



TASK FORCE ON TARGET SETTING AND REPORTING UNDER THE PROTOCOL ON WATER AND HEALTH

**11TH MEETING
(Geneva and online, 3 November 2020)**

BACKGROUND AND OBJECTIVES

The 11th meeting of the Task Force on Target Setting and Reporting under the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) – World Health Organization (WHO) Regional Office for Europe Protocol on Water and Health will take place on 3 November 2020.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the meeting is organized in a hybrid format. Delegations have the possibility to participate either in person (Palais des Nations, Geneva, Room Tempus 2) or virtually through [Interprefy](#). Due to the hybrid format, the duration of the meeting has been shortened. The morning session will be from 10:00 to 12:00 and the afternoon session will be from 14:00 to 16:00 CET.

The working languages will be English, French and Russian. All relevant documentation for the meeting will be available at <https://www.unece.org/index.php?id=52847>.

The main objectives of the meeting are to:

- Exchange experiences on measures taken in the area of water, sanitation, hygiene (WASH) and health in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic, including challenges faced, lessons learned and possible ideas for setting COVID-19 sensitive targets under the Protocol in order to increase resilience against the spread of this and other infectious diseases;
- Review progress by Parties in setting, revising and implementing their targets, in accordance with article 6 of the Protocol;
- Discuss key highlights of the global and regional developments in monitoring the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goal 6.

PROVISIONAL AGENDA

I. Opening of the meeting and adoption of the agenda (10:00–10:10)

1. The Chair of the Task Force on Target Setting and Reporting will open the meeting and welcome the participants. The Chair will also invite the Task Force to adopt its agenda as set out in the present document.

II. Exchange of experiences on water, sanitation, hygiene and health related measures taken in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic (10:10–11:15)

2. The Task Force will be invited to exchange experiences on the different measures in the area of WASH and health that have been taken in countries and internationally in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic and how these are related to the work carried out under the Protocol. Discussion will be structured around the following questions:

- What impact has the COVID-19 pandemic had on the WASH sector in your countries? What are the positive consequences and lessons learnt, in particular in relation to the work under the Protocol? Please share your examples, such as, for instance, enhanced understanding of the importance of access to safe and reliable water and sanitation, increased political attention to the implementation of the Protocol, actions to raise awareness and to promote universal hand hygiene as an important measure to prevent the spread of infectious diseases, triggering investment and projects in the water and sanitation sector, increased cooperation with other sectors, etc.
- What challenges have you faced during this period e.g. knowledge gaps, limited access to guidance, lack of funding, lack of critical supplies, loss of revenue of the water utilities, etc.?
- What kind of measures have been taken in your countries to address the gap in access to WASH services and to ensure their operational reliability? How could the tools available under the Protocol, such as the *Equitable Access Score-card* and practical guidance on water safety planning, WASH in schools and outbreak response management, be useful for providing safe and equitable WASH services in the context of the pandemic? What additional tools may be of need?
- Have any targets that were previously set by your country under the Protocol been useful to prevent, respond and prepare for the COVID-19 pandemic?
- What COVID-19 sensitive targets would you consider setting under the Protocol to improve preparedness and increase resilience against the spread of this and other infectious diseases?
- What additional thematic focus and/or activities would you consider as relevant for the Protocol in view of the continuing COVID-19 pandemic?

III. Review of the general progress in setting and/or revising and implementing targets under the Protocol on Water and Health (11:15–12:00)

3. Participants will be invited to report on the progress made in setting and/or revising targets under the Protocol. The interventions should focus in particular on the process followed, including with regard to public participation, the kind of targets set and how these relate to other areas of work under the Protocol as well as relevant EU Directives and/or Sustainable Development Goals. Participants will also be invited to share any significant achievements in implementing their targets and the possible impacts.

IV. Key highlights of the global and regional developments in monitoring the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goal 6 (14:00–15:45)

4. The Task Force will be informed by representatives of the WHO/UNICEF Joint Monitoring Programme for Water Supply, Sanitation and Hygiene (JMP) on the recent developments and key highlights in tracking global and regional progress towards reaching SDG targets 6.1 and 6.2 to ensure safe and equitable access to WASH services for all. Furthermore, information will be provided on the highlights from the UN-Water Global Analysis and Assessment of Sanitation and

Drinking Water (GLAAS), in particular progress on national WASH policies, targets and finance and in implementing SDG targets 6a and 6b, which are related to means of WASH implementation.

5. The Task Force will also be updated on the recent developments in the UN-Water Integrated Monitoring Initiative for SDG 6 (IMI-SDG6).

6. Participants will be invited to exchange experience on participating in the global monitoring instruments for SDG 6 and how the outcomes support national policy developments and the implementation of the Protocol. The discussion will be structured around the following questions:

- What measures have you taken, or plan to take, to introduce global SDG 6 indicators in your national monitoring efforts?
- How has your country's participation in global monitoring programmes, such as in GLAAS and JMP, supported the work of the Protocol in your country (e.g. informing the setting/revision of targets, developing national monitoring indicators, improving national surveillance and/or strengthening actions towards providing safe WASH services in communities, schools and health care facilities)? Please share examples.
- In your view, what should be done to improve the collaboration and tighten the links between global monitoring initiatives for SDG 6 and the Protocol? What is your experience of using data from the global monitoring programmes in reviewing and reporting progress on the Protocol implementation?

V. Other business (15:45–15:50)

7. Participants wishing to propose points under this item are requested to inform the secretariat as soon as possible.

VI. Closing of the meeting (15:50–16:00)

8. The Task Force will tentatively agree on the date, format and venue of its next meeting.

9. The Chair will summarize key outcomes of the discussion and close the meeting at 16:00.
