



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

Thirteenth meeting

Geneva, 19 and 20 May 2022

Item 1 of the provisional agenda

Adoption of the agenda

Annotated provisional agenda for the thirteenth meeting

**To be held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva, starting on Thursday,
19 May 2022, at 11 a.m.***

I. Provisional agenda

1. Adoption of the agenda.
2. Progress in the ratification process.
3. Improving governance for water and health: support for setting targets and implementing measures:
 - (a) Setting targets and implementing measures;
 - (b) Fifth reporting exercise.
4. Special session on increasing resilience to climate change and the Protocol on Water and Health.
5. Prevention and reduction of water-related diseases.
6. Institutional water, sanitation and hygiene.

* In accordance with United Nations accreditation procedures, participants are requested to complete the online registration procedure available on the web page for the thirteenth meeting (<https://unece.org/info/Environmental-Policy/Water-Convention/events/360841>) as soon as possible, but by no later than **5 May 2022**. 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.



7. Small-scale water supplies and sanitation.
8. Assistance to support implementation at the national level.
9. Safe and efficient management of water supply and sanitation systems.
10. Equitable access to water and sanitation.
11. Compliance procedure.
12. Implementation of the programme of work for 2020–2022.
13. Programme of work for 2023–2025, terms of reference for the bodies established to implement it and resources needed for its implementation.
14. Preparations for the sixth session of the Meeting of the Parties.
15. Other business.
16. Date and venue of the fourteenth meeting.
17. Closure of the meeting.

II. Annotations

1. The main objectives of the thirteenth 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) are to:

(a) Review the implementation of the programme of work for 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);

(b) Discuss the draft programme of work for 2023–2025 (ECE/MP.WH/WG.1/2022/3) and the resources needed for its implementation. In this respect, the Working Group will also discuss the outcomes of an online survey in relation to the activities of the programme of work, previously circulated among Parties and non-Parties;

(c) Also discuss the preparations for the sixth session of the Meeting of the Parties (Geneva, 16–18 November 2022).

2. The meeting will also feature a special session on increasing resilience to climate change and the Protocol on Water and Health, aimed at discussing future activities in this area of work and at reviewing actions taken by countries to address climate-sensitive health and environmental risks.

3. The meeting will begin on Thursday, 19 May 2022, at 11 a.m., and will close on Friday, 20 May 2022, at 5 p.m.

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

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

6. The meeting will be in hybrid format. In view of the limited time available, participants are requested to limit the length of their interventions to two minutes. The Chair will strictly enforce these limits. Full statements or presentations provided to the secretariat will be posted on the meeting's web page. To facilitate the smooth running of the sessions, delegations planning to make a statement are invited to inform the secretariat in advance.

7. The meeting will be jointly serviced by the ECE and World Health Organization Regional Office for Europe (WHO/Europe) secretariats.

¹ See <https://unece.org/info/Environmental-Policy/Water-Convention/events/360841>.

1. Adoption of the agenda

Tentative timing: Thursday, 19 May, 11–11.05 a.m.

8. The Chair of the Working Group on Water and Health will open the meeting and welcome participants. The Working Group is expected to adopt its agenda as set out in the present document.

2. Progress in the ratification process

Tentative timing: Thursday, 19 May, 11.05–11.15 a.m.

9. As at 21 February 2022, 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.

10. Representatives of signatories and other States not yet Parties to the Protocol will be invited to report on progress and/or any anticipated development in their respective countries with respect to becoming a Party to the Protocol.

3. Improving governance for water and health: support for setting targets and implementing measures

Tentative timing: Thursday, 19 May, 11.15 a.m.–noon

11. The Working Group will be informed about the process for preparing the draft programme of work for the Protocol for the triennium 2023–2025, to be adopted by the Meeting of the Parties at its sixth session, including the overall scope and rationale, the institutional structure and the preparation of a survey in relation to future activities, carried out between March and April 2022. For each programme area, lead Parties and countries will showcase the progress achieved since the twelfth meeting of the Working Group (Geneva (hybrid), 14–15 April 2021) and introduce draft future activities, along with the results of the survey.

