

The Ostrava Declaration on Environment and Health

WHO global strategy on health, environment and climate change

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5th session

Meeting of the Parties to the
Protocol on Water and Health

19-21 November | Belgrade | Serbia



6th Ministerial Conference on Environment & Health

Better Health. Better Environment. Sustainable Choices.

Ostrava, Czech Republic, 13-15 June 2017



Ministerial
Declaration

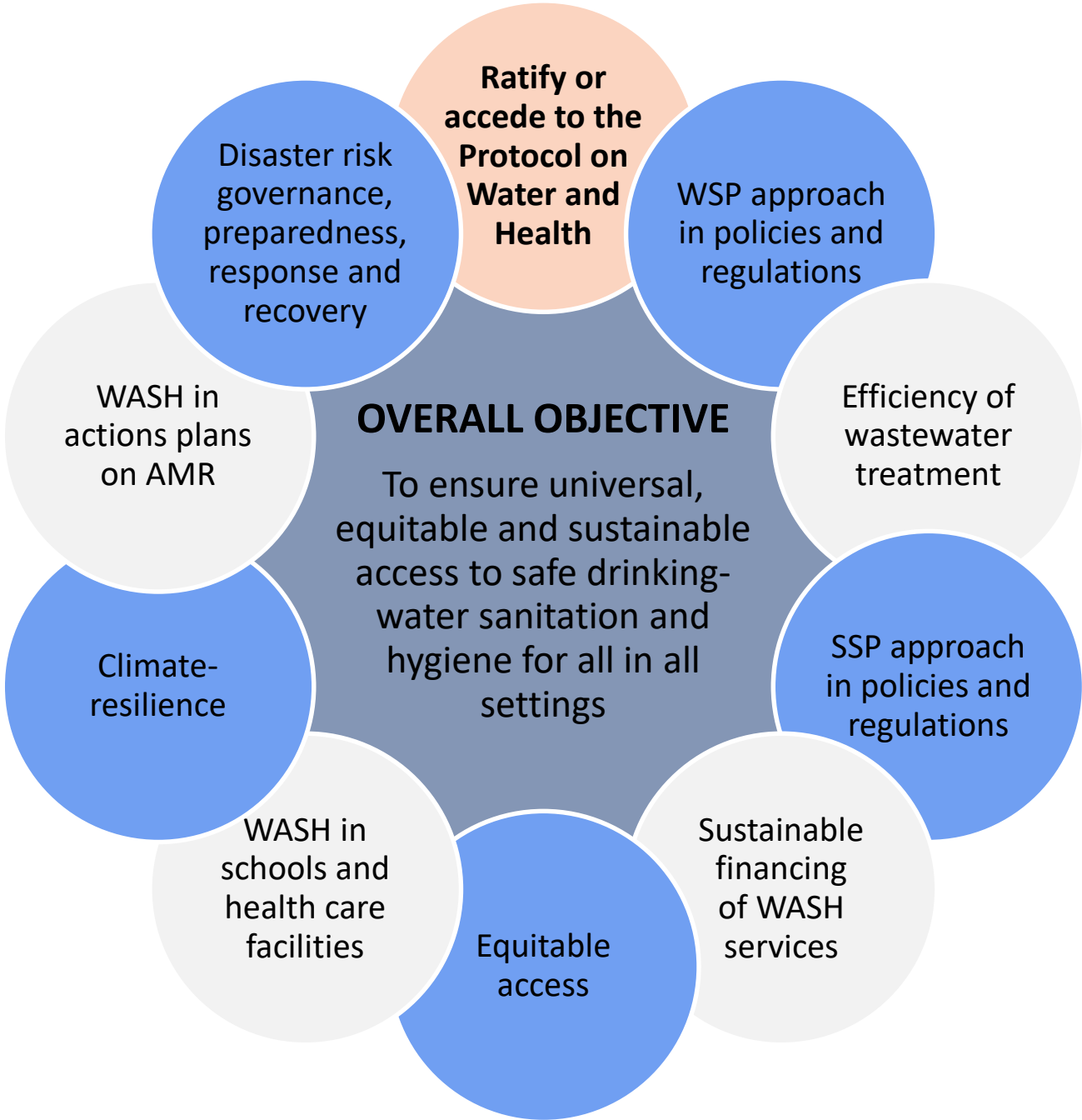
Compendium of
possible actions



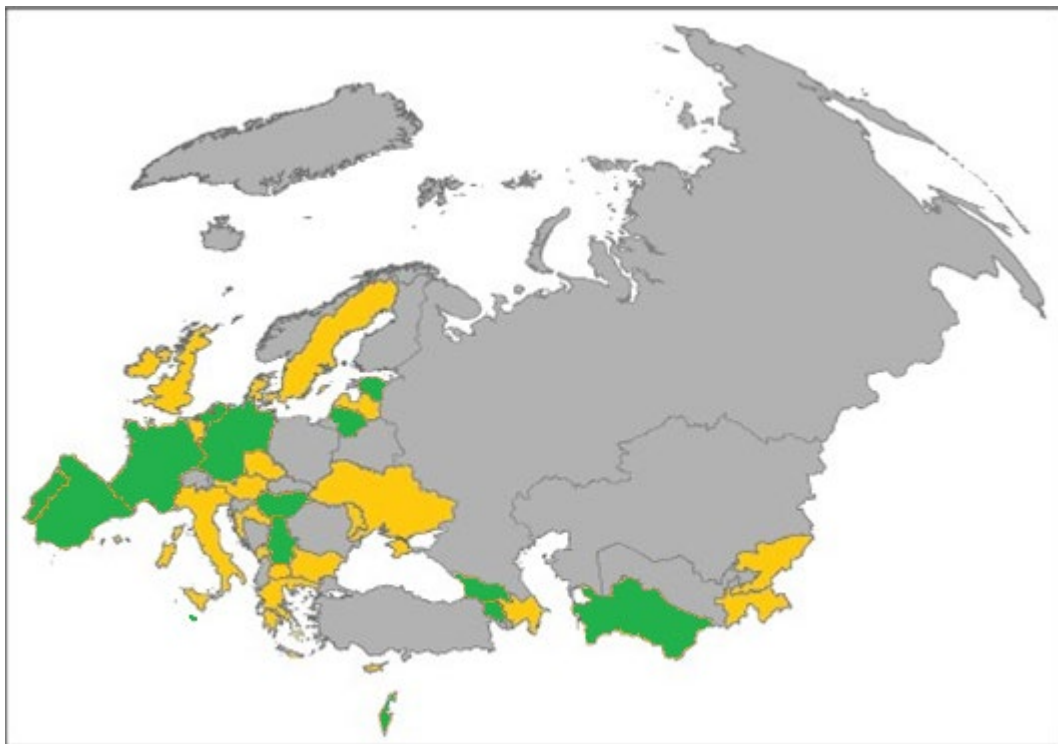
Ostrava public health priorities

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- Improve indoor and outdoor air quality
 - Ensure access to safe drinking-water, sanitation and hygiene
 - Minimize adverse effects of chemicals
 - Strengthen adaptation to and mitigation of climate change
 - Prevent/eliminate adverse effects of waste mgmt. & contaminated sites
 - Support cities and regions to become healthier
 - Build the environmental sustainability of health systems

Ostrava commitments



Water, sanitation and health in national portfolios



Note: The designations employed and the presentation of this material do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the Secretariat of the WHO concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries.

19 countries confirmed having the national portfolio established

14 countries address water sanitation and health in the portfolio

8 countries would like to receive technical support to make further progress in the field of water, sanitation and health

15 MS would be able to provide technical support for the WSN priority area



WHO Small Country Initiative

The Iceland Statement: Ensuring safe and climate- resilient water and sanitation

*“Build climate-resilient water supply and sanitation services and promote sustainable water management to prevent water-related disease, in national as well as transboundary contexts, **by ratifying or acceding to the Protocol on Water and Health by 2022**”*



World Health Organization
europe

**ENSURING SAFE AND CLIMATE-RESILIENT WATER AND SANITATION:
THE ICELAND STATEMENT**

Fifth high-level meeting of the WHO small countries initiative, Reykjavik, Iceland

We, the Ministers and the delegates of the eight Member States of the European Region of the World Health Organization (WHO) with populations of less than one million inhabitants, met in Reykjavik, Iceland on 26–27 June 2018, to participate in the fifth high-level meeting of the small countries initiative.

