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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

Ad Hoc Project Facilitation Mechanism

First meeting
Geneva, 25 June 2008

ANNOTATED PROVISIONAL AGENDA FOR THE FIRST MEETING

To be held at the Palais des Nations*, Geneva,
starting at 10 a.m. on Wednesday, 25 June 2008

I. PROVISIONAL AGENDA

1. Opening of the meeting

* Delegates attending meetings at the Palais des Nations are requested to complete the registration form, which is available on the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) website (http://www.unece.org/env/water/meetings/documents_AHPFM.htm) and to transmit it to the UNECE secretariat no later than two weeks before the meeting 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 United Nations Office at Geneva's Security and Safety Section, located at the Pregny Gate, 14, Avenue de la Paix (see the map on the UNECE website: <http://www.unece.org/meetings/practical.htm>). In case of difficulty, please contact the secretariat by telephone at +41 22 917 1926.

2. Adoption of the agenda
3. Election of the Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson
4. Burden of water-related disease in Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia and South-Eastern Europe
5. Experience from existing financing mechanisms
6. The Ad Hoc Project Facilitation Mechanism
7. Draft selection criteria and application form
8. Presentation of project proposals on target-setting by Moldova and by Ukraine
9. Expressions of interest and future work
10. Other business
11. Date and venue of the second meeting
12. Closure of the meeting

II. BACKGROUND AND PRACTICAL INFORMATION

1. The Protocol on Water and Health to the Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes was adopted in June 1999 and entered into force in August 2005. The main aim of the Protocol is to protect human health and well-being through better water management, including the protection of water ecosystems, and by preventing, controlling and reducing water-related disease. The Protocol calls on Parties to improve the quality of their water supplies, their sanitation services and their management of water resources, and to address future health risks and ensure safe recreational water environments. The scope of the Protocol includes provisions for surface freshwater; groundwater; estuaries; coastal waters; waters used for recreation or the harvesting of shellfish; water in the course of abstraction, transport, treatment or supply; and wastewater.
2. One of the main obligations of the Parties is to cooperate and assist each other, particularly in implementing national plans in pursuance of the Protocol (articles 11 and 14).
3. In January 2007, at their first meeting, the Parties adopted decision I/3, under article 14 of the Protocol, on international support for national action. This decision promotes the coordination of international aid to implement the Protocol and to enhance the capacity of

recipient countries to access sources of finance by helping them to formulate projects (see ECE/MP.WH/2/Add.4 - EUR/06/5069385/1/Add.4¹).

4. By decision I/3, an Ad Hoc Project Facilitation Mechanism (AHPFM) was established to help mainstream international support for national action. The AHPFM comprises two elements: the Facilitator and the 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 with members from Parties and non-Parties (both from donor and recipient countries) as well as from global and regional financial institutions, relevant international organizations, competent international non-governmental organizations (NGOs) 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, including: (a) health-related aspects of integrated water resources management; (b) safe drinking-water supply and adequate sanitation; (c) reduction of childhood morbidity and mortality; (d) meeting the water needs of vulnerable groups; and (e) gender issues related to water supply and sanitation. Another objective is to advocate funding of proposals submitted through the Facilitator.

5. The role of the Facilitator is: (a) to identify strategic areas of international assistance and make these available to the Ad Hoc Project Clearing House; (b) to review and analyse project proposals submitted by countries in Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia (EECCA) and South-Eastern Europe (SEE) and relevant NGOs to address their identified priority needs; (c) to assist EECCA and SEE countries and NGOs in drawing up project proposals to meet the requirements of donor countries and organizations; (d) to screen, analyse and further develop project proposals in accordance with criteria to be adopted by the Working Group on Water and Health and present such proposals in a standardized form to the Ad Hoc Project Clearing House; (e) to develop and manage a Web-based platform to disseminate the project proposals and keep track of the state of their funding; and (f) to conduct yearly financial reviews of the mechanism for consideration by the Working Group on Water and Health.

6. The first meeting of the AHPFM will be held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva, prior to the first meeting of the Working Group on Water and Health (26–27 June 2008). The meeting will start at 10 a.m. on 25 June 2008 and will close at 6 p.m. on 25 June. The working languages will be English, French and Russian.

7. All relevant documentation for the meeting will be made available in due course at www.unece.org/env/water/meetings/documents_AHPFM.htm.

8. This activity is carried out under the leadership of Norway, which has prepared the first meeting of the AHPFM. The Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs has taken the lead in preparing this first meeting

9. At a donor coordination meeting, held in Rome on 7 December 2007 to prepare this first meeting, guidance was provided to the Facilitator who was requested to prepare draft selection criteria for project proposal submission and to develop a draft application form, with relevant

¹ Available at http://www.unece.org/env/water/meetings/documents_MoPPWH.htm.

guidelines. At the first meeting of the AHPFM, these documents will be examined and discussed, in view of their presentation to the Working Group on Water and Health, for possible adoption.

