Cooperation with the Protocol on Water and Health

Findings of the first reporting exercise

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The Protocol on Water and Health

The world’s only legal treaty designed to reduce water-related deaths and diseases through improved water management
3 The Protocol on Water and Health: making a difference

Adopted in 1999 by 36 countries

Entered into force in 2005

Currently ratified by 24 countries

Status of ratification
Scope

Costal and estuarine waters

Surface waters

Water during abstraction, transport, treatment and supply

Wastewater collection, transport, treatment, discharge, reuse
Art 6 and 7: Targets, measures, review of progress

Within 2 years of becoming a Party, each Party shall set targets and target dates:
- Water supply and sanitation
- Water management
- Health protection

Measures:
- National coordination mechanism
- Water management plans
- Investments
- Monitoring
- Enforcement
- Capacity building

Review progress:
- Collect and evaluate data
- Publish results
- Review progress
- Submit summary report
Target setting areas

Targets on:

- Aquaculture and shellfish
- Drinking Water Quality
- Reduction of outbreaks
- Protection and use of water resources
- Reuse of sewage sludge for irrigation
- Discharge of untreated waste water
- Management of sanitation
- Management of Water supply
- Performance of Water supply services
- Performance of Sanitation services
- % of collective systems for drinking water
- % of collective systems for sanitation
- Target setting areas

The Protocol on Water and Health: making a difference
Progressive and continuous action

- Review of progress
- Set targets and target dates
- Programme of measures
First reporting exercise

- Art.7: Every three years Parties shall evaluate progress towards the targets set and submit a summary report in accordance with guidelines established by the Meeting of the Parties

- First reporting exercise with agreed template and guidelines, deadline 31 March 2010
Reports received

- 25 reports were received overall
- All Parties but 3 reported
- 3 non-Parties also submitted a report
- Only 23 could be analysed for the regional implementation report
**Procedural aspects**

- Only 10 reports were submitted according to the deadline

- Varied quality of reports; in some cases missing information on targets, measures and progress

- Not all reports were prepared with the objective of informing other Parties

- Big differences between reports which were consulted between ministries and those who were compiled by 1/2 persons
Where we stand in target setting?

- 7 Parties mentioned that they have set their targets but not always possible to derive from reports what are the targets.

- 10 Parties indicated that they are in the process.

- For EU Parties most targets derive from EU legislation.

- But implementation of Protocol ≠ transposition of EU Directives.
Common indicators

- Most information provided under this part; not the spirit of the Protocol's reporting
- Not all Parties could provide data; not comparable; little information on how the data were produced

=> Much data, little information
Targets set and assessment of progress

- Big differences in reports depending on where countries are in setting targets
- Some targets are not measurable
- Information focuses on legal basis, less on measures implemented, achievements and challenges
- Some reports can be of inspiration for other countries
Overall trends in targets set and assessment of progress

- The collection of the necessary data is often a challenge. It reveals a lack of information.
- Reports cannot be established by one single entity.
- General lateness in setting targets.
- Some countries seem to have bypassed the approach of the Protocol and simply compiled existing strategies/law.
- No correspondence between common indicators and targets set.
- Targets are not set in all areas: weaker in the environmental areas.
Next steps

- Promote exchange between Parties and non-Parties in setting targets and reporting

- Address gaps and common challenges, including stronger mainstreaming of environmental issues in the Protocol’s implementation