Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol on Water and Health to the Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes

Working Group on Water and Health

Ninth meeting
Geneva, 29 and 30 June 2016
Item 1 of the provisional agenda
Adoption of the agenda

Annotated provisional agenda for the ninth meeting

To be held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva, starting on Wednesday, 29 June 2016, at 10 a.m.*

I. Provisional agenda

1. Adoption of the agenda.
2. Progress in the ratification process.
3. Setting targets, implementing measures and reporting under the Protocol:
   (a) Setting targets and implementing measures;
   (b) Third reporting exercise.

* In accordance with United Nations accreditation procedures, participants are requested to complete the online registration procedure available on the web page for the ninth meeting (http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=41704) as soon as possible, but not later than 15 June 2016. On their way to the meeting, delegates 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 the map on the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe website: www.unece.org/meetings/practical.htm). In case of difficulty, please contact the secretariat by telephone at +41 22 917 2596.
4. Prevention and reduction of water-related diseases:
   (a) Water-related disease surveillance;
   (b) Drinking water quality surveillance;
   (c) Water, sanitation and hygiene in schools.
5. Small-scale water supplies and sanitation.
6. Safe and efficient management of water supply and sanitation systems.
7. Equitable access to water and sanitation.
8. Assistance to support implementation at the national level.
11. Programme of work for 2017–2019, terms of reference for the bodies established to implement it and resources needed for its implementation.
12. Preparations for the fourth session of the Meeting of the Parties.
14. Other business.
15. Date and venue of the tenth meeting.
16. Closure of the meeting.

II. Annotations

1. The main objectives of the ninth meeting of the Working Group on Water and Health under the Protocol on Water and Health to the Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes are to review the implementation of the programme of work for the period 2014–2016 (ECE/MP.WH/11/Add.1–EUDCE/1206123/3.1/2013/MOP-3/06/Add.1), adopted at the third session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol (Oslo, 25–27 November 2013), and to discuss the draft programme of work for 2017–2019 (ECE/MP.WH/WG.1/2016/3–EUDCE/1206123/3.1/2016/WGWH/09), as well as the preparations for the fourth session of the Meeting of the Parties (Geneva, 14–16 November 2016).
2. The meeting will begin on Wednesday, 29 June 2016, at 10 a.m. and will close on Thursday, 30 June 2016, at 5.30 p.m. It will be held back to back with the thirteenth meeting of the Protocol’s Compliance Committee (Geneva, 27–28 June 2016) and the sixteenth meeting of the Bureau (Geneva, 1 July 2016).
3. The working languages of the meeting will be English, French and Russian.
4. All relevant documentation for the meeting of the Working Group will be available online on the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) website.\(^1\)

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\(^1\) See www.unece.org/index.php?id=41704.
1. **Adoption of the agenda**

   *Tentative timing: Wednesday, 29 June, 10–10.05 a.m.*

5. The Chair of the Working Group on Water and Health will open the meeting and welcome participants. The Working Group is expected to adopt its agenda as set out in the present document.

2. **Progress in the ratification process**

   *Tentative timing: Wednesday, 29 June, 10.05–10.30 a.m.*

6. As of 6 April 2016, the following 26 countries are Parties to the Protocol on Water and Health: Albania, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Czech Republic, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Serbia, Slovakia, Spain, Switzerland and Ukraine. There have been no changes in membership since the third session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol.

7. Representatives of signatories and other States not yet party to the Protocol will be invited to report on any recent or anticipated developments in their respective countries with respect to becoming a Party to the Protocol.

3. **Setting targets, implementing measures and reporting under the Protocol**

   *Tentative timing: Wednesday, 29 June, 10.30 a.m.–1 p.m.*

   (a) **Setting targets and implementing measures**

8. The Chair of the Task Force on Target Setting and Reporting will invite the members of the Working Group to report on significant developments in the target-setting process in their countries.

9. The Chair of the Task Force will report on the outcomes of the Workshop on collecting good practices on target setting and reporting (Geneva, 8–9 March 2016) and the progress in preparing the collection of good practices and lessons learned, based on the experience of Parties and non-Parties in setting and implementing targets and reporting in accordance with the Protocol. The Working Group will be invited to discuss the document and agree on the next steps for its submission to the Meeting of the Parties at its fourth session.

10. Representatives of Romania and Switzerland, lead Parties for programme area 1 on “setting targets and implementing measures: capacity-building, exchange of experience and networking”, will introduce suggested future work in this programme area for the period 2017–2019. The Working Group will discuss the proposed activities.

