



UNITED NATIONS
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

Task Force on Indicators and Reporting

First meeting
Geneva, 13–14 March 2008

ANNOTATED PROVISIONAL AGENDA FOR THE MEETING
to be held in the Palais des Nations, Geneva, Switzerland,
starting at 10 a.m. on Thursday, 13 March 2008

I. PROVISIONAL AGENDA

1. Opening of the meeting
2. Adoption of the agenda
3. Election of Vice-Chairperson(s)
4. Mandate of the Task Force
5. Reports by Parties and Signatories on progress achieved in developing the national process to set targets and target dates, including future plans
6. Guidelines on the setting of targets, evaluation of progress and reporting
7. Indicators, especially for targets under article 6, paragraphs 2 (f)–(n)
8. Workshop aimed at sharing experience on target-setting
9. Future work and dates
10. Other business
11. Closing of the meeting

II. BACKGROUND AND PRACTICAL INFORMATION

A. Background

1. The Task Force on Indicators and Reporting was established by the first Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol on Water and Health (Geneva, 17–19 January 2007) with a mandate linked to compliance with articles 6 (Targets and target dates) and 7 (Review and assessment of progress). The main objective of the Task Force is to provide guidance to Parties and to promote exchange of experience and harmonization in the region. To this aim, the Task Force will prepare draft guidelines for the setting of targets and target dates, as well as draft guidelines for reporting in accordance with article 7, for adoption by the Parties at their second meeting.

2. Switzerland – lead country for this activity – has invited a core group of experts to assist in the preparations for this meeting. The Core Group¹, which met once in Geneva on 22 and 23 January 2008, has prepared all meeting documentation.

3. At the meeting, Parties and Signatories to the Protocol will be invited to exchange information on their national process regarding the setting of targets, information on target and target dates set, together with their relevant indicators of progress. To facilitate such an exchange, the joint secretariat has requested Parties and Signatories to fill in a short questionnaire. Replies to the questionnaire should be sent not later than **25 February 2008** to the UNECE secretariat (protocol.water_health@unece.org).

B. Practical information

4. The first meeting of the Task Force will be held in the Palais des Nations, Geneva, Switzerland.

5. The meeting will start at 10 a.m. on Thursday, 13 March 2008, and will close at 5 p.m. on Friday, 14 March 2008.

6. The working languages will be English and Russian.

7. All relevant documentation for the meeting will be made available in due course at www.unece.org/env/water/meetings/documents_TFIR.htm.

8. The meeting is open to experts from Parties and non-Parties to the Protocol representing governmental authorities, the private sector and non-governmental organizations as well as other interested stakeholders. In this respect, focal points are requested to facilitate nomination of relevant experts from their respective countries. Given the complexity of the issues discussed, delegates should consult within their countries with relevant **health, environment and water management authorities** to ensure that the views, needs and approaches of all concerned sectors are taken into account in the draft guidelines and in the proposed indicators.

¹ The core group is constituted by the following experts: Mr. Jaime Melo Baptista (Portuguese Institute for the Regulation of Water and Solid Waste - IRAR), Mr. Dominique Gatel (European Federation of Water Suppliers - EUREAU), Mr. Mihály Kádár (Hungary), Ms. Kateryna Kiryanova (Ukraine), Mr. Truls Krogh (Norway), Mr. Palle Lindgaard-Jorgensen (World Health Organization Collaborating Centre on Water and Health), Mr. Ion Salaru (Moldova), Ms. Zsuzsa Steindl (Hungary), Mr. Thor Axel Stenström (Women in Europe for a Common Future), Mr. Pierre Studer (Switzerland) and Ms. Ans Versteegh (the Netherlands).

9. Eligible participants from countries with economies in transition may apply for financial support to facilitate their participation in the workshop. Requests for financial support should be submitted to the UNECE secretariat (protocol.water_health@unece.org) as soon as possible, but not later than **11 February 2008**.
10. Participants requiring entry visas should inform the secretariat as soon as possible.
11. In accordance with the United Nations accreditation procedures, participants are requested to complete the registration form available from www.unece.org/env/water/meetings/registrationmeeting.htm, and to transmit it to the UNECE secretariat no later than two weeks before the meeting – namely, by **25 February 2008** – either by fax (+ 41 22 917 0621) or by e-mail (protocol.water_health@unece.org). On their way to the meeting, participants should obtain an identification badge at the Pass and Identification Unit of the United Nations Office at Geneva Security and Safety Section located at the Pregny Gate, Avenue de la Paix (see the map on the UNECE Protocol website). Please allow enough time for this. In case of difficulty, please contact the secretariat by telephone at +41 22 917 1926.
12. Practical information on the Palais des Nations, transport and accommodation in Geneva is available at: <http://www.unece.org/meetings/practical.htm>.

