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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  
Item 6 of the provisional agenda

**PRELIMINARY GUIDELINES FOR REVIEW AND ASSESSMENT OF PROGRESS  
UNDER THE PROTOCOL**

Note by the secretariat\*

1. Under article 7, paragraph 5, of the Protocol on Water and Health, Parties are required to provide to the secretariat, for circulation to the other Parties, a summary report of the data collected and evaluated and the assessment of progress achieved.
2. Such summary reports should follow guidelines established by the Meeting of the Parties. Summary reports are self-standing documents produced and submitted under the sole authority of the Parties to the Protocol. They may become the subject of a compliance review.
3. The Protocol explicitly states that the guidelines for compiling summary reports shall provide that the Parties can use reports covering the relevant information that have been

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\* This document was submitted on the above date to allow consultation with the Chairperson of the Working Group on Water and Health and a group of Parties and non-Parties.

produced for other international forums. Thus, Parties are encouraged to make use, as appropriate, of their data/information submissions for compulsory reporting under other applicable legislation, including, among others, directives, regulations and decisions of the European Parliament and of the Council, or reporting schemes such as the WHO Environment and Health Information System (ENHIS). Document ECE/MP.WH/2007/5 – EUR/06/5069385/11 provides further information on this issue.

4. To achieve consistency among summary reports by the various Parties, the Parties may wish to include in their summary reports the items for which they are obliged to establish targets and target dates (article 6, para. 2), unless national and local circumstances make these irrelevant for reporting. In addition to mentioning targets, target dates and progress in achieving these targets, the summary report can refer to the provisions of article 8 and, if applicable, other articles.

5. As the main objectives of the summary reports are “evaluation and assessment” rather than mere data submission, Parties are encouraged to provide narrative statements regarding assessments of their progress in achieving the objectives of the Protocol. These could include brief statements about trends and future activities. While reporting on progress since the year 2000 would be a satisfactory approach, Parties might choose to use 1990 as a baseline in order to harmonize reporting with the reporting system reflecting progress towards the Millennium Declaration and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation.

6. Among the summary report’s important functions are to provide Parties with information and good practices and help them implement the Protocol. Moreover, the Meeting of the Parties can draw on the Parties’ experience and identify needs and priorities of joint work. The inclusion of action-oriented information would therefore be helpful. The report should refer to legal, administrative, economic, financial, technical and other measures to comply with the Protocol’s provisions. Useful approaches whose results have been documented in the public domain should be shared among Parties – for example, through webcasting.

7. It would be useful to include real-time (e.g. yearly) data, although this is not an obligation under article 7, paragraph 5. Such data are available, for instance, for the targets related to access to drinking water and sanitation, drinking water quality, outbreaks and incidents of water-related disease and, in some cases, the service quality of collective systems of water supply and sanitation. The rationale for the selection of these data was intensively discussed by the Working Group (see documents MP.WAT/WG.2/2005/4 – EUR/05/5047554/4 and ECE/MP.WAT/WG.4/2006/8 – EUR/06/5059736/8). Given national and/or local circumstances, countries may also include data on drinking water quality determinands of national/local importance (e.g. As, Fe, Mn, NO<sub>3</sub>, NO<sub>2</sub>). To facilitate processing of the submitted information, Parties are invited to submit both paper and electronic versions of numeric information. Digital versions should if possible be Excel or Excel-compatible files.

8. Despite its intensive work, the Working Group realized that further work on a number of issues related to articles 6 and 7 is needed. This includes appropriate guidance for aspects of the summary reports that are related to:

- The application of recognized good practice to the management of water supply and sanitation;
- The occurrence of discharges of untreated wastewater and untreated storm water overflows;
- The quality of discharges of wastewater from wastewater treatment installations;
- The disposal or reuse of sewage sludge and the quality of wastewater used for irrigation purposes;
- The quality of waters used as sources for drinking water;
- The quality of waters generally used for bathing;
- The quality of waters generally used for aquaculture or for the production or harvesting of shellfish;
- The application of recognized good practice to the management of enclosed waters generally available for bathing;
- The identification and remediation of particularly contaminated sites;
- The effectiveness of systems for the management, development, protection and use of water resources; and
- The frequency of the publication of information on the quality of drinking water.

