

UNITED NATIONS ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

**WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION
REGIONAL OFFICE FOR EUROPE**

**MEETING OF THE PARTIES TO THE CONVENTION
ON THE PROTECTION AND USE OF TRANSBOUNDARY
WATERCOURSES AND INTERNATIONAL LAKES
and
MEETING OF THE SIGNATORIES TO THE PROTOCOL
ON WATER AND HEALTH TO THE CONVENTION**

**Working Group on Water and Health
Third meeting**

Budapest, 11-12 March 2003

Item 5 (b) of the provisional agenda

Working paper 1

DRAFT RULES OF PROCEDURE

Prepared by the joint secretariat

1. The Signatories to the Protocol considered at their second meeting draft rules of procedure (MP.WAT/AC.2/2003/4 - EUR/03/5041120/4) and requested the secretariat to prepare a revised version of rules 7 and 21, taking into account the outcome of the discussion at that meeting and written proposals submitted by delegations afterwards.
2. The Working Group may wish to note that most delegations focused their attention on the rules regarding the modalities for participation of non-Parties (rules 6 and 7) and officers of the meeting (rule 18). The delegation of Hungary also submitted suggestions for re-drafting other rules.
3. The Working Group may also wish to note that by decision III/2, the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention agreed on new arrangements regarding the composition of its Bureau. Moreover, the Working Group may wish to note that, following article 16, paragraph 3 (f), modalities for the participation of non-Parties should be established (for details see working paper 2). In the view of the secretariat, this would have a bearing on certain rules of procedure.
4. In the light of the above, the secretariat has made an attempt to re-draft rules 6, 7, 18, 19 and 22. These amendments appear in *bold-italics* in the annex. Editorial changes are not highlighted.
5. Amendments to other rules as suggested by Hungary were not yet made as the secretariat was of the opinion that these proposals were of a purely legal nature and would require the involvement of the Legal Board, established under the Convention, rather than the involvement of the Working Group.

6. The Working Group is invited to consider the secretariat's proposal. The Working Group may also wish to invite the Legal Board to draw up revised rules of procedure, taking into account the outcome of the Working Group meeting as well suggestions made for amendments of other rules.

Annex

REVISED RULES OF PROCEDURE: RULES 6, 7, 18, 21 AND 22

Rule 6

1. The joint secretariat shall notify organizations of the United Nations system with specific competence on issues of the Protocol, *as well as those member States of the United Nations¹* and regional economic integration organizations which are entitled to become a Party to the Protocol of any meeting of the Parties to the Protocol so that they may be represented as observers.
2. Any other State, member of the United Nations, may also be represented as observer.
3. Such observers may participate, without the right to vote, in the meetings of the Parties to the Protocol in matters of direct concern to them.

Rule 7

1. The Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol may approve, by the vote of a majority of the Parties present and voting, the admission to its meetings of observers *from any other international governmental organization, international non-governmental organizations and the private sector which have special qualifications* with regard to matters relating to the Protocol, and may similarly terminate any such approval.
2. Such observers may at the invitation of the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol participate, without the right to vote, in the proceedings of its meetings in matters of direct concern to them.

OFFICERS

Rule 18

1. The first meeting of the Parties to the Protocol shall be chaired by a representative of Hungary, host country of the first meeting. If in the future a Party again hosts a meeting, a representative of this host country may nominate a person to chair the meeting whether or not he/she has been previously elected as a member of the Bureau.

¹ With this new wording, we cover States that make up the UNECE region, States that belong to WHO/EURO, and States that have consultative status with UNECE. All of them may become a Party to the Protocol.

2. ***Except as provided for in paragraph 5***, the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol shall elect at the end of each meeting a Chairperson and two Vice-Chairpersons from among the representatives of the Parties to the Protocol
3. The Chairperson and the Vice-Chairpersons shall serve as the officers of the Meeting of the Parties of the Protocol and remain in office until their successors are elected. They shall be eligible for re-election. If the Chairperson or one of the Vice-Chairpersons is permanently unable to serve as officer, the remaining members of the Bureau shall co-opt a successor by consensus. The Bureau should take into account the proposal for a successor by the Party represented by the outgoing Chairperson or Vice-Chairperson.
4. The Chairperson shall participate in the meeting of the Parties to the Protocol in that capacity and shall not at the same time exercise the rights of a representative of a Party to the Protocol. In such a case, the Party to the Protocol concerned shall designate another representative who shall be entitled to represent it in the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol and to exercise its right to vote.
5. ***The Meeting of the Parties may elect additional officers, as it deems necessary for the performance of its functions and the implementation of the work plan. In particular, the Meeting of the Parties may elect the Chairpersons of the Working Groups, established under rule 21, paragraph 1, who will remain in office until the Working Groups have elected their officers, as set out in rule 21.***

BUREAU

Rule 21

1. The Bureau of the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol shall be composed of the Chairperson and the two Vice-Chairpersons of the Meeting of the Parties, the Chairpersons of the Working Groups established under rule 22, paragraph 1, ***and, if applicable, the other officers elected under rule 18, paragraph 5.***

Ibis. The Bureau shall be chaired by the Chairperson of the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol. If the Chairperson is temporarily absent or is unable to complete his/her term of office or to perform his/her functions, a Vice-Chairperson ***or any other Bureau member*** shall act as Chairperson.

Iter. ***The Chairperson of the Bureau of the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention shall be a non-voting participant of the meetings of the Bureau of the Parties to the Protocol.***

Iquater. ***At each ordinary meeting, the Meeting of the Parties shall designate two non-governmental organization, following the indications of NGOs, to participate as observers in the meetings of the Bureau.***

2. The terms of reference of the Bureau shall be established by the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol.

BODIES TO IMPLEMENT THE WORK PLAN

Rule 22

1. The Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol may establish *one or more Working Groups and other bodies, such as task forces and expert groups*, as it deems necessary for the performance of its functions and the implementation of the work plan, and may request them to help organizing workshops, seminars, training courses and other meetings under the Protocol. *The Working Groups and other bodies* shall elect their own officers.
2. The Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol shall determine both the matters to be considered *by the Working Groups and other bodies and their term*. The Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol may at any time terminate the function of *the Working Groups and other bodies*.
3. To promote harmonious cooperation with the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention, the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol shall make arrangements with the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention regarding the terms of reference of *Working Groups or other bodies* established under the Protocol and the Convention.