Background and objectives of the meeting

Chantal Demilecamps, co-secretariat of the Protocol on Water and Health, UNECE

4th Meeting of the Expert Group on Equitable Access
Budapest, 13-14 September 2018
Session 1
The Protocol key objectives:

(a) Access to drinking water for everyone
(b) Provision of sanitation for everyone

A specific focus on equitable access:

“Equitable access to water, adequate in terms both of quantity and of quality, should be provided for all members of the population, especially those who suffer a disadvantage or social exclusion” (art. 5)
Equitable access under the Protocol on Water and Health

A practical **instrument to progressively implement** the human rights to water and sanitation and contribute to SDGs implementation and other regional commitments:

-> Safety and equity
-> Implementation strategy
-> Monitoring
The Expert Group on Equitable Access to Water and Sanitation

- Improving equitable access to water and sanitation: a priority work area under the programme of work of the Protocol since 2007 (MOP1)
- Experts from countries, NGOs, IOs, private sector... exchanging knowledge and experiences and working together on the development of guidance
- Reporting progress to the Working Group on Water and Health and to the Meeting of the Parties
Activities on equitable access to water and sanitation

1. Setting the framework
2. Assessing the baseline situation
3. Defining action

Good practices
Assessment tool
Equitable Access Action Plan

1. Setting the framework

Good practices
Assessment tool
Equitable Access Action Plan
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Dimension</th>
<th>Inequities in access to water and sanitation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Geographical disparities:</strong></td>
<td>Certain areas of a country (rural areas, poor urban neighborhoods) have no physical access or have access of lower quality than other areas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>water resources, WSS infrastructure</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Social disparities:</strong></td>
<td>Within areas with good access, certain groups do not have access because they don’t have private facilities, the public and institutional facilities they rely on are not adequate, or suffer unintended or intended discrimination</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>vulnerable and marginalised groups</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Economic disparities:</strong></td>
<td>Within areas with good access, the water and sanitation bill represents too large a share of disposable income for some households</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>affordability issues</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Activities on equitable access to water and sanitation

1. Setting the framework

2. Assessing the baseline situation

3. Defining action

Good practices

Equitable Access Action Plan

Assessment tool
8 countries completed self-assessment of equitable access to water and sanitation, at various scales (national / regional / city):


Equitable access assessment ongoing in 2 countries (Azerbaijan and Serbia) and to start in Bulgaria

Better understanding of the equity challenges faced, awareness raised on equity gaps

Actions taken to address equity challenges in several countries, including through Equitable Access Action Plans
Capitalizing findings and lessons learnt from the work on equitable access

- A publication to:
  - Draw lessons from the organization of self-assessments
  - Identify impacts of the self-assessments (identification and implementation of actions) and success factors and main barriers
  - Lessons learnt from processes of developing Equitable Access Action Plans
  - Link to other processes, partners initiatives and international commitments implementation
  - A specific thematic focus – financing equitable access to water and sanitation?
Capitalizing findings and lessons learnt from the work on equitable access

* Proposed timeline
  - now: discussion with Expert Group (general approach, structure)
  - 15-16 November 2017: draft annotated outline for the 10th meeting of the Working Group on Water and Health (content, roadmap)
  - 5th Meeting of the Expert Group, focused on Financing (June 2018, tbc)
  - Draft publication discussed at 11th and 12th meetings of the Working Group on Water and Health (Nov 2018 & Jul. 2019, tbc)
  - Publication for adoption at the 5th session of the Meeting of the Parties (November 2019, tbc)
Day 1
Session 1 – Background and objectives of the meeting
Session 2 – New experiences applying the Equitable Access Score-card: process, findings, lessons learnt, next steps
Session 3 – Lessons learnt in organizing Equitable Access Self-Assessments
Session 4 – Impacts of Equitable Access Self-Assessments
Day 2
Session 5 – First experiences developing Equitable Access Action plans
Session 6 – Financing equitable access to water and sanitation
Session 7 – Other relevant developments supporting equitable access to water and sanitation
Session 8 – Preparation for MOP 5