



**Economic and Social  
Council**

Distr.  
GENERAL

ECE/MP.WH/WG.1/2009/1  
EUR/09/5086340/3  
9 April 2009

Original: ENGLISH

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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

Working Group on Water and Health  
Second meeting  
Geneva, 2–3 July 2009

**ANNOTATED PROVISIONAL AGENDA FOR THE SECOND MEETING**

To be held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva,  
starting on Thursday, 2 July 2009, at 10 a.m.\*

**I. PROVISIONAL AGENDA**

1. Opening of the meeting.
2. Adoption of the agenda.

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\* Delegates attending meetings at the Palais des Nations are requested to complete the registration form available on the UNECE website ([http://www.unece.org/env/water/meetings/documents\\_WGWH.htm](http://www.unece.org/env/water/meetings/documents_WGWH.htm)) and to transmit it to the UNECE secretariat no later than two weeks before the meeting by e-mail ([diana.teeder@unece.org](mailto:diana.teeder@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 1980.

3. Progress in the ratification process.
4. Surveillance and early-warning systems, contingency plans and response capacities.
5. Setting targets and reporting under the Protocol.
6. Water supply and sanitation in short-term critical situations and adaptation to climate change.
7. Ad Hoc Project Facilitation Mechanism.
8. Joint and coordinated international action.
9. Compliance procedure.
10. Recreational water quality.
11. Public awareness, education, training, research and development, and information.
12. Equitable access.
13. Small-scale water supplies.
14. Fifth Ministerial Conference on Environment and Health.
15. Partners in cooperation: links with other organizations and programmes:
  - (a) Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights;
  - (b) United Nations Development Programme;
  - (c) Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia component of the European Union Water Initiative and cooperation with the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development;
  - (d) Women in Europe for a Common Future;
  - (e) World Plumbing Council;
  - (f) Other partners.
16. Promotion of the Protocol.
17. Financial arrangements to support the implementation of the Protocol.

18. Other business.
19. Date and venue of the third meeting.
20. Closure of the meeting.

## II. ANNOTATIONS TO THE PROVISIONAL AGENDA

### **Item 1: Opening of the meeting**

1. Mr. Kjetil Tveitan (Norway), Chairperson of the Working Group on Water and Health, will welcome participants and open the meeting.

### **Item 2: Adoption of the agenda**

2. The Working Group is expected to adopt its agenda as set out in the present document.

### **Item 3: Progress in the ratification process**

3. As of 1 April 2009, the following 21 countries had ratified the Protocol on Water and Health, which entered into force on 4 August 2005: Albania, Azerbaijan, Belgium, Croatia, Czech Republic, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Norway, Portugal, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Slovakia, Switzerland and Ukraine. Representatives of other countries, especially countries that had indicated forthcoming ratification at the first meeting of the Working Group, will report on their progress vis-à-vis the ratification process.

4. The Working Group will discuss possibilities to increase ratifications by the fifth Ministerial Conference on Environment and Health, where the 10 years since the Protocol's adoption will be celebrated (see agenda item 14).

### **Item 4: Surveillance and early-warning systems, contingency plans and response capacities**

Official documentation: Progress report and future work of the Task Force on Surveillance (ECE/MP.WH/WG.1/2009/3 - EUR/09/5086341/6)

Information documents: Draft guidelines on water-related diseases surveillance; Report of the second meeting of the Task Force on water related disease surveillance (Rome, 27–28 April 2009); Status of water-related diseases surveillance in the UNECE<sup>1</sup>/WHO-Euro<sup>2</sup> region

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<sup>1</sup> United Nations Economic Commission for Europe.

<sup>2</sup> World Health Organization Regional Office for Europe.

5. The Chairperson of the Task Force on Surveillance, Mr. Enzo Funari (Italy), will brief the Working Group on the progress achieved in this area and will present the main activities carried out under the auspices of the Task Force. In particular, the Chairperson will address the following issues:

(a) The second session of the Task Force on Surveillance, (Rome, 28–29 April 2009);

(b) The status of the Guidelines on Water-related Disease Surveillance-Technical Guidance and status of the Guidelines on Water-related Disease Surveillance-Policy Guidance;

(c) The workshop on surveillance of water-related diseases under changing climate – new date and venue.

6. The Working Group will also be briefed on an assessment of national surveillance capacities under the International Health Regulations (2005), including linkages with work under the Protocol.

7. The Working Group will discuss the above issues and agree on further work to be accomplished by the second Meeting of the Parties.

8. In particular, the Working Group will be invited to provide comments and recommendations on the draft guidelines on water-related disease surveillance and to agree on further steps for the finalization of the guidelines.

