

# **TASK FORCE ON TARGET SETTING AND REPORTING**

## **UNDER THE PROTOCOL ON WATER AND HEALTH**

**11<sup>th</sup> Meeting**

**3<sup>rd</sup> November 2020**

**Awilo Ochieng Pernet, Switzerland**  
**Chairperson**



# Introduction

The main objective of the Protocol on Water and Health is to **ensure the supply of safe drinking water and adequate sanitation for all**, by better water management, including the protection of water ecosystems, and by preventing, controlling and reducing water-related diseases in order to protect human health and well-being.



# Introduction

The implementation of the Protocol in an **inter-sectoral** manner by relevant sectors, such as water, health, environment, education, agriculture, finance, etc., leads to the achievement of the Protocol objectives.



# **Target-setting and Reporting – Articles 6 and 7 of the Protocol are the main pillars for action to reach the Protocol’s objectives.**

Parties are required to establish national and local targets for the quality of drinking water and the quality of discharges, as well as for the performance of water supply and waste-water treatment. They are also required to reduce outbreaks and the incidence of water-related diseases.



# COVID-19 and the Protocol on Water and Health

Protocol on Water and Health: recovery, preparedness and response to possible future epidemics

The provision of safe and sufficient water and adequate sanitation and hygiene is key to protecting human health during the infectious disease outbreaks, such as also COVID-19. Frequent handwashing according to appropriate hygiene standards require a continuous supply of safe water, and sanitation systems that are operational, including under challenging conditions, such as due to a changing climate.

UNECE-WHO Regional Office for Europe Protocol on Water and Health is a legally-binding agreement that brings together the environment and health dimensions and supports countries in setting, implementing and monitoring intersectoral national objectives in the areas of water, sanitation, hygiene (WASH) and health, strengthening national capacity for surveillance of drinking-water quality and management of water-related disease outbreaks in accordance with Article 8 of the Protocol, and promoting the provision of safe WASH services for all in all settings, including in schools, health care facilities and communities.

<https://www.unece.org/environmental-policy/conventions/water/envwater/covid-19-the-role-of-the-water-convention-and-the-protocol-on-water-and-health.html>



# COVID-19 and target-setting

Countries should consider the Protocol as a tool to set COVID-19 sensitive targets for example on hand hygiene, environmental surveillance in wastewater, analysing equity in the context of the pandemic, etc.



# Programme of Work for 2020-2022

## Programme Area 1: Improving governance of water and health: Support for setting targets and implementing measures

United Nations ECE/MP.WH/2019/3-EUPCR/1814149/1.2/2019/MOP-5/09



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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

**Fifth session**  
Belgrade, 19–21 November 2019  
Item 6 of the provisional agenda  
**Programme of work for 2020–2022, terms of reference  
of bodies established to implement it and resources  
needed for its implementation**



# 1. Planned Activities

- Task Force Meeting 2020: 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2020
- Task Force Meeting 2021: November 2021
- Sub-regional Workshop for the Mediterranean Region (Portugal): Postponed
- Development of Electronic Reporting: concept to be prepared thanks to funding from Germany





## 2. Congratulations for the progress made!

We welcome the significant progress made by Countries in setting and revising their targets.

- **Bosnia and Herzegovina** – set and communicated national targets
- **Belgium** – completed national summary report submitted in 2019 with information for the Brussels Capital Region
- **Czech Republic** – communicated revised targets under the Protocol
- **Finland** – communicated revised targets under the Protocol
- **Montenegro** – New Party, has initiated the target-setting process
- **Spain** – set and communicated national targets
- **Several other Parties and other States** are making steady progress



### 3. Main Objectives of the Task Force Meeting

- Exchange experiences on measures taken in the area of water, sanitation, hygiene (WASH) and health in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic;
- Review progress by Parties in setting, revising and implementing their targets, in accordance with Protocol art 6;
- Discuss key highlights of the global and regional developments in monitoring the implementation of SDG 6



# Thank you for your attention

