Annotated provisional agenda for the third session

To be held in the Hoyres Hus Conference Centre, Oslo, starting on Monday, 25 November 2013, at 2.30 p.m.

I. Provisional agenda

High-level segment

1. Opening of the session and adoption of the agenda.
2. Constitution of the third session of the Meeting of the Parties.
3. Elections of the Chair and Vice-Chairs of the third session of the Meeting of the Parties.
4. Special session on equitable access to drinking water and sanitation.

General segment

5. Elections of other members of the Bureau.
6. Status of implementation of the Protocol on Water and Health:
   (a) Statements by Parties, Signatories and other observers;
(b) Report on activities of relevance under the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe;
(c) Report on activities of relevance under the World Health Organization Regional Office for Europe.

7. Review of past activities and discussion of future activities in the different areas of work:
   (a) Target setting and reporting;
   (b) Surveillance and early warning systems, contingency plans and response capacities;
   (c) Cross-cutting issues: small-scale water supplies and sanitation and water supply and sanitation under extreme weather events and the impact of climate change;
   (d) Project Facilitation Mechanism;
   (e) Compliance procedure;
   (f) Promotion of the Protocol and advocacy;
   (g) Public awareness, access to information and public participation;
   (h) Equitable access;
   (i) Capacity-building and sharing of experience.

8. The Protocol on Water and Health and relevant global processes and initiatives.

9. Programme of work for 2014–2016, terms of reference of bodies established to implement it and resources needed for its implementation.

10. Partners in cooperation: links with other organizations and programmes.

11. Date and venue of the fourth session of the Meeting of the Parties.

12. Other business.

13. Presentation of the main decisions.

14. Closing of the session.

II. Annotations

1. The third session of the 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 (Water Convention) will be held from 25 to 27 November 2013, in the Hoyres Hus Conference Centre in Oslo, at the invitation of the Government of Norway.

2. The session will comprise a general segment preceded by a high-level segment. The high-level segment, dealing with agenda items 1 to 4, will be held in the afternoon of Monday, 25 November, starting at 2.30 p.m. The general segment, dealing with agenda items 5 to 14, will take place from the morning of Tuesday, 26 November until Wednesday, 27 November at 5.30 p.m.

3. A number of side events will be organized during the meeting. The detailed programme of these side events will be available in October 2013. Additional practical
information on the meeting as well as all relevant documentation will be made available in due course on a dedicated page on the Protocol’s website.¹

**High-level segment**

1. **Opening of the session and adoption of the agenda**

   *Tentative timing: Monday, 25 November, 2:30–3.10 p.m.*

   4. The Minister of Health and Care Services and high-level representatives of the Ministries of the Environment and of Foreign Affairs of Norway will open the session.

   5. The Executive Secretary of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) and a high-level representative of the World Health Organization Regional Office for Europe (WHO/Europe) will address the Meeting of the Parties.

   6. The Meeting of the Parties is expected to adopt its agenda as set out in the present document.

2. **Constitution of the third session of Meeting of the Parties**

   *Tentative timing: Monday, 25 November, 3.10–3.20 p.m.*

   *Information document: Status of ratification of the Protocol on Water and Health*

   7. The secretariat will inform the Meeting of the Parties about the status of ratification of the Protocol on Water and Health.

   8. Delegates from States or regional economic integration organizations not yet Party to the Protocol will be invited to briefly inform the Meeting of their plans to ratify, accept, approve or accede to the Protocol.

   9. The Bureau will report on the credentials submitted by the Parties.² Parties to the Protocol are therefore invited to inform the secretariat of the name(s) of their representative(s) at their earliest convenience, and to submit the credentials or a copy of them to the ECE secretariat by 15 November 2013. Those Parties that have submitted a copy of the credentials should present the originals to the secretariat before the third session of the Meeting of the Parties on arrival at the meeting in Oslo.

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² Credentials, which are normally issued either by the Head of State or Government, by the Minister for Foreign Affairs, or by any other person duly empowered to do so, should indicate the composition of the delegation, including the Head of delegation, and should state that the respective delegation is empowered to participate in the meeting and take decisions on behalf of the respective Government, following the applicable rules of procedure.
3. Elections of the Chair and Vice-Chairs of the third session of the Meeting of the Parties

Tentative timing: Monday, 25 November, 3.20–3.30 p.m.

Background document: Rules of procedure for the meetings of the Parties to the Protocol (ECE/MP.WH/2/Add.1–EUR/06/5069385/1/Add.1)

10. In accordance with its rules of procedure, the Meeting of the Parties will elect a chair and two vice-chairs. The Chair and Vice-Chairs will remain in office until the next elections at the fourth session of the Meeting of the Parties.

