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17 December 2020

Excellencies,

I refer to your letter dated 15 October 2020, whereby the Russian Federation accepted to engage in the Consultation Process under the Compliance Committee of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) – World Health Organization (WHO) Regional Office for Europe Protocol on Water and Health in the triennium of 2020-2022.

At its 20<sup>th</sup> meeting (Geneva (online), 2 November 2020), the Compliance Committee welcomed the participation of the Russian Federation in future consultations and established a dedicated working group, composed by several Committee members and chaired by Ms. Zsuzsanna Kocsis-Kupper, Vice-Chair of the Committee, as a rapporteur. The Compliance Committee asked me to inform you that the consultations would comprise the following components, based on existing practice:

- (a) A stocktaking exercise to ascertain the specific needs and expectations of the Russian Federation in connection with its situation with water, sanitation and health and possible challenges with setting targets under the Protocol;
- (b) Dissemination of relevant guidelines developed by the secretariat to facilitate implementation of the Protocol, based on the results of the stock-taking exercise;
- (c) Provision of advice in writing and discussion with the country representatives during the Committee meetings planned for 2021 and 2022;
- (d) Follow-up on the implementation of the advice.

The Committee welcomed the appointment of Ms. Zoya Sereda, from the Ministry of Health of the Russian Federation, as the coordination focal point for the Consultation Process. It further noted that consultations would address the development of intersectoral targets under article 6 of the Protocol and that, to this end, the Russian Federation may benefit from establishing an inter-ministerial working group involving technical experts from the ministries of health and of environment, as well as other authorities responsible for water, wastewater, sanitation and hygiene, including at regional level if deemed useful. The Committee would welcome receiving information on the composition of such group, including the names of appointed public officials.

His Excellency  
Mr. Alexander Kozlov  
Minister of Natural Resources and Environment  
of the Russian Federation  
Moscow

His Excellency  
Mr. Mikhail Murashko  
Minister of Healthcare  
of the Russian Federation  
Moscow

With specific respect to the stock-taking exercise, the Committee noted that some information on the situation with water, sanitation, hygiene and health was already available in the [national summary report](#) submitted within the Protocol's fourth reporting exercise. In addition, it would be beneficial if the Russian Federation could complete the enclosed document, with the aim of collecting complementary information that would help Committee members when preparing for consultations.

Finally, I convey to you the invitation of the Committee for country representatives responsible for setting targets under the Protocol to attend the relevant session of the 21st meeting of the Committee, tentatively scheduled for June 2021. Further communication on this matter will follow in due course.

I look forward to receiving your response by 31 March 2021. Should you require any further information, please contact Ms. Nataliya Nikiforova, from the UNECE secretariat ([nataliya.nikiforova@un.org](mailto:nataliya.nikiforova@un.org)).

Please accept, Excellencies, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Yours sincerely,



Olga Algayerova

cc: Mr. Hans Henri Kluge, Regional Director, WHO Regional Office for Europe