



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

**Working Group on Water and Health**

Eleventh meeting

Geneva, 3 and 4 April 2019

Item 15 of the provisional agenda

**Preparations for the fifth session of the Meeting of the Parties**

**INFORMAL DOCUMENT**

**Outline of the programme of the fifth session of the Meeting of the Parties to  
the Protocol on Water and Health, Belgrade, 19-21 November 2019**

Prepared by the secretariat, in consultation with the Bureau

The fifth 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 19 to 21 November 2019 in Belgrade, at the invitation of the Government of Serbia.

The present document gives an overview of the provisional agenda of the fifth session of the Meeting of the Parties, including the special high-level session on 19 November 2019, possible side events as well as official and unofficial documents and publications to be prepared for the Meeting of the Parties.

The Working Group is invited to review the draft programme outline and to provide comments, in particular on the aims, objectives, format and questions for discussion at the special high-level session as well as on the possible themes, scope and format of the side events.

In addition, delegations are invited to indicate their country's expected level of participation in the meeting in order to facilitate planning of the special high-level session and preparations by the host country.

**Draft outline of the programme of the fifth session of the  
Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol on Water and Health  
(Belgrade, 19–21 November 2019)**

**Tuesday, 19 November 2019**

**1. Opening and adoption of the agenda (10.00-10.50)**

*Opening speech(es) by high-level representative (s) of Serbia (high level participation to be discussed and confirmed)*

*Speech by the Executive Secretary of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe*

*Speech by the Regional Director of the World Health Organization Regional Office for Europe*

*The Chair of the MOP will formally open the meeting and ask for the adoption of the agenda*

**2. Constitution of the fifth session of the Meeting of the Parties (10.50-11.00)**

***Informal documents***

- *Status of ratification of the Protocol*
- *Credentials*

**3. Election of the Chair and Vice-Chairs of the fifth session of the Meeting of the Parties (11.00–11.10)**

**4. Special high-level session (11.10-13.00)**

The Working Group is invited to provide comments, in particular on the aims, objectives, format and questions for discussion at the special high-level session and to propose high-level speakers.

At its twenty-first meeting (Geneva, 7–8 November 2018), the Bureau recommended that the special high-level session focuses on different dimensions of water, sanitation and health as linked to the areas of work under the Protocol on Water and Health and the relevant Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), with a mix of interventions by high-level government representatives and experts representing different sectors and areas of expertise. The aim of the session would be to take stock of the concrete results

in implementing the water, sanitation and health-related SDGs in the past three years, considering the input from the 2018 and 2019 High-level Political Forum.

The session is proposed to consist of the following elements: (i) introduction to the high-level session; (ii) opening keynote speech with an overarching success narrative highlighting important achievements under the Protocol and describing the overall situation of water, sanitation and health in the pan-European region (possible speaker: Ms. Catarina de Albuquerque, Chief Executive Officer of Sanitation and Water for All, former Special Rapporteur on the Human Rights to Water and Sanitation), (iii) high-level panel discussion addressing different political and technical dimensions of key issues relevant to the Protocol, such as climate change, wastewater reuse, antimicrobial resistance, legionella, equitable access, WASH in institutional settings, financing of water and sanitation services, circular economy and value of international cooperation and (iv) interactive moderated discussion part.

The session would also aim to give the Protocol “a face” by reflecting the perspective of the population benefitting from Protocol activities, possibly through visual tools.

This session would also provide opportunity for statements by Parties and other States on their implementation of the Protocol, including the main achievements, challenges and priorities for future work.

#### **DURING LUNCH BREAK: SIDE EVENTS (13.45-14.45)**

The Working Group on Water and Health is invited to discuss and agree on the topics and number of side events to be organized during the session and identify potential partners and contributors.

