



UNITED NATIONS
ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE



WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION
REGIONAL OFFICE FOR EUROPE

PROTOCOL ON WATER AND HEALTH

BUREAU/2011/9
7 June 2011

**Bureau of the Meeting of the Parties
Seventh meeting
Geneva, 28-29 June 2011**

ANNOTATED PROVISIONAL AGENDA FOR THE SEVENTH MEETING

Prepared by the joint secretariat

The seventh meeting of the Bureau will take place in the Palais des Nations in room VI. It will start on 28 June 2011 at 14.00 and finish on 29 June 2011 at 17.00. The meeting will be held in English.

Bureau members should be in possession of a long-duration badge to enter the Palais des Nations. If this is not the case please contact: margaret.muindi@unece.org.

- 1. Adoption of the agenda**
(Tuesday, 28 June 14.00-14.10)
- 2. Update on developments in the Joint Secretariat**
(Tuesday, 28 June 14.10-15.00)

The Bureau will be informed about relevant developments in the Joint Secretariat linked to the changes in staff, the cut in the UN regular budget decided by the UN Secretary General and the organizational changes in the Regional Office for Europe of the World Health Organization, including changes in the environment and health programme.

- 3. Resources to implement the programme of work and implementation of unfunded activities: general discussion/possibilities for funding**
(Tuesday, 28 June 15.00-16.30)

The second session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol adopted the programme of work for 2011-2013 and the relevant cost estimate. At the same time the Meeting recognized that the implementation of the programme of work would depend on the resources made available by Parties and requested the Bureau, in close cooperation with the joint secretariat, to monitor the financial situation and to make decisions on the implementation of the programme of work accordingly.

On the basis of a document by the joint secretariat, the Bureau will review contributions, pledges and expenditures since the second Meeting of the Parties.

Bureau members will inform each other about their countries possibility to provide financial resources to the work under the Protocol. They will discuss additional options to fundraise and agree on how to fill the financial gaps.

4. Programme of work 2011-2013

(Tuesday, 28 June 16.30-18.30 and Wednesday, 29 June, 9:30-12:00)

Following the discussion on the resources available under the Protocol, the Bureau will review and discuss activities under each programme area.

As some of the activities planned for implementation in 2011 are fully funded and for many there are gaps, the Bureau will review the planned activities, discuss and agree on how to fill the financial gaps and revise the programme of work for 2011, by prioritizing activities and adjusting implementation to the resources available. The Bureau will also discuss the implementation of the programme of work beyond 2011 in light of the resources available. Bureau members will therefore discuss and advise on longer term activities to achieve the objectives set out under the each programme area for the period 2011-2013. In this reflection, the Bureau is invited to consider the maximization of synergies between the different programme areas.

o Programme area 1 – Target setting and reporting

The UNECE secretariat will inform of the outcome of the sub-regional workshop on target setting under the Protocol (5-6 April, Belarus) which was the first of a series of sub-regional workshops promoting the exchange of experience in setting targets and reporting under the Protocol and about the future plans for similar workshops.

The Bureau will discuss lessons-learned from the event and advice on the organization of future workshops.

Representatives from WHO HQ will introduce the Global Annual Assessment on Sanitation and Drinking-Water (GLAAS), and will inform on the implementation of GLAAS in selected countries Party to the Protocol.

A representative of WHO HQ will inform the Bureau on the work currently being undertaken in the preparation of the 2012 Joint Monitoring Programme for Water Supply and Sanitation (JMP), with emphasis on access by income percentiles.

Finally the Bureau will exchange views on the meeting of the Task Force on Target Setting and Reporting, scheduled for October 2011 in Georgia. The Bureau will advise on the meeting agenda and on how to promote synergies with other activities and bodies under the Protocol.

o Programme area 2 – Surveillance and early-warning systems, contingency plans and response capacities

The Bureau will be informed about the activities carried out and planned in this area.

A representative of the WHO Regional Office for Europe will inform the Bureau on recent events relevant to the aims of this work plan element, with particular attention to the recent outbreak of cholera in Mariupol (Ukraine), and the health risks of the potential damn around a cyanide lake in Turkey.

A representative of the WHO Regional Office for Europe will brief the Bureau on the Rotary International Conference “Water the source of Life and Peace” held in Asissi, 16 – 17 April 2011 and will invite the participants to explore ways to strengthen cooperation with Rotary International, particularly in harmony with current efforts to strengthen rotavirus vaccinations.

The Bureau will discuss the future work of the Task Force on Surveillance of Water-related Disease, including possible dates of its next meeting and the cooperation and synergies with other activities and bodies under the Protocol. In view of current changes in the environment and health department of the WHO Regional Office for Europe, the timing of the Task Force originally planned for end 2011 may have to be revised, and the concept of a Task Force as preferred instrument of implementation may have to be revisited.

○ **Programme area 3 – Cross-cutting issues**

The Bureau will be informed on the work carried out and the future plans in the area of small scale water supplies and sanitation, in particular the outcome of the meetings of the expert groups on small scale water supply and sanitation that will be held in Berlin on 20 and 21 June 2011.

A representative of WHO HQ will inform about the new WHO study, in collaboration with US National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA): Assessing global burden of disease due to climate change induced non-resilience of water and sanitation facilities.

The Bureau will discuss possible future activities linked to water supply and sanitation in extreme weather events.

