



**Economic and Social
Council**

Distr.
GENERAL

MP.WAT/AC.2/2000/2
EUR/ICP/5021651/2

22 December 2000
Original: ENGLISH

ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

**WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION
REGIONAL OFFICE FOR EUROPE**

**MEETING OF THE SIGNATORIES
TO THE PROTOCOL ON WATER AND HEALTH
TO THE 1992 CONVENTION ON THE PROTECTION
AND USE OF TRANSBOUNDARY WATERCOURSES
AND INTERNATIONAL LAKES**

REPORT OF THE FIRST MEETING

**held at Budapest from 2 to 3 November 2000
at the invitation of the Government of Hungary**

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under the Convention

Introduction

1. The first meeting of the Signatories to the Protocol on Water and Health to the 1992 Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes (Water Convention) was held at Budapest on 2-3 November 2000 at the invitation of the Government of Hungary.
2. The meeting was attended by delegations from the following Signatories to the Protocol: Azerbaijan, Belgium, Croatia, Czech Republic, Finland, France, Georgia, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Slovakia, Slovenia, Sweden, Switzerland, Ukraine, and United Kingdom.
3. The meeting was attended by observers from the following ECE countries: Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kyrgyzstan, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan and Yugoslavia.
4. It was also attended by representatives of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UN/ECE) and the Regional Office for Europe of the World Health Organization (WHO/EURO). The Chairman of the Meeting of the Parties to the Water Convention and a representative of the International Water Assessment Centre (IWAC) established under the Convention also participated.
5. Representatives of the following non-governmental organizations (NGOs) participated: Mama-86 and Perzent.
6. During the opening session, Mr. Arpad Gogl, Minister of Health (Hungary), made a statement on behalf of the host country. Mr. Roberto Bertolini, Director, WHO/EURO, addressed the Meeting on behalf of his organization, which carries out, jointly with UN/ECE, the secretariat functions for the Protocol on Water and Health. He recalled the need for vigilance against classic water-related diseases, highlighted new and emerging threats, and conveyed the continued commitment of WHO to the Protocol on Water and Health. Mr. Rainer Enderlein (UN/ECE) also addressed the Meeting, recalled the importance of water as a source of life, and urged the delegations to proceed with the ratification of the Protocol. The opening statements were circulated among the participants.

I. PROCEDURES

7. The Meeting adopted its agenda as set out in document MP.WAT/AC.2/2000/1 - EUR/ICP/5021651/1 on the understanding that items 7 and 8 would be considered at the same time.
8. Following the proposal by the Working Group on Water and Health at its special meeting (Budapest, 3-4 April 2000), the Meeting of the Signatories agreed to apply, *mutatis mutandis*, the rules of procedure for the meetings of the Parties to the Convention on the Protection and Use of

Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes, revised at the second meeting of the Parties to the Convention (ECE/MP.WAT/5, annex III).

9. Following rule 18, paragraph 1, of these rules of procedure, Mr. Alan Pinter (Hungary) chaired the meeting as a representative of the host country.

10. According to rule 18, paragraph 2, the election of officers took place at the end of the meeting. Mr. Alan Pinter was elected Chairman of the meeting of the Signatories and Mr. Valery Kukosh (Russian Federation) and Mr. Alan Davis (United Kingdom) were elected Vice-Chairmen.

11. They will remain in office until the end of the second meeting of the Signatories, which was tentatively scheduled for late 2002 or early 2003.

II. REPORT BY THE JOINT SECRETARIAT ON PROGRESS SINCE THE ADOPTION OF THE PROTOCOL

12. The Meeting examined the note by the joint secretariat on progress since the adoption of the Protocol (MP.WAT/AC.2/2000/3 – EUR/ICP/5021651/3).

13. The following additional information was provided by countries: the initiation of a joint project on groundwater management between Hungary and Slovakia; the ongoing work on a pilot project to improve water supply in the Republic of Moldova carried out with the assistance of Denmark; the preparations for negotiation meetings of a protocol on strategic environmental assessment to the Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context; and preparations by the Russian Federation for the Fifth International Congress and Trade Fair “ECWATECH-2002” (Moscow, 4-7 June 2002).