9. To assist the Meeting of the Parties in drawing up and adopting guidelines on the summary report, the joint secretariat, in consultation with the Chairperson of the Working Group, Mr. Mihály Kádár (Hungary), assisted by a group of Parties and non-Parties representatives from Belgium, Croatia, Estonia, France, Germany, Norway, Switzerland, United Kingdom and Ukraine, has drafted preliminary elements of the guidelines for the summary report on review and assessment of progress under the Protocol (annex), based on earlier discussions and achievements of the Working Group. For ease of reference, information on relevant existing reporting systems and outcomes of previous discussions under the Working Group on Water and Health appear *in italics* in the annex.

10. The Meeting of the Parties may wish to:

- (a) Adopt the preliminary elements of the summary report on review and assessment of progress under the Protocol (annex);
- (b) Request the Task Force on Indicators and Reporting, with the assistance of the Compliance Committee, to further develop these preliminary elements, including

a set of tables, and to prepare a first draft version of guidelines for the summary report by mid-2008;

- (c) Test this draft version of the guidelines through a reporting exercise, requesting the Parties to prepare national summary reports and submit these summary reports by the end of 2008 to the secretariat for circulation to the other Parties;
- (d) Based on these national summary reports, request the Task Force on Indicators and Reporting, with the assistance of the Compliance Committee and the joint secretariat, to prepare by early 2009 a report on drinking water and health in the European region for submission to the second meeting of the Parties and the fifth Ministerial Conference on Environment and Health;
- (e) Request the Task Force on Indicators and Reporting, with the assistance of the Compliance Committee, to complete work on guidelines for the summary report, in accordance with article 7, paragraph 5, and noting the experience gained under subparagraphs (c) and (d), for adoption by the Parties at their second meeting.

Annex

**PRELIMINARY ELEMENTS OF THE SUMMARY REPORT ON REVIEW AND  
ASSESSMENT OF PROGRESS UNDER THE PROTOCOL**

Summary reports on review and assessment of progress under the Protocol are prepared by the Parties and submitted to the secretariat for circulation to the other Parties. In compiling these summary reports, Parties can use reports including relevant information that have been produced for other international forums.

**I. ACHIEVEMENTS OF TARGETS AND TARGET DATES**

**A. Drinking water coverage and sanitation coverage**

*Rationale*

Access to drinking water for everyone and the provision of sanitation for everyone are among the most important objectives of the Protocol (article 6, para. 1). This includes the setting of target and target dates as to the area of territory, or the population sizes or proportions, which should be served by collective systems for the supply of drinking water or where the supply of drinking water by other means should be improved (article 6, para. 2 c). This also includes the area of territory, or the population sizes or proportions, which should be served by collective systems of sanitation or where sanitation by other means should be improved (article 6, para. 2 d).

*Data on access to improved water supply and sanitation are collected by the joint WHO UNICEF Joint Monitoring Programme (JMP), which is also the designated programme for monitoring progress towards the Millennium Development Goals (<http://www.wssinfo.org/en/welcome.html>). Global assessments were made in 1991, 1993, 1996 and 2000. In 2004, a mid-term assessment was produced. In 2005 a report Water for Life: Making It Happen was produced stressing the economic cost benefits of water supply and sanitation. In 2006, a report showed the evolution of access to water supply and sanitation.*

*The methodology used under the JMP can be downloaded from [http://www.wssinfo.org/pdf/method\\_GWSSA\\_2000.pdf](http://www.wssinfo.org/pdf/method_GWSSA_2000.pdf). Whereas earlier reports showed significant difficulties gathering data in European countries, in recent reports a major effort has been made to increase coverage of the European region.*

*To complement the JMP, countries have gathered information using parameters developed under the European Environment and Health Information System ([http://www.euro.who.int/EHindicators/Methodology/20050419\\_2](http://www.euro.who.int/EHindicators/Methodology/20050419_2)).*

The summary report should include, as appropriate, information on:

National/local targets: \_\_\_\_\_

Target dates: \_\_\_\_\_

Public participation in setting/revising targets and target dates (article 6, para.2): \_\_\_\_\_

Summary of achievements, trends and future activities: \_\_\_\_\_

Supporting information: \_\_\_\_\_

Please include, as appropriate, real-time (e.g. yearly) data on: (a) the percentage of the population with access to safe drinking water connected to a public supply according to WatSan\_Ex1; (b) the percentage of the population served by sewerage connections according to WatSan\_P1; and (c) the percentage of the population served by sewerage connections and wastewater treatment plants. In submitting data, it may be useful to refer to primary, secondary and tertiary wastewater treatment plants.<sup>1,2</sup>

## **B. Drinking water quality**

### ***Rationale***

Article 6, paragraph 2 (a), requires the setting of target and target dates regarding the quality of the drinking water supplied, taking into account the WHO Guidelines for Drinking-Water Quality.<sup>3</sup> This includes microbiological and chemical aspects of drinking water quality.

