



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

Working Group on Water and Health

Twelfth meeting

Geneva, 14 and 15 April 2021

Item 2 of the provisional agenda

Adoption of the agenda

Annotated provisional agenda for the twelfth meeting

**To be held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva, starting on Wednesday,
14 April 2021, at 10 a.m.***

I. Provisional agenda

1. Opening of the meeting and election of officers.
2. Adoption of the agenda.
3. Progress in the ratification process.
4. Special session with a keynote presentation on equitable access to water and sanitation.
5. Protocol on Water and Health and implementation of its programme of work for 2020–2022 in the context of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic.
6. Special session on financing of water and sanitation.
7. Financial resources needed to implement the programme of work for 2020–2022.

* In accordance with United Nations accreditation procedures, participants are requested to complete the online registration procedure available on the web page for the twelfth meeting (<https://unece.org/environmental-policy/events/twelfth-meeting-working-group-water-and-health>) as soon as possible, but by no later than **31 March 2021**. On their way to the meeting, delegates 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, 14, Avenue de la Paix (see the map on the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe website: www.unece.org/meetings/practical.html). In case of difficulty, please contact the secretariat by telephone at +41 22 917 1606.



8. Other business.
9. Date and venue of the thirteenth meeting.
10. Closure of the meeting.

II. Annotations

1. The main objective of the twelfth meeting of the Working Group on Water and Health under the Protocol on Water and Health to the Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes (Water Convention) is to review the implementation of its programme of work for the period 2020–2022 (ECE/MP.WH/19/Add.1-EUPCR/1814149/1.2/2019/MOP-5/06/Add.1), adopted at the fifth session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol (Belgrade, 19–21 November 2019), specifically considering the implications of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic on the current and future programmes of work. The meeting also aims to discuss how to raise the resources needed for the programme of work implementation. Finally, the meeting will feature special sessions with keynote presentations on equitable access to water and sanitation and on financing of the water and sanitation sector.

2. The meeting will begin on Wednesday, 14 April 2021, at 10 a.m., and will close on Thursday, 15 April 2021, at noon.

3. The working languages of the meeting will be English, French and Russian.

4. All relevant documentation for the meeting of the Working Group will be available online on the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) website.¹

5. Throughout the meeting, the Working Group will be invited to engage in interactive discussions. Given the limited time available, interventions and statements should not exceed two minutes. To facilitate the running of the session, delegations planning to make a statement are invited to inform the secretariat in advance.

1. Opening of the meeting and election of officers

Tentative timing: Wednesday, 14 April, 10–10.10 a.m.

6. The Chair of the Working Group on Water and Health will open the meeting and welcome participants. The Working Group will elect its Chair and Vice-Chair(s) for the triennium 2020–2022.

2. Adoption of the agenda

Tentative timing: Wednesday, 14 April, 10.10–10.15 a.m.

7. The Working Group is expected to adopt its agenda as set out in the present document.

3. Progress in the ratification process

Tentative timing: Wednesday, 14 April, 10.15–10.30 a.m.

8. As of 29 January 2021, the following 27 countries are Parties to the Protocol on Water and Health: Albania, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Czechia, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Montenegro, Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Serbia, Slovakia, Spain, Switzerland and Ukraine.

¹ See <https://unece.org/environmental-policy/events/twelfth-meeting-working-group-water-and-health>.

9. Representatives of signatories and other States not yet Party to the Protocol will be invited to report on any recent or anticipated developments in their respective countries with respect to becoming a Party to the Protocol.

4. Special session with a keynote presentation on equitable access to water and sanitation

Tentative timing: Wednesday, 14 April, 10.30–11 a.m.

10. A keynote speech by Mr. Pedro Arrojo-Agudo, Special Rapporteur on the human rights to safe drinking water and sanitation, will set the scene by providing a landscape analysis of the current status of implementation of these rights in the pan-European region and beyond and by reflecting on how the Protocol framework contributes to their progressive realization, including in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic. The Working Group will be invited to reflect on this matter.

5. Protocol on Water and Health and implementation of its programme of work for 2020–2022 in the context of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic

Tentative timing: Wednesday, 14 April, 11 a.m.–noon and 2–4 p.m.

11. The joint secretariat will introduce the background document “Protocol on Water and Health and the COVID-19 pandemic: relevance, perspectives and lessons learned”, prepared in cooperation with the Bureau of the Protocol and the countries co-leading different programme areas. The Working Group will be invited to discuss the document and to reflect on the role of the Protocol and its different tools in addressing and building back/building forward better from the pandemic.

