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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

Compliance Committee**Twenty-third meeting**

Geneva, 7 June 2022

Item 1 of the provisional agenda

Adoption of the agenda**Annotated provisional agenda for the twenty-third meeting**

**To be held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva, starting on
Tuesday, 7 June 2022, 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. Consultation Process.
5. Report of the Committee to the Meeting of the Parties at its sixth session.
6. Facilitating compliance with the obligations under the Protocol.
7. Awareness-raising on the compliance procedure.
8. Composition of the Compliance Committee.
9. Programme of work and calendar of future meetings.

* 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 **24 May 2022**, through the following link: <https://unece.org/info/events/event/360837>. 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 United Nations 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.



10. Other business.
11. Adoption of the report.

II. Annotations

1. Adoption of the agenda

Tentative timing: Tuesday, 7 June, 10–10.10 a.m.

1. The Compliance Committee under the Protocol on Water and Health to the Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes (Water Convention) will be invited to adopt its agenda as set out in the present document.

2. Consideration of submissions, referrals and communications

Tentative timing: Tuesday, 7 June, 10.10–10.30 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, 7 June, 10.30–10.40 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.¹

4. At its twenty-second meeting (Geneva (hybrid), 16 November 2021), the Committee reviewed the status of target setting in Albania and Belgium.²

5. With respect to the situation in Albania, the Committee noted with concern that the draft targets identified by the country as part of the draft National Sectoral Strategy on Water and Sanitation for 2019–2030 did not address all of the target areas required by article 6 of the Protocol. The Committee therefore requested the secretariat to send a letter to Albania, requesting the country to clarify the target setting status within its national summary report under the Protocol's fifth reporting cycle.

6. With regard to the situation in Belgium, the Committee welcomed the submission of the report of the Brussels Capital Region as a complement to the national report of Belgium submitted within the Protocol's fourth reporting cycle³ and emphasized that, within the Protocol's fifth reporting cycle, it would welcome the submission of a joint national summary report, covering all the country's territorial subdivisions.

¹ ECE/MP.WH/19/Add.2–EUPCR/1814149/1.2/2019/MOP-5/06/Add.2, paras. 8–9.

² ECE/MP.WH/C.1/2021/4–EUCHP/2018917/4.1/2021/CC2/06, paras. 6–9.

³ Available under “Summary reports (4th cycle)” tab at <https://unece.org/environment-policy/water/areas-work-protocol/improving-governance-water-and-health/fourth-reporting-exercise-under-protocol-water-and-health>.

7. The secretariat will inform the Committee of the most recent developments regarding the two countries. Based on this information, the Committee will discuss its next steps, as well as possible other issues related to target setting, as appropriate.

4. Consultation Process

Tentative timing: Tuesday, 7 June, 10.40–11.10 a.m.

8. At its twenty-first (Geneva (hybrid), 15–16 June 2021)⁴ and twenty-second meetings,⁵ the Committee held consultations with the Russian Federation, which – building on previous practice under the Consultation Process, including consultations held with Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania in 2017–2018 – comprised the following components:

(a) A stocktaking exercise to ascertain the specific needs and expectations of the Russian Federation in connection with its situation regarding water, sanitation and health and possible challenges regarding 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 above-mentioned stocktaking exercise;

(c) Provision of advice in writing and discussions with the country representatives during the twenty-first and twenty-second meetings of the Compliance Committee;

(d) Follow-up on the implementation of the above-mentioned advice.

9. At the twenty-second meeting of the Committee, a representative of the Russian Federation presented draft 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 provided overall feedback and specific recommendations on the targets presented, commending the progress made by the Russian Federation. The consultations were thereby officially concluded and the following closing steps were agreed upon:

(a) The Committee would send an official letter summarizing the outcomes of the Consultation Process and conveying its overall feedback and specific recommendations;

(b) The Russian Federation would 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;

(c) The Committee would review the national summary report of the Russian Federation, along with the final targets, when analysing the outcomes of the fifth reporting cycle.

10. The secretariat will inform the Committee of the most recent developments regarding correspondence with the Russian Federation.

11. The Committee will then discuss and review the national summary report submitted by the Russian Federation within the fifth reporting cycle, together with the table of correspondence and any other additional information provided by the country.

