

Regional report on the status of implementation of the Protocol 3rd reporting exercise

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Fourth session of the Meeting of the Parties
Geneva, 14-16 November 2016

Protocol on Water and Health



1. Background

- * In accordance with Art. 6 Parties should set targets within 2 years of becoming a Party
- * In accordance with Art. 7 every 3 years Parties should report on their progress to the MOP
- * Reports shall be in accordance with the guidelines and a template for reporting adopted by the MOP (WGWH recommended a revised template for use in the 3rd reporting cycle
- * Three reporting cycles conducted –2010, 2013, 2016

2. Objectives of reporting

- * Assess progress (self assessment by Party and assessment by the Meeting of the Parties)
- * Exchange experience, share lessons learned
- * Demonstrate the main challenges/obstacles in implementing the Protocol => inform the Protocol's programme of work
- * The aim is not to compare Parties, however there's the need to have a basis of harmonized information throughout the region
- * Reporting is an important moment to reinforce commitment to the Protocol

3. Schedule of the 3rd reporting exercise

- * Announced at the 8th meeting of the Working Group on Water and Health (October 2015)
- * Official letters to Parties and other States sent in December 2015
- * Deadline for submission: 18 April 2016; 210 days before MOP
- * Report on the status of implementation of Protocol released in September 2016
- * Results also analyzed in the report of the Compliance Committee to MOP, released in September 2016

4. Procedural aspects

- * All 26 Parties submitted summary reports
- * 6 other States also submitted reports, 4 of them for the 1st time
- * 13 reports were submitted on time
- * 14 reports were submitted with some delay – 1 month
- * 5 reports were submitted with a major delay – 2-4 months
- * Reports available online and translated into ENG where needed
- * Overall level of completeness and consistency with the template has improved

Overview of general aspects of target setting

Target setting status	Set/revised	18
	In progress	6
	No targets set	5
Publication of targets	Published	21
	Planned	2
	Not published	2
	Not applicable	4
Consideration of financial implications	Considered	12
	Partially considered	4
	Not considered	9
	Not applicable	4
Public participation	Effective	22
	Partly effective	2
	Not effective	1
	Not applicable	4

Emerging/country specific issues

- * Impacts of climate change on water resources identified as most pressing challenge --- efforts in ensuring water quality/safety and resilience of sanitation in the context of floods and water scarcity expected to intensify
- * Preparedness and management of waterborne outbreaks - need for improving data collection systems and methodology for epidemiological investigation recognized as major challenge
- * Attention to be given to the joint management of water resources in transboundary river basins

Quality of drinking water supplied

- * 20 out of 29 reporting countries set targets in this area (7 countries are in progress)
- * Targets focus on improving water quality and management measures through enhancing legal and regulatory frameworks, strengthening monitoring and surveillance and capacity building activities.
- * Water safety plans identified as tools to improve water quality
- * Many countries have already achieved the targets set or are close to achieving them

Access to sanitation

- * 19 countries set targets in this area. 5 countries are in progress and 5 countries did not set targets (explaining that full access to sanitation is already achieved).
- * Targets mainly address development and improvement of infrastructure such as sewerage systems and wastewater treatment plants as well as access to sanitation facilities.
- * Measures are rather costly so activities often focus on improving existing sewerage systems and wastewater treatment plants for cities.
- * Good practices: France to publish national action plan on decentralized sanitation; Serbia – planned awareness raising activities on hygiene of the sanitation facilities in schools for teachers and students; Republic of Moldova - target on developing small scale sanitation systems such as Ecosan toilets, constructed wetlands and septic tanks in rural areas.
- * Main challenge - lack of adequate funding to cover high investment costs necessary to upgrade or build the infrastructure.
- * Many countries indicate that baseline assessment of the situation is missing

Occurrence of discharge of untreated wastewater

- * 18 countries set targets in this area, 5 are in progress.
- * Targets focus on prevention of discharge of untreated wastewater into the environment through improved wastewater treatment, less accidental discharge and better management of emergency situations such as extreme weather events.
- * 6 countries report having fully achieved the targets related to the prevention of untreated wastewater discharge, even if this required costly investments (Norway).
- * Good practice: recognizing that the number of storm water overflow events is expected to rise due to climate change and that the current satisfactory situation may become inadequate in the future (preparing for future scenario – Finland).

Disposal or reuse of sewage sludge from collective systems of sanitation

- * Only 13 countries set targets in this area (reuse is not carried out or this is an option to be considered in future)
- * Targets refer to the legal and regulatory aspects of the management and use of the sewage sludge in the environment (incineration and energy recovery - Switzerland, agricultural reuse for nutrient recovery and soil conditioning - Israel, Norway and the Republic of Moldova)
- * Focus on monitoring and capacity building to control reuse or disposal of sludge
- * Good practice: in Norway the amount of sewage sludge to be reused is defined, the reuse as a fertilizer and soil conditioner is promoted and other resource recovery such as biogas production is also addressed by a target

Quality of wastewater used for irrigation purposes

- * Only 3 countries set targets in this area
- * In Israel, promoting wastewater treatment and safe reuse of effluents in agriculture is a national priority. France and the Republic of Moldova target assessing different options and risks of wastewater reuse for irrigation.
- * In most countries wastewater is not used for irrigation, even though it may become a focus in future (Hungary, the Netherlands)
- * Promoting knowledge and experience sharing between the countries in this area would be useful.

Effectiveness of systems for management, development, protection and use of water resources

- * Only 14 countries set targets and 6 countries are in progress
- * 9 countries have not set targets explaining that legislation is in place (Russian Federation, Serbia) or the systems are efficient (Estonia, Germany)
- * Majority of targets focus on improving surface water quality through assessments and monitoring (Norway), prevention of local diffuse pollution (Hungary, Norway) and development of national and international river basin management plans (Belarus, Latvia, Ukraine).

Additional targets

- * 11 countries set additional targets
- * In most countries additional targets focus on increasing public participation and access to information (e.g. online information about safety of bathing waters, water utility database on drinking and wastewater, establishing information center, etc.)
- * Few countries focused on training programmes, research and development
- * Emerging issues such as water management aspects of adaptation to climate change

5. Overall evaluation and trends

- * Reports reveal enhanced implementation of the Protocol
- * Growing number of countries report on implementing or having reached some of their targets
- * Intersectoral coordination at national and subnational levels is at place in the majority of countries
- * Countries extensively describe revision of national legislation
- * Increasing focus on capacity building as well as on infrastructure development which requires significant investment
- * Useful approaches reported such as developing action plans
- * Participation in the country surveys for GLAAS is considered useful for baseline analysis under the Protocol

6. Challenges

- * Self-assessment of the progress achieved under each target area as compared with the baseline and the overall self-assessment of the progress achieved often missing
- * Lack of funding and limited financial capacity is repeatedly mentioned as a challenge for implementing targets
- * Not all countries set targets in all areas under Protocol's article 6
- * Unclear in some cases whether targets are set under the Protocol or within national strategies
- * Public participation recognized as important factor for implementing the Protocol but more efforts are needed to involve public
- * Some reports do not provide full information but only references to other sources

Thank you for your attention!

www.unece.org/env/water/protocol_third_reporting_cycle