14. The Meeting also considered the actions that it or its officers could undertake to speed up the ratification process so that the first meeting of the Parties to the Protocol could take place in 2003 in conjunction with the third meeting of the Parties to the Convention. The following suggestions in particular were made:

(a) Use of the Internet, e.g. by creating a joint ECE/WHO Web site to keep countries and organizations abreast of developments under the Protocol;

(b) Translation of the Protocol into national languages and possible assistance through the joint secretariat;

(c) Organization of country or subregional seminars/workshops on the Protocol and possible assistance by the ECE Regional Adviser at the written request of countries in transition;

(d) The drawing-up, by the joint secretariat, of a list of focal points under the Protocol;

(e) Establishment and updating, by the joint secretariat, of an inventory of knowledge and skills on the implementation of the Protocol, which would inform the Signatories about “expertise offered by countries and organizations” and “expertise required by countries” on the various provisions of the Protocol, particularly those in articles 6 and 8.

15. The Meeting also examined a preliminary report by the joint secretariat on the evaluation of the questionnaires on the implementation of the Protocol by countries (see document MP.WAT/AC.2/2000/3 - EUR/ICP/5021651/3, annex I, chapter I) which was circulated among the participants.

16. On the prevention of water-related diseases, the following preliminary conclusions were drawn from the country replies:

(a) Measures aimed at protecting the resource would need to be strengthened; procedures that allow the assessment of resource protection plans need to be formulated and tested;

(b) The roles of agencies other than the Ministries of Health and the Ministries of the Environment needed to be recognized, particularly their roles in the implementation of the Protocol;

(c) Decentralized water supply needed to be recognized as a special area of concern in meeting the goals of the Protocol;

(d) Efforts to improve sanitation, particularly in the eastern part of the region, needed to be strengthened.

17. As concerns the detection of water-related diseases, a substantial basis existed for monitoring these diseases, but:

(a) No comparative study seemed to exist on the system of monitoring, through national health services, general practitioners etc., on a pan-European basis, so that there was no exchange of experience, and no standardization in the reporting techniques. The latter could be especially important in the case of transboundary rivers;

(b) The same was true of systems of data analysis and data reporting;

(c) The evaluation and harmonization of the monitoring and data interpretation of the existing systems seemed to be important prerequisites for the implementation of the provisions under article 7 of the Protocol.

18. Contingency planning was an essential prerequisite to meet the demands of the Protocol, yet is seemed to be an area where the most work remained to be done. Attention would need to be paid to:

- (a) Developing contingency planning, particularly at the local level;
- (b) Increasing capabilities to implement contingency plans, especially at the local level;
- (c) Ensuring appropriate cooperation with other departments tasked with overall contingency planning.

19. The Meeting of the Signatories:

- (a) Took note of the report of the joint secretariat (MP.WAT/AC.2/2000/3 - EUR/ICP/5021651/3);
- (b) Agreed to bear this report in mind when finalizing the work plan on the basis of the draft as contained in document MP.WAT/AC.2/2000/4 - EUR/ICP/5021651/4;
- (c) Agreed that the measures set out in paragraph 14 above should be undertaken by countries and the joint secretariat, respectively, to facilitate the ratification process;
- (d) Welcomed the questionnaire to review and assess progress; invited countries, if they had not already done so, to submit their replies to the joint secretariat by 31 December 2000 at the latest; and requested the joint secretariat to issue an updated report on the evaluation of the questionnaire.

III. PROBLEMS AND SUCCESSES IN IMPLEMENTING ACTION REQUIRED BY THE PROTOCOL AND PRIORITIES FOR FUTURE ACTION

20. The Chairman of the Meeting of the Parties to the Water Convention, Mr. Carel de Villeneuve (Netherlands), addressed the participants and shared with them the experience gained during the ratification process of the Convention and the implementation of the Convention's work plan. He also addressed the possible input of the Convention's Working Groups on Legal and Administrative Aspects, on Water Management, on Monitoring and Assessment, and on Water and Health to facilitate the implementation of the Protocol.

21. Representatives of Azerbaijan, Belgium, Czech Republic, Finland, Georgia, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Slovakia, Sweden, Switzerland, Ukraine and Uzbekistan reported on the steps that they had taken to implement the Protocol and to strive for its early entry into force. This country information, supplemented by the information from the NGOs Mama-86 and Perzent, focused on the following issues: the development of national reporting systems on the Protocol's provisions; local and national systems to report on outbreaks of water-related diseases; the preparation and adoption of new national laws and regulations covering water-

related diseases; the implementation of the Directive of the European Parliament and of the Council of September 2000 establishing a framework for Community action in the field of water policy (EU Water Framework Directive) and other directives covering water-and-health issues and the need to scrutinize their links with the Protocol; the link between existing bilateral agreements on transboundary waters and the new requirements of the Protocol; the establishment of cooperation agreements between the health, water, environment and other relevant ministries and authorities to implement the Protocol's provisions at the national and local levels.

