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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

Compliance Committee

Twenty-second meeting

Geneva, 16 November 2021

Item 1 of the provisional agenda

Adoption of the agenda

Annotated provisional agenda for the twenty-second meeting

To be held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva, starting on
Tuesday, 16 November 2021, at 10 a.m.*

I. Provisional agenda

1. Adoption of the agenda.
2. Consideration of submissions, referrals and communications.
3. Review of compliance with the obligation to set targets and target dates.
4. Report of the Committee to the Meeting of the Parties at its sixth session.
5. Consultation Process.
6. Facilitating compliance with the obligations under the Protocol.
7. Awareness-raising on the compliance procedure.
8. Programme of work and calendar of future meetings.
9. Other business.
10. Adoption of the report.

* As part of the accreditation procedures for meetings at the United Nations Office at Geneva, delegates are requested to register online for the meeting, as soon as possible and no later than **1 November 2021**, through the following link: <https://unece.org/info/events/event/358474>. 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, Avenue de la Paix 14 (see the map on the Economic Commission for Europe website (www.unece.org/meetings/practical.html)). Please allow sufficient time for this. In case of difficulty, please contact the secretariat by telephone at +41 22 917 1606.



II. Annotations

1. Adoption of the agenda

Tentative timing: Tuesday, 16 November, 10–10.10 a.m.

1. The Compliance Committee will be invited to adopt its agenda as set out in the present document.

2. Consideration of submissions, referrals and communications

Tentative timing: Tuesday, 16 November, 10.10–10.40 a.m.

2. In accordance with the procedures set out in paragraphs 13–22 of the annex to decision I/2 on review of compliance of the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol (ECE/MP.WH/2/Add.3-EUR/06/5069385/1/Add.3), the Committee is expected to consider:

- (a) Any submissions by Parties relating to specific issues of compliance;
- (b) Any referrals by the joint secretariat relating to specific issues of compliance;
- (c) Any communications from the public relating to specific issues of compliance.

3. Review of compliance with the obligation to set targets and target dates

Tentative timing: Tuesday, 16 November, 10.40–11.30 a.m.

3. At its fifth session (Belgrade, 19–21 November 2019), the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol adopted decision V/1 on general issues of compliance, which notes with concern that, by failing to establish and publish national and/or local targets and dates for achieving them, several Parties are not in compliance with article 6 (2)–(5) of the Protocol, and recalls that targets are to be communicated to the joint secretariat for wider dissemination (ECE/MP.WH/19/Add.2-EUPCR/1814149/1.2/2019/MOP-5/06/Add.2, paras. 8 and 9).

4. At its twenty-first meeting (Geneva, 15 and 16 June 2021), the Committee reviewed the status of target setting in Albania. The Committee noted that, from the information provided by the country in response to its request, it was not clear whether the targets set under the National Sectoral Strategy on Water and Sanitation for 2019–2030 covered all of the target areas required in accordance with article 6 of the Protocol. The Committee therefore requested the secretariat to send an official letter to the country requesting clarification on that matter.

5. Furthermore, having considered the situation of Belgium, the Committee noted with appreciation that the Brussels-Capital Region had made further adjustments to its report submitted as a complement to the national report submitted within the Protocol's fourth reporting exercise, including updated information on concrete and measurable targets and target dates.¹ The Committee invited Belgium to finalize the draft report of the Brussels-Capital Region, as relevant and appropriate, and send the final version to the secretariat for publication on the Protocol's website, along with other reports submitted previously.

6. The secretariat will inform the Committee of the related developments and responses received from the above-mentioned Parties. Based on this information, the Committee will discuss its next steps, as well as possibly other issues related to target setting, as appropriate.

¹ See tab entitled "Summary reports (4th cycle)", available at <https://unece.org/environment-policy/water/areas-work-protocol/improving-governance-water-and-health/fourth-reporting-exercise-under-protocol-water-and-health>.

4. Report of the Committee to the Meeting of the Parties at its sixth session

Tentative timing: Tuesday, 16 November, 11.30 a.m.–noon

7. The Committee will discuss the preparation of the report on its activities, to be submitted to the Meeting of the Parties at its sixth session, scheduled to be held from 16 to 18 November 2022, pursuant to paragraph 33 of the annex to decision I/2 on the review of compliance.