III. ANNOTATIONS TO THE AGENDA

Item 1: Opening of the meeting

13. Switzerland, having been appointed by the Meeting of the Parties as lead country for the Task Force, has designated Mr. Pierre Studer to chair the Task Force. The Chairperson will open the meeting.

Item 2: Adoption of the agenda

14. The Task Force is expected to adopt its agenda as set out in the present document.

Item 3: Election of Vice-Chairperson(s)

15. The Task Force may wish to elect one or more Vice-Chairpersons.

Item 4: Mandate and objectives of the Task Force on Indicators and Reporting

Background document: Report of the first Meeting of the Parties, Programme of Work for 2007–2009 (ECE/MP.WH/2/Add.5 - EUR/06/5069385/1/Add.5)

16. The Chairperson will recall the relevant obligations of the Protocol on setting target and target dates and reporting, and the mandate and work to be undertaken by the Task Force on Indicators and Reporting, as agreed by the Parties at their first meeting.

Item 5: Reports by Parties and Signatories on progress achieved in developing national process to set targets and target dates, including future plans

17. On the basis of a template provided by the joint secretariat, Parties and Signatories will share information on their national processes for the setting of targets and will identify relevant indicators of progress. Parties which have done so will be invited to communicate the targets set and the relevant target dates. Parties and Signatories still in the progress of setting targets will inform the meeting of their future plans.

Item 6: Guidelines on the setting of targets, evaluation of progress and reporting

Background document: Draft guidelines on setting targets, evaluation and reporting (WH/TFIR 01-02)

18. The Task Force will discuss draft guidelines on setting targets, evaluation and reporting prepared by the Core Group.

19. In particular, the Task Force will agree on:

- (a) Scope, approach and outline of the guidelines;
- (b) Main message and specific recommendations of the different parts of the guidelines;
- (c) Examples of good practices to be included in the guidelines, and, if relevant, reference to recognized standards, methodologies, studies, etc.

20. Finally, the Task Force should agree on work-sharing arrangements to further develop the draft guidelines for its second meeting and for presentation at the regional workshop on sharing experience on target-setting.

Item 7: Indicators, especially for targets under article 6, paragraphs 2 (f)–(n)

Background documents: Overview of possible indicators for targets under article 6, paragraph 2 (f)–(n) (WH/TFIR 01-03); Preliminary guidelines for review and assessment of progress under the Protocol (ECE/MP.WH/2007/4 - EUR/06/5069385/11); Report on the Consultation on target-setting and progress monitoring of water and wastewater services (Copenhagen, 9–10 May 2005)²; Overview of existing reporting mechanisms of relevance for the Protocol (ECE/MP.WH/2007/3 - EUR/06/5069385/10); Options for targets setting and relevant indicators (WH/TFIR 01-03)

21. The Task Force will be informed of existing reporting mechanisms, international and regional obligations, and standards of relevance for the Protocol.

22. On the basis of a document prepared by the Core Group, the Task Force will discuss and agree on:

- (a) Possible options of qualitative and quantitative indicators of progress towards targets under article 6, paragraph 2 (f)–(n) that Parties might use when setting their targets;

² Available at: <http://www.euro.who.int/document/wsn/protMtgMay05.pdf>.

- (b) Indicators to be used in summary reports prepared by Parties in accordance with article 7, paragraph 5.

Item 8: Workshop aimed at sharing experience on target-setting

Background document: Concept note on objectives and themes of the workshop (WH/TFIR 01-04)

23. The Task Force will discuss the preliminary programme, objectives and target audience of the planned workshop aimed at sharing experience on target-setting, tentatively scheduled for 2 and 3 December 2008.

Item 9: Future work and dates

Background document: Time frame for future work of the Task Force (WH/TFIR 01-05)

24. The Task Force will discuss and agree on working arrangements and on the time frame to carry out the tasks mandated by the Meeting of the Parties, including the finalization of the guidelines on target-setting, the preparation of guidelines on reporting, the organization of a workshop on sharing experience on target-setting, and the reporting exercise by the second meeting of the Parties.

Item 10: Other business

25. Delegates wishing to propose points under this item are requested to inform the secretariat as soon as possible.

Item 11: Closing of the meeting

26. The Chairperson will summarize the key outcomes of the discussion and will close the meeting on Friday, 14 March 2008 at 5 p.m.