*A consensus was reached during the Consultation on Target Setting and Progress Monitoring of Water and Wastewater Services (Copenhagen, 9–10 May 2005) to determine the most relevant parameters for a common reporting system on drinking water quality. The final report of this meeting is available at <http://www.euro.who.int/document/wsn/protMtgMay05.pdf>. Participants agreed to use the failure rate for *E. coli* and enterococci as an indicator for failing microbial quality. For chemicals, countries were to identify the 10 most problematic parameters, with five being common to all the countries and five reflecting local concerns. Where possible, not only the percentage failure rate per number of samples but also the affected population should be reported either in absolute numbers or as a percentage of the total population. It was felt that*

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<sup>1</sup> WatSan\_Ex1 and WatSan\_P1 are indicators under the WHO Environment and Health Information System (see document ECE/MP.WH/2007/3 – EUR/06/5069385/10).

<sup>2</sup> Given general consent of the Parties on this item of the summary report, the Task Force on Indicators and Reporting should develop a table in line with the reporting requirements under the WHO Environment and Health Information System and/or other existing schemes. This will help countries in preparing the summary report and lessen the burden of reporting.

<sup>3</sup> WHO (2004). *Guidelines for Drinking-Water Quality* (3rd ed.), vol.1: Recommendations. Geneva: WHO. [http://www.who.int/water\\_sanitation\\_health/dwq/gdwq3/en/index.html](http://www.who.int/water_sanitation_health/dwq/gdwq3/en/index.html)

*comprehensive reporting as required by the Drinking Water Directive (DWD)<sup>4</sup> would be too labour intensive and would lead to many reports on parameters irrelevant to the Party in question.*

*Relevant indicators for this section of the report include:*

- *WatSan\_S2: Percentage of samples that fail to meet the standard for E. coli  
Percentage of samples that fail to meet the standard for Enterococci*
- *WatSan\_S3: Percentage of samples that fail to meet the standard for chemical water quality*

The summary report should include, as appropriate, information on:

National/local baseline values: \_\_\_\_\_

National/local targets: \_\_\_\_\_

Target dates: \_\_\_\_\_

Public participation in setting/revising targets and target dates (article 6, para. 2): \_\_\_\_\_

Summary of achievements and trends: \_\_\_\_\_

Planned future activities: \_\_\_\_\_

Supporting information: \_\_\_\_\_

Please include, as appropriate, real-time data on: (a) E. coli and enterococci; and (b) chemical quality,<sup>5</sup> including turbidity.<sup>6</sup>

## **C. Outbreaks and incidents of water-related disease**

### ***Rationale***

Article 6, paragraph 2 (b), requires the setting of targets and target dates related to the reduction of the scale of outbreaks and incidents of water-related disease. Article 8 specifies the national and local actions to be taken.

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<sup>4</sup> Council Directive 98/83/EC of 3 November 1998 on the quality of water intended for human consumption, Official Journal L 330, 5 Dec. 1998, pp. 32–54 ([http://europa.eu.int/eur-lex/pri/en/oj/dat/1998/l\\_330/l\\_33019981205en00320054.pdf](http://europa.eu.int/eur-lex/pri/en/oj/dat/1998/l_330/l_33019981205en00320054.pdf)).

<sup>5</sup> Reference can be made to the list of chemical parameters in Annex I, Part B of the DWD.

<sup>6</sup> See footnote 2.