   (b) **Third reporting exercise**

11. The secretariat will report on the status of submission of national summary reports in the third reporting exercise, for which the deadline is 18 April 2016. The secretariat will report with respect to, inter alia, the timeliness and completeness of the reports and their consistency with the revised template for summary reports (ECE/MP.WH/WG.1/2016/L.1–EUDCE/1408105/L.10/2015/WGWH/08), recommended for use in the third reporting cycle by the Working Group on Water at its eighth meeting (Geneva, 21–22 October 2015).
12. The Working Group will review the preliminary findings from the analysis of the summary reports submitted by Parties and non-Parties and the status of preparation of the regional report on the implementation of the Protocol. The Working Group will comment on the information provided and advise the secretariat regarding the completion of the document and its submission to the Meeting of the Parties at its fourth session as an official pre-session document.


14. The joint secretariat will also inform the Working Group about the latest developments in the global framework for monitoring of the Sustainable Development Goals pertinent to water, sanitation and hygiene.

15. The Chair of the Task Force on Target Setting and Reporting will introduce the draft revised template for summary reports to come into effect for the fourth reporting cycle, which was prepared by the informal review group under the Task Force and endorsed by the Bureau. The Working Group will be invited to review and endorse the draft revised template for its submission to the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol at its fourth session for adoption.

Documentation

Programme of work for 2014–2016 (ECE/MP.WH/11/Add.1–EUDCE/1206123/3.1/2013/MOP-3/06/Add.1)


Guidelines on the Setting of Targets, Evaluation of Progress and Reporting

Draft revised template for summary reports in accordance with article 7 (ECE/MP.WH/WG.1/2015/L.1–EUDCE/1408105/1.10/2015/WGWH/08)

Draft template for summary reports in accordance with article 7 for the fourth reporting cycle and beyond (ECE/MP.WH/WG.1/2016/4–EUPCR/1611921/2.1/2016/WGWH/08)

Informal document

Draft collection of good practices and lessons learned on target setting and reporting

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4. Prevention and reduction of water-related diseases

_Tentative timing: Wednesday, 29 June, 3–4.30 p.m._

(a) Water-related disease surveillance

16. Representatives of Belarus and Norway, lead Parties for programme area 2.1 on strengthening water-related disease surveillance, outbreak detection and management, will inform the Working Group about the progress of work in this area. The update will address in particular the outcomes of the needs assessment and capacity-building workshops on water-related disease surveillance carried out in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (Skopje, 9–10 March 2016) and the Czech Republic (Prague, 30–31 May 2016).

17. Representatives of Belarus and Norway, together with the WHO/Europe secretariat, will update the Working Group on the finalization of the literature review on the situation of water-related diseases and outbreaks in the WHO European Region. The Working Group will be invited to endorse the submission of this document as a publication for adoption at the fourth session of the Meeting of the Parties.

18. Representatives of Belarus and Norway will introduce suggested future work in this programme area for the period 2017–2019. The Working Group will discuss the proposed activities.

(b) Drinking water quality surveillance

19. Representatives of Belarus and Norway, lead Parties for programme area 2.3 on supporting cost-effective drinking water quality surveillance, will report on the progress of work, in particular the scope and annotated outline of a practical guidance document on risk-based and resource-effective drinking water quality surveillance. The Working Group will be invited to comment on the outline and key elements of the proposed document.

20. Representatives of Belarus and Norway will introduce suggested future work in this programme area for the period 2017–2019. The Working Group will discuss the proposed activities.

(c) Water, sanitation and hygiene in schools

21. Representatives of Georgia and Hungary, lead countries for programme area 2.4 on strengthening water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) in schools, will report on the progress of work, in particular the main outcomes of the expert consultation on WASH in schools (Bonn, 9 February 2016), the finalization of the landscape review report on WASH in schools in the WHO European Region and an advocacy document for decision makers. The Working Group will be invited to endorse the submission of these documents as publications for adoption by the Meeting of the Parties at its fourth session.

22. The Working Group will be briefed on the main outcomes of the WASH in schools project implemented by the European Environment and Health Youth Coalition, and further plans in support of the Protocol work on WASH in schools.

23. Representatives of Georgia and Hungary will introduce suggested future work in this programme area for the period 2017–2019. The Working Group will discuss the proposed activities.

3 The ECE region includes all the countries of the WHO European Region plus Canada, Liechtenstein and the United States of America. References to the pan-European region in this document refer to the combined ECE and WHO European regions.
5. Small-scale water supplies and sanitation

Tentative timing: Wednesday, 29 June, 4.30–5.15 p.m.

