



**UNITED NATIONS
ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE**

**WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION
REGIONAL OFFICE FOR EUROPE**

**WORKSHOP ON REPORTING UNDER THE PROTOCOL ON WATER AND HEALTH
Geneva, 16–17 February 2010**

to be held in the Palais des Nations, Geneva, Switzerland,
starting at 10.00 a.m. on Tuesday, 16 February

INFORMATION NOTICE

I. Objectives

1. The workshop aims to support Parties and non-Parties in the preparation of their national summary reports. According to the decision made by the Working Group on Water and Health at its second meeting (Geneva, 2–3 July 2009), summary reports should be submitted by Parties and non-Parties by 31 March 2010 following the template included in the draft guidelines for summary reports (see ECE/MP.WH/WG.1/2009/5 - EUR/09/5086342/7). Summary reports will be circulated to all Parties and will provide an important input to the second session of the Meeting of the Parties, scheduled for October/November 2010.
2. The workshop will provide the opportunity:
 - (a) To exchange experiences and lessons learned by Parties and non-Parties engaged in the process of preparing their national summary reports
 - (b) To clarify possible questions related to the reporting template and facilitate the completion of summary reports
 - (c) To assess the progress in setting targets and reporting under the Protocol
 - (d) To present and discuss the preliminary reporting's results
 - (e) To assess the experience with the template for reporting.
3. The workshop is addressed to all those who are responsible for, or involved in the process of target-setting and reporting under the Protocol: first and foremost governmental representatives, but also water and health managers, local authorities, and representatives of academia, research institutes and non-governmental organizations.
4. By the time of the workshop, Parties and non-Parties will be fully engaged in the preparation of their national reports. Thus participants attending the workshop will be expected to actively share their experience related to the process: from the planning and organization at the national level, to the information gathering and assessment, the coordination among institutions involved and the participation of the public.

II. Background

5. The Protocol on Water and Health requires Parties to establish and publish national and/or local targets and target dates in different areas in order to achieve or maintain a high level for the protection of human health and well-being and for the sustainable management of water resources. Furthermore, the Protocol requires Parties to collect, evaluate data and report on their progress towards the achievement of the targets every three years.
6. To assist Parties fulfil their obligations, the first Meeting of the Parties decided to develop guidelines for setting targets and guidelines for the summary reports and entrusted the Task Force on Indicators and Reporting with the development of these guidelines.
7. The Working Group on Water and Health at its second meeting decided on the organization of the first pilot reporting exercise based on the draft guidelines for the summary reports (see ECE/MP.WH/WG.1/2009/5 - EUR/09/5086342/7). This first, currently ongoing, reporting exercise is particularly important, as it will allow for identifying challenges in implementing the Protocol and therefore guide future work. Moreover, the reporting exercise will also allow testing the guidelines and template for the summary reports before their formal adoption at the second session of the Meeting of the Parties.

III. Organization of work

8. The workshop will be organized on 16 and 17 February 2010, back-to-back with the third meeting of the Task Force on Indicators and Reporting (17 - 18 February 2010), under the leadership of the Government of Switzerland with the support of the joint UNECE¹ and WHO/EURO² secretariat.
9. The workshop will consist of the following sessions:
- **The cycle of setting targets and reporting: how the two processes are linked**
This session will discuss activities at the national level to ensure setting targets and reporting, as well as the process of preparation of reports and the cooperation between national institutions and stakeholders involved. This session will also discuss how countries which have not formally adopted their national target can report.
 - **Common indicators**
This session will discuss experience in completing information for Part Two of the reporting template on common indicators related to the quality of drinking water supplies; the reduction of the scale of outbreaks and incidence of infectious diseases potentially related to water; access to drinking water; access to sanitation; and the effectiveness of management, protection and use of freshwater resources. Participants will discuss what other reporting systems can be of help when providing these common indicators.
 - **Practical experience**
During this session participants will openly discuss their experience with the reporting exercise, the challenges encountered or they expect to encounter, their actions or plans to overcome them, the lessons learned.

¹ United Nations Economic Commission for Europe.

² World Health Organization Regional Office for Europe.

- **Reporting on the overall implementation of the Protocol (beyond targets under article 6) and public consultation on national reports**

This session will discuss experience in completing information for Part Four of the reporting template which should include an analysis and synthesis of the overall progress achieved in implementing the Protocol, together with information on implementation of articles other than articles 6 and 7 (for instance implementation of: article 9 on public awareness, education, training, research and development and information; article 10 on public participation; article 11 on international cooperation; article 12 on joint and coordinated international action; article 13 on cooperation in relation to transboundary waters; and article 14 on international support for national action).

This session will also allow to discuss ways and means to involve other stakeholders such the civil society, local communities, the private sector and the media in the preparations of national summary reports.

10. A detailed provisional programme for the workshop will be issued in January 2010.

IV. Background documentation

11. The following documents will serve as background material for the workshop:³

- (a) Draft guidelines on setting targets, evaluation of progress and reporting (ECE/MP.WH/WG.1/2009/4 - EUR/09/5086340/9)
- (b) Draft guidelines for summary reports, including template for summary reports ECE/MP.WH/WG.1/2009/5 - EUR/09/5086342/7).

12. Participants are welcome to make available any other relevant materials at the workshop, in particular copies of their preliminary summary reports.

V. Practical information

13. The workshop will start at 10.00 a.m. on Tuesday, 16 February 2010 and end at 13.00 p.m. on Wednesday, 17 February 2009. It will be held in the Palais des Nations, Geneva. The workshop will be organized back-to-back with the third meeting of the Task Force on Indicators and Reporting (17-18 February 2010). The working languages will be English, French and Russian.

14. The workshop is intended for all those who are or might be responsible or involved in reporting. Focal points are requested to disseminate information on the workshop and to facilitate nomination of relevant experts from their respective countries.

15. Eligible participants from countries with economies in transition may apply for financial support to facilitate their participation in the workshop. Requests for financial support should be submitted to the UNECE secretariat (olga.carlos@unece.org) as soon as possible, but not later than **8 January 2010. No application will be accepted after this deadline due to changes in visa and travel arrangement regulations.** Due to the limited funds available, priority will be given to representatives of Parties and to experts providing inputs to the workshop.

16. Participants requiring entry visas should inform the secretariat as soon as possible. Due to the entry of Switzerland in the Schengen Zone in December 2008, visa procedures have become

³ Both documents are available in English and Russian at http://www.unece.org/env/water/meetings/documents_WGWH.htm.

more complicated. The minimum amount of time needed for obtaining a visa is now 15 working days. **Participants needing a visa are therefore requested to submit their application as soon as possible and initiate visa procedures at least three weeks before the meeting.**

17. In accordance with United Nations accreditation procedures, participants are requested to complete the registration form available online http://www.unece.org/env/water/meetings/reporting_workshop.htm and to transmit it to the UNECE secretariat **by 25 January 2010** either by fax (+ 41 22 917 0621) or e-mail (olga.carlos@unece.org). On their way to the meeting, participants 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, 14 Avenue de la Paix (see map on the UNECE Protocol website). Please allow time for this. In case of difficulty, please contact the secretariat by telephone at +41 22 917 1926.

18. Practical information on the Palais des Nations, as well as on transport and accommodation in Geneva, is available online at: <http://www.unece.org/meetings/practical.htm>.

19. Further information, the registration form and relevant material will be made available on the following website in due course:
http://www.unece.org/env/water/meetings/reporting_workshop.htm