4. Special session on equitable access to drinking water and sanitation

Tentative timing: Monday, 25 November, 3.30–5.30 p.m.

Information documents: Concept note and programme of the special session on equitable access to drinking water and sanitation

11. A high-level panel comprising representatives of States and international and non-governmental organizations will discuss their perspectives on and expectations for how the Protocol on Water and Health will contribute to progress on equitable access to drinking water and sanitation. They may also present country actions towards progressive realization of the human right to safe and clean drinking water and sanitation, in particular ensuring equitable access.

12. Subsequently, Parties, other States and stakeholders will be invited to make statements from the floor focusing on the following questions:

   (a) How can the Protocol on Water and Health contribute to achieving universal access to drinking water and sanitation?

   (b) To what extent has equitable access to drinking water and sanitation become a priority issue for Governments in the pan-European region? How do Governments sustainably address the specific needs of the more vulnerable and marginalized groups?

   (c) Given the continuing financial crisis, is there a need for additional international cooperation and a related international mechanism supporting the work to address the challenge of equitable access?

13. Statements should not exceed three minutes; delegations are encouraged to submit the texts of their statements to the secretariat prior to the session.

General segment

5. Elections of other members of the Bureau

Tentative timing: Tuesday, 26 November, 10–10.10 a.m.

Background document: Rules of procedure for the meetings of the Parties to the Protocol (ECE/MP.WH/2/Add.1–EUR/06/5069385/1/Add.1)

14. In accordance with its rules of procedure, the Meeting of the Parties will elect additional officers to serve as members of the Bureau. The Bureau members will remain in office until the next elections at the fourth session of the Meeting of the Parties.
6. **Status of implementation of the Protocol on Water and Health**

*Tentative timing: Tuesday, 26 November, 10.10 a.m.–11.50 a.m.*

(a) **Statements by Parties, Signatories and other observers**

*Tentative timing: Tuesday, 26 November, 10.10 a.m.–11.10 a.m.*

15. Representatives of Parties, Signatories and other States will be invited to deliver short general statements of a maximum of three minutes on their implementation of the Protocol, including the main achievements, challenges and priorities for future work until 2016 and beyond. The outcome of the discussion will be taken into account under the relevant agenda items. Delegations are invited to provide written versions of their statements and any supplementary information beforehand, if possible by 4 November 2013.

(b) **Report on activities of relevance under the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe**

*Tentative timing: Tuesday, 26 November, 11.10 a.m.–11.30 a.m.*

16. In accordance with article 16, paragraph 3 (c), of the Protocol, the Chair of the Meeting of the Parties to the Water Convention will inform the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol of the progress made in the implementation of the Water Convention, the decisions taken at the sixth session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention (Rome, 28–30 November 2012), especially regarding the globalization of the Convention, the implementation of the programme of work and the opportunities for joint action by the two governing bodies.

17. In accordance with article 17, paragraph 2 (a), of the Protocol, the secretariat will inform the Meeting of the Parties about the Memorandum of Understanding between ECE and WHO/Europe on their work-sharing arrangements.

18. The Meeting of the Parties will be informed of the activities in support of the Protocol implemented under the European Union Water Initiative National Policy Dialogues on Integrated Water Resources Management and on Water Supply and Sanitation in countries of Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia.

(c) **Report on activities of relevance under the World Health Organization Regional Office for Europe**

*Tentative timing: Tuesday, 26 November, 11.30 a.m.–11.50 a.m.*

*Background document:* Decision I/1 on mainstreaming activities and priorities of work under the Protocol into the policymaking of the World Health Organization (ECE/MP.WH/2/Add.2–EUR/06/5069385/1/Add.2)

19. The Meeting of the Parties will be informed on the Health 2020 European policy framework for health and well-being, the European Environment and Health Process and the work undertaken under the biennial cooperation agreements concluded between WHO/Europe and countries of the WHO European Region, as well as the activities of other WHO programmes relevant to the Protocol, and in particular those related to the reduction of water-related disease.
7. Review of past activities and discussion of future activities in the different areas of work

Tentative timing: Tuesday, 26 November, 11.50 a.m.–1 p.m. and 3–6 p.m.; Wednesday, 27 November, 9.30–11.10 a.m.


20. The Meeting of the Parties will review the achievements under the current programme of work and examine proposals for activities under the 2014–2016 programme of work. A discussion on the overall programme of work for 2014–2016 will take place under agenda item 9.

