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NORWEGIAN MINISTRY OF
THE ENVIRONMENT



WHO/Europe

NATIONAL WORKSHOP ON THE PROTOCOL ON WATER AND HEALTH FOR KAZAKHSTAN

23 – 24 April 2014
BOROVOE, KAZAKHSTAN

Conclusions and recommendations

Introduction

The national workshop on the Protocol on Water and Health for Kazakhstan was organized on 23-24 April 2014 in Borovoe jointly by the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE), the Ministry of Environment and Water Resources of Kazakhstan and the WHO Regional Office for Europe. The workshop was financially supported by the Ministry of Environment of Norway. It was held back to back with the meeting of the Steering Committee of the National Policy Dialogue on Integrated Water Resources Management and Water Supply and Sanitation (NPD).

The workshop was attended by more than 30 participants representing key governmental agencies sharing responsibility in the water, sanitation and health domain, non-governmental organizations and academia. Experts from other member States of UNECE were also present to share their experience on the implementation of the Protocol in their countries. Chairs of the Bureau of the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol and the Compliance Committee also attended. The discussions were structured in the following sessions:

- Introduction to the Protocol on Water and Health and to its main obligations
- Sharing of experience on the setting of targets and targets dates
- Application of the Protocol in Kazakhstan
- Mechanisms and tools to support the Protocol on Water and Health

The workshop aimed at providing relevant national stakeholders in Kazakhstan with a detailed overview of the core provisions of the Protocol, its institutional structure and main areas of work. It also highlighted how Kazakhstan can benefit from accessing this multilateral legally binding agreement. Finally, the workshop reviewed and provided its recommendations with respect to the assessment conducted by a national expert group, which examined the legal, institutional and financial needs for the implementation of the Protocol in Kazakhstan.

Conclusions and recommendations

Based on the deliberations of the workshop and specifically in the light of the assessment study presented by the national expert group, established under the NPD Steering Committee,

the workshop recommended the following to the relevant governmental agencies and other national stakeholders:

- To initiate necessary procedures towards accession of Kazakhstan to the Protocol on Water and Health;
- To establish an interministerial body to coordinate and guide the process of accession to and implementation of the Protocol, including the target setting process. Such a body might be established under or by a decision of the NPD Steering Committee. The involvement and co-leadership of the Ministry of Health is crucial in the target setting process;
- To consider public involvement and participation, as appropriate, in the process of accession to the Protocol and in its further implementation by employing different means of public participation including consultation meetings;
- To nominate national focal points under the Protocol to coordinate the involvement of national experts in the subregional and regional activities organized under the Protocol.

The following priority areas that require further support to facilitate implementation of the Protocol in Kazakhstan were underlined:

- Organization and conduct of the process of target setting under the Protocol with the involvement of all relevant stakeholders;
- Provision of capacity building activities on the WHO water safety plan (WSP) approach , including possible twinning projects for water operators to enable uptake of WSPs in Kazakhstan;
- Provision of support for the improvement of surveillance of water-related diseases.

Recommendations of the workshop were endorsed at the meeting of the Steering Committee of NPD Kazakhstan following the workshop.
