



# Economic and Social Council

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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

### Compliance Committee

#### Sixteenth meeting

Geneva, 6 and 7 March 2018

Item 1 of the provisional agenda

#### Adoption of the agenda

### Annotated provisional agenda for the sixteenth meeting

To be held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva, starting on  
Tuesday, 6 March 2018, at 10 a.m.\*

#### I. Provisional agenda

1. Adoption of the agenda.
2. Consideration of submissions, referrals and communications.
3. Consultation Process.

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\* As part of the accreditation procedures for meetings at the United Nations Office at Geneva, delegates are requested to register online for the meeting as soon as possible, but by **no later than 12 February 2018**. Participants can register for through the following link: <https://www2.unece.org/uncdb/app/ext/meeting-registration?id=7MUqaw>. On their way to the meeting, delegates should obtain an identification badge at the Pass and Identification Unit of the United Nations Office at Geneva Security and Safety Section located at the Pregny Gate, Avenue de la Paix 14 (see the map on the Economic Commission for Europe website, <http://www.unece.org/meetings/practical.html>). Please allow sufficient time for this. In case of difficulty, please contact the secretariat by telephone at +41 22 917 1606.



4. Review of compliance with the obligation to set targets and target dates under the Protocol.
5. Awareness-raising on the compliance procedure.
6. Programme of work and calendar of future meetings.
7. Other business.
8. Joint session with the Implementation Committee under the Water Convention.
9. Adoption of the report.

## **II. Annotations**

### **1. Adoption of the agenda**

*Tentative timing: Tuesday, 6 March, 10–10.10 a.m.*

1. The Compliance Committee under the Protocol on Water and Health to the Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes (Water Convention) will be invited to adopt its agenda as set out in the present document.

### **2. Consideration of submissions, referrals and communications**

*Tentative timing: Tuesday, 6 March, 10.10–10.30 a.m.*

2. In accordance with the relevant procedures set out in decision I/2 of the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol on the review of compliance (ECE/MP.WH/2/Add.3-EUR/06/5069385/1/Add.3), the Committee is expected to consider:

- (a) Any submission by Parties relating to specific issues of compliance (decision I/2, annex, paras. 13–14);
- (b) Any referral by the joint secretariat relating to specific issues of compliance (ibid., para. 15);
- (c) Any communication from the public relating to specific issues of compliance (ibid., paras. 16–22).

### **3. Consultation Process**

*Tentative timing: Tuesday, 6 March, 10.30 a.m.–1 p.m. and 3–6 p.m.*

3. Based on decision IV/2 of the Meeting of the Parties on general issues of compliance (ECE/MP.WH/13/Add.2-EUPCR/1611921/2.1/2016/MOP-4/06/Add.2, forthcoming) and the relevant decision on consultations with Parties taken at the Committee's fourteenth meeting (Geneva, 13–14 March 2017), prior to its fifteenth meeting (Geneva, 13–14 November 2017), the Committee decided to invite Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania to engage in the Consultation Process. The three countries replied positively to the invitation.

4. At its fifteenth meeting, the Committee decided that the consultation would take place between November 2017 and November 2018 and would have the following components:

- (a) A stock-taking exercise to understand the situation regarding water and health in each country;

- (b) An interpretive note clarifying the relevant legal provisions of the Protocol, based on the information and lessons gathered during the process;
- (c) Provision of specific advice in writing and during the meeting in November;
- (d) Follow-up on the implementation of the advice.

5. The Committee will hold consultations with Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania within the above-mentioned stock-taking exercise at its sixteenth meeting. Consultations will take place on Tuesday, 6 March 2018, and will comprise:

- (a) Presentations by Parties on their needs and expectations from the Consultation Process, the water and health situation in their countries and the challenges encountered in implementing the Protocol, in particular when setting targets;
- (b) Parallel sessions with each Party and discussion in plenary on the next steps, in particular with regard to issues to be further explored and information to be provided to the Committee by the Parties.

#### **4. Review of compliance with the obligation to set targets and target dates under the Protocol**

*Tentative timing: Wednesday, 7 March, 9.30–11 a.m.*

6. At its fourth session (Geneva, 14–16 November 2016), the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol adopted decision IV/2 on general issues of compliance, which requests Parties to communicate their targets to the joint secretariat for wider dissemination. Further to that decision, Parties that had not communicated their targets were contacted by the secretariat on behalf of the Committee and requested to provide information about their progress in the target-setting processes or to communicate the targets that had been formally established. All the countries contacted provided responses to this request and some communicated their targets.

7. At its fifteenth meeting, the Committee discussed the specific situation of the countries that had been contacted, focusing only on whether the information provided by each Party was sufficient to allow for an overall understanding of the targets set by each country without entering into a substantive review. Further to its consideration of the responses, the Committee requested the secretariat to write to Belgium, Portugal and the Russian Federation to request a further update on progress or clarification.

8. The Committee will discuss its next steps based on the responses and information received.

9. The secretariat will brief the Committee on the scope, content and status of preparations of a practical guide for joint implementation of the Protocol on Water and Health and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development being prepared by the Task Force on Target Setting and Reporting. The Committee will discuss in what way the guide could be useful for its work and the Committee's possible contribution to it.

#### **5. Awareness-raising on the compliance procedure**

*Tentative timing: Wednesday, 7 March, 11 a.m.–12 p.m.*

10. The Committee members and the secretariat will report on their efforts to present the compliance procedure at various forums and events.

11. The Committee will further discuss concrete steps and initiatives to raise awareness on the compliance procedure.

## **6. Programme of work and calendar of future meetings**

*Tentative timing: Wednesday, 7 March, 12–12.25 p.m.*

12. The Committee will agree on issues for consideration at its next meetings. It will also agree the dates of its seventeenth and eighteenth meetings.

## **7. Other business**

*Tentative timing: Wednesday, 7 March, 12.25–12.30 p.m.*

13. Committee members wishing to propose points under this item are requested to inform the secretariat as soon as possible.

## **8. Joint session with the Implementation Committee under the Water Convention**

*Tentative timing: Wednesday, 7 March, 2.30–5.25 p.m.*

14. At its fifteenth meeting, the Committee decided to hold a joint session with the Implementation Committee under the Water Convention, which will take place back to back with the Implementation Committee's ninth meeting (Geneva, 8–9 March 2018). The joint session will consist of two segments: a closed session between the two Committees; and a public event open to participation by civil society and members of other relevant bodies, such as the Compliance Committee under the ECE Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters and the United Nations human rights treaty bodies.

15. During its closed session, the Compliance Committee and the Implementation Committee will discuss issues of common interest, such as the process, content and value of reporting by Parties and other States, the promotion of both mechanisms (in particular among non-governmental organizations), opportunities for joint promotion, experience with the Consultation Process and the interpretive function of the two Committees.

16. The public event will be organized as a round-table discussion on the role of non-State actors in supporting implementation and compliance with multilateral environmental and human rights agreements.

## **9. Adoption of the report**

*Tentative timing: Wednesday, 7 March, 5.25–5.30 p.m.*

17. The Committee will agree on the modalities for the preparation and adoption of the report on its sixteenth meeting.

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