(a) Target setting and reporting

Tentative timing: Tuesday, 26 November, 11.50 a.m.–1 p.m. and 3–3.20 p.m.


Background document: Lessons learned and future work on target setting and reporting (ECE/MP.WH/2013/2–EUDCE/1206123/3.1/2013/MOP-3/09); Guidelines on the Setting of Targets, Evaluation of Progress and Reporting; guidelines and template for summary reports in accordance with article 7 of the Protocol on Water and Health (ECE/MP.WH/2010/L.5–EUDHP1003944/4.2/1/7, as adopted by the Meeting of the Parties at its second session (see ECE/MP.WH/4–EUDHP1003944/4.2/1/06, forthcoming))

Information documents: National summary reports submitted by Parties and other States

21. The Chair of the Task Force on Target Setting and Reporting will report on the activities carried out by the Task Force, including the outcomes of subregional workshops. With reference to article 6, paragraph 3, of the Protocol, those Parties that have yet to establish and publish targets will be invited to report on progress achieved in the setting of targets.

22. Participants will be invited to discuss the progress in setting targets and implementing them, reporting under the Protocol, specific challenges encountered by Parties and existing solutions and lessons learned, as well as synergies with other areas of work under the Protocol. They will also discuss the applicability and usefulness of the

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4 All summary reports submitted by Parties and others States are available from http://www.unece.org/env/water/protocol_second_reporting_cycle.html.
Guidelines on the Setting of Targets, Evaluation of Progress and Reporting, and whether there is a need to revise this reference document.

23. The Chair of the Task Force will present future planned activities in this area of work; the Meeting of the Parties will discuss the proposal.

24. The Meeting of the Parties will be invited to review the implementation of the Protocol on the basis of the national summary reports submitted by Parties during the second reporting exercise and the regional report prepared by the joint secretariat. It is also expected to take note of reports submitted by Signatories and other States not Party to the Protocol.

25. Participants will be invited to discuss the main trends, challenges and solutions emerging from the reporting exercise of 2012–2013, especially in comparison with the pilot exercise conducted in 2009–2010. They will also be invited to discuss the experience gained in reporting and the use of the guidelines and template for summary reports, as well as the consequences for future reporting exercises.

(b) Surveillance and early warning systems, contingency plans and response capacities

Tentative timing: Tuesday, 26 November, 3.20–3.50 p.m.

Background documents: Policy guidance on water-related disease surveillance; Technical guidance on water-related disease surveillance

Information document: Introduction paper on the updated Atlas on Water and Health

26. The Chair of the Task Force on Water-related Disease Surveillance and the WHO/Europe secretariat will report on the work carried out and challenges encountered in the implementation of activities foreseen under this programme area. The Meeting of the Parties will discuss the lessons learned and the proposed way forward. It will consider the need to terminate the mandate of the Task Force in view of adopting a more flexible, action/project-oriented and cost-effective approach.

27. The WHO/Europe secretariat will report on its efforts to support activities under the Task Force through enhanced mainstreaming with the work of WHO technical programmes on surveillance of infectious diseases, prevention of rotavirus and helminth infections and the European Environment and Health Information System.

28. The WHO/Europe secretariat will report on the activities to update the Atlas on Water and Health to serve as a one-stop information source on sustainable use of water resources and access to improved drinking water supply and sanitation, as well as the magnitude of water-related diseases.

29. The Chair of the Task Force and the WHO/Europe secretariat will present future planned activities in this area of work; the Meeting of the Parties will discuss the proposal.

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(c) Cross-cutting issues: small-scale water supplies and sanitation and water supply and sanitation under extreme weather events and the impact of climate change

Tentative timing: Tuesday, 26 November, 3.50–4.20 p.m.

Background documents: Small-scale water supplies in the pan-European region: Background. Challenges. Improvements; Guidance on water supply and sanitation in extreme weather events

Information document: Outline of the policy guidance document “Small-scale water supplies and sanitation in the pan-European region: Policy instruments and programmes towards improvement”

30. A representative of Germany together with a representative of Women in Europe for a Common Future (WECF) will report on the activities carried out under the thematic area on small-scale water supplies and sanitation and the progress in the development of a policy guidance document.

31. A representative of Germany together with a representative of WECF will present future planned activities in this area of work; the Meeting of the Parties will discuss the proposal.

32. The WHO/Europe secretariat will inform the Meeting of the Parties that due to lack of funding no further activities could be undertaken under the thematic area on water supply and sanitation under extreme weather events and the impact of climate change.

(d) Project Facilitation Mechanism

Tentative timing: Tuesday, 26 November, 4.20–4.50 p.m.

