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Sixth Working Group Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol on Water and Health, Programme Area 7: Public Awareness, Access to Information and Public Participation

Draft Guide on Public Participation Activity under the Programme of Work 2011 - 2013 by Romania and WECF

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Content

- Background
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Background

- Programme area 7 adopted at 2nd MOP in November 2010
- Establishment of expert group
- Support from Norway, Romania and WECF
- Cooperation with the Aarhus Convention's Task Force on Public Participation in Decision-Making
- Invitation for comments, submission to MOP for adoption in November 2013



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Objectives/Target Audience

- Assistance to Parties to comply with obligations related to pp
- Addresses public authorities to provide guidance in implementing pp under articles 6 and 7, also 9 and 10
- Assistance to Signatories and non-Parties to raise awareness and ensure public information
- Addresses the public, NGOs and representatives of civil society



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- Challenges provided basis for approach
- Guide – leading, directing and advising
- Concrete recommendations
- Tools, measures and steps (beyond required standards)
- Reference to existing guidance (in particular re Aarhus Convention)



Structure

- Foreword/Executive Summary/Introduction
- Part A: Cornerstones of pp
- Part B: PP under the Protocol – general aspects
- Part C: PP under specific provisions of the Protocol
- Part D: Tool box
- Balance: Text, case studies, tool box



Main Parts



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What is needed under the national framework?

- Awareness raising
- Identification of stakeholders/coordination mechanisms
- Cost, time and human resources

Specific Provisions under the Protocol

- Target setting (6.2) and water-management plan development (6.5): baseline analysis; notification; involvement of public; taking outcomes into account
- Reporting
- Internat. Coordination
- Compliance Committee



Main Part cont.



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Tool Box

Presentation of different tools to be used within specific steps of the process (identify, notify, inform, consult, take into consideration)



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Key Messages

- PP has to be applied during Protocol's implementation (art. 6.2, 6.5, 11 to 14 and 7.5)
- Stakeholder identification requires balanced approach and equal opportunities
- Cost, time and human resources are important factors
- Information provision lies within responsibility of public authorities
- Setting of time frames requires flexible approach
- "Taking into due account" is a legal obligation



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Thank you!

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