1. The ninth meeting of the Task Force on Target Setting and Reporting took place in Geneva on 5 May 2017. It was held back to back with the Workshop on setting targets under the Protocol to support implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) (Geneva, 4–5 May (morning) 2017).

2. The meeting was attended by representatives from the following countries: Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, France, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Lithuania, Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia, Switzerland, Tajikistan, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Ukraine and Uzbekistan.

3. Representatives of the following non-governmental organizations and academia were present: Armenian Women for Health and Healthy Environment, Earth Forever, Ecoforum – Uzbekistan, Eurasian National University of Kazakhstan, Global Water Partnership – Georgia, Journalists for Human Rights, MAMA-86, Steering Committee of the project “Implementation of the Protocol on Water and Health in Moldova”, Swiss Water Association, WaterLex and WHO Collaborating Centre for Health Promoting Water Management and Risk Communication at the University of Bonn. The event was also attended by a representative of UN-Water. The meeting was serviced by the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE), in cooperation with the World Health Organization Regional Office for Europe (WHO/Europe).

Item 1: Opening of the meeting

4. The Chair of the Bureau of the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol on Water and Health opened the meeting and introduced its objectives, namely following up to the workshop on the Protocol and SDGs, reviewing general progress by countries in setting and/or revising their targets and implementing them as well as discussing future work under the Task Force in supporting Parties and other States in translating the goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda into national targets and action.

Item 2: Election of officers

5. The Task Force re-elected Mr. Pierre Studer (Switzerland) as its Chair and elected Mr. Ion Salaru (Republic of Moldova), Ms. Carmen Neagu (Romania) and Ms. Irina Rudenko (Ukraine) as its Vice-Chairs for the triennium 2017–2019.

Item 3: Adoption of the agenda
The Task Force adopted its provisional agenda as contained in document WH/TFTSR 09–01.

**Item 4: Development of a guidance booklet on how to translate the 2030 Agenda into national targets set under the Protocol**

The Task Force discussed the workshop on the Protocol and SDGs. Delegates commented that the workshop was very informative and productive and praised its interactive format which allowed entering into in-depth discussions.¹

Participants also considered that the event was useful for triggering action to advance the implementation of the SDG targets on water, sanitation and health at the national level through the Protocol work. Delegates subsequently exchanged on concrete activities they would undertake as follow up to the workshop:

- Romania: will identify and establish contacts with those responsible for the implementation of the SDGs in the country, in particular with the SDG focal point in Ministry of Environment;
- Norway: will set up a meeting with the Ministry of Environment in order to discuss how to distribute responsibilities for preparing a joint report on SDG 6.
- Armenia: will report on the information received to all the relevant ministries engaged in the water, sanitation and health related SDG targets;
- Republic of Moldova: the country will focus on implementing the recently revised targets under the Protocol, including in relation to the 2030 Agenda developments. It will also try to promote adoption of a set of national indicators for the SDGs with the consequent distribution of responsibilities;
- NGO Journalists for Human Rights: will establish links to the Protocol on Water and Health in the shadow report on SDG 5 on gender equality that is currently being prepared;
- NGO MAMA-86: will organize a meeting with the interministerial working group on the Protocol to discuss the revision of the Ukrainian targets in accordance with the SDGs. MAMA-86, in cooperation with other active NGOs such as GWP Ukraine, also intend to organize an independent monitoring of the SDGs implementation, in particular SDG6. Developing a Water Safety Plan roadmap was mentioned as an important mean of implementation;
- NGO Earthforever: will promote the self-assessment of equity in Bulgaria following the Equitable access scorecard methodology which is expected to bring together ministries of environment, health and the national Ombudsman.

The Task Force also exchanged views and ideas on the following aspects of the future guidance on how to translate the 2030 Agenda into national targets set under the Protocol:

- Target audience:
  - Decision makers, government coordination mechanisms for the 2030 Agenda implementation and SDG focal points in the relevant ministries and the office of statistics;
  - Intersectoral working groups under the Protocol and coordination mechanisms established under the National Policy Dialogues;
  - Non-governmental organizations, donor community.