Documentation

Draft programme of work for 2023–2025 (ECE/MP.WH/WG.1/2022/3)

(a) Setting targets and implementing measures

12. A representative of Switzerland, Chair of the Task Force on Target Setting and Reporting, will report on the progress made in this area, including by summarizing the outcomes of the twelfth meeting of the Task Force on Target Setting and Reporting (Geneva (hybrid), 17 November 2021).

13. Countries that have achieved substantial progress in setting, revising and/or implementing their targets since the twelfth meeting of the Task Force will be invited to report on any significant development.

14. Subsequently, representatives of Portugal, Romania and Switzerland, current lead Parties for programme area 1 on improving governance for water and health, will introduce suggested future activities for the period 2023–2025, as well as the main outcomes of the survey for this programme area. The Working Group will discuss the proposed activities.

(b) Fifth reporting exercise

15. The secretariat will report on the status of the fifth reporting exercise under the Protocol, providing an overview of national summary reports submitted by Parties and other States, as well as an update on the preparation of the regional report on the status of implementation of the Protocol. The Working Group will be invited to provide its comments.

16. The Working Group will then be updated about relevant developments regarding global water and health processes, including the preparations for the United Nations Conference on the Midterm Comprehensive Review of the Implementation of the Objectives of the International Decade for Action, “Water for Sustainable Development”, 2018–2028 (New York, 22–24 March 2023), as well as about progress and outcomes of the recent data-collection and consultation processes for global monitoring of Sustainable Development Goal 6.

Documentation

Decision V/1 on general issues of compliance (in particular, the section entitled “Reporting under the Protocol in accordance with article 7”) (ECE/MP.WH/19/Add.2-EUPCR/1814149/1.2/2019/MOP-5/06/Add.2)

Informal documents

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

4. Special session on increasing resilience to climate change and the Protocol on Water and Health

Tentative timing: Thursday, 19 May, noon–1 p.m.

17. The special session will provide an opportunity to reflect on how to use the platform and tools provided by the Protocol to increase resilience to climate change. A keynote speech will set the scene for the discussion by explaining the importance of a climate change perspective in the water, sanitation and health sectors, including with reference to the increasing impacts of climate change on water resources and water and sanitation services.

18. A representative of Italy, lead country for programme area 7 on increasing resilience to climate change, will present the progress made in this area and will introduce the informal document “Background paper on increasing resilience to climate change through the Protocol on Water and Health”. The representative will also introduce suggested future activities for the period 2023–2025, as well as the main outcomes of the survey for this programme area.

19. Subsequently, a panel composed of representatives of countries will discuss how States have used the Protocol’s framework to strengthen their efforts to increase resilience to climate change at the national and/or local level.

20. The Working Group will be invited to provide comments, share national experiences and discuss the proposed activities.

Documentation

Informal documents

Background paper on increasing resilience to climate change through the Protocol on Water and Health

5. Prevention and reduction of water-related diseases

Tentative timing: Thursday, 19 May, 3–3.30 p.m.

21. Representatives of Belarus and Norway, lead Parties for programme area 2 on prevention and reduction of water-related diseases, will inform the Working Group about the progress of work, including the development of training materials on water-related disease surveillance and risk-based water quality surveillance and the outcomes of the expert meeting on prevention and control of legionellosis in the pan-European region (30 November–2 December 2021).

22. The WHO/Europe secretariat will report on recent developments in the environmental surveillance of severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) in

wastewater, including the development of an interim guidance document and associated questions and answers.

23. The Working Group will be invited to provide information on activities to strengthen water-related disease surveillance and outbreak response systems in accordance with article 8 of the Protocol and on uptake of risk-based drinking water quality surveillance approaches.

