

Explanatory notes by the secretariat are in [].

DECLARATION OF THE FIRST MEETING OF THE PARTIES TO THE PROTOCOL

[Pre-ambule text - references and reconfirmations]

We, the Parties to the Protocol on Water and Health, gathered at Geneva from 17 to 19 January 2007 for our first meeting:

1. *Reaffirm* the commitments made during the adoption of the Protocol on Water and Health to the 1992 Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes;
2. *Confirm* our commitment to achieve the internationally agreed goals on environmental sustainability, including integrated water resources management, access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation agreed upon in Agenda 21, the Millennium Declaration and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation; [could be expanded to include Protocol objectives and/or include para 4 below.]
3. *Consider* that water is a primary human need and that water and sanitation are basic social services and emphasize that public authorities must take adequate measures to make this effective and affordable; [this text, drafted by UK and Switzerland, replaces para 4 of the draft in document WG.4/2006/11]
4. *Recall* the UN General Assembly proclaimed 2005 – 2015 the International Decade for Action “Water for Life” to implement international commitments on safe water and adequate sanitation; [this para could be used to incorporate the Protocol objectives]
5. *Renew* our commitments to the priorities endorsed by the fourth Ministerial Conference on Environment and Health (Budapest, June 2004), in particular, to take measures to improve safe water supply and sanitation for all children of the European Region as the Regional Priority Goal 1 under the Children’s Environment and Health Action Plan for Europe (CEHAPE);
6. *Recognize* the work done by the WHO Centralized Information System for Infectious Diseases (CISID) and underline the importance of this as a tool towards setting realistic targets and monitoring progress in the control of water-related diseases;
7. *Note* with concern that significant populations in the region do not have sustainable access to safe water, adequate sanitation, ...[add further problems here? Such as text derived from para 14 of document 11 - We are concerned on the effects of extreme weather events, particularly floods, droughts, heat waves and cold waves in different parts of the European region, and their consequences for the sustainable management of water resources and human health.]

[action points]

8. [Invite Parties and Signatories to the Protocol on Water and Health to set as their primary target the attainment of][Are determined to provide] safe drinking water for the entire population of the region through, inter alia: identifying regions with deficient water supply and sanitation, and increased water-related disease burden; taking appropriate risk management measures, such as in-house treatment of water; installing water safety plans as soon as possible to optimize the risk assessment and hazard management in drinking water supply; promoting community-based water supply and sanitation systems; [Note second introductory para suggested by the secretariat]

9. *Recognize* the need to extend current information systems on water supply and sanitation as a tool for national target setting, progress monitoring, facilitation of comparisons between countries and regions, and national reporting;

10. *Express a willingness* to extend cooperation in implementing measures to anticipate, detect and prevent impacts on human health; [this para could incorporate reference to the Water Convention]

11. [*Pledge*][*Agree*] to focus on priority areas associated with commitments under the Protocol, including [text can be derived from workplan]

12. *Encourage* all Parties to promote international cooperation as identified in the Protocol

13. *Invite* donors, financial institutions and funding mechanisms that support assistance projects to give high priority to relevant joint country initiatives;

14. *Urge* all Signatories that are not yet Parties and States that have not signed the Protocol, to become party to it as soon as possible.

[Paragraphs moved for later further consideration]

We acknowledge the added value that the Protocol on Water and Health could bring to countries outside the current region, and therefore decided to amend the Protocol to allow for global ratification.

In this regard, we acknowledge the initiative of the Norwegian government to hold the Oslo Roundtable on Water and Health in Europe, and continue to promote international cooperation. (Insert in preamble?)