33. The Chair of the Project Facilitation Mechanism will present the progress achieved since the second session.

34. The Meeting of the Parties will discuss future planned activities to support Parties and other States in implementation of the Protocol at the national level, following the Project Facilitation Mechanism’s fulfilment of its mandate. To adopt a more flexible, targeted and effective approach in providing assistance to Parties and other States, the Meeting of the Parties will be invited to discuss in particular how to cooperate with international financial institutions, donor organizations and others in advancing access to safe water and adequate sanitation.

35. A representative of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) will report on the developments in establishing links between the EBRD Water Fund and other activities of EBRD with the work under the Protocol.

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(e) Compliance procedure

Tentative timing: Tuesday, 26 November, 4.50–5.30 p.m.

Document for action: Report of the Compliance Committee to the Meeting of the Parties (ECE/MP.WH/2013/4–EUR/06/5069385/1/Add.3; decision II/1 on general issues of compliance (ECE/MP.WH/4/Add.2–EUR/06/5069385/1/Add.3; decision II/1 on general issues of compliance

Background document: Decision I/2 on review of compliance (ECE/MP.WH/2/Add.3–EUR/06/5069385/1/Add.3); decision II/1 on general issues of compliance (ECE/MP.WH/4/Add.2–EUR/06/5069385/1/Add.3; forthcoming)

Information document: List of provisionally nominated candidates for the Compliance Committee, together with curricula vitae and supporting documentation; terms of reference of the Consultation Process under the Compliance Committee

36. The Chair of the Compliance Committee will report on the Committee’s activities since the second session of the Meeting of the Parties and present any findings and recommendations of the Committee with respect to compliance. He will report on the developments with regard to the Consultation Process established by the Compliance Committee in accordance with decision II/1.

37. The Meeting of the Parties will be invited to take note of the Committee’s report, including any general recommendations contained therein, and to consider, revise as necessary and adopt a decision on general issues of compliance.

38. The Meeting of the Parties is expected to elect five members of the Committee in accordance with the procedure set out in decision I/2 on review of compliance. In doing so the Meeting of the Parties should take into account that Committee member Ms. Magdalena Bar has decided to sit only for one term and is not available for re-election.

(f) Promotion of the Protocol and advocacy

Tentative timing: Tuesday, 26 November, 5.30–6 p.m.

Background document: How to better promote the Convention and its Protocol on Water and Health: a guide for focal points (ECE/MP.WAT/2009/13)

39. The joint secretariat, representatives of Parties and other States, and partner organizations will report on efforts made to promote the Protocol and its achievements at high-level meetings in the pan-European region, as well as at international, national and local level meetings, especially in conjunction with the International Year of Water Cooperation.

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9 Adopted by the Compliance Committee at its sixth session (Geneva, 1–2 March 2011). The online document is available from http://www.unece.org/env/water/pwh_bodies/cc.html.
(g) Public awareness, access to information and public participation

Tentative timing: Wednesday, 27 November, 9.30–10.10 a.m.

Publication: Guide on public participation under the Protocol on Water and Health (ECE/MP.WH/9, forthcoming in September 2013)

40. A representatives of Romania together with a representative of WECF will report on progress under the programme area on public awareness, access to information and public participation, especially highlighting the elaboration and publication of the Guide on public participation under the Protocol on Water and Health. The Meeting of the Parties will invite all Parties and other States to make use of this publication when planning public participation activities under the Protocol in their respective countries.

41. The Meeting of the Parties will discuss the future planned activities under this thematic area.

(h) Equitable access

Tentative timing: Wednesday, 27 November, 10.10–10.50 a.m.

Background documentation: No one left behind: Good practices to ensure equitable access to water and sanitation in the pan-European region

Information paper: Summary of the findings of the quintile analysis in access to drinking-water and sanitation for three countries in the European region

Publication: The equitable access score card: Supporting policy processes to achieve the human right to water and sanitation (ECE/MP.WH/8, forthcoming in September 2013)

42. A representative of France will report on progress made under the programme area on equitable access to water and sanitation. In particular, the Meeting of the Parties will be informed about the elaboration and publication of the collection of good practices to ensure equitable access to water and sanitation in the pan-European region, No one left behind, and activities to promote the document.

43. In addition, the Meeting of the Parties will be informed about the elaboration and printing of the Equitable access score card: Supporting policy processes to achieve the human right to water and sanitation, and the pilot projects in Paris, Portugal and Ukraine to apply and test this self-assessment tool. The Meeting of the Parties will invite all Parties and other States to make use of this publication as a policy tool to assess the situation in their respective countries and plan necessary measures for its improvement.