24. Representatives of the lead Parties will introduce suggested future activities for the period 2023–2025, as well as the main outcomes of the survey for this programme area. The Working Group will discuss the proposed activities.

Documentation

Informal documents

Report of the expert meeting on prevention and control of legionellosis in the pan-European region

Draft training module on water-related disease surveillance and outbreak management

Draft training module on risk-based water quality surveillance

Expert consultation on public health needs related to surveillance of SARS-CoV-2 in wastewater: summary report

WHO interim guidance on surveillance of SARS-CoV-2 in wastewater

6. Institutional water, sanitation and hygiene

Tentative timing: Thursday, 19 May, 3.30–4 p.m.

25. Representatives of Georgia, Hungary and the Republic of Moldova, lead countries for programme area 3 on institutional water, sanitation and hygiene, will report on the progress of work with particular focus on national policy analyses and assessments of water, sanitation and hygiene conditions in health-care facilities, the highlights of the subregional workshops on water, sanitation and hygiene in schools (online, 6–8 July 2021, and 4–6 April 2022) and communication activities undertaken under this area.

26. Lead country representatives, together with the WHO/Europe secretariat, will update the Working Group on the status of development of the *Regional report on water, sanitation and hygiene in health-care facilities* and the *Survey tool/checklist on water, sanitation and hygiene in health-care facilities*. The Working Group will be invited to provide feedback and agree on the next steps for their finalization, with a view to submitting them to the Meeting of the Parties at its sixth session for endorsement.

27. The Working Group will be invited to provide information on ongoing and planned activities on water, sanitation and hygiene in schools and health-care facilities.

28. Representatives of the lead countries will then introduce suggested future activities for the period 2023–2025, as well as the main outcomes of the survey for this programme area. The Working Group will discuss the proposed activities.

Documentation

Regional report on water, sanitation and hygiene in health-care facilities (draft publication)

Survey tool/checklist on water, sanitation and hygiene in health-care facilities (draft publication)

National situational analysis of water, sanitation and hygiene in health-care facilities in Serbia: Summary report²

² World Health Organization Regional Office for Europe (Copenhagen, 2020).

Informal documents

Water, sanitation and hygiene in schools: meeting report, 6–8 July 2021

7. Small-scale water supplies and sanitation

Tentative timing: Thursday, 19 May, 4–4.30 p.m.

29. Representatives of Germany and Serbia, lead Parties for programme area 4 on small-scale water supplies and sanitation, will inform the Working Group about the achievements in this area, including the ongoing development of training materials on water safety planning and the review of country activities on small-scale water supply and sanitation systems under the Protocol on Water and Health.

30. The Working Group will be informed about the status of work to update the publication *Water safety plan field guide for small community water supplies*. The Working Group will be invited to provide feedback and agree on the next steps for the publication's finalization, with a view to submitting it to the Meeting of the Parties at its sixth session for endorsement.

31. Participants will be invited to provide information on national activities to improve small-scale water supply and sanitation, including progress of field project implementation on integrated water safety and sanitation safety plans in rural areas of Serbia, supported by Germany and the Netherlands.

32. Representatives of Germany and Serbia will introduce suggested future work in this programme area for the period 2023–2025, as well as the main outcomes of the survey for this programme area. The Working Group will discuss the proposed activities.

Documentation

Water safety plan field guide for small community water supplies (draft publication)

Informal documents

Small-scale water supply and sanitation systems: country activities

8. Assistance to support implementation at the national level

Tentative timing: Thursday, 19 May, 4.30–5 p.m.

33. A representative of the ECE secretariat will inform the Working Group about the support for implementation of the Protocol at the national level provided by the ECE-led National Policy Dialogues on Integrated Water Resources Management and Water Supply and Sanitation under the EU4Environment - Water Resources and Environmental Data Programme. The ECE secretariat will also report on other international projects promoting implementation of the Protocol at the national level.

