



3 July 2012
1.30 p.m. to 2.45 p.m.
Palais des Nations
Salle XVI

Brown bag event

NO ONE LEFT BEHIND

Good practices to ensure equitable access to water and sanitation

The Rio+20 Conference reaffirmed that access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation is a prerequisite for poverty eradication and to protect human health. General progress at the global level in access to drinking water and sanitation hides great inequities, both geographical and social. For instance, access to improved water and sanitation solutions in rural areas in the pan-European region is 10 per cent lower than for urban areas. Similarly, the disabled or the sick, Travellers, the homeless, people living in unsanitary housing or users of institutional facilities (hospitals, schools, prisons, refugee camps, etc.) often suffer from inequities in access. Moreover, the increasing cost to consumers of water and sanitation threatens the affordability of access to water and sanitation, not only in transition economies but also increasingly in European Union countries. Such inequities hamper the full realization of the human right to water and sanitation.

The publication **“No one left behind”**, prepared in the framework of the UNECE/WHO-Europe Protocol on Water and Health under the leadership and thanks to the financing of France, highlights inequity problems in the pan-European region and showcases successful policy and practical measures that have been taken by Governments, water operators and civil society to redress these inequities.

Programme

1. The Protocol on Water and Health: promoting equitable access to water and sanitation

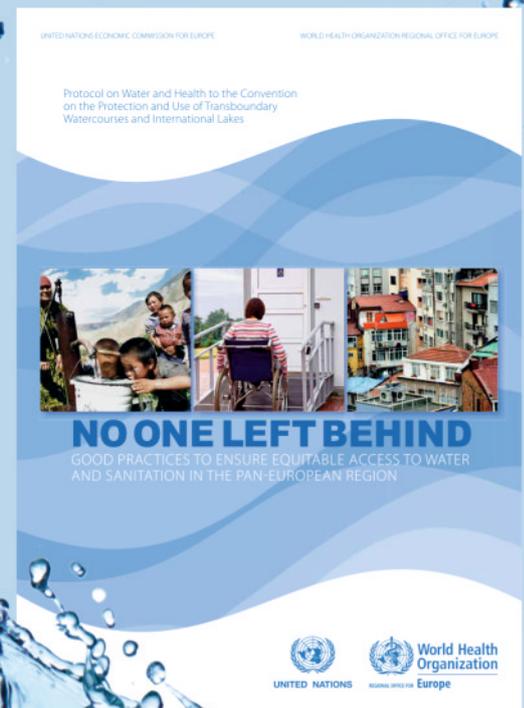
- Mr. Jacques Pellet, Deputy Permanent Representative of France to the United Nations in Geneva.
- Mr. Andrey Vasilyev, Deputy Executive Secretary, UNECE.

2. Overcoming the inequities of access in the pan-European region

- Ms. Anna Tsvietkova, ONG Mama 86, Ukraine
Good practice to reduce geographical disparities.
- Ms. Ingeborg Limbourg, Flemish Environment Agency, Belgium – *Good practice to keep water and sanitation affordable for all.*
- Ms. Juana Sotomayor, Human Rights Officer, OHCHR – *Ensuring access for vulnerable and marginalized groups.*

3. Where do we go next: from good practices to self-assessment to foster progress at the national and local levels

- Ms. Delphine Caamano, Deputy Head of the Water Quality Unit, French Ministry of Social Affairs and Health.



French - English - Russian interpretation
Copies of the report will be available.
Sandwiches will be offered before the event at 1.00 p.m.