

Ref.: 2022/OES/009/ENV/004

14 January 2022

Excellencies,

I write to you with regard to the Consultation Process under the Compliance Committee of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) – World Health Organization Regional Office for Europe (WHO/Europe) Protocol on Water and Health (see also your letter dated 15 October 2020, whereby the Russian Federation accepted to engage in consultations). Through the present letter, I would like to summarize the outcomes of the Process and convey the Committee’s overall feedback and specific recommendations to the Russian Federation, as requested by the Committee at its [twenty-second meeting](#) (Geneva and online, 16 November 2021).

The consultation with the Russian Federation comprised the following components:

- (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 [twenty first meeting](#) of the Compliance Committee (Geneva and online, 15-16 June 2021) and the twenty-second meeting;
- (d) Follow-up on the implementation of the advice.

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

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

The stocktaking exercise of the Consultation Process comprised a preparatory meeting, which took place on 25 April 2021 with representatives of the Russian Federation and a dedicated working group established within the Compliance Committee for the consultation. At the preparatory meeting, a representative of the Russian Federation provided an overview of the national situation regarding water, sanitation and health, including existing national objectives and targets, as well as challenges encountered in implementing the Protocol, in particular with regard to target setting and reporting obligations. Thereafter, the Committee further analyzed the information available in the [national summary report](#) submitted by the Russian Federation under the Protocol in 2019 and also within a questionnaire previously shared with the Russian Federation as part of the stocktaking exercise.

At its twenty-first meeting, the Committee presented its initial analysis of the information provided by the Russian Federation and emphasized that, while it appeared that the country had set many national targets in the areas of water, sanitation, hygiene and health, a thorough analysis of the national legislation and policies, including the above-mentioned objectives, would be useful to identify and compile specific targets in the areas required by article 6 of the Protocol and/or to determine the need to set additional targets under the Protocol, as relevant. The delegation of the Russian Federation, headed by Mr. Oleg Salagay, Deputy Minister for Health, agreed to submit the draft targets under article 6 of the Protocol prior to the twenty-second meeting of the Committee, for the Committee's review. It was also agreed that the Committee would share some preliminary feedback regarding target setting under the Protocol.

Upon submission of the draft document containing information on the targets of the Russian Federation under article 6 of the Protocol, the dedicated working group within the Compliance Committee undertook extensive work to analyse the information provided, with the support of the secretariat. On that basis, preliminary feedback and recommendations were submitted to the Russian Federation in November 2021, prior to the twenty-second meeting of the Committee.

At the twenty-second meeting, a delegation of the Russian Federation presented the draft national targets, including clear information on correspondence with the target areas required under article 6 of the Protocol, target dates for achievement, normative instruments containing the targets and institutions responsible for implementation at the federal level. The Committee welcomed the very comprehensive presentation made by the Russian Federation and noted with appreciation that many of the comments provided by the Committee in advance of the meeting had already been taken into account in the draft targets. Subsequently, members of the dedicated working group under the Committee provided overall feedback and specific recommendations on the targets presented, commending the progress made by the Russian Federation and noting with appreciation that the draft targets covered almost all of the target areas required in accordance with article 6 of the Protocol.

As the final steps of the process, I hereby convey:

- (a) The preliminary feedback and recommendations submitted to the Russian Federation prior to the twenty-second meeting of the Compliance Committee (enclosure 1);
- (b) The overall feedback and specific recommendations on the draft targets of the Russian Federation provided by Committee members at the twenty-second meeting (enclosure 2).

I also kindly remind you that the Russian Federation agreed to prepare a table of correspondence between the targets set under national laws and policies and the target areas under article 6 of the Protocol and submit it together with its national summary report under the Protocol's [fifth reporting cycle](#) by 20 April 2022. The Committee will review the national summary report of the Russian Federation, along with the final targets, and discuss any possible follow-up actions as may be necessary when analyzing the outcomes of the fifth reporting cycle.

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



Olga Algayerova

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