34. A representative of the WHO/Europe secretariat will brief participants on assistance provided to member States through the framework of biennial collaborative agreements and country cooperation strategies to support the Protocol's work.

35. The secretariat will then introduce suggested future activities for the period 2023–2025. The Working Group will discuss the proposed activities.

9. Safe and efficient management of water supply and sanitation systems

Tentative timing: Friday, 20 May, 11–11.30 a.m.

36. Representatives of Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Netherlands, lead Parties for programme area 5 on safe and efficient management of water supply and sanitation systems, will inform the Working Group about the progress made, focusing on the outcomes of the

expert consultation on on-site sanitation (online, 5–7 October 2021) and the progress of a pilot project on on-site sanitation in Serbia.

37. The Working Group will be informed about the development of the publication *Sanitation policy brief* and will be invited to provide feedback and agree on the next steps for its finalization, with a view to submitting it to the Meeting of the Parties at its sixth session for endorsement.

38. Delegates from countries will be invited to inform the Working Group about achievements and activities towards adopting water safety plan and sanitation safety planning approaches in policy and practice at the national and local levels.

39. Representatives of the Netherlands and Bosnia and Herzegovina will introduce suggested future work in this programme area for the period 2023–2025, as well as the main outcomes of the survey for this programme area. The Working Group will discuss the proposed activities.

Documentation

Sanitation policy brief (draft publication)

Informal documents

Report of the expert consultation on on-site sanitation

10. Equitable access to water and sanitation

Tentative timing: Friday, 20 May, 11.30 a.m.–noon

40. Representatives of France and Hungary, lead Parties for programme area 6 on equitable access to water and sanitation, will present the progress made in this area, including the new publication “*Making water and sanitation affordable for all: Policy options and good practices to ensure the affordability of safe drinking water and sanitation services in the pan-European region*”.³ They will also provide an update on the preparations for a regional workshop on equitable access to water and sanitation (Geneva, 13–14 June 2022).

41. Country representatives will be invited to report on relevant action taken at the national and/or local level in the area of equitable access to water and sanitation, and/or to express interest in the application of the Protocol tools on equity during the future triennium.

42. Subsequently, lead Parties will introduce suggested future activities for the period 2023–2025, as well as the main outcomes of the survey for this programme area. The Working Group will discuss the proposed activities.

Documentation

Making water and sanitation affordable for all: Policy options and good practices to ensure the affordability of safe drinking water and sanitation services in the pan-European region (publication)

11. Compliance procedure

Tentative timing: Friday, 20 May, noon–12.30 p.m.

43. The Chair of the Compliance Committee under the Protocol will report on the outcomes of the Committee’s twenty-first (Geneva (hybrid), 15–16 June 2021) and twenty-second (Geneva, 16 November 2021) meetings. In particular, the Working Group will be informed about relevant developments concerning the review of compliance with the obligation to set targets and target dates under the Protocol and the outcomes of the

³ United Nations publication, ECE/MP.WH/20.

Committee's recent consultation procedure. The Committee's Chair will also provide an update on the preparation of the Committee's report to the Meeting of the Parties.

Documentation

Report of the Compliance Committee on its twenty-first meeting (ECE/MP.WH/C.1/2021/2-EUCHP/2018917/4.1/2021/06)

Report of the Compliance Committee on its twenty-second meeting (ECE/MP.WH/C.1/2021/4-EUCHP/2018917/4.1/2021/CC2/06)⁴

12. Implementation of the programme of work for 2020–2022

Tentative timing: Friday, 20 May, 12.30–1 p.m.

44. On the basis of discussions under previous agenda items, the Working Group will generally review progress made with regard to the implementation of the Protocol's programme of work for 2020–2022 and will entrust its Chair, as well as the lead countries for different programme areas, with the assistance of the secretariat, with the task of preparing a report on the progress achieved for submission to the Meeting of the Parties at its sixth session.

