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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
Item 5 of the provisional agenda

SETTING TARGETS AND REPORTING UNDER THE PROTOCOL

**FUTURE WORK UNDER THE TASK FORCE ON INDICATORS AND REPORTING
AND PILOT REPORTING EXERCISE**

Note by the secretariat

I. BACKGROUND

1. The Protocol on Water and Health requires that every three years Parties provide the secretariat with a summary report for circulation to the other Parties. This report should cover the progress achieved vis-à-vis the realization of set targets (art. 7, para. 5). Such summary reports should be prepared in accordance with guidelines established by the Meeting of the Parties.

2. At their first meeting (Geneva, 17–19 January 2007), the Parties to the Protocol entrusted the Task Force on Indicators and Reporting with the preparation of these guidelines for reporting. The guidelines will be submitted to the Parties for adoption at their second meeting, tentatively scheduled for October 2010.
3. The Parties also agreed that before adoption, the guidelines would be tested through a reporting exercise (ECE/MP.WH/2/Add.5 - EUR/06/5069385/1/Add.5, para. 47).
4. Moreover, it was also agreed that the national reports submitted in this pilot exercise would be the basis for an implementation report on water and health in the UNECE¹-WHO/Europe² region, to be prepared for the second meeting of the Parties.
5. The present document is based on the outcome of the second meeting of the Task Force on Indicators and Reporting (Geneva, 12 February 2009). The Task Force was entrusted by the Meeting of the Parties with the implementation of the programme of work in the areas of developing targets and indicators and reporting, including developing guidelines.
6. The Working Group is invited to consider the document and to agree on the proposed format, participation and schedule of the pilot reporting exercise.

II. OBJECTIVES AND EXPECTED OUTCOMES OF THE PILOT REPORTING EXERCISE

7. In accordance with the Protocol and the programme of work adopted at the first meeting of the Parties, the pilot reporting exercise has four main objectives:
 - (a) To assist Parties in assessing their progress vis-à-vis implementation of the Protocol (self-assessment);
 - (b) To allow for an exchange of experience between Parties (and non-Parties) on implementation, progress achieved, difficulties encountered, implemented solutions, etc.;
 - (c) To form the basis for the regional implementation report, which will illustrate the main challenges and obstacles to the Protocol's implementation, and thus allow for tailoring the future programme of work under the Protocol to country-specific needs;
 - (d) To test the guidelines for the summary report, the suggested format, its feasibility and the common indicators, which in the future will constitute mandatory elements of the reporting system.

III. FORMAT FOR THE PILOT REPORTING EXERCISE

8. In accordance with the Protocol's programme of work, the Core Group and Task Force on Indicators and Reporting have prepared draft guidelines for summary report that contain a

¹ United Nations Economic Commission for Europe.

² World Health Organization Regional Office for Europe.

format for reporting as well as detailed indications for how to prepare and structure the report (ECE/MP.WH/WG.1/2009/5 - EUR/09/5086342/7).

9. 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.

IV. WHO SHOULD PARTICIPATE IN THE PILOT REPORTING?

10. All Parties to the Protocol should take part in the pilot reporting and send their national summary reports to the secretariat.

11. For the above-mentioned reasons, Signatories and non-Parties are also encouraged to participate in the pilot reporting. In particular, parts I (on general aspects), II (common indicators), and IV (overall evaluation) of the reporting format can also be answered by countries that have not set targets (especially non-Parties). They are therefore strongly encouraged to do so.

V. SPECIFICITY OF THE PILOT REPORTING

12. Given that the guidelines to be used for the pilot reporting have not been adopted by the Meeting of the Parties, the pilot reporting cannot be considered a formal reporting procedure in accordance with article 7, paragraph 5, of the Protocol.

13. As one of the objectives of the pilot reporting is to test the guidelines and the format for reporting, countries submitting summary reports will also be invited to provide their comments on the proposed template and the draft guidelines.

VI. STEPS FOR THE PILOT REPORTING AND FUTURE WORK OF THE TASK FORCE ON INDICATORS AND REPORTING

14. It is foreseen that the summary reports will be submitted to the secretariat 180 days in advance of the meeting of the Parties. Given that the second meeting of the Parties to the Protocol is tentatively scheduled for October 2010, the following timetable is proposed:

(a) 2–3 July 2009: Working Group on Water and Health endorses the format to be used for the pilot reporting exercise for the second meeting of the Parties;

(b) August 2009–mid-April 2010: Preparation of summary reports for the pilot exercise by Parties, Signatories and other interested countries;

(c) Mid-April–end-July 2010: An implementation report on water and health in the UNECE-WHO/Europe region is prepared by an independent expert on the basis of summary reports submitted by countries and terms of reference agreed by the Task Force, with the assistance of the joint secretariat and the Compliance Committee; the process will include a round of comments by focal points and key stakeholders;

- (d) June 2010: third meeting of the Working Group on Water and Health: Presentation of outcome of the pilot reporting exercise and, if needed, revision of the guidelines and format for reporting under the Protocol. Discussion of the draft implementation report in the UNECE-WHO/Europe region. The Working Group will also evaluate the need to revise the guidelines on target-setting, evaluation of progress and reporting;
- (e) Mid-October 2010 (to be confirmed): second meeting of the Parties to the Protocol on Water and Health: Presentation and adoption by the Parties of: (a) the guidelines on target-setting, evaluation of progress and reporting; (b) the guidelines for summary reports, including their format; and (c) the report on implementation and progress in the UNECE-WHO/Europe region.