22. Countries also reported on their plans and approaches to cut losses from the supply network; to replace the obsolete supply network (e.g. lead pipes); to increase the population proportions served by collective systems of drinking-water supply and sanitation; and to tackle supply and sanitation problems in rural areas.

23. Some countries in transition raised the need for training of staff of the water-supply and sanitation services, and the need for better education and training on health risk assessment. Other countries in transition reported on the inadequacy of their systems to monitor heavy metals and pesticides in drinking water due to the lack of equipment and chemicals, and insufficiently trained staff; and the high rates of outbreaks of water-related diseases due to insufficiently treated waste waters and/or pollution of inland waters by mining and manufacturing industries.

24. Countries also reported on the status of their ratification of the Protocol. Following this information, some 10 ratifications may be expected by the end of 2001, and a total of 20 ratifications by mid-2003. Consequently, the Protocol could enter into force in early 2003.

25. The Meeting of the Signatories:

(a) Decided to take these statements into account when considering the various other agenda items, in particular the 2000-2003 work plan;

(b) Called upon countries which had not yet ratified the Protocol to do so as soon as possible so that the first meeting of the Protocol's Parties could be held in 2003.

IV. DEVELOPMENT OF PRINCIPLES FOR GUIDELINES ON NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL SURVEILLANCE, EARLY-WARNING AND NOTIFICATION SYSTEMS

26. The lead country, Hungary, prepared together with the Netherlands and the United Kingdom a background note on important issues to be addressed in developing national surveillance, early-warning and notification systems, and presented ideas for international cooperation. The note was based on article 4, paragraph 2 (e), of the Protocol, which obliged the Parties to ensure effective systems for monitoring situations likely to result in outbreaks or incidents of water-related diseases and for responding to such outbreaks and incidents and their risks. Follow-up activities should aim at:

- (a) Establishing or improving existing health surveillance systems for detecting water-related adverse health effects;
- (b) Developing a reporting system using regular information on infectious diseases and sporadic adverse health effects;
- (c) Establishing appropriate information systems for recording, assessing and managing hazards;
- (d) Promoting the dissemination of information, ensuring public participation in water-related issues.

27. Issues raised during the discussion included the need for establishing close links between clinical and chemical data as well as information on animal and human health; the setting-up of notification systems to report on infectious diseases once a very small number of people were affected; the different approaches to reporting on contamination of water by biological agents and its acute health effects as compared to chemical contamination and its long-term effects; and the need for issuing reliable information to the public on the contamination of waters and the possible health effects.

28. Participants also stressed that surveillance and notification should not be limited to obligations of doctors and other medical staff. A comprehensive surveillance, early-warning and notification system should be able to detect contaminants and prevent them from entering the distribution system (e.g. shutdown of raw water intakes), to detect and notify about contamination of the sources of drinking-water supply, and detect and notify about health-relevant water pollutants in the whole catchment area.

29. Risk assessment and management inside the network was an additional issue to be taken into account. Experience could be derived, for example, from the practice in the United Kingdom, where national law required operators of centralized water distribution systems to notify public health authorities of each and every incident occurring in the network so that the public authority could impose a number of measures, such as notify the public and distribute bottled water.

30. The Meeting of the Signatories:

- (a) Took note of the background paper by Hungary, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom which was distributed to the participants;
- (b) Agreed on the drawing-up of guidelines on surveillance, early-warning and notification systems as set out in programme element 4.1.1 (annex).

V. PRIORITIES FOR ACTION TO ASSESS HEALTH RISKS

31. The delegation of Italy informed the Meeting about the discussion at the extraordinary meeting of the European Environment and Health Committee (EEHC), Vienna, 13-14 April 2000, which had resulted in a pilot project to develop and test an evidence-based methodology for the rapid assessment of environment and health risks in the lower Danube basin. It was being carried out as a joint initiative of Italy and WHO/EURO in cooperation with UN/ECE.