8. The Committee will agree on the format and the content of the above-mentioned report. The Committee is expected to agree on the outline of the report and to make a work-sharing arrangement for drafting its various sections and analysing the national summary reports in accordance with the expertise and scientific or legal backgrounds of Committee members.

5. Consultation Process

Tentative timing: Tuesday, 16 November, noon–1 p.m. and 3–4.30 p.m.

9. At its twenty-first meeting, the Committee held a consultation with the representatives of the Russian Federation. Committee members presented their analysis of the information provided, both under the stocktaking exercise and in the country's national summary report submitted under the Protocol in 2019.² It was emphasized that, while it appeared that the country had set numerous objectives at the national and subnational levels in the area of water, sanitation and health, a more detailed analysis of the national legislation, policies and objectives would be needed to identify and compile specific targets in the areas required under article 6 of the Protocol.

10. It was agreed that the Russian Federation would submit its draft targets in accordance with article 6 of the Protocol by 15 September 2021. The Committee would also welcome receiving information on specific challenges faced in implementing the Protocol and any assistance needed from the Committee. Upon receipt of the draft targets, the Committee will review the document and prepare its draft recommendations and advice to be presented to and discussed with the representatives of the Russian Federation at the Committee's twenty-second meeting.

11. At the meeting, the delegation of the Russian Federation will be invited to present the draft targets, any developments in the situation with water, sanitation, hygiene and health since the last meeting of the Committee, including possible challenges and needs, as well as reflect on the usefulness of the Consultation Process thus far. The final advice will be communicated following the discussion and consultation.

6. Facilitating compliance with the obligations under the Protocol

Tentative timing: Tuesday, 16 November, 4.30–5.30 p.m.

12. At its twenty-first meeting, the Committee discussed the extended outline of the interpretive note aimed at highlighting the public health dimension of the Protocol through clarifying its provisions related to water, environment, sanitation and hygiene, and in particular the part on the relationship between the Protocol and the human rights to safe drinking water and sanitation developed by Ms. Catarina de Albuquerque prior to the meeting.

13. The Chair agreed, with the support of the secretariat, to further develop the note, in particular its part II analysing the legal text of the Protocol. The Chair also requested the

² See tab entitled "Summary reports (4th cycle)", available at <https://unece.org/environment-policy/water/areas-work-protocol/improving-governance-water-and-health/fourth-reporting-exercise-under-protocol-water-and-health>.

secretariat to liaise with Committee members to request their input and comments on the relevant sections of the note, as needed.

14. The Committee will discuss the advanced draft of the note and agree on the next steps in developing the document.

7. Awareness-raising on the compliance procedure

Tentative timing: Tuesday, 16 November, 5.30–5.45 p.m.

15. The Committee will discuss concrete initiatives and specific steps to be taken to raise awareness of the compliance procedure. The Committee members will report on their recent or planned efforts to present the compliance procedure at various forums and events, as well as to promote it within the network of non-governmental organizations active in the areas of water, sanitation, hygiene and public health, as well as human rights, migrants and refugees.

16. The secretariat will also inform the Compliance Committee about the steps taken to raise awareness on the Protocol and its compliance procedure, as relevant.

17. The Committee will then discuss practical arrangements and allocate responsibilities in relation to a webinar aimed at highlighting the legal dimension of work under the Protocol, which is tentatively scheduled for January 2022.

8. Programme of work and calendar of future meetings

Tentative timing: Tuesday, 16 November, 5.45–5.50 p.m.

18. The Committee will discuss its future programme of work and agree on issues for consideration at its next meetings. The Committee will also agree on the dates of its twenty-third and twenty-fourth meetings.

9. Other business

Tentative timing: Tuesday, 16 November, 5.50–5.55 p.m.

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

10. Adoption of the report

Tentative timing: Tuesday 16 November, 5.55–6 p.m.

20. The Committee will agree on the modalities for the preparation and adoption of the report on its twenty-second meeting.