We reaffirm our previous commitments to implement the core principles, approaches and values of Health 2030: the WHO European policy framework for health and well-being.

We will work wholeheartedly on achieving the objectives of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, promoting safe and climate-resilient water and sanitation. It is our joint responsibility to protect health from environmental risks, including the effects of climate change. This includes being aware of the consequences of our behaviour and actions.

We emphasize that every government and public authority, at all levels, shares the common responsibility for safeguarding the environment through intersectoral collaboration and citizens' participation and promoting and protecting human health from environmental hazards across generations and in all policies.

We recognize that the Ostrava Declaration on Environment and Health (2017) provides a strong mandate towards achieving this obligation. Building on the commitments of the Paris Agreement, we continue to protect health from climate change and hereby reinforce our commitments in the Morocco Statement and its Call for action on climate change.

Ensuring universal and equitable access to safe drinking water and sanitation services for all and in all settings plays a catalytic role in achieving these commitments and remains a priority in our countries. Such services are essential to human health and well-being, and in respecting human rights, they are an important enabler of economic and social development and thus for creating and supporting resilient communities. We recognize the importance in promoting sustainable management of water resources, strengthening adaptive capacity and long-term resilience of water and sanitation services under climate change.

Climate change increasingly affects availability, quality and use of freshwater resources, threatening the provision of safe water and sanitation services. We recognize that the challenges addressed in the WHO special initiative on climate change and health in small island developing States also affect many small countries around the world. We acknowledge that our challenges include increasing water scarcity, putting additional stress on water resources and ecosystems; more frequent and intensive extreme weather events, such as heavy precipitation, floods or droughts, threatening the provision of safe services; and sea-level rise.

As far as possible, intersectoral action is needed to guarantee success. Drawing on our intrinsic strengths of responsive adaptation, innovation and participation, we commit to:

- build climate-resilient water supply and sanitation services and promote sustainable water management to prevent water-related disease, in national as well as transboundary contexts, by ratifying or acceding to the Protocol on Water and Health by 2022;
- maintain and strengthen safely-managed water and sanitation services, including safe use of wastewater, by adopting WHO-recommended water safety planning (WSP) and sanitation safety planning (SSP) approaches;
- promote universal and equitable access to water, sanitation and hygiene in all settings, including in schools, health care facilities and workplaces, as well as in urban and rural areas;
- protect our people from climate-induced and water-related disasters by strengthening disaster risk reduction, preparedness and response; and
- inspire climate-resilient behaviours of communities and individuals and encourage their participation in local decision-making by developing action plans for public education and communication with citizens.

With this statement, we, the members of the small countries initiative, commit to supporting each other through enhanced intersectoral and multilateral cooperation and coordination. We call on the WHO Regional Office for Europe and other partners to support us in meeting these commitments.

Sustainable and safe water and sanitation services are fundamental to human health and well-being, and it is in our hands to ensure their long-term climate-resilience for future generations by working together for better health and well-being for all, leaving no one behind.



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WHO global strategy on health, environment and climate change

- Recognizes the impact of climate change on transmission of food-borne and water-borne diseases
- All countries incorporating the pillars of the WSP and SSP into their strategies
- Need to address the major deficit in equipping health care facilities with safely managed WASH services
- Access to safe drinking-water and sanitation services as key to achieving WHO's strategic priority of Universal Health Coverage (UHC)
- Sanitation and wastewater barriers to combat antimicrobial resistance are in place



World Health
Organization

SEVENTY-SECOND WORLD HEALTH ASSEMBLY
Agenda item 11.6

WHA72(9)
28 May 2019

**WHO global strategy on health, environment and
climate change: the transformation needed to
improve lives and well-being sustainably
through healthy environments**