#### **Item 5: Setting targets and reporting under the Protocol**

Official documentation: Setting of targets, evaluation of progress and reporting (ECE/MP.WH/WG.1/2009/4 - EUR/09/5086342/6); Summary reports in accordance with article 7 of the Protocol on Water and Health (ECE/MP.WH/WG.1/2009/5 - EUR/09/5086342/7); Report of the workshop on setting targets and reporting (ECE/MP.WH/WG.1/2009/6- EUR/09/5086342/8); Future work under the Task Force on Indicators and Reporting and pilot reporting exercise (ECE/MP.WH/WG.1/2009/7 - EUR/09/5086342/9)

9. The Chairperson of the Task Force on Indicators and Reporting, Mr. Pierre Studer (Switzerland), will report on the progress achieved in this area. He will present the main conclusions from the workshop on setting targets and reporting (Geneva, 10–11 February 2009) and the documents elaborated by the second meeting of the Task Force (12 February 2009):

(a) Draft guidelines on setting targets, evaluation of progress and reporting (ECE/MP.WH/WG.1/2009/4 - EUR/09/5086342/6);

(b) Draft guidelines for summary reports in accordance with article 7 of the Protocol on Water and Health (ECE/MP.WH/WG.1/2009/5 - EUR/09/5086342/7);

(c) Future work under the Task Force on Indicators and Reporting and pilot reporting exercise (ECE/MP.WH/WG.1/2009/7 - EUR/09/5086342/9).

10. The Working Group will comment on these documents and provide recommendations for further work to be undertaken. It is expected that the Working Group will endorse the draft guidelines for summary reports and agree on the proposed format for pilot reporting to the second meeting of the Parties.

**Item 6: Water supply and sanitation in short-term critical situations and adaptation to climate change**

Official documentation: Progress report and future work of Task Force on Extreme Weather Events (ECE/MP.WH/WG.1/2009/8-EUR/5086343/6); Guidance on Water and Adaptation to Climate Change (ECE/MP.WAT/WG.1/2009/3)

Information document: Concept note on the guidelines on water supply and sanitation in extreme weather events.

11. The Chairperson of the Task Force on Extreme Weather Events, Ms. Luciana Sinisi (Italy), will inform the Working Group about recent developments and progress in the work of the Task Force. In particular, she will present the Working Group with the draft guidelines on water supply and sanitation in extreme weather events elaborated during meetings of the drafting group (Madrid, 22 October 2008; Rome, 23–24 February 2009). The Chairperson will also brief the Working Group on cooperation and work-sharing arrangements with the Convention's Task Force on Water and Climate and the preparation of the Guidance on Water and Adaptation to Climate Change. Finally, the Chairperson will present future plans for the work of the Task Force on Extreme Weather Events.

12. The Working Group is expected to comment on the draft guidelines and provide recommendations for further action to be undertaken before the second meeting of the Parties.

**Item 7: Ad Hoc Project Facilitation Mechanism**

13. The Chairperson of the Ad Hoc Project Facilitation Mechanism, Ms. Carola Beatrice Bjørklund (Norway), will report on the outcomes of the second meeting of the Mechanism (Geneva, 1 July 2009).

**Item 8: Joint and coordinated international action**

14. The Working Group will be informed about assistance provided to the Government of Tajikistan by specialists from Germany, Italy and Switzerland with regard to assessing current water services and current risks to human health within the framework of the WHO Biannual Cooperation Agreements. The operational approach, findings and recommendations will be discussed as a case study of how article 12 of the Protocol (on joint and coordinated international action) can be implemented.

### **Item 9: Compliance procedure**

Official documentation: Reports on the second and third meetings of the Compliance Committee (ECE/MP.WH/C.1/2008/4 - EUR/08/5086338/7; ECE/MP.WH/C.1/2009/2 - EUR/09/5086338/6)

Information documents: Guidelines on communications from the public; Rules of procedure of the Compliance Committee.

15. The secretariat will report on the Committee's activities and will present the documents elaborated during its second (Geneva, 24–25 September 2008) and third (Geneva, 25–26 February 2009) meetings.

16. In particular, the Working Group will be briefed on the guidelines on communications from the public and on the rules of procedure of the Compliance Committee.

### **Item 10: Recreational water quality**

Information document: Current issues associated with swimming pools, spas and similar recreational water environments.

17. A representative of Robens Centre for Public and Environmental Health will inform the meeting about the outcome of a survey assessing the use of the WHO Guidelines for recreational water quality (coastal and fresh waters, and pools) in the European region.

18. On the basis of the information provided, the Working Group will discuss its relevance to the work under the Protocol, in particular to setting targets under the Protocol's article 6, paragraph 2 (k), pertaining to enclosed waters generally available for bathing.

### **Item 11: Public awareness, education, training, research and development, and information**

Information document: Information note on the workshop on public participation

19. A representative of Romania, lead Party for this activity, will inform the Working Group about future plans under this element of the work programme. In particular, information on the themes/topics for the planned workshop on public participation will be provided.

### **Item 12: Equitable access**

Information document: Information note on progress achieved and further work to be undertaken in this area of work, including steps for the preparation of a document on good practices

20. A representative of France, lead Party for this activity, will inform the Working Group about the outcome of the survey on access to water and sanitation and existing solidarity mechanisms in UNECE countries, carried out as a follow-up activity to the workshop on equitable access to water (Paris, 5–6 July 2007).