44. WHO/Europe will report to the Meeting of the Parties on progress in the development of the quintile analysis report and the main findings of the analysis.

45. The Meeting of the Parties will discuss the future planned activities under this programme area.


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(i) Capacity-building and sharing of experience

*Tentative timing: Wednesday, 27 November, 10.50–11.10 a.m.*

46. On the basis of information from the joint secretariat and the relevant lead Parties, the Meeting of the Parties will be informed about the outcome of additional workshops, conferences and other events held in the framework of the Protocol during 2011–2013 that were not already discussed under previous agenda items.

47. The WHO/Europe secretariat will inform participants about the publication of various Water Safety Plan resource materials in Russian.

8. The Protocol on Water and Health and relevant global processes and initiatives

*Tentative timing: Wednesday, 27 November, 11.10–11.40 a.m.*

48. On the basis of information from the joint secretariat, Parties and other States and partner organizations, the Meeting of the Parties will be informed about relevant global processes and initiatives, including those in follow-up to the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20 Conference), in particular the debate on the post-2015 development agenda and the elaboration of a possible water and sanitation-related Sustainable Development Goal(s). The Meeting of the Parties will also discuss the status of attainment of the water and sanitation-related Millennium Development Goals in the pan-European region based on the latest data from the United Nations Children’s Fund/WHO Joint Monitoring Programme.

49. The Meeting of the Parties will discuss the implications of these developments for the future work under the Protocol, including how the Protocol can contribute to meeting these future commitments by Parties and other States.

9. Programme of work for 2014–2016, terms of reference of bodies established to implement it and resources needed for its implementation

*Tentative timing: Wednesday, 27 November, 11.40 a.m.–12.30 p.m. and 2.30–4 p.m.*


*Background document:* Decision I/5 on financial arrangements to support the implementation of the Protocol (see ECE/MP.WH/2/Add.2–EUR/06/5069385/1/Add.2)

50. Representatives of the joint secretariat will provide an overview of financial resources that were made available for the implementation of the programme of work for 2011–2013, highlighting specific challenges encountered as a result of lack of funds to cover a number of programme areas. Taking stock of this experience, the joint secretariat will introduce the details of the financial and human resources required for the implementation of the next programme of work.

51. On the basis of this overview and the discussions under previous agenda items, the Meeting of the Parties is expected to finalize and adopt its programme of work for 2014–2016. In doing so, the Meeting of the Parties will:

   (a) Agree on the structure of the programme of work, future activities, lead countries and partners, and the bodies, along with their respective mandates, to be established to guide the implementation of the programme of work;
(b) Make arrangements related to the financial and human resources needed for implementing the activities in the programme of work, and indicate funding for these activities according to their priority. Parties, other interested States and organizations are invited to inform the secretariat in advance of the session of their intention to contribute to the financial resources of the Protocol. The joint secretariat will make the information received available to the Meeting of the Parties and delegations will be invited to provide any supplementary information.

52. Considering the difficulties encountered in raising resources for the implementation of the programme of work for 2011–2013, and building on the discussions regarding financial arrangements at its second session, the Meeting of the Parties will decide on the necessary steps to ensure predictable and stable financing of the Protocol activities.

10. Partners in cooperation: links with other organizations and programmes

Tentative timing: Wednesday, 27 November, 4–4.20 p.m.

53. Partners from international organizations and non-governmental organizations have been crucial in implementing the programme of work for 2011–2013. Existing and potential new partners will be invited to brief the Meeting of the Parties about opportunities for cooperation under the programme of work for 2014–2016.

11. Date and venue of the fourth session of the Meeting of the Parties

Tentative timing: Wednesday, 27 November, 4.20–4.30 p.m.

54. The Meeting of the Parties will be invited to set dates for its fourth ordinary session. Delegations are encouraged to offer to host the fourth session so that the Meeting of the Parties will be able to decide on its venue.

12. Other business

Tentative timing: Wednesday, 27 November, 4.30–4.45 p.m.

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

13. Presentation of the main decisions

Tentative timing: Wednesday, 27 November, 4.45–5.20 p.m.

56. The Chair will present the main decisions taken by the Meeting of the Parties. The Meeting of the Parties will be invited to entrust the joint secretariat, in consultation with the Bureau, with finalizing the report of its third session.

14. Closing of the session

Tentative timing: Wednesday, 27 November, 5.20–5.30 p.m.

57. The Chair and a representative of the host country will be invited to make final statements. The Chair will then officially close the session.