Currently, information is gathered under two systems:

- *The Centralized Information System for Infectious Diseases (CISID) (<http://data.euro.who.int/cisid/>) uses advanced technology to collect, analyse and present data in the WHO European Region. CISID covers all diseases recognized to be of importance to Parties: cholera, Ehec, viral hepatitis A, typhus and shigellosis/bacillary dysentery. It also covers emerging diseases recognized to be of importance for the Protocol, including campylobacteriosis, cryptosporidiosis and giardiasis.*
- *WHO's Epidemic and Pandemic Alert and Response (EPR) (<http://www.who.int/csr/en/>) is an integrated alert and response system for epidemics and other public health emergencies based on strong national public health systems, and is part of an effective international system for coordinated response. At present EPR covers acute diarrhoeal syndrome and acute watery diarrhoeal syndrome; acute haemorrhagic fever syndrome; cholera; Ehec (*E. coli* 0157) and enterohaemorrhagic escherichia coli infection; hepatitis, shigellosis, typhoid. It also covers two diseases which were not yet recognized as being of prime importance by the experts from Parties: legionellosis and malaria.*

*Information gathering under CISID is structured as annual invitations to report, sent out by the WHO Regional Office for Europe. A review of current data reporting shows that reporting of the burden of disease for the priority diseases is nearly complete in the EFTA, EU and EU Accession countries, but can still be improved in the EECCA region. New legislation by the European Union and the work of the ECDC can be expected to further strengthen the reporting. Much work remains to be done in the creation of a comprehensive database for secondary diseases. It must be stressed that the problem does not seem to reside solely in the capacity of the surveillance system, but also in the obstacles that prevent datasets maintained solely as hard copies from reaching the electronic data stream.*

*Epidemic intelligence related to systematic event detection includes the systematic gathering of official reports and rumours of suspected outbreaks from a wide range of formal and informal sources. Formal reports of suspected outbreaks are received from ministries of health, national institutes of public health, WHO Regional and Country Offices, WHO collaborating centres, civilian and military laboratories, academic institutions, and non-governmental organizations (NGOs). With the advent of modern communication technologies, many initial outbreak reports now originate in the electronic media and electronic discussion groups.*

*In view of the work that remains to be done to create a comprehensive system for monitoring the endemic burden of disease, Parties to the Protocol may wish to target their initial efforts to strengthening cooperation with the CISID as a tool for reporting.*

The summary report should include, as appropriate, the following information per disease:

National/local targets: \_\_\_\_\_

Target dates: \_\_\_\_\_

Public participation in setting/revising targets and target dates (article 6, para. 2): \_\_\_\_\_

Summary of achievements, trends and future activities: \_\_\_\_\_

Supporting information: \_\_\_\_\_

Please include, as appropriate, real-time data on the outbreak (e.g. total number of outbreaks, affected persons) of cholera, bacillary dysentery (shigellosis), EHEC (Enterohaemorrhagic Escherichia coli, usually of the serotype O157:H7), viral hepatitis A, and typhoid fever. If possible, please refer also to campylobacteriosis, cryptosporidiosis, giardiasis, and infections with the calici virus.<sup>7</sup>

#### **D. Service quality of collective systems of water supply and sanitation**

##### ***Rationale***

Article 6, paragraph 2 (e), requires the setting of targets and target dates related to the levels of performance to be achieved by collective systems and by other means of water supply and sanitation.

*A consensus was reached during the “Consultation on target setting and progress monitoring of water and wastewater services meeting” (Copenhagen, 9–10 May 2005) to determine the most relevant parameters for drinking water quality. The final report of this meeting is available at <http://www.euro.who.int/document/wsn/protMtgMay05.pdf>. Indicators for the performance of water supply systems included:*

- *The water production ( $m^3/y$ ), water consumption ( $m^3/y$ )*
- *Continuity of service (hours of water supplied per day)*
- *Rate of failure to comply with legally required residual chlorine at point of consumption (in countries with mandatory chlorination only) in %*
- *Pipe breaks (number of breaks/km/year) – optional.*

*No consensus was achieved on indicators for sanitation systems.*

National/local targets: \_\_\_\_\_

Target dates: \_\_\_\_\_

Public participation in setting/revising targets and target dates (article 6, para. 2): \_\_\_\_\_

Summary of achievements, trends and future activities: \_\_\_\_\_

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<sup>7</sup> See footnote 2.

Supporting information: \_\_\_\_\_

**E. Application of recognized good practice to the management of water supply and sanitation**

***Rationale***

Article 6, paragraph 2 (f), requires the setting of targets and target dates related to the application of recognized good practice to the management of water supply and sanitation, including the protection of waters used as sources for drinking water.

For this subsection of the summary report, the Task Force on Indicators and Reporting should draw up appropriate guidelines.

**F. Occurrence of discharges of untreated wastewater and untreated storm water overflows**

***Rationale***

Article 6, paragraph 2 (g), requires the setting of targets and target dates related to the occurrence of discharges of untreated wastewater and untreated storm water overflows from wastewater collection systems to waters within the scope of this Protocol.