24. Representatives of Germany, Serbia and the non-governmental organization Women in Europe for a Common Future, the lead Parties and organization for programme area 3 on small-scale water supplies and sanitation, will inform the Working Group about the achievements made in this area, in particular the finalization of the report based on the survey of small-scale water supplies in the pan-European region and the good practice document for policymakers. The Working Group will be invited to endorse the submission of these documents as publications for adoption by the Meeting of the Parties at its fourth session.

25. The Working Group will be briefed about outcomes of the national consultation in Armenia (Yerevan, 15 December 2015) and the status of preparation of the national capacity-building workshop in Albania (planned for the third quarter of 2016), both aimed at developing a better understanding of the country situations and the needs for improving small-scale water supply and sanitation.

26. Representatives of Germany, Serbia and Women in Europe for a Common Future will introduce suggested future work in this programme area for the period 2017–2019. The Working Group will discuss the proposed activities.

Documentation

Programme of work for 2014–2016 (ECE/MP.WH/11/Add.1–EUDCE/1206123/3.1/2013/MOP-3/06/Add.1)


Informal documents

Status of small-scale water supplies in the WHO European Region: results of a survey conducted under the Protocol on Water and Health (final draft)
Small-scale water supply and sanitation systems in the WHO European Region: Good practices for policymakers (final draft)

6. **Safe and efficient management of water supply and sanitation systems**

*Tentative timing: Wednesday, 29 June, 5.15–6 p.m.*

27. The WHO/Europe secretariat will inform the Working Group about the progress made in programme area 4 on safe and efficient management of water supply and sanitation systems, in particular the results of the in-country capacity-building workshop on water safety plans in the Republic of Moldova (Chisinau, 5–6 November 2015), as well as challenges encountered in the implementation of the planned activities.

28. The Working Group will be informed about the suggested future work in this programme area for the period 2017–2019. The Working Group will discuss the proposed activities.

**Documentation**

Programme of work for 2014–2016 (ECE/MP.WH/11/Add.1–EUDCE/1206123/3.1/2013/MOP-3/06/Add.1)


7. **Equitable access to water and sanitation**

*Tentative timing: Thursday, 30 June, 9.30–10.15 a.m.*

29. Representatives of France and Hungary, lead Parties for programme area 5 on equitable access to water and sanitation, will present on the progress of work, in particular the outcomes of the “Regional workshop on achieving equitable access to water and sanitation: from assessment to action” (Geneva, 21–22 March 2016).

30. Representatives from Armenia, Azerbaijan, Hungary and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia will report on progress made in assessing equity of access to water and sanitation in their countries. The Working Group will also be informed about progress made by countries in taking action for the improvement of equitable access.

31. The Working Group will be invited to comment on the draft strategic note on the development of action plans to ensure equitable access to water and sanitation and agree on the next steps for its finalization, with a view to submitting it to the Meeting of the Parties at its fourth session for consideration and adoption.

32. Representatives of France and Hungary will introduce suggested future work in this programme area for the period 2017–2019. The Working Group will discuss the proposed activities.

**Documentation**

Programme of work for 2014–2016 (ECE/MP.WH/11/Add.1–EUDCE/1206123/3.1/2013/MOP-3/06/Add.1)

The Equitable Access Score-card: Supporting policy processes to achieve the human right to water and sanitation (ECE/MP.WH/8)

Informal document
Draft strategic note on the development of action plans to ensure equitable access to water and sanitation

8. Assistance to support implementation at the national level

Tentative timing: Thursday, 30 June, 10.15–10.45 a.m.

33. The ECE secretariat will inform the Working Group about the support for implementation of the Protocol at the national level provided by the ECE-led National Policy Dialogues on Integrated Water Resources Management, operated under the European Union Water Initiative in countries of Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia.

34. The joint secretariat will update the Working Group about the progress in the implementation of the project to support implementation of national targets in Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan, as well as the proposed project on scaling-up water safety plans in Tajikistan, supported by the Programme for Finland’s Water Sector Support to Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan (2014–2017).

Documentation
Programme of work for 2014–2016 (ECE/MP.WH/11/Add.1–EUDCE/1206123/3.1/2013/MOP-3/06/Add.1)

9. Compliance procedure

Tentative timing: Thursday, 30 June, 10.45–11.15 a.m.

35. The Chair of the Compliance Committee under the Protocol will report on the outcomes of the Committee’s thirteenth meeting (Geneva, 27–28 June 2016) and on the status of preparation of the Committee’s report to the Meeting of the Parties for submission to its fourth session.

Documentation
Decision III/1 on general issues of compliance (ECE/MP.WH/11/Add.2–EUDCE/1206123/3.1/2013/MOP-3/06/Add.2)


Tentative timing: Thursday, 30 June, 11.15 a.m.–12 p.m.