Possible topics of side events for the three days suggested by the Bureau include:

- Climate resilient water and sanitation safety planning;
- EU Drinking Water Directive recast;
- National Policy Dialogues under the European Union Water Initiative;
- Danube River Basin Initiative, with a focus on financing;
- Nordic-Baltic network, with a focus on small scale supplies and emergency response;

- Small-scale water supply and sanitation systems;
- Equitable access to water and sanitation;
- Water, sanitation and hygiene in schools and health care facilities and use of SDG monitoring indicators;
- FinWaterWEI projects in Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan.

Countries and organizations are invited to express their interest to organize specific side events.

**5. Elections of other members of the Bureau (15.00-15.10)**

**6. Review of past activities and discussion of future activities in the different areas of work (Tuesday, 15.10-18.00, Wednesday, 10.00-13.00 and 15.00-18.00 and Thursday, 10.00-12:15)**

The Meeting will review the achievements under the current programme of work and examine proposals for activities under the 2020–2022 programme of work.

*The discussions under the following items will be organized in different ways, e.g. mixing presentations, keynote speeches and panel discussions. Moreover, innovative ways of presenting results such as video, interview, field report will be used as much as possible.*

***Official documents***

- *Report on implementation of the 2017-2019 programme of work, including an overview of contributions and expenditures*
- *Draft programme of work for 2020-2022, including an estimate of the resources required*

**(a) Setting targets, implementing measures and reporting under the Protocol (15.10-17.15)**

***Official document and publication***

- *Regional report on the implementation of the Protocol*
- *Protocol on Water and Health and the 2030 Agenda: a practical guide for joint implementation*

- (b) **Assistance to support implementation at the national level (17.15-18.00)**

**RECEPTION ORGANIZED BY THE HOST COUNTRY (19.00-21.30)**

**Wednesday, 20 November 2019**

- (c) **Prevention and reduction of water-related diseases (10.00-11.30)**

***Official publication***

- *Guide on water-related disease surveillance and outbreak management (working title)*
- *Guide on risk-based approaches towards strengthening drinking water quality surveillance (working title)*

- (d) **Institutional water, sanitation and hygiene (11.30-13.00)**

***Official publications***

- *Public health surveillance of WASH in schools (working title)*
- *Toolkit on WASH in schools for school managers (working title)*

**DURING LUNCH BREAK: SIDE EVENTS (13.45-14.45)**

- (e) **Equitable access to water and sanitation (15.00-16.30)**

***Official publication***

- *Human rights to water and sanitation in practice - Findings and lessons learned from the work on equitable access to water and sanitation under the Protocol on Water and Health in the pan-European region (working title)*

- (f) **Small-scale water supplies and sanitation (16.30-18.00)**

***Official publication***

- *Costing and financing of small-scale water supply and sanitation (tentative)*

**EVENING: SOCIAL EVENT TBC (19.00-21.30)**

**Thursday, 21 November 2019**

- (g) **Safe and efficient management of water supply and sanitation systems (10.00 – 11.15)**

*Official publication*

- *Sanitation scoping study (working title)*

- (h) **Increasing resilience to climate change (11.15-12.00)**

- (i) **Compliance procedure (12.00-12.45)**

*Official document*

- *Report of the Compliance Committee to the Meeting of Parties, including decision on general issues of compliance*

*Informal document*

- *List of candidates for the Compliance Committee*

7. **The Protocol on Water and Health: partners and relevant global and regional processes and initiatives. (12.45-13.00)**

*Informal documents*

- *Cooperation with the Water Convention*
- *European Environment and Health Process*
- *WHO Small Country Initiative*

**DURING LUNCH BREAK: SIDE EVENTS (13.45-14.45)**

8. **Programme of work for 2020–2022, terms of reference of bodies established to implement it and resources needed for its implementation (15.00-16.20)**

*Official document*

- *Draft programme of work for 2020-2022, including an estimate of the resources required*

- 9. Date and venue of the sixth session of the Meeting of the Parties (16.20-16.30)**
  
- 10. Other business (16.40-16.50)**
  
- 11. Presentation of the decisions (16.40-17.20)**
  
- 12. Closing of the session (17.20-17.30)**