



Introduction to the Protocol and the aims and programme of the Roundtable

Ms. Sonja Koeppel and Mr. Oliver Schmoll, co-secretaries of the Protocol on Water and Health, UNECE and WHO Regional Office for Europe

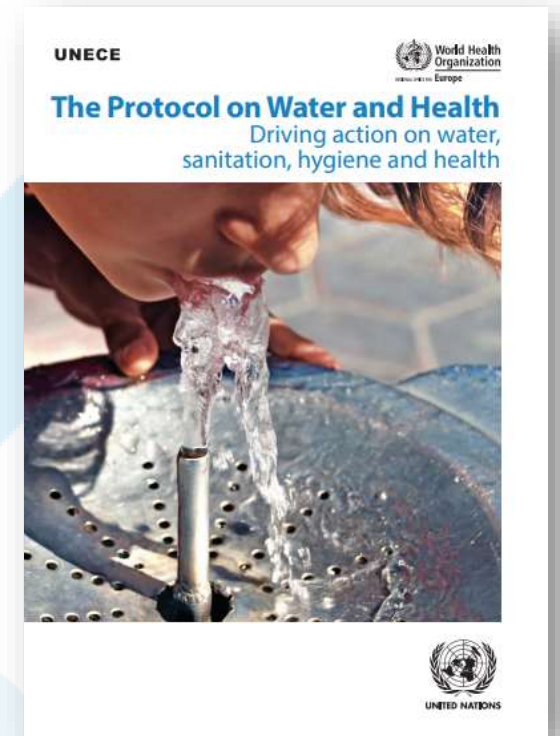
**Strategic Roundtable on Increasing Resilience to Climate Change in
the Water and Sanitation Sector**

13 – 14 November 2023 | Geneva

The Protocol on Water and Health



- Adopted in 1999, **entered into force** in 2005
- **28 Parties** as of November 2023, 36 Signatories, over 40 UNECE-WHO/Europe Member states working in its framework
- **Objective:** to protect human health and well-being through sustainable water management and by preventing, controlling and reducing water-related diseases
- **Scope:**
 - Surface water and groundwater
 - Estuaries and coastal waters
 - Enclosed waters available for bathing
 - Water in the course of abstraction, transport, treatment or supply
 - Wastewater from collection, transport, treatment to discharge or reuse
- **Legally binding treaty**, brings together environment & health sectors
- **UNECE and WHO/Europe** provide joint secretariat functions



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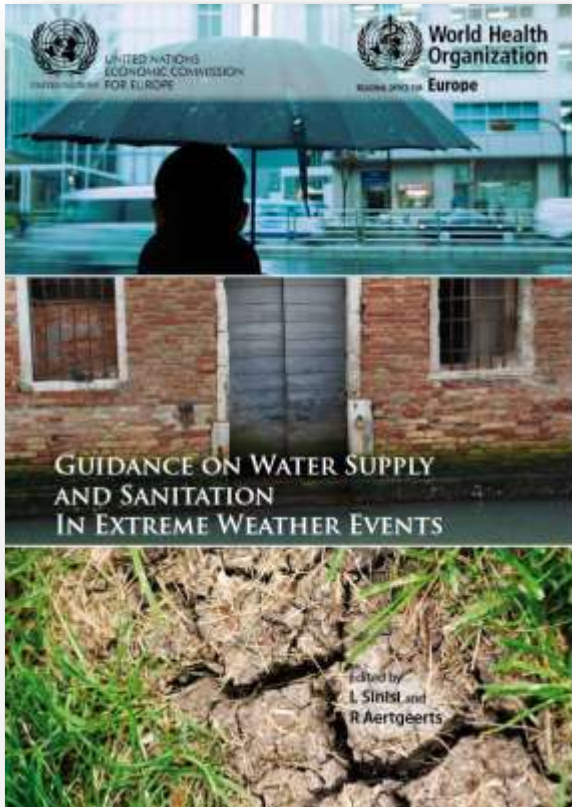


Key obligations

- **Set national and/or local targets** on water, sanitation, hygiene and health
- Every three years, **submit national summary reports on progress**
- Maintain and improve **systems for surveillance and early warning of water-related diseases** and ensure response capacity
- Strengthen **public awareness, education and training** and ensure accessibility of public information
- Promote **international cooperation**, including exchange between countries and peer-to-peer support



Previous activities on climate change under the Protocol



- **Guidance on Water Supply and Sanitation in Extreme Weather Events** developed by the previous Task Force on extreme weather events in 2008-2010
- **Global workshop** on building climate resilience through improving water management and sanitation at national and transboundary levels (March 2021, joint workshop with the Water Convention)
- **Background note** on increasing resilience to climate change through the Protocol prepared in 2022– conceptual framing
- **Policy impact:** some Parties set climate-sensitive targets
- **Country support:** capacity building on climate-resilient water and sanitation planning

Climate change activities under the Protocol



- Every three years, Parties to the Protocol adopt a **programme of work**, reflecting priorities on water, sanitation, hygiene and health in the pan-European region
- Programme of work for 2023-2025 includes a dedicated **area on increasing resilience to climate change**, while climate change is a key consideration across all programme areas
- Programme area aimed at **strengthening resilience and preparedness** to climate-related effects **at policy, strategic and practitioner level**
- Activities are targeted to:
 - **Building awareness** and collecting evidence on increasing resilience to climate change
 - Developing **policy/technical guidance**
 - **Strengthening capacities**, including for water and wastewater operators, to address climate impacts on water resources and water supply and sanitation services
 - Promoting **linkages with global climate processes** and related national planning documents



