parties:	
Compliance procedure under the Protocol on Water and Health	ECE/MP.WH/2007/8 - EUR/06/5069385/14

Article 15 of the Protocol requires the Meeting of the Parties to establish multilateral arrangements of a non-confrontational, non-judicial and consultative nature for reviewing compliance with the provisions of the Protocol. The meeting will be invited to consider and adopt a draft decision establishing a compliance procedure.

The Meeting of the Parties is also expected to elect the members of the compliance committee envisaged in the draft decision, in accordance with the procedure set out in the decision and in the rules of procedure. To this aim Parties are invited to send to the secretariat nominations of candidates for the compliance committee, including their CVs, as soon as possible so that the secretariat can distribute a list of these nominations by 4 December 2006.

Item 9. Ad Hoc Project Facilitation Mechanism

Document for action by the Meeting of the Parties:	
Ad hoc project facilitation mechanism	ECE/MP.WH/2007/9 - EUR/06/5069385/15

Based on the outcome of the 2004 Oslo Roundtable on Water and Health in Europe, the Meeting of the Parties will examine a proposal for the establishment of an Ad Hoc Project Facilitation Mechanism to support national action under article 14 related to the improved formulation of projects, in order to facilitate access to sources of finance. It will make appropriate arrangements for implementation as set out in the draft programme of work for 2007–2009.

Item 10. Partners in cooperation: links with other organizations and programmes

Document for action by the Meeting of the Parties:	
Draft programme of work for 2007–2009	ECE/MP.WH/2007/4 - EUR/06/5069385/10

(a) Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights

A representative of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights will inform the Meeting of the Parties of recent developments within the United Nations human rights system relevant to the Protocol, in particular related to the right to health, the human right to water as a component of this right, and the right to an adequate standard of living.

The Meeting of the Parties will consider future activities in this area.

(b) Task Force for the Implementation of the Environmental Action Programme (EAP Task Force) for Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia (EECCA) countries

A representative of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) will inform the Meeting of the Parties on activities of the Task Force for the Implementation of the Environmental Action Programme for EECCA, on the situation in the water supply and sanitation sector in EECCA and on opportunities for cooperation under the workplan for 2007–2009.

(c) Other partners

The Meeting of the Parties will be invited to seek opportunities for cooperating with relevant UNECE and WHO bodies, governing bodies of environmental conventions and other relevant international bodies, committees and programmes within and outside the UN system (such as the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control), including relevant NGOs (e.g. Consumers International), private-sector organizations (e.g. EUREAU, the European union of national associations of water suppliers and waste water services) and business and financing institutions to attain the objectives of the Protocol.

In particular, the Meeting of the Parties will agree on its role and inputs to (a) the “Environment for Europe” process and its sixth Ministerial Conference (Belgrade, 10–12 October 2007); (b) the fifth Ministerial Conference on Environment and Health (Italy, 2009); and (c) the EECCA component of the Water Initiative of the European Union.

Item 11. Designation and responsibilities of focal points

Document for action by the Meeting of the Parties:	
Draft decision on designation and responsibilities of focal points	ECE/MP.WH/2007/10 – EUR/06/5069385/16

The Meeting of the Parties will consider and adopt a draft decision on the designation of focal points for the Protocol and their responsibilities. Parties will be called upon to designate national focal points for the Protocol, if they have not already done so, and non-Parties and interested organizations will be invited to do the same.

Item 12. Programme of work, terms of reference of bodies established to implement it and resources needed

Document for action by the Meeting of the Parties:	
Draft programme of work for 2007–2009	ECE/MP.WH/2007/4 - EUR/06/5069385/10

In accordance with article 16, the Meeting of the Parties is expected to establish its programme of work, taking into account the recommendations of the ad hoc group and the decisions under the previous agenda items.

In doing so, the Meeting of the Parties will:

- (a) Agree on the lead Parties/organizations and their role in implementing the various programme elements;
- (b) Agree on the terms of reference of bodies established under the Protocol to implement the programme of work; and
- (c) Make arrangements related to the financial and human resources needed for implementing the activities in the programme of work, and indicate funding for these activities according to its priorities. Parties and other interested States and organizations are invited to inform the secretariat by **22 December 2006** of their intention to contribute to the financial resources of the Protocol. The secretariat will make this information available to the Meeting of the Parties, at which delegations will be invited to provide supplementary information.

Item 13. Financial arrangements

Document for action by the Meeting of the Parties:	
Draft decision on the establishment of trust funds under the Protocol	ECE/MP.WH/2007/11 - EUR/06/5069385/17

The meeting will examine and adopt a draft decision for the establishment of two trust funds under the Protocol.

Item 14. Declaration of the first Meeting of the Parties

Document for action by the Meeting of the Parties:	
Draft declaration of the first Meeting of the Parties	ECE/MP.WH/2007/12 - EUR/06/5069385/18

On the basis of a draft text prepared by the Working Group on Water and Health and finalized by the respective ad hoc group, the Meeting of the Parties will adopt a policy declaration, which will also set out the Protocol's major long-term goals.

Item 15. Date and venue of the second Meeting of the Parties

The Meeting of the Parties is invited to set preliminary dates for its second ordinary meeting. Delegations are encouraged to offer to host the second meeting so that the Meeting of the Parties will be able to decide on its venue.

Item 16. Other business

At the time of writing, the joint secretariat had no points to propose under this item. Delegations wishing to propose points under this item are requested to inform the joint secretariat as soon as possible.

Item 17. Adoption of the report

The Chairperson will review all the decisions taken by the Meeting of the Parties. The Meeting of the Parties is invited to entrust the joint secretariat, in consultation with the Bureau, with finalizing the report of its first meeting.

Item 18. Closing of the meeting

The Chairperson will close the meeting.