The WHO secretariat will inform the meeting on different training programmes supporting the implementation of water safety plans in the region, in particular:

- Training programme in Turkmenistan (April 2011)
- EUREAU/MAMA86 Workshop on Water Safety Plans (Kiev, Ukraine, 11 -12 April 2011) and follow-up.
- Training workshop on water safety plans (Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan, 30 May – 4 June 2011).

○ **Programme area 4 – Project Facilitation Mechanism**

The Chair of the Project Facilitation Mechanism and the Facilitator will provide information on ongoing projects, including the funding of projects in the pipeline, future actions and the perspectives related to the future chairmanship of the Mechanism.

The Bureau will be informed of the outcome of the EBRD annual meeting (Bishkek, 24 May 2011) and discuss appropriate follow-up.

The Bureau will consider the lack of response from donors to existing proposals, discuss future work in this area including the next meeting of the Project Facilitation Mechanism, scheduled for 30 October 2011.

○ **Programme area 5 – Compliance procedure**

No request for consultations under the consultative compliance procedure has been submitted to date. The Bureau will discuss how to encourage countries to make use, even if on a pilot basis, of the innovative compliance procedure to test its application.

- **Programme area 7 – Public awareness, access to information and public participation**

This area of the work programme has not been further developed since the last meeting. Ana Drapa will inform about the plans for future work in this area.

- **Programme area 8 – Equitable access**

Chantal Gatignol will inform the Bureau about the activities carried out in this area, in particular the preparation of the “Workshop on Equitable Access to Water and Sanitation” (4-5 July 2011, Geneva) and of the document on good practices to ensure equitable access to water and sanitation, as well as the plans regarding the finalization and launching of the good practices document and follow-up activities in this area of work.

- **Programme area 9 – Capacity-building and sharing of experience**

Following the very successful *Fourth International Conference on Swimming Pools and Spas (Porto, Portugal, 15 – 18 Mach 2011)*, the WHO Regional Office for Europe and WHO HQ agreed to advance the start of the revision of the *Guidelines on Recreational Waters: Pools and Spas* so that work in the European region would feed into the formally planned revision process at the global level. Invitations to collaborate on this work have been sent out, and met with an enthusiastic response. A first meeting of the drafting group took place on 8 July at the WHO European Centre for Environment and Health, Bonn, Germany.

Mihaly Kadar and the WHO-Europe secretariat will inform the Bureau on the outcome of this work and the planned programme ahead. The Bureau will review work, and consider possibilities for funding and technical support.

The Bureau will discuss plans for additional capacity building activities, if any.

5. Seventh Ministerial Conference on Environment for Europe (Astana, Kazakhstan, 21 - 23 September 2011)

(Wednesday, 29 June, 12:00-13:00, including one hour lunch break)

The secretariat will brief the Bureau on the preparations for the Astana Ministerial Conference in particular on the decisions taken by the Committee on Environmental Policy at its Special Session (24-27 May 2011, Geneva) related to the organization of the Conference (see <http://www.unece.org/env/cep/2011SpecialSessionMay.html>)

Bureau members will exchange information on their countries plans related to the Conference and will agree on ways and means to promote the Protocol at the Conference.

In particular the Bureau will discuss the planned side event on the Protocol.

6. ENDWARE and cooperation with the European Commission

(Wednesday, 29 June, 14:00-15:00)

The Bureau will be informed about the last meeting of ENDWARE (European Network of Drinking Water Regulators) and arising possibilities with regard to cooperation with the European Commission.

7. WHO Resolution on drinking water, sanitation and health

(Wednesday, 29 June, 15:00-15:30)

The Bureau will be updated on two important resolutions adopted by the World Health Assembly at its 64th session. Resolution 64.24 *Drinking-Water, Sanitation and Health* called for WHO to strengthen its normative functions on water and health, expand its monitoring role of progress towards access to safe water and sanitation, and increase efforts in the area of capacity building. The resolution sub Art 2 (5) requests the Director General “to continue support regional activities such as the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe’s Protocol on Water and Health, which is an instrument of reference for safe water management and the protection of human health. Resolution 64.15 *Cholera: mechanism for control and prevention* sub 2(4) requests the provision of support for effective control and prevention measures, including surveillance, early warning and response, laboratory capacity, risk assessment, case management, data collection and monitoring, and effective vaccine deployment.

Bureau members will examine the resolutions and explore how the Protocol could support the development of an appropriate strategy for the implementation of these resolutions.

8. Fourth meeting of the Working Group on Water and Health

(Wednesday, 29 June, 15:30-16:30)

The Bureau will discuss and make arrangements for the organization of the fourth meeting of the Working Group on Water and Health scheduled to take place on 1-2 November 2011 in Geneva. In recognition of the religious and family significance of Nov 1 for many people in the European region, WHO proposes that the WGWH meet at the WHO European Centre for Environment and Health, Bonn, in the week of 7-11 November.

9. Future meetings under the Protocol

(Wednesday, 29 June, 16:30-16:45)

The Bureau will review the calendar of future meetings under the Protocol and agree on the dates of its next meeting.

10. Other business

(Wednesday, 29 June, 16:45-17:00)

At the time of writing, the secretariat had no points to propose under this agenda item.

11. Closing

(Wednesday, 29 June, 17:00)