12. The Committee will discuss possible future work with respect to the Consultation Process, including with reference to future consultations and/or the exchange of experience with other implementation and compliance bodies of multilateral environmental agreements.

⁴ ECE/MP.WH/C.1/2021/2–EUCHP/2018917/4.1/2021/06, paras. 10–13.

⁵ ECE/MP.WH/C.1/2021/4–EUCHP/2018917/4.1/2021/CC2/06, paras. 12–18. Available at <https://unece.org/info/events/event/358474>.

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

Tentative timing: Tuesday, 7 June, 11.10 a.m.–1 p.m. and 3–4 p.m.

13. The Committee will discuss its report for the sixth session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol (Geneva, 16–18 November 2022), including the draft decision on general issues of compliance, to be submitted as an official document by 7 September 2022. In particular, the Committee will discuss the compliance of Parties with reporting requirements under the Protocol.

14. At its twenty-second meeting, the Committee discussed the content and format of the report, outlined a preliminary table of contents and agreed on the modalities for preparatory work, including the fact that Committee members would review specific national summary reports submitted by Parties and other States in accordance with an agreed allocation of responsibilities. The Committee also took note of the template developed by the secretariat with the aim of supporting and harmonizing analysis by Committee members and on which the secretariat would provide further guidance in due course.⁶

15. At the twenty-third meeting of the Committee (Geneva, 7 June 2022), Committee members who reviewed specific national summary reports will present the findings of their analysis. The Committee will focus on:

- (a) The completeness, consistency, accuracy and quality of the information provided;
- (b) Grave issues of compliance;
- (c) Common issues arising from the reports;
- (d) Any relevant issue that could be extracted from the reports to be reflected in the draft decision on general issues of compliance.

16. The Committee will then agree on the next steps and timeline for the finalization of the report and the draft decision on general issues of compliance.

6. Facilitating compliance with the obligations under the Protocol

Tentative timing: Tuesday, 7 June, 4–4.40 p.m.

17. At its twenty-second meeting, the Committee discussed the advanced annotated outline of the interpretive note entitled “The Protocol on Water and Health and the protection of individual and public health”, developed by the Chair with support from the secretariat.⁷

18. The Committee will discuss the next steps in relation to the above-mentioned note.

7. Awareness-raising on the compliance procedure

Tentative timing: Tuesday, 7 June, 4.40–5 p.m.

19. The Committee will be informed about the finalization of the new promotional brochure on the Protocol.⁸

20. Subsequently, Committee members will discuss opportunities for promoting the Committee and its work, including a potential side event to take place at the sixth session of the Meeting of the Parties.

⁶ ECE/MP.WH/C.1/2021/4–EUCHP/2018917/4.1/2021/CC2/06, para. 11.

⁷ ECE/MP.WH/C.1/2021/4–EUCHP/2018917/4.1/2021/CC2/06, paras. 19–20.

⁸ *The Protocol on Water and Health: Driving action on water, sanitation, hygiene and health* (United Nations publication, ECE/MP.WH/21).

8. Composition of the Compliance Committee

Tentative timing: Tuesday, 7 June, 5–5.40 p.m.

21. The Committee members will discuss the possible composition of the Compliance Committee after the sixth session of the Meeting of the Parties.

22. At its fifth session, the Meeting of the Parties elected four Committee members for a full term, comprising two intersessional periods, to replace members whose terms had expired, and one member for a half-term. According to paragraph 7 of the annex to decision I/2 on review of compliance, at the sixth session of the Meeting of the Parties, Parties should proceed with the election or re-election of five Committee members to fill the positions of the members whose terms will expire by the sixth session or to continue serving in the Committee, as relevant.

9. Programme of work and calendar of future meetings

Tentative timing: Tuesday, 7 June, 5.40–5.50 p.m.

23. The Committee will agree on the dates of its twenty-fourth and twenty-fifth meetings and on the issues to be considered.

10. Other business

Tentative timing: Tuesday, 7 June, 5.50–5.55 p.m.

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

11. Adoption of the report

Tentative timing: Tuesday, 7 June, 5.55–6 p.m.

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