For this subsection of the summary report, the Task Force on Indicators and Reporting should draw up appropriate guidelines.

**G. Quality of discharges of wastewater from wastewater treatment installations**

***Rationale***

Article 6, paragraph 2 (h), requires the setting of targets and target dates related to the quality of discharges of wastewater from wastewater treatment installations to waters within the scope of this Protocol.

For this subsection of the summary report, the Task Force on Indicators and Reporting should draw up appropriate guidelines.

**H. Disposal or reuse of sewage sludge and the quality of wastewater used for irrigation purposes**

***Rationale***

Article 6, paragraph 2 (i), requires the setting of targets and target dates related to the disposal or reuse of sewage sludge from collective systems of sanitation or other sanitation installations and the quality of wastewater used for irrigation purposes, taking into account the Guidelines for the

safe use of wastewater and excreta in agriculture and aquaculture of the World Health Organization and the United Nations Environment Programme.

For this subsection of the summary report, the Task Force on Indicators and Reporting should draw up appropriate guidelines.

**I. Quality of waters used as sources for drinking water**

***Rationale***

Article 6, paragraph 2 (j), requires the setting of targets and target dates related to the quality of waters, which are used as sources for drinking water.

For this subsection of the summary report, the Task Force on Indicators and Reporting should draw up appropriate guidelines.

**J. Quality of waters generally used for bathing**

***Rationale***

Article 6, paragraph 2 (j), requires also the setting of targets and target dates related to the quality of waters generally used for bathing.

For this subsection of the summary report, the Task Force on Indicators and Reporting should draw up appropriate guidelines.

**K. Quality of waters generally used for aquaculture or for the production or harvesting of shellfish**

***Rationale***

Article 6, paragraph 2 (j), requires the setting of targets and target dates related to the quality of waters used for aquaculture or for the production or harvesting of shellfish.

For this subsection of the summary report, the Task Force on Indicators and Reporting should draw up appropriate guidelines.

**L. Application of recognized good practice to the management of enclosed waters generally available for bathing**

***Rationale***

Article 6, paragraph 2 (k), requires the setting of targets and target dates related to the application of recognized good practice to the management of enclosed waters generally available for bathing.

For this subsection of the summary report, the Task Force on Indicators and Reporting should draw up appropriate guidelines.

**M. Identification and remediation of particularly contaminated sites**

***Rationale***

Article 6, paragraph 2 (l), requires the setting of targets and target dates related to the identification and remediation of particularly contaminated sites which adversely affect waters within the scope of this Protocol or are likely to do so and which thus threaten to give rise to water-related disease.

For this subsection of the summary report, the Task Force on Indicators and Reporting should draw up appropriate guidelines.

**N. Effectiveness of systems for the management, development, protection and use of water resources**

***Rationale***

Article 6, paragraph 2 (m), requires the setting of targets and target dates related to the effectiveness of systems for the management, development, protection and use of water resources, including the application of recognized good practice to the control of pollution from sources of all kinds.

For this subsection of the summary report, the Task Force on Indicators and Reporting should draw up appropriate guidelines.

**O. Frequency of the publication of information on the quality of the drinking water**

***Rationale***

Article 6, paragraph 2 (n), requires the setting of targets for the frequency of the publication of information on the quality of the drinking water supplied and of other waters relevant to the targets under article 7, paragraph 2.

For this subsection of the summary report, the Task Force on Indicators and Reporting should draw up appropriate guidelines.

## II. EVALUATION

### *Rationale*

Compliance with the Protocol's provision may require new national policies and strategies and/or action-oriented practical steps on legal, administrative, economic, financial, technical and other issues. Countries with economies in transition may also wish to refer, in consultations with the appropriate national ministries for construction and finance, to measures initiated under the Task Force for the Implementation of the Environmental Action Programme for Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia<sup>8</sup> or other applicable action programmes. This chapter of the summary report should also sum up the statements under chapter I, sections A–O, and possibly indicate priority action.

Party's evaluation: \_\_\_\_\_  
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<sup>8</sup> [http://www.oecd.org/document/2/0,2340,en\\_2649\\_34291\\_1875778\\_1\\_1\\_1\\_1,00.html](http://www.oecd.org/document/2/0,2340,en_2649_34291_1875778_1_1_1_1,00.html).