32. The Meeting exchanged views on priorities for action, including promoting the involvement of the health community (doctors, hospitals, etc.) in the process as well as mechanisms for evaluating health risks from chemical, microbiological and physical (floods) sources. There was a need to link further work with activities under the Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context which should be done in the light of the expected outcome of the workshop on environmental impact assessment and public information (Szentendre, Hungary, 23-24 November 2000). Moreover, geographic specification was extremely important for proper risk assessment. Therefore, data should not only be compiled regarding mortality and morbidity, but also regarding their geographic contexts and socio-economic conditions.

33. The Meeting of the Signatories:

(a) Took note of the information by Italy on the ongoing pilot project;

(b) Agreed on the drawing-up of guidelines on assessing health risks to be addressed under the Protocol as set out in programme element 4.1.2 (annex).

VI. FACILITATING ACCESS TO SOURCES OF FINANCE, THROUGH IMPROVING THE FORMULATION OF PROGRAMMES AND PROJECTS

34. The Meeting took note of the information by the Russian Federation on experience gained with the preparation and implementation of pilot projects on monitoring and assessment of transboundary waters under the Tacis programme of the European Union and carried out under the Convention's Working Group on Monitoring and Assessment. The Meeting also noted the information by Finland about assistance programmes at the pan-European level (i.e. the Project Preparation Committee (PPC) established under the "Environment for Europe" process); the subregional level (e.g. cooperation in the Baltic and Arctic regions); and the country level (e.g. cooperation on water problems in the Leningrad oblast, Russian Federation, based on assistance by donor organizations and countries). As to the projects under PPC, other countries reported that, from a total of 92 projects, 41 projects were on water supply and sanitation in major cities. However, there was none on water supply and sanitation in rural areas.

35. As the rural sector and small utilities seemed to attract less attention and assistance, the joint secretariat underlined a specific provision of the Protocol requiring the Parties to give due account to local problems, needs and knowledge (art. 5 (n)). It notified the Meeting that

information materials would be developed to increase awareness about the importance and the relevance of the Protocol to daily life in Europe.

36. The Meeting of the Signatories:

(a) Urged countries to brief the representatives of the existing frameworks of financial assistance programmes (e.g. at meetings of PPC) about the Protocol's provisions and their requirements for assistance under the Protocol;

(b) Recognized the need to examine the implementation of the Protocol and financial requirements also within the context of the Environmental Performance Reviews carried out under the auspices of the UN/ECE Committee on Environmental Policy and in the context of the National Environment and Health Action Plans to be implemented under the auspices of the European Environment and Health Committee;

(c) Requested the Working Group on Water and Health to examine ways and means of accessing and disseminating information on sources of finance (e.g. inventory of information sources under which donor organizations published projects of relevance to the Protocol; liaison with PPC).

VII. WORK PLAN

37. The Chairman informed the Meeting about the consultation of the Working Group on Water and Health, held on 3 and 4 April 2000 in Budapest, to prepare the Signatories' meeting, and encouraged delegations to nominate their experts for the Working Group on Water and Health (see document MP.WAT/AC.2/2000/4 - EUR/ICP/5021651/4, annex), which would have its first meeting in spring 2001. In addition to the obligations arising from the work plan, the first meeting of the Working Group would also commence work on a communication strategy, including proposals for a Web page of the joint secretariat (see paragraph 14 (a) above) and establish a schedule of its work based on its terms of reference (see ECE/MP.WAT/5, annex VI). Work will be coordinated with the European Environmental and Health Committee (EEHC).

38. The following delegations expressed their readiness to participate in the work of the open-ended Working Group on Water and Health: Hungary, Italy, Netherlands, Romania, Russian Federation, Ukraine, United Kingdom and NGO Perzent.

39. The Meeting of the Signatories:

(a) Considered the proposed programme elements for the extended 2000-2003 work plan, programme area IV "Water and human health" (MP.WAT/AC.2/2000/4 - EUR/ICP/5021651/4);

(b) Updated these programme elements in the light of the discussion on the relevant agenda items;

(c) Adopted its work plan for the 2000-2003 period (annex);

(d) Took note of the terms of reference of the Bureau of the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention (ECE/MP.WAT/5, annex VII), and recommend that the Bureau of the Meeting of the Parties should replace the elements of programme area IV of its work plan, as contained in annex II to document ECE/MP.WAT/5, with the new programme elements.