45. The Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol entrusted the Working Group to oversee the management of funds of the Protocol⁵ under the ECE Technical Cooperation Trust Fund and the WHO Regional Office for Europe Voluntary Fund. Based on an informal document prepared by the secretariat, the Working Group will review 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, including for the organization of the sixth session of the Meeting of the Parties.

46. Representatives of Parties, other States, relevant international and non-governmental organizations and partners will be invited to express their intention to contribute to the implementation of the programme of work for 2020–2022, including the organization of the sixth session of the Meeting of the Parties through, inter alia, financial support and in-kind contributions.

Documentation

Programme of work for 2020–2022 (ECE/MP.WH/2019/3-EUPCR/1814149/1.2/2019/MOP-5/09)

Informal documents

Overview of contributions and expenditures related to the Protocol and resources required up to the sixth session of the Meeting of the Parties

13. Programme of work for 2023–2025, terms of reference for the bodies established to implement it and resources needed for its implementation

Tentative timing: Friday, 20 May, 3–4.15 p.m.

47. On the basis of discussions under previous agenda items, as well as the draft programme of work for 2023–2025 prepared by the secretariat in consultation with the Bureau, the Working Group will agree on future activities under the Protocol. The Working Group will also discuss and agree on the future institutional structure under the Protocol and the mandates and terms of reference of the different subsidiary bodies to guide and facilitate the implementation of the programme of work for 2023–2025.

⁴ Available at <https://unece.org/environment/documents/2021/12/reports/report-compliance-committee-its-twenty-second-meeting>.

⁵ ECE/MP.WH/2/Add.2-EUR/06/5069385/1/Add.2, decision I/5, para. 5.

48. Subsequently, the Working Group will discuss the resources needed for the implementation of the draft future programme of work, based on the informal document with an overview of resource requirements for 2023–2025 prepared by the secretariat. Participants will discuss possible ways and means to attain the level of financial support needed to implement future activities. In this respect, the Working Group will be informed about the establishment of a financing core group within the Bureau of the Protocol and a representative of Switzerland, the Chair of said group, will report on the group's composition and scope of work, with a view to ensuring a sustainable financial situation for the Protocol.

49. Representatives of Parties, other States, relevant international organizations, non-governmental organizations and other institutions will be invited to report on their intention to contribute to the implementation of the draft programme of work for 2023–2025 through, inter alia, financial support and in-kind contributions and/or by becoming a partner in the implementation of specific activities or programme areas.

50. The Working Group will agree on the way forward towards finalization of the draft programme of work for 2023–2025, including the overview of extrabudgetary resource requirements, for its submission to and adoption by the Meeting of the Parties at its sixth session.

Documentation

Draft programme of work for 2023–2025 (ECE/MP.WH/WG.1/2022/3)

Informal documents

Overview of extrabudgetary resource requirements for 2023–2025

14. Preparations for the sixth session of the Meeting of the Parties

Tentative timing: Friday, 20 May, 4.15–4.45 p.m.

51. The Working Group will discuss the preparations for the sixth session of the Meeting of the Parties, including the draft agenda, the thematic scope and organization of a high-level session, and the procedural and organizational aspects relating to the hybrid setting. The Working Group will provide its comments and advice to the Bureau and the secretariat on the preparations, as appropriate.

Documentation

Informal documents

Draft agenda for the sixth session of the Meeting of the Parties, including a list of documentation

15. Other business

Tentative timing: Friday, 20 May, 4.45–4.50 p.m.

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

16. Date and venue of the fourteenth meeting

Tentative timing: Friday, 20 May, 4.50–4.55 p.m.

53. The Working Group will set a tentative date and venue for its fourteenth meeting.

17. Closure of the meeting

Tentative timing: Friday, 20 May, 4.55–5 p.m.

54. The Chair will close the meeting at 5 p.m. on Friday, 20 May 2022.
