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UNITED NATIONS ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

**WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION
REGIONAL OFFICE FOR EUROPE**

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

Working Group on Water and Health

Third meeting

Budapest, 11-12 March 2004

PROVISIONAL AGENDA FOR THE THIRD MEETING

to be held at the National Institute
for Environmental Health

1. Opening statements.
2. Adoption of the agenda.
3. Adoption of the report of the second meeting.
4. Progress in the ratification process.
5. Legal and administrative aspects of the Protocol's implementation.
6. Coordination of resource mobilization.
7. Technical meetings, methodological aspects and guidelines under the Protocol.
8. Activities of the United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development on water and sanitation.
9. Fourth Ministerial Conference on Environment and Health.
10. Further preparations for the first meeting of the Parties to the Protocol.
11. Election of officers.
12. Date and venue of the fourth meeting of the Working Group.
13. Other business.
14. Closure.

EXPLANATORY NOTES

The meeting of the Working Group on Water and Health will be held in Budapest at the invitation of the Government of Hungary (see the annex for the venue of the meeting and other contact information).

The Working Group meeting will start on 11 March 2004 at 9.30 hours and close on 12 March at 17 hours.

Dr Mihaly Kadar (Hungary), Head of the Division of Water Hygiene of the Institute of Environmental Health, and elected member of the Bureau of the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention, will chair the meeting.

The working language will be English and Russian.

Item 1: **Opening statements**

A representative of Hungary will open the meeting and make a statement on behalf of the host country. Representatives of the secretariat will also inform the Working Group about the outcome of the third meeting of the Parties to the Convention and relevant activities of the World Health Organization.

Item 2: **Adoption of the agenda**

The Working Group is expected to adopt its agenda as set out in the present document.

Item 3: **Adoption of the report of the second meeting**

The Working Group is expected to adopt the report of its second meeting (Budapest, 28-29 October 2002), published by the world Health Organization's Regional Office for Europe. The report can be downloaded from the web site of the Water Convention at:
<http://www.unece.org/env/documents/2002/wat/wg.4/reportsecondmeet.pdf>

Item 4: **Progress in the ratification process**

As of 31 January 2004, the following 11 countries have ratified the Protocol: Albania, Azerbaijan, Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Luxembourg, Norway, Romania, Russian Federation, Slovakia and Ukraine. Representatives from the other countries will report on the progress in the ratification process. Upon request by these delegations, the Working Group may wish to make arrangements for assistance in this process.

The Working Group will take this information into account when evaluating the opportunity of organizing the first meeting of the Parties to the Protocol in spring 2005 (see item 10 of the provisional agenda).

Item 5: Legal and administrative aspects of the Protocol's implementation

(a) Draft compliance review mechanism under the Protocol

The Working Group will examine a draft compliance review mechanisms (MP.WAT/WG.4/2004/2 - EUR/5047016/2004/2), prepared and updated by a consultant following the outcome of the second meeting of the Signatories to the Protocol (2-4 July 2003), and finalized by the secretariat. It may wish to invite the Legal Board, established by the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention, to assist in the further work.

(b) Draft rules of procedure

The second meeting of the Signatories, when considering draft rules of procedure (MP.WAT/AC.2/2003/4 - EUR/03/5041120/4), suggested amendments to them. These are compiled in a working paper, which will be before the third meeting of the Working Group for further consideration. The Working Group may wish to invite the Legal Board to assist in the further work.

(c) Draft modalities for participation of non-Parties

The Working Group will consider possible modalities for the participation non-Parties, such as competent international governmental and non-governmental bodies in all meetings and other activities pertinent to the achievements of the purposes of the Protocol. To facilitate the discussion, secretariat will circulate a working paper. The Working Group may wish to invite the Legal Board to assist in the further work.

Item 6: Coordination of resource mobilization

The delegation of Norway will inform the Working Group about possible ways and means of coordinated resource mobilization.

The Working Group will also evaluate the opportunity of establishing a trust fund under the Protocol or making contributions to the Water Convention's trust fund, taking into account the decisions of the third meeting of the Parties to the Convention.

Item 7: Technical meetings, methodological aspects and guidelines under the Protocol

(a) Preparation of the Conference on Enclosed Recreational Waters

The Working Group will assist the delegation of Hungary to make further preparations for the Conference, which will take place in Budapest on 11-12 May 2005.

(b) Development of distance learning programmes for public health professionals

The Working Group will make arrangements to assist the WHO Collaborating Centre for Health Promoting Water Management and Risk Communication (Bonn, Germany) in the further development of the distance learning programmes.

(c) Health risks of water stress mitigation measures

The Working Group will be informed by Italy about a possible new programme element of the work plan. It will assist Italy in the further elaboration of the programme element and its implementation.

(d) Guidance document on surveillance of water-related diseases

The Working Group will review the draft guidance document, drawn up by Hungary as lead country. It will make arrangements to further elaborate the document.

(e) Antibacteriological resistance spreading through drinking-water systems

The current use of antibiotics is growing, and much of the annual production passes through, but is not eliminated by, classic waste-water treatment stations thus ending up in nature where antibacteriological resistance is rising in naturally occurring aquatic organisms. Based on a contribution by a representative of the water works in the Rhine basin, the Working Group is invited to consider the need of addressing this issue as part of its work plan.

(f) ECWATECH-2004 and 2005 Conference “Clean Water in Russia”

The secretariat will inform the Working Group about arrangements made for the second workshop on sustainable water management and health to be held on the occasion of the Trade Fair and Conference “Water, Ecology and Technology: ECWATECH-2004” on 1 (p.m.) – 2 June 2004 in Moscow and possible preparations for a workshop to be held in conjunction with the 2005 conference “Clean Water in Russia” in Yekaterinburg, Russian Federation. The Working Group will assist the secretariat and the Russian Federation in the further elaboration of arrangements for these events.

Item 8: Activities of the United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development on water and sanitation

The secretariat will inform the Working Group about activities undertaken at the regional level to prepare for the 12th session of the Commission on Sustainable Development, which includes a review of achievements on water and sanitation since the Rio Conference, and the outcome of the Regional Implementation Forum (Geneva, 19-20 January 2004). The relevant documents can be downloaded from the web site at <http://www.unece.org/env> by selecting

[“Regional Implementation Forum, January 2004”](#). The Working Group is expected to take this information into account when discussing agenda items 9 and 10.

Item 9: Fourth Ministerial Conference on Environment and Health

The Working Group will prepare its contributions to the relevant agenda items of the Ministerial Conference (Budapest, 23-25 June 2004). This will include a proposal for a revised text of the draft Ministerial Declaration as well as documents related to the importance of water in children’s environment and health.

The Working Group will also make arrangements to prepare a statement on the achievements under the Protocol to be delivered during the Ministerial Conference.

Item 10: Further preparations for the first meeting of the Parties to the Protocol

Give the current ratification status, the Working Group will make arrangements to prepare for the first meeting of the Parties, which could take place in spring 2005. This may include the convening of consultations of Parties, once the Protocol has entered into force.

Item 11: Election of officers

The Working Group will elect its officers for the fourth meeting.

Item 12: Date and venue of fourth meeting of the Working Group

Following the outcome of the discussion under item 10, the Working Group will set the indicative dates for its fourth meeting.

Item 13: Other business

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

Item 14: Closure

A representative of the host country will close the meeting of Working Group on 12 March 2004 at 17 hours.

Annex

VENUE OF THE MEETING AND ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS

The meeting will take place at the National Institute for Environmental Health at the following address:

H-1097 Budapest, IX.
Gyáli út 2-6.

For help on organizational matters, the representative of the host country, can be contacted as follows:

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