Strategic Roundtable under the Protocol

(13-14 November)

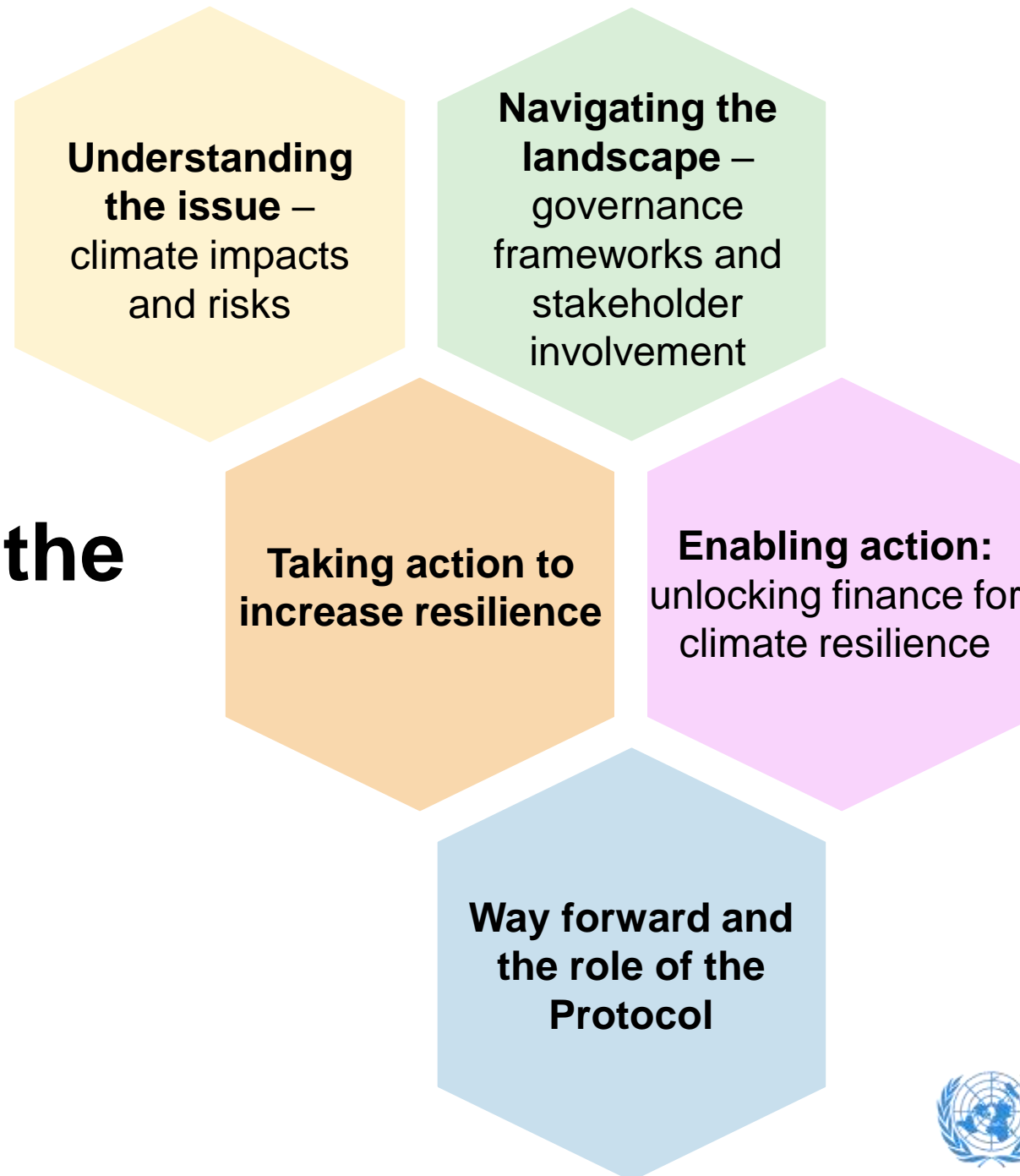


- First “strategic conversation” under the Protocol on climate change
- Strategic paper developed by the University of Bristol to support the preparation of and discussions at the meeting
- Roundtable will inform future activities under the 2023-2025 programme of work and beyond
- Main objective of the workshop: **scoping**



- **Identify key needs and strategic priorities** for states working within the framework of the Protocol
- Discuss **which** can be addressed under the Protocol and **how**
- **Avoid duplication:** identify synergies between the Protocol’s framework and actors/activities such as global climate processes and regional commitments

Structure of the programme



Steps after the Strategic Roundtable

- Participants **invited to provide comments** and feedback on the Strategic Paper by **1 December 2023** (will become available in Russian)
- Secretariat to collect input from the meeting and produce an **outcome document** for the Roundtable, with support from the University of Bristol
- Strategic Roundtable **to inform future activities** such as:
 - ❖ Preparation of guidance and tools
 - ❖ Support to national activities on the setting of climate-sensitive targets
 - ❖ Uptake of climate considerations in other thematic programme areas, incl. capacity building
 - ❖ Recommendations on streamlining Protocol-related processes with global and regional processes (e.g. development of National Adaptation Plans)
- Task Force on Target Setting and Reporting to discuss future steps with regards to target setting
- Lead Parties and Bureau will discuss follow-up



Thank you!

Contact the joint secretariat at:
protocol.water_health@un.org

schmollo@who.int

sonja.koeppel@un.org



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