12. The Working Group will then review progress in implementing the Protocol’s programme of work for 2020–2022, based on brief interventions on the main achievements and planned activities made by the lead countries for the following different programme areas, with the assistance of the joint secretariat:

- (a) Improving governance for water and health: support for implementing the 2030 Agenda through setting targets and implementing measures;
- (b) Prevention and reduction of water-related diseases;
- (c) Institutional water, sanitation and hygiene;
- (d) Small-scale water supplies and sanitation;
- (e) Safe and efficient management of water supply and sanitation systems;
- (f) Equitable access to water and sanitation: translating into practice the human right to water and sanitation;
- (g) Increasing resilience to climate change;
- (h) Assistance to support implementation at the national level;
- (i) Compliance procedure.

13. The Working Group will be invited to comment on the presentations made and take decisions on further prioritization of activities, as relevant. The Working Group will also be encouraged to consider gender-related aspects in the activities under the Protocol.

Documentation

Programme of work for 2020–2022 (ECE/MP.WH/19/Add.1-EUPCR/1814149/1.2/2019/MOP-5/06/Add.1)

Report of the Compliance Committee on its nineteenth meeting (ECE/MP.WH/C.1/2020/2-EUPCR/1611921/2.1/2020/CC/06)

Report of the Compliance Committee on its twentieth meeting (ECE/MP.WH/C.1/2020/4-EUPCR/1611921/2.1/2020/CC2/06)

Informal documents

Protocol on Water and Health and the COVID-19 pandemic: relevance, perspectives and lessons learned

Report of the eleventh meeting of the Task Force on Target Setting and Reporting

Water, sanitation, hygiene and health: Policy brief (World Health Organization (WHO) Regional Office for Europe, 2020)²

National situational analysis of water, sanitation and hygiene in healthcare facilities in Serbia: Summary report (WHO Regional Office for Europe, 2020)³

Costing and financing of small-scale water supply and sanitation services (WHO Regional Office for Europe, 2020)⁴

Increasing resilience to climate change through the Protocol on Water and Health (draft information note)

6. Special session on financing of water and sanitation

Tentative timing: Thursday, 15 April, 10–11 a.m.

14. The special session will provide an opportunity to reflect on how to attract investments and close the financing gap for the water and sanitation sector in the pan-European region and beyond. A keynote speech by Mr. Stef Smits, Senior Programme Officer at IRC International Water and Sanitation Centre (Netherlands), will set the scene for the discussion by explaining the main strategies and elements for the sustainable financing of water, sanitation and hygiene services.

15. A panel composed of representatives of countries, international organizations and financing institutions will discuss the different perspectives for analysing the funding needs and mobilizing the funds. Panellists will also be invited to address these issues from the perspective of the aspirations of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the COVID-19 pandemic.

7. Financial resources needed to implement the programme of work for 2020–2022

Tentative timing: Thursday, 15 April, 11–11.50 a.m.

16. The Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol entrusted the Working Group to oversee the management of the funds of the Protocol under the ECE Technical Cooperation Trust Fund and the WHO Regional Office for Europe Voluntary Fund. On the basis of an informal document prepared by the joint secretariat, the Working Group will be informed about the financial status of the two funds, the contributions received, the funds used and the resources that will be required for the implementation of the programme of work for 2020–2022.

17. In this regard, the Chair of the Bureau of the Protocol will brief participants on the fundraising efforts undertaken by the Bureau and the joint secretariat to secure the resources needed for the implementation of the programme of work for 2020–2022 and the

² Available at www.euro.who.int/en/health-topics/environment-and-health/water-and-sanitation/publications/2020/water,-sanitation,-hygiene-and-health-policy-brief-2020.

³ Available at www.euro.who.int/en/health-topics/environment-and-health/water-and-sanitation/publications/2020/national-situational-analysis-of-water,-sanitation-and-hygiene-in-health-care-facilities-in-serbia.-summary-report-2020.

⁴ Available at www.euro.who.int/en/health-topics/environment-and-health/water-and-sanitation/publications/2020/costing-and-financing-of-small-scale-water-supply-and-sanitation-services-2020.

contributions made by Parties. The Working Group will be invited to comment on the information provided and to discuss ways and means of attaining the level of financial support needed to implement the Protocol's programme of work.

18. Representatives of Parties, other States, relevant international and non-governmental organizations and other partners will be invited to inform the Working Group of their intention to contribute to the activities contained in the programme of work, inter alia, through financial and in-kind contributions.

Documentation

Programme of work for 2020–2022 (ECE/MP.WH/19/Add.1-EUPCR/1814149/1.2/2019/MOP-5/06/Add.1)

Informal document

Overview of contributions and expenditures related to the Protocol and resources required up to the sixth session of the Meeting of the Parties compared with funds raised.

8. Other business

Tentative timing: Thursday, 15 April, 11.50–11.55 a.m.

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

9. Date and venue of the thirteenth meeting

Tentative timing: Thursday, 15 April, 11.55 a.m.–noon

20. The Working Group will set a tentative date and venue for its thirteenth meeting.

10. Closure of the meeting

21. The Chair will close the meeting at noon on Thursday, 15 April 2021.