21. Based on the information provided, the Working Group will discuss follow-up activities in this area of work. In particular, the Working Group will agree on future steps for the preparation of a document on good practices to ensure equitable access, to be submitted for consideration by the Protocol's Parties at their second meeting.

### **Item 13: Small-scale water supplies**

Official documentation: Report of the workshop, "Water Safety in Small-Scale Water Supplies in the European Region: Common Challenges and Needs" (ECE/MP.WH/WG.1/2009/9 - EUR/5086344/7)

22. The Working Group will be presented with the outcome of the workshop, "Water Safety in Small-Scale Water Supplies", (Bad Elster, Germany, 26–27 November 2008), jointly organized by the WHO Collaborating Centre for Research on Drinking Water Hygiene and the German Federal Environment Agency.

23. Based on the information provided, the Working Group will discuss further steps and possible actions to be undertaken in the area of small water supplies.

### **Item 14: Fifth Ministerial Conference on Environment and Health**

Information document: Information note on the input from the Protocol to the Fifth Ministerial Conference on Environment and Health

24. The Working Group will discuss its contribution to the Fifth Ministerial Conference on Environment and Health, tentatively scheduled to take place in February/March 2010 in Italy.

### **Item 15: Partners in cooperation: links with other organizations and programmes**

#### **(a) Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights**

25. A representative of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights will inform the Working Group about recent developments within the United Nations human rights system relevant to the Protocol, in particular related to the appointment by the Human Rights Council of the Independent Expert on the issue of human rights obligations related to access to safe drinking water and sanitation, the Independent Expert's mandate and programme of work, and opportunities for cooperation under the Protocol's programme of work.

#### **(b) United Nations Development Programme**

26. A representative of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) will provide an update on progress made under the regional UNDP programme, "A Human Rights-Based Approach to Water Governance" as well as under other relevant UNDP projects and activities, and will point out opportunities for further cooperation under the Protocol's programme of work.

**(c) Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia component of the European Union Water Initiative and cooperation with the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development**

27. The Working Group will be informed about the work being carried out under the Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia (EECCA) component of the European Union Water Initiative, in particular that related to the National Policy Dialogues, as well as opportunities for cooperation and mutual support in EECCA. This will include information related to both components of the European Union Water Initiative: (a) integrated water resources management, carried out with the support of UNECE; and (b) water supply and sanitation, including financing of water infrastructure, carried out with the support of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development. The Working Group will also be informed about the activities of the Task Force for the Implementation of the Environmental Action Programme (EAP Task Force) for EECCA countries, and about opportunities for cooperation under the Protocol's programme of work.

**(d) Women in Europe for a Common Future**

28. A representative of Women in Europe for a Common Future will briefly present the organization and inform the Working Group about its activities that are relevant to work under the Protocol as well as areas for possible cooperation, in particular in relation to integrating outcomes of projects by non-governmental organizations (NGOs) into target-setting under the Protocol.

**(e) World Plumbing Council**

29. A representative of the World Plumbing Council will briefly present the organization and inform the Working Group about its activities relevant to work under the Protocol as well as areas for possible cooperation.

**(f) Other partners**

30. Other partners, including relevant NGOs and private sector organizations, will be invited to inform the Working Group about their activities related to the Protocol and about opportunities for cooperation to attain the Protocol's objectives and implement the programme of work under the Protocol.

**Item 16: Promotion of the Protocol**

Information document: Strategy to promote the Protocol on Water and Health and the Water Convention

31. The secretariat will inform the Working Group about activities carried out to enhance the Protocol's visibility.

32. On behalf of the Chairperson of the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol, a representative of Romania will present a draft of the joint strategy for promotion of both the Protocol and the

Convention, prepared in cooperation with the Chairperson of the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention. The Working Group will discuss and agree on actions to be carried out by the Bureau, the joint secretariat and the focal points, to promote the Protocol at the local, national and international levels.

**Item 17: Financial arrangements to support the implementation of the Protocol**

Information document: Overview of contributions and expenditures related to the Protocol on Water and Health and resources required until the second meeting of the Parties; Informal note on financing the core activities under the Protocol

33. The Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol entrusted the Working Group on Water to oversee the management of the Protocol's funds under the UNECE Technical Cooperation Trust Fund and the WHO-EURO Voluntary Fund.
34. On the basis of a paper by the joint secretariat, the Working Group will be informed about the financial status of the two funds, the contributions received, the funds used and the resources still needed for implementing the work programme's core elements.
35. Based on an informal note on financing, the Working Group will discuss possibilities for securing more stable funding for the Protocol's core activities.

**Item 18: Other business**

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

**Item 19: Date and venue of the third meeting**

37. The Working Group will set a tentative date and venue for its third meeting.

**Item 20: Closure of the meeting**

38. The Chairperson will close the meeting at 5.30 pm on 3 July 2009.

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