36. On the basis of the discussion under previous agenda items, the Working Group will review progress made with regard to the implementation of the Protocol’s programme of work for 2014–2016 and will entrust its Chair, the Chair of the Task Force on Target
Setting and Reporting as well as the lead countries and organizations for different activities, with the assistance of the joint secretariat, to prepare a report on the progress achieved for submission to the Meeting of the Parties at its fourth session.

Documentation
Programme of work for 2014–2016 (ECE/MP.WH/11/Add.1–EUDCE/1206123/3.1/2013/MOP-3/06/Add.1)

11. Programme of work for 2017–2019, terms of reference for the bodies established to implement it and resources needed for its implementation

Tentative timing: Thursday, 30 June, 12–12.30 p.m. and 2.30–4 p.m.

37. On the basis of the draft programme of work for 2017–2019 prepared by the Bureau, and building on the outcomes of the Strategic workshop on future priorities under the Protocol on Water and Health (Geneva, 7–8 March 2016), as well as the discussions under previous agenda items, the Working Group will discuss and agree on future activities under the Protocol, including potential lead countries and partner organizations. When discussing the programme of work, the Working Group will also consider the resources needed for its implementation.

38. The Working Group will also discuss and agree on the future institutional structure under the Protocol and the mandates of the different subsidiary bodies to guide the implementation of the programme of work for 2017–2019.

39. The Chair of the Working Group will brief participants on financial matters, including the fundraising efforts undertaken by the Bureau. The Chair will also recall that at its third session, the Meeting of the Parties requested the Bureau to examine the possibilities for sustainable financing to support implementation of future programmes of work, to review decision I/5 on the financial arrangements to support the implementation of the Protocol and to present a draft decision in that regard for consideration at the next session of the Meeting of the Parties. The Bureau subsequently presented a proposal for a draft decision on a sustainable financing arrangement under the Protocol to the Working Group at its eighth meeting. However, following discussions at the eighth meeting of the Working Group and at the sixteenth meeting of the Bureau (Geneva, 10 March 2016) — and also taking into account the outcomes of similar processes to introduce sustainable financial mechanisms under other ECE multilateral environmental agreements — it was determined that there was not enough consensus at this stage to introduce a sustainable financial mechanism under the Protocol. The Bureau then decided to prepare an informal document, “Overview and consolidation of financial arrangements. The Working Group will take note of the informal document and discuss ways and means to attain the level of financial support needed to implement the Protocol’s programme of work for 2017–2019.

40. Representatives of Parties, non-Parties, relevant international organizations, non-governmental organizations and other partners will be invited to inform the meeting of their intention to contribute to the activities contained in the draft programme of work, inter alia, through financial and in-kind contributions and/or by becoming a partner in the implementation of specific programme areas.

41. The Working Group will agree on ways and means to finalize the draft programme of work for 2017–2019 for its submission to the Meeting of the Parties for adoption at its fourth session.
12. **Preparations for the fourth session of the Meeting of the Parties**

*Tentative timing: Thursday, 30 June, 4–4.55 p.m.*

42. A representative of Switzerland, host country for the fourth session of the Meeting of the Parties, and the joint secretariat will report on the logistical preparations for the meeting and the overall programme of events.

43. The Working Group will discuss the draft provisional agenda prepared by the joint secretariat in consultation with the Bureau, and advice the Bureau, the host country and the joint secretariat on further preparations, in particular:

   (a) The high-level segment or special session, including speakers and participation;
   
   (b) Side events, including possible themes and organizers;
   
   (c) The expected level of participation;
   
   (d) Promotion of the fourth session.

**Documentation**

*Informal documents*

Draft agenda of the fourth session of the Meeting of the Parties

List of documents for the fourth session of the Meeting of the Parties

13. **Preparations for the Sixth Ministerial Conference on Environment and Health**

*Tentative timing: Thursday, 30 June, 4.55–5.20 p.m.*

44. The WHO/Europe secretariat will inform the Working Group about the preparations for the Sixth Ministerial Conference on Environment and Health, including the road map towards formulating the ministerial declaration, the interlinkages with the Protocol on Water and Health and a possible new specific commitment on water and sanitation.

14. **Other business**

*Tentative timing: Thursday, 30 June, 5.20–5.25 p.m.*

45. Delegates wishing to propose points under this item are requested to inform the joint secretariat as soon as possible.
15. **Date and venue of the tenth meeting**

*Tentative timing: Thursday, 30 June, 5.25–5.30 p.m.*

46. The Working Group will set a tentative date and venue for its tenth meeting.

16. **Closure of the meeting**

47. The Chair will close the meeting at 5.30 p.m. on Thursday, 30 June 2016.