40. The Meeting also noted the various proposals by delegations on the implementation of specific elements of the work plan, and requested the Working Group to take these proposals into account:

(a) Cooperation should be sought with bodies responsible for the implementation of other ECE environmental conventions and appropriate interlinkages should be established (all programme elements);

(b) In addition to the traditional partners on surveillance, early-warning and notification systems (e.g. doctors, water-supply sector, river-basin authorities) other bodies, which were not usually included in the ECE and WHO work, might also bring in valuable experience. The joint secretariat should seek their assistance (programme element 4.1.1);

(c) In the implementation of programme elements, use should be made of expertise of the other Working Groups established under the Convention, for example, the Working Group on Legal and Administrative Aspects, under which legal as well as water and health experts could come together to implement programme elements 4.2.1 and 4.2.3 (a) and (b);

(d) Under programme element 4.2.2, the setting-up of an appropriate reporting system required careful consideration of the information needs at intergovernmental level (e.g. Meeting of the Parties) and other levels (e.g. national, local, transboundary), and the consideration of the most appropriate means of reporting (e.g. access to homepages of national and local authorities; design of indicators against which progress could be measured);

(e) When drawing up a guidance document on modalities for the participation of competent international governmental and non-governmental bodies in the work under the Protocol (programme element 4.2.3. (b)), modalities for inviting/participation of donor countries and organizations should be included.

VIII. OTHER BUSINESS

41. The discussion under this agenda item focused on the possible input of the Parties to the Convention and the Signatories to the Protocol to the Rio+10 process, including the meetings of the United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development.

42. The Meeting urged the Parties and Signatories to keep close contact with their national delegations preparing for and attending these meetings, and requested the joint secretariat to

establish links with the United Nations body/bodies responsible for these events, so that the global community could be made aware of the achievements under the Protocol and the Water Convention. This also included participation in the meeting to evaluate achievements under chapter 18 of Agenda 21, scheduled to be held in Bonn (Germany) in December 2001.

43. The Meeting took note of the information by the Chairman of the Meeting of the Parties that the Working Group on Water Management would prepare the Convention's input to the assessment of achievements under chapter 18 of Agenda 21 at its next meeting scheduled to take place in the Netherlands in autumn 2001. It also stressed the need for involving the joint secretariat in the preparations for the Bonn meeting.

IX. REPORT OF THE MEETING

44. Following the practice of the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention, the Meeting of the Signatories entrusted its officers with adopting on its behalf the report to be drawn up by the joint secretariat.

X. CLOSURE

45. The Meeting of the Signatories commended the joint secretariat and the Chairman for the excellent and productive work and the high quality of the documents.

46. On behalf of the participants, the delegation of the Russian Federation thanked the Government of Hungary for the excellent arrangements that had been made and for the cordial hospitality extended to them during the meeting.

Annex

**WORK PLAN UNDER THE PROTOCOL
UPDATING PROGRAMME AREA IV ON WATER AND HUMAN HEALTH
OF THE 2000-2003 WORK PLAN UNDER THE CONVENTION**

PROGRAMME AREA IV: WATER AND HUMAN HEALTH

Responsible body: Working Group on Water and Health, with Hungary as lead Party.

Rationale: The focus of programme area IV is on the interim implementation of the Protocol on Water and Health pending its entry into force. The activities will promote sustainable water supply and management in cities and rural areas, the rehabilitation of defective water-supply and sewage systems, and the minimization of the adverse impact of human activities (e.g. wastewater discharges, water resources development projects) on human health and safety. The programme area also aims at reducing health problems and diseases due to poor water quality. Soft-law instruments and methodologies will be developed. Human resources development and institutional capacity building, for example through workshops, training courses and pilot programmes or projects, are also foreseen. The work-plan elements included in this programme area were updated in the light of the decisions taken by the Signatories to the Protocol at their first meeting (Budapest, 2-3 November 2000).

Main partners: UN/ECE, WHO/EURO, UNEP, UNDP, European Commission, European Environment and Health Committee (EEHC) and relevant NGOs.

4.1 Protocol on Water and Health: interim implementation

Objectives: The Parties to the Convention and the Signatories to the Protocol on Water and Health will implement relevant provisions of the Protocol pending its entry into force. The International Water Assessment Centre (IWAC) established under the Convention will assist, as appropriate, in the implementation of the programme element.

Work accomplished: Protocol on Water and Health to the 1992 Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes, adopted in London on 17 June 1999. Conference on sustainable water management and health, held during the Fourth International Congress and Trade Fair "ECWATECH-2000" (Moscow, 1 June 2000).

