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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 9 of the provisional agenda

AD HOC PROJECT FACILITATION MECHANISM

Note by the secretariat*

1. On 28–29 September 2004, the Government of Norway hosted the Oslo Roundtable on Water and Health with the following objectives: (a) to initiate discussions on cooperation to strengthen the capacity of the public health sector in surveying and reducing water-related diseases; and (b) to examine the possibility of establishing a structure through which partner countries, organizations and financial institutions could continue an effective dialogue with countries in South-Eastern Europe (SEE) and Eastern Europe, Caucasus, and Central Asia (EECCA) on reducing the burden of disease in the context of the Protocol on Water and Health (see MP.WAT/WG.4/2004/8 – EUR/5047016/2004/8).

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

2. The participants in the Oslo Roundtable concluded that the meeting was an important step in developing a proper mechanism for international support for national action under article 14 of the Protocol (with regard to the improved formulation of projects and facilitation of access to sources of finance). They also agreed that a follow-up to the Oslo Roundtable on Water and Health, with its focus on health issues and non-structural measures, would fill an important gap in the EECCA Component of the EU Water Initiative. The Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol on Water and Health and its programme of work were considered the most appropriate frameworks for the Roundtable follow-up in order to keep the political momentum and make policy decisions regarding future priorities.

3. The Working Group on Water and Health discussed the structure and functioning of the proposed mechanism for international support for national action under article 14 at its fourth, fifth and sixth meetings (see MP.WAT/WG.4/2004/5 – EUR/5047016/2004/5, ECE/MP.WAT/WG.4/2005/2 – EUR/05/5047554/2 and ECE/MP.WAT/WG.4/2006/2 – EUR/05/5047554/2).

4. The draft decision on the Ad Hoc Project Facilitation Mechanism and the terms of reference in its annex are based on a general agreement reached at the sixth meeting of the Working Group on Water and Health. The Chairperson of the Working Group, Mr. Mihály Kádár (Hungary), finalized the decision and the terms of reference with the assistance of the secretariat and of a group of representatives of Parties and non-Parties from Belgium, Croatia, Estonia, France, Germany, Norway, Switzerland, Ukraine and the United Kingdom.

5. The Meeting of the Parties may wish to formally adopt the draft decision on the Ad Hoc Project Facilitation Mechanism and its annexed terms of reference.

DRAFT DECISION

AD HOC PROJECT FACILITATION MECHANISM

The Meeting of the Parties,

Conscious that the prevention, control and reduction of water-related disease require enhanced cooperation between States at all levels and among all sectors,

Wishing to create a mechanism for cooperation and mutual assistance pursuant to article 14 of the Protocol on international support for national action,

Recognizing the specific assistance needs of countries in South-Eastern Europe (SEE) and Eastern Europe, Caucasus, and Central Asia (EECCA),

1. *Establishes* the Ad Hoc Project Facilitation Mechanism for international support for national action under article 14 of the Protocol.
2. *Decides* that the terms of reference of the Ad Hoc Project Facilitation Mechanism shall be those set out in the annex to this decision.
3. *Encourages* Parties and non-Parties to participate in the Ad Hoc Project Facilitation Mechanism by submitting project proposals and by advocating the funding of such proposals.
4. *Invites* the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention and its working groups, the International Water Assessment Centre and relevant Collaborating Centres of WHO, to participate in the Ad Hoc Project Facilitation Mechanism.
5. *Also invites* lead global and regional financing institutions, relevant international organizations, international foundations and competent international non-governmental organizations with cooperation programmes of recognized importance for water and health to participate in the Ad Hoc Project Facilitation Mechanism.
6. *Expresses* its appreciation to the Government of Norway and to the Regional Office for Europe of the World Health Organization for having convened the Oslo Roundtable on Water and Health in Europe and for their support to the Ad Hoc Project Facilitation Mechanism. Parties are called upon to provide further resources for the Mechanism's Facilitator for the first three years, and to provide resources for the Mechanism.

7. *Decides* to review at its second meeting the effectiveness of the Ad Hoc Project Facilitation Mechanism and to revise, if need be, its terms of reference on the basis of the experience gained.

Annex

**TERMS OF REFERENCE OF THE AD HOC PROJECT FACILITATION
MECHANISM**

The Ad Hoc Project Facilitation Mechanism comprises two elements: the Facilitator and the Ad Hoc Project Clearing House.

Facilitator

The work of the Ad Hoc Project Facilitation Mechanism will be facilitated by a member of the secretariat (“Facilitator”), based at the World Health Organization’s Regional Office for Europe, whose tasks will include the following:

- Carrying out studies of donors’ policies to identify strategic areas of international assistance related to water and health and making these studies available to the Ad Hoc Project Clearing House;
- Compiling, reviewing and analysing project proposals submitted by EECCA and SEE countries and relevant non-governmental organizations to address their identified priority needs;
- Assisting EECCA and SEE countries and relevant non-governmental organizations in drawing up project 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 Ad Hoc Project Clearing House. The screening, analysis and further development of project proposals for presentation to the Ad Hoc Project Clearing House should be carried out in accordance with criteria established by the Working Group on Water and Health to ensure that the proposals are in line with the objectives of the Protocol;
- Developing and managing a Web-based platform to disseminate the project proposals and keep track of the state of their funding.

Ad Hoc Project Clearing House

The Ad Hoc Project Clearing House is an open-ended body under the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol on Water and Health with members from Parties and non-Parties (both from donor and recipient countries) and from global and regional financing institutions, relevant international organizations, competent international non-governmental organizations and international foundations with cooperation programmes of recognized importance for water and health.

The objective of the Ad Hoc Project Clearing House is to identify priority activities of non-infrastructure intervention for countries in transition in the following areas:

- Integrated water resources management
- Safe drinking-water supply and adequate sanitation
- Reduction of childhood morbidity and mortality
- Meeting the water needs of vulnerable groups
- Gender issues related to water supply and sanitation.

To this aim, the Ad Hoc Project Clearing House will assess the relevance of project proposals submitted through the Facilitator and make suggestions for matching donors' assistance with such proposals.

The Ad Hoc Project Clearing House will advocate funding of the proposals, but financing of proposals will be on a voluntary basis.

Meetings of the Ad Hoc Project Clearing House should be held, as far as possible, back-to-back with the meetings of the Working Group on Water and Health. Between meetings, the Ad Hoc Project Clearing House will work through the Web-based platform.
