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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

Sixth session
Geneva, 16–18 November 2022
Item 15 of the provisional agenda
Financing of the Protocol on Water
and Health

MOP6/WH/2022/INF.12

**CONCEPT NOTE: ROUND-TABLE DISCUSSION ON FINANCING OF THE
PROTOCOL ON WATER AND HEALTH**

Note by the secretariat

Background

At its sixth session (Geneva, 16-18 November 2022), the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol on Water and Health is expected to finalize and adopt its programme of work for 2023–2025 by agreeing on its structure, future activities, lead countries and governing bodies to guide its implementation.

The Meeting of the Parties is also expected to make arrangements related to the financial resources needed to adequately staff the secretariat and to implement the activities envisaged in the programme of work.

The Meeting of the Parties will be invited to consider the resources needed and indicate funding for the implementation of the programme of work for 2023–2025, based on the overview of resource requirements for this period.¹

¹ See https://unece.org/sites/default/files/2022-10/ECE_MP.WH_2022_2_Draft_POW_ENG.pdf

Contributions vs. expenditures and current situation

Contributions:

- The overall trend of the Parties' contributions to the UNECE and WHO/Europe Protocol trust funds was positive in the past three years,² with four new Parties contributing. However, only 14 out of 27 Parties have contributed to the Protocol in the triennium 2020–2022.
- Most Parties contributed less or significantly less compared to the UN scale of assessment, as adjusted to the programme of work of the Protocol for 2020-2022.
- In the period June 2019–May 2022, approx. 1,365,000 USD was provided in extrabudgetary contributions, compared to the work programme budget of 5,285,000 USD. Therefore, in the current triennium only 26% of the foreseen budget was provided, compared to 32% in the past triennium 2017–2019.

Expenditures:

- In the period June 2019–May 2022, expenditures of funds earmarked to the Protocol amounted to 1,445,000 USD, thus slightly higher than the contributions.
- The secretariat has also been able to use funds for the Protocol from other sources such as the National Policy Dialogues, voluntary contributions to WHO not earmarked to the Protocol, and other projects. These amount to approx. 1,775,000 USD.
- In addition, some support was provided by the United Nations and WHO regular budgets.

Current situation:

- Some funds for future activities for 2023–2025 (approx. 600,000 USD), have already been secured through projects mobilized by the secretariat, such as from the United Nations development account.
- However, these fall short of the needs for the implementation of the 2023–2025 programme of work. In particular, funds currently available in the UNECE Trust Fund of the Protocol do not allow continuing the contracts of all the UNECE extrabudgetary staff for 2023.

The lack of sustainable, predictable and unearmarked funding is therefore of significant concern and needs to be addressed by the Protocol constituency as a matter of priority.

To this end, a specific round-table discussion on financing will be organized at the sixth session of the Meeting of the Parties.

Objective and scope

The objective of the round-table discussion on financing is to discuss how to strengthen sustainability and predictability of financing of the Protocol by encouraging all Parties to contribute financially and in-kind to the implementation of the programme of work for 2023–2025.

The round-table discussion is suggested to focus on the following questions:

1. What financial contribution can your country make in order to support implementation of the programme of work for 2023–2025 (e.g. funding from the competent authorities represented by the Protocol focal points, from other relevant national entities, including

² More information on the overview on contributions and expenditures for the period 2020-2022 is available at https://unece.org/sites/default/files/2022-09/ECE_MP.WH_2022_4_contributions_expenditures_ENG.pdf. The document is also the basis for the amounts referred to in the present document.

ministries of foreign affairs and development cooperation agencies, and/or from other sources)?

2. As a Party, how can your country support efforts to enhance the sustainability and predictability of financing under the Protocol?
3. How can your country contribute in kind to the Protocol's activities (for example, by leading or supporting the implementation of specific activities foreseen under the programme of work for 2023–2025, by hosting meetings, including covering travel expenses for participants and logistical arrangements for meetings, or by supporting the development and production of publications)?

Organization of work

The round-table discussion on financing will start with the joint secretariat setting the scene by presenting the overview of financial needs and contributions received since the Protocol entered into force in 2005, highlighting challenges faced with respect to the lack of resources as well as good practices by Parties.

The joint secretariat will also provide an overview of the financial resources made available for the implementation of the programme of work for 2020–2022 and will introduce the overview of resource requirements for 2023–2025.

The Meeting of the Parties will be informed about the situation regarding staff resources in the UNECE and WHO/Europe parts of the joint secretariat, including about the outcome of its request from the fifth session (Belgrade, 19–21 November 2019) to the Secretary-General of the United Nations to provide additional regular budget resources for ECE secretariat staff.³ Unfortunately this request was not accepted.

After the report of the joint secretariat, Parties will be invited in alphabetical order to present their contributions to the programme of work for 2023–2025.

All Parties are invited to deliver **short statements** in response to the above questions, ideally indicating concrete pledges. In the contributions to the round-table, focal points are encouraged to consult with the relevant national authorities (e.g. ministries of environment/water, health, foreign affairs and finance as well as development cooperation agencies). Parties are kindly invited to communicate their pledges to the joint secretariat (nataliya.nikiforova@un.org and schmollo@who.int) prior to the meeting, if possible.

Representatives of other States and international and non-governmental organizations may also take the floor to indicate their contributions to the implementation of the Protocol.

On the basis of the above statements, Parties will be invited to discuss the way forward to enhance the predictability and sustainability of funding of the programme of work of the Protocol for 2023–2025.

³ ECE/MP.WH/19-EUPCR/1814149/1.2/2019/MOP-5/06, para. 97 (d).

Annex

Desirable amount of contribution to the Protocol on Water and Health by each Party for the programme of work period 2020-2022 according to the UN scale of assessment

<i>Parties</i>	<i>Adjusted scale of assessments applied to the total 3-year budget for 2020-2022 (US\$)</i>	<i>Adjusted scale of assessments applied to the total 3-year budget (US\$, per annum)</i>
Albania	2 000	667
Azerbaijan	12 200	4 067
Belarus	12 200	4 067
Belgium	203 700	67 900
Bosnia and Herzegovina	3 000	1 000
Croatia	19 100	6 367
Czech Republic	77 200	25 733
Estonia	9 700	3 233
Finland	104 500	34 833
France	1 098 400	366 133
Germany	1 511 100	503 700
Hungary	51 100	17 033
Latvia	11 700	3 900
Lithuania	17 600	5 867
Luxembourg	16 600	5 533
Montenegro	1 000	333
Netherlands	336 500	112 167
Norway	187 100	62 367
Portugal	86 800	28 933
Republic of Moldova	700	233
Romania	49 100	16 367
Russian Federation	596 700	198 900
Serbia	6 900	2 300
Slovakia	38 000	12 667
Spain	532 500	177 500
Switzerland	285 600	95 200
Ukraine	14 100	4 700
Totals	5 285 100	1 761 700