4.1.1 Surveillance, early-warning and notification systems

Work to be undertaken: Based on the outcome of the discussion of the Signatories at their first meeting, the Working Group on Water and Health will draw up draft guidelines –

on good practices in national and international surveillance, early-warning and notification systems for consideration by the Parties to the Protocol at their first meeting.

Lead Party/Signatory: Hungary. a/

4.1.2 Assessing health risks to be addressed under the Protocol

Work to be undertaken: Based on the outcome of the discussion of the Signatories at their first meeting, the Working Group on Water and Health will draw up draft guidelines on assessing health risks from chemical, microbiological and physical (floods) sources for consideration by the Parties to the Protocol at their first meeting.

Lead Party/Signatory: Italy.

4.1.3 Facilitating access to sources of finance, through improving the formulation of programmes and projects

Work to be undertaken: The Working Group on Water and Health will examine ways and means of accessing and disseminating information on sources of finance (e.g. inventory of information sources under which donor organizations publish projects of relevance to the Protocol; liaison with the Project Preparation Committee (PPC) established under the “Environment for Europe” process.

Lead Party/Signatory: None. To be implemented by the joint secretariat with the assistance of an ad hoc expert group.

4.1.4 Workshops on sustainable water management and health

Work to be undertaken: Preparation and development of international workshops and other events, including the ECWATECH-2002 Conference on sustainable water management and health, and preparation of follow-up activities for consideration by the Bureau.

a/ In line with the other parts of the 2000-2003 work plan under the Convention, reference is made to a lead country (which is either a Party to the Convention or a Signatory to the Protocol). At their first meeting, the Signatories agreed, however, that countries that took over responsibility under the programme elements in programme area IV were acting as “driving forces” rather than lead countries.

Lead Party/Signatory: Russian Federation for the Conference to be held on the occasion of ECWATECH-2002.

4.2 Preparations for the first meeting of the Parties

Objectives: The Parties to the Convention and the Signatories to the Protocol on Water and Health will prepare the first meeting of the Parties to the Protocol.

Work accomplished: Geneva Strategy and Framework for Monitoring Compliance with Agreements on Transboundary Waters (MP.WAT/2000/4, 5 and Add.1).

4.2.1 Arrangements for the preparation of meeting documents on compliance review

Work to be undertaken: The Working Group on Water and Health assisted by the Working Group on Legal and Administrative Aspects will draw up multilateral arrangements of a non-confrontational, non-judicial and consultative nature for reviewing compliance with the provisions of the Protocol for consideration by the Parties to the Protocol at their first meeting. Use will be made, as appropriate, of the work undertaken by a group of invited experts (led by the Netherlands and assisted by the UN/ECE secretariat and the UNEP Regional Office for Europe) who have drawn up the Geneva Strategy and Framework for Monitoring Compliance with Agreements on Transboundary Waters (MP.WAT/2000/4, 5 and Add.1).

Lead Party/Signatory: Hungary.

4.2.2 Arrangements for the preparation of meeting documents on reporting

Work to be undertaken: Article 16, paragraph 3 (b), of the Protocol requests the Parties to evaluate progress in implementing the Protocol on the basis of information provided by the Parties in accordance with guidelines established by the Meeting of the Parties. Such guidelines shall avoid duplication of effort in reporting requirements. The Working Group on Water and Health will draw up a draft guidance document on reporting following the relevant provisions of the Protocol, particularly those of articles 6 and 7.

Lead Party/Signatory: United Kingdom.

4.2.3 Arrangements for the preparation of other meeting documents

Work to be undertaken: On the basis of drafts to be prepared by the joint secretariat, the Working Group on Water and Health will finalize the following documents for consideration by the

Parties to the Protocol at their first meeting: (a) draft rules of procedure for the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol; (b) draft guidance document on modalities for the participation of competent international governmental and non-governmental bodies in all meetings and other

activities pertinent to the achievement of the purposes of the Protocol (art. 16, para. 3 (f)); (c) draft guidance document on priority of work under the Protocol; and (d) a draft declaration of the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol. Other meeting documents will be drawn up, if need be.

Lead Party/Signatory: None. To be implemented by the joint secretariat with the assistance of the Chairperson of the Working Group on Legal and Administrative Aspects (Greece) and the Chairperson of the Working Group on Water and Health (Hungary).--