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ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

**WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION
REGIONAL OFFICE FOR EUROPE**

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

First meeting
Geneva, 17–19 January 2007
Item 13 of the provisional agenda

**FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS
TO SUPPORT THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROTOCOL***

Draft decision proposed by the Working Group on Water and Health

1. The following draft decision was discussed and endorsed by the Working Group on Water and Health at its sixth meeting (Geneva, 31 May – 2 June 2006). The text was editorially revised by the joint secretariat to take into account United Nations and World Health Organization (WHO) financial rules.
2. The Meeting of the Parties may wish to formally adopt the draft decision on financial arrangements to support the implementation of the Protocol.

* This document was submitted on the above date to allow consultation within the joint secretariat.

DRAFT DECISION
FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS
TO SUPPORT THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROTOCOL

The Meeting of the Parties,

Recalling its adopted programme of work for 2007–2009,

Recognizing that effective implementation of the Protocol depends, *inter alia*, on the availability of sufficient financial and human resources,

Believing that the need for stable and predictable sources of funding and a fair sharing of the burden, transparency and accountability should be the guiding principles of any financial arrangements established under the Protocol,

Determined to ensure that the necessary resources are available for implementing the core elements of the work programme,

Believing that a voluntary scheme of contributions by Parties, Signatories, other States, regional economic integration organizations and other partners can provide an effective and workable solution in the short to medium term,

[*Recognizing* that, in the longer term, the levels of contributions should be based upon the United Nations scale of assessments or other appropriate scales, and that consideration should be given to establishing stable and predictable financial arrangements for the core elements of the programme of work,]

1. *Establishes* two funds for voluntary contributions from Parties, Signatories, other States, regional economic integration organizations and other partners to support the promotion and effective implementation of the Protocol. The United Nations Technical Cooperation Trust Fund will be managed by the UNECE secretariat in accordance with the established United Nations Financial Rules and Regulations. The Voluntary Fund will be managed by the WHO Regional Office for Europe (WHO-EURO) in accordance with WHO financial rules.

2. *Decides* that the two funds can be used, *inter alia*, for:

(a) Support for the participation of experts and representatives of countries in transition, especially the countries in South-Eastern Europe and in Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia, in the sessions of the Meeting of the Parties, in the meetings of its subsidiary bodies and in workshops, seminars, symposia and other informal forums organized within the framework of the Protocol (travel and/or daily subsistence allowance, as applicable);

(b) Technical support to Parties, particularly to countries in transition, for implementation of and compliance with the Protocol;

(c) Support for the participation of the joint secretariat in meetings of subsidiary bodies, workshops, seminars, symposia and other formal and informal forums related to the Protocol's activities;

(d) Joint secretariat costs involved in implementing the programme of work that are not covered by the regular budgets of UNECE and WHO-EURO;

(e) Specific consultants' fees and travel;

(f) The organization of activities to promote the Protocol in other regions;

(g) The preparation of publications, including editing, translation and printing costs.

3. *Recognizes* that voluntary contributions totaling an estimated [XXX]¹ USD are needed to cover the costs of activities under the programme of work 2007–2009, of which amount [XXX]¹ USD would cover core requirements and [XXX]¹ USD would cover the remaining requirements.

4. *Entrusts* the joint secretariat with matching requests for the use of the resources with contributions, taking into account the conditions set by donors, if any; arranging for the issuance of travel authorizations, tickets and vouchers, as appropriate; providing statements of account to donors, as appropriate; and reporting to the Meeting of the Parties on contributions to the funds and their use.

5. *Entrusts* the Working Group on Water and Health and the Bureau to overview the management of the funds, taking into account agreed priorities, and the Bureau to take appropriate action to raise resources.

6. *Invites* Parties, Signatories, other States, regional economic integration organizations and other partners in a position to do so to make voluntary contributions to the funds or in-kind contributions to support the programme of work, and thanks those Parties, Signatories, other States, regional economic integration organizations and other partners that have already promised to do so.

7. For resources managed through the UNECE trust fund, *endorses* the guiding principles for financial assistance to support the participation of experts and representatives from countries with economies in transition established and periodically updated by the Committee on Environmental Policy, while recognizing that the provision of any financial support is subject to the availability of resources.

8. *Agrees* to review the question of financial arrangements at its second meeting.

¹ To be completed in accordance with the adopted programme of work for 2007-2009.