10. Moreover, as agreed at the donor consultation meeting, pilot project proposals following the draft selection criteria and application form have been developed by Moldova and Ukraine regarding setting targets and target dates. Both Moldova and the Ukraine are committed to achieving their obligations under the Protocol but need further assistance from the international community. Since January 2008, both countries received assistance in drawing up project proposals within the requirements under the AHPFM, with support from the Facilitator and the European Union Water Initiative. These proposals will be considered for possible funding at the AHPFM meeting.

11. The overall objectives of the meeting will therefore be:

(a) To discuss and agree on selection criteria to assist EECCA and SEE countries and NGOs in submitting project proposals to meet the requirements of potential donors;

(b) To discuss and agree on the draft application form (and accompanying guidelines) for project proposal submission to the Ad Hoc Project Clearing House;

(c) To discuss donor assistance for the two pilot projects developed by Moldova and Ukraine;

(d) To discuss and agree on the future work of the AHPFM and on the resources needed to support the functioning of the Mechanism.

12. The AHPFM meeting is open to experts from Parties and non-Parties to the Protocol representing governmental authorities, the private sector and NGOs as well as other interested stakeholders. The meeting is particularly relevant for representatives of institutions responsible for international assistance from bilateral and multilateral donors as well as from recipient countries. In this respect, focal points are requested to facilitate nomination of relevant experts from their respective countries. Given the complexity of the issues discussed, delegates should consult within their countries with relevant **health, environment, water management authorities as well as ministries of foreign affairs and development agencies** to ensure that the views, needs and approaches of all concerned sectors are taken into account.

13. Regarding attendance at this meeting, experts from eligible countries may apply for financial support to facilitate their participation. Requests for financial support should be addressed to the secretariat as soon as possible, and in any case by 12 May 2008.

14. Participants requiring an entry visa should inform the secretariat as soon as possible, and should contact the nearest Swiss diplomatic representation to apply for the visa.

15. Practical information on the Palais des Nations, transport and accommodation in Geneva is available at: <http://www.unece.org/meetings/practical.htm>.

III. ANNOTATIONS TO THE PROVISIONAL AGENDA

Item 1: Opening of the meeting

16. Representatives of the (UNECE) and the World Health Organization Regional Office for Europe (WHO/Europe) will open the meeting.

Item 2: Adoption of the agenda

17. The experts of the AHPFM are expected to adopt the agenda as set out in this document.

Item 3: Election of the Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson(s)

18. The AHPFM will elect a chairperson, and if deemed necessary, one or more vice-chairpersons.

Item 4: Burden of water-related disease in Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia and South-Eastern Europe

19. The AHPFM will be informed about the burden of water-related disease and the consequent economic impacts in the WHO European Region, with particular focus on EECCA and SEE.

Item 5: Experience from existing financing mechanisms

20. The secretariat will present background information on the Protocol on Water and Health as well as information on existing financing mechanisms established under other multilateral environmental agreements or international programmes.

Item 6: The Ad Hoc Project Facilitation Mechanism

21. Ms. Carola Bjorklund (Norway) will present the background of the AHPFM and progress made to date. She will recall the terms of reference for the Facilitator and the Ad Hoc Project Clearing House and will outline possible assistance needed to carry out future activities.

Item 7: Draft selection criteria and application form

Documentation: Draft criteria for consideration of project proposals by the AHPFM (ECE/MP.WH/AC.1/2008/3 - EUR/5086361/7); Draft Guidelines for preparation of project proposals under for the Ad Hoc Project Facilitation Mechanism.

22. The Facilitator, Dr. Roisin Rooney (WHO/Europe), will present the draft criteria for consideration of project proposals by the AHPFM and the draft guidelines for preparation of project proposals developed to assist the screening process under the AHPFM.

23. The AHPFM will discuss and agree on the above documents with a view to submitting them to the first meeting of the Working Group on Water and Health (26–27 June 2008) for adoption.

Item 8: Presentation of project proposals on target-setting by Moldova and by Ukraine

Documentation: Project proposals from Moldova and Ukraine on target setting.

24. A representative from Moldova and one from Ukraine will present draft project proposals on target-setting, including project background and justification, overall goal, target-setting activities, envisioned project outputs, the amount of finance requested and implementation plan including time schedule.

Item 9: Expressions of interest and future work

25. Representatives of donor countries and institutions will be invited to provide support for these projects.

26. Representatives of EECCA and SEE countries will be invited to inform the AHPFM about their interest in the Mechanism and in working with the Facilitator for the development of new project proposals.

27. The AHPFM will discuss and agree on its future work and on how to raise the needed financial resources to support the functioning of the Mechanism.

Item 10: Other business

28. Delegates wishing to propose points under this item are requested to inform the joint secretariat as soon as possible.

Item 11: Date and venue of the second meeting

29. The AHPFM will set a tentative date and venue for its second meeting.

Item 12: Closure of the meeting

30. The Chairperson will close the meeting at 6 p.m. on Wednesday 25 June.
