



TASK FORCE ON TARGET SETTING AND REPORTING UNDER THE PROTOCOL ON WATER AND HEALTH

12TH MEETING
(Geneva and online, 17 November 2021)

BACKGROUND AND OBJECTIVES

The 12th meeting of the Task Force on Target Setting and Reporting under the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) – World Health Organization (WHO) Regional Office for Europe Protocol on Water and Health will take place on 17 November 2021.

The meeting is organized in a virtual format, via Zoom. The duration of the meeting has been adjusted to take into account the schedule of the UN interpreters. Therefore, the morning session will be from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. and the afternoon session from 3 to 5 p.m. CET.

The working languages will be English, French and Russian. All relevant documentation for the meeting will be available at <https://unece.org/info/Environmental-Policy/Water-Convention/events/358476>.

The main objectives of the meeting are to:

- Review progress by Parties and other States in setting, revising and implementing their targets, in accordance with article 6 of the Protocol;
- Launch the 5th reporting cycle under the Protocol and discuss the preparations needed, including recalling the reporting template and guidelines, also in light of the 2030 Agenda and the COVID-19 pandemic;
- Discuss the role of the Task Force in the future programme of work of the Protocol for 2023-2025 and exchange views on the thematic priorities to be considered and/or strengthened in the next programme of work, including consideration of the measures taken in the area of water, sanitation, hygiene and health in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic and the targets set by Parties to the Protocol to strengthen public health preparedness, response to and recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic (see [Protocol on Water and Health and the COVID-19 pandemic: relevance, lessons learned and future perspectives](#)).

PROVISIONAL AGENDA

Wednesday, 17 November 2021

I. Opening of the meeting and adoption of the agenda (11-11.10 a.m.)

1. The Chair of the Task Force on Target Setting and Reporting will open the meeting and welcome the participants. The Chair will also invite the Task Force to adopt its agenda as set out in the present document.

II. Review of the general progress in setting and/or revising and implementing targets under the Protocol on Water and Health (11.10 a.m.–12.30 p.m.)

2. Delegates will be invited to report on the progress made in 2021 in setting and/or revising targets under the Protocol. Interventions will focus in particular on the kind of targets set, including specifically COVID-19 sensitive targets, and how the targets relate to WHO guidelines and recommendations, relevant EU Directives and/or Sustainable Development Goals. Delegates will also be invited to share any significant achievements in implementing their targets and the related impact at national level.

III. Launching the 5th reporting cycle under the Protocol (12.30–1 p.m. and 3-3.30 p.m.)

3. The Task Force will discuss preparations and the timeline for the fifth reporting exercise under the Protocol, in accordance with its article 7, to be carried out prior to the sixth session of the Meeting of the Parties, scheduled to be held in Geneva from 16 to 18 November 2022.

4. In particular, the delegates will consider the guidelines for reporting and the different requirements and sections of the reporting template, in order to make the process more useful for reporting the existing and emerging challenges faced at national level as well as showcase progress and good practices (in light of the 2030 Agenda, COVID-19 recovery, climate change, etc.).

5. Participants will also be updated on the progress and features of the online reporting system currently being developed under the Protocol.

6. The Task Force will be updated on the recent global and regional developments in the area of water, sanitation, hygiene and health, in particular with regard to the relevant SDG indicators, in order to inform reporting under the Protocol.

IV. Future programme of work of the Protocol for 2023-2025 and the role of the Task Force (3.30–4.50 p.m.)

7. The Chair of the Task Force will report on the activities implemented so far under the programme area on target setting and reporting as well as on future plans, flagging in particular those activities that could not be implemented.

8. The Task Force will then be invited to exchange views on the different topics to be considered and/or strengthened in the future programme of work of the Protocol for 2023-2025, including consideration of the targets set and measures taken in the area of water, sanitation, hygiene and health in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic. Discussion will be structured around the following questions:

- Which activities of the Task Force were not carried out in 2020-2022 and should be carried over to the next triennium?
- What are the lessons learned from target setting and reporting in 2019-2021 and the related work of the Task Force? What kind of challenges you faced in implementing the target setting and reporting obligations under the Protocol? How could these challenges be addressed and what kind of support would you need?
- What are your views about the current thematic structure of the current programme of work? Do all programme areas remain relevant? What topics would you like to see strengthened or

highlighted within the existing programme areas, including in light of the COVID-19 pandemic?

- What are the new developments that you would like to see addressed in the future programme of work?

V. Other business (4.50–4.55 p.m.)

9. Participants wishing to propose points under this item are requested to inform the secretariat as soon as possible.

VI. Closing of the meeting (4.55–5 p.m.)

10. The Task Force will tentatively agree on the date, format and venue of its next meeting.
11. The Chair will summarize key outcomes of the discussion and close the meeting at 5 p.m.