• Format:
  − Step-by-step guidance on how to establish links between the Protocol and SDGs;
  − Providing concrete solutions to different target audiences;
  − With brief practical examples/case studies and illustrations;
  − Short and concise (maximum 20 pages);
  − Attractive design and reader-friendly.

• Possible content:
  − Introduction on the 2030 Agenda implementation and review process and basic information on the Protocol, including relevant definitions;
  − Stressing benefits of integrating both processes – mutual reinforcement and impact;
  − How to establish/bring together Protocol and or National Policy Dialogues and SDGs institutional mechanisms;
  − Which ministries and agencies are relevant to the process and possible approaches / examples on how to distribute responsibilities among them;
  − Good practices on popularising and operationalising the SDGs and the Protocol on Water and Health—how to involve water operators, private sector, civil society and academia as well as how to communicate progress to the general public;
  − Undertaking SDGs gaps assessment, including regulatory assessment;
  − Adapting policy frameworks (national sustainable development strategies);
  − Linking SDGs implementation to target setting under the Protocol (include table on SDG-targets linkages);
  − How to develop integrated action plan for target setting and water and sanitation SDGs;
  − What are the links between Protocol reporting and 2030 Agenda monitoring (data collection by indicator, adjusting national frameworks to SDGs monitoring, how to use reporting data under the Protocol for reporting on SDGs);
  − Using the tools already developed under different areas of work of the Protocol (e.g. equitable access, water safety plans, etc.);
  − Reflecting risks and challenges such as policy integration, data availability and collection, financing;
  − How to use the guidance for awareness-raising, promotion, communication and advocacy.

10. The Task Force stressed the importance of translating the booklet, when available, into the national languages. The Task Force also discussed additional needs to support implementation of the SDGs on water, sanitation and health building on the activities under the Protocol. The following suggestions were made:
  − A more extensive and comprehensive technical document on links and joint implementation of the Protocol and water, sanitation and health related SDGs could be developed, building on the existing guidelines on target setting and reporting. It was noted that the production of such document would be time and resource intensive and that at this stage priority should be given to the production of a short booklet, as countries have already embarked on the implementation of the SDGs. It was therefore important to come up with guidance material rather promptly.
  − Organization of a regional workshop on experience with reporting on SDG water and sanitation indicators;
  − Continuous exchange of experience on how to promote the Protocol using the 2030 Agenda and how to keep the two processes aligned.
Item 5: Review of general progress in setting and implementing targets

10. Representatives of the following countries reported on their progress with setting targets and target dates under the Protocol:

(a) Portugal: the country established an interministerial working group with the objective of setting national targets by the end of July 2017. The draft was to be then circulated for public consultation;

(b) Bosnia and Herzegovina: the country also established an interministerial working group which was currently undertaking a baseline analysis before drafting the national targets. The process was expected to be completed by the end of 2017;

(c) Georgia: the country reported that the draft targets being set within the National Environmental Health Action Plan process were to be finalized soon. It was also highlighted that Georgia has not yet developed its national strategy on implementing the 2030 Agenda;

(d) Tajikistan: the country representative provided an update on the status of the revision of national targets within the UNECE-led FinWaterWEI II project. The country was also in process of revising its water policy and restructuring the water sector;

(e) Kyrgyzstan: a representative of the national working group on revising targets set under the Protocol in the context of the project above informed the meeting that the targets had been already revised and approved by the 15th Steering Committee of the Kyrgyz National Policy Dialogue (Bishkek, 9 December 2016) and an action plan for their implementation was being developed.


Item 4: Programme of work of the Task Force for 2017–2019

12. The Task Force decided that work in 2017 would focus on developing an extended outline of the guidance document on the Protocol and SDGs.

Item 6: Closing of the meeting

13. The Task Force tentatively agreed to hold its next meeting in Geneva on 24-25 April 2018, possibly back to back with a thematic workshop.

14. The Chair closed the meeting at 5.30 p.m.

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