



5th Session

MEETING OF THE PARTIES TO THE PROTOCOL ON WATER AND HEALTH

19-21 NOVEMBER 2019 | BELGRADE | SERBIA

Because we all count: ensuring equitable access to water and sanitation

Wednesday 20 November 2019, 13:45-14:45, Yugoslavia room

Concept note

How to ensure that no one is left behind in access to safe drinking water and sanitation? This event brings together country representatives, non-governmental organizations and independent experts to discuss equitable access to water and sanitation for all. Come to hear more about what to do to fight inequities in access!

Background

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, particularly Goals 6.1 and 6.2 on clean water and sanitation for all, call for universality, equity and inclusiveness, which are key to realize the human rights to water and sanitation. But how to really ensure that no one is left behind?

Despite important progress in the pan-European region, inequities in access to safe water and sanitation remain and can be difficult to identify or understand. Information gaps, regulatory frameworks that are insensitive to the needs of vulnerable and marginalizes groups, geographical disparities and unaffordable prices are all factors that can create and perpetrate inequities. To tackle them, stakeholders within and beyond the water sector need to adopt an equity lens, both when assessing the situation and when developing policies and taking actions to address access gaps.

Objectives, scope and expected outcomes

The purpose of the event is to showcase experiences and discuss different approaches to achieve equitable access to water and sanitation for all. Country representatives will share public policy elements and technical solutions implemented at national, regional or local level, highlighting how the Protocol on Water and Health can help achieve equitable access to water and sanitation. Representatives from NGOs and independent experts will discuss existing approaches and tools, including from a developmental bank and legal perspective. Participants will be engaged in a dynamic and interactive discussion of different options to fight inequities in access to water and sanitation, achieve SDG6 and realize the human rights to water and sanitation.



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Side event co-organized by the Ministry for Solidarities and Health of France, the Institute of Public Health and Ministry of Environmental Protection of Serbia, the National Public Health Center and Ministry of Interior of Hungary, and the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe.

Programme

Moderator: *Peter Kovacs, Ministry of Interior, Hungary*

- 13:45 – 13:55** **Opening remarks**
Yannick Pavageau, Ministry for Solidarities and Health, France
- 13:55 – 14:12** **Assessing and improving equitable access to water and sanitation: countries experiences**
- Main impacts of applying the Equitable Access Score-Card under the Protocol on Water and health in Serbia
Biljana Filipovic, Ministry of Environmental Protection, Serbia
- French experience and water quality as an indicator of equitable access to water in France
Yannick Pavageau, Ministry for Solidarities and Health, France
- The Armenian experience on equitable access to water and sanitation in the context of the Protocol on Water and Health
Emma Anakhasyan, Armenian Women for Health and Healthy Environment
- Fighting inequities in access to water and sanitation
Chantal Demilecamps, Co-secretariat of the Protocol on Water and Health, UNECE
- 14.12 – 14.20** **Perspectives from experts**
- Legal mapping to improve equitable access to water and sanitation
Géraldine Gené, Waterlex
- Lessons learnt working with international financial institutions on equitable access to water and sanitation
Barbara Mateo, Independent expert
- 14:20 – 14:43** **Interactive discussion**
- The audience will have the opportunity to engage with panellists and ask questions.
- 14:43 – 14:45** **Closing**
Yannick Pavageau, Ministry of Solidarities and Health, France

