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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

**Working Group on Water and Health**

**Fourteenth meeting**

Geneva, 16 and 17 April 2024

Item 2 of the provisional agenda

**Adoption of the agenda**

**Annotated provisional agenda for the fourteenth meeting**

**To be held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva, starting on Tuesday,  
16 April 2024, at 10 a.m.\***

**I. Provisional agenda**

1. Opening of the meeting and election of officers.
2. Adoption of the agenda.
3. Progress in the ratification process.
4. Role of the Protocol in achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and other global and regional commitments.
5. Improving governance for water and health through setting targets, implementing measures and reporting.
6. Prevention and reduction of water-related diseases.
7. Water, sanitation and hygiene in institutional settings and public places.
8. Small-scale water supplies and sanitation.

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\* In accordance with United Nations accreditation procedures, participants are requested to complete the online registration procedure available on the web page for the fourteenth meeting (<https://unece.org/info/Environmental-Policy/Water-Convention/events/386481>) as soon as possible, but by no later than **2 April 2024**. 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](http://www.unece.org/meetings/practical.html)). In case of difficulty, please contact the secretariat by telephone at +41 22 917 3967.

9. Long-term vision and strategy for implementation of the Protocol on Water and Health.
10. Safe management of water supply and sanitation systems.
11. Equitable access to water and sanitation.
12. Increasing resilience to climate change.
13. Compliance procedure.
14. Raising awareness on the Protocol and facilitating accession.
15. Implementation of the programme of work for 2023–2025.
16. Financial resources to support the implementation of the Protocol.
17. Other business.
18. Date and venue of the fifteenth meeting.
19. Closure of the meeting.

## II. Annotations

1. The main objectives of the fourteenth meeting of the Working Group on Water and Health under the Protocol are to review the implementation of the programme of work for 2023–2025 (ECE/MP.WH/24/Add.1-EUCHP/2219533/3.1/2022/MOP-6/06/Add.1) and provide guidance on its further development, while giving consideration to the financial and human resource situation. The Working Group will also discuss how to benefit from the Protocol’s practical framework to facilitate progress in the implementation of the water, sanitation, hygiene and health-related Sustainable Development Goals in the pan-European region.
2. The meeting will begin on Tuesday, 16 April 2024, at 10 a.m., and will close on Wednesday, 17 April 2024, at 5.30 p.m. It will be held back-to-back with the thirty-first meeting of the Bureau of the Protocol on Water and Health (Geneva, 18–19 April 2024).
3. The working languages of the meeting will be English, French and Russian.
4. All relevant documentation for the meeting of the Working Group will be available online on the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) website.<sup>1</sup>

### 1. Opening of the meeting and election of officers

*Tentative timing: Tuesday, 16 April, 10–10.10 a.m.*

5. The Chair of the Bureau of the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol will open the meeting and welcome participants. The Working Group will elect its Chair and Vice-Chair(s) for the triennium 2023–2025.

### 2. Adoption of the agenda

*Tentative timing: Tuesday, 16 April, 10.10–10.15 a.m.*

6. The Working Group is expected to adopt its agenda as set out in the present document.

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<sup>1</sup> See <https://unece.org/environmental-policy/events/working-group-water-and-health-0>.

### **3. Progress in the ratification process**

*Tentative timing: Tuesday, 16 April, 10.15–10.45 a.m.*

7. As of 31 January 2024, the following 29 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, North Macedonia, Norway, Portugal, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Serbia, Slovakia, Spain, Switzerland, Ukraine and Uzbekistan. The Working Group will be invited to welcome and congratulate two new Parties – North Macedonia and Uzbekistan – that have joined the Protocol since the sixth session of the Meeting of the Parties (Geneva, 16–18 November 2022).

8. Representatives of signatories and other States will be invited to report on any recent or anticipated developments in their respective countries with respect to becoming a Party to the Protocol.

### **4. Role of the Protocol in achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and other global and regional commitments**

*Tentative timing: Tuesday, 16 April, 10.45–11.15 a.m.*

9. The Working Group will discuss how to benefit from and give prominence to the work under the Protocol with regard to the implementation, follow-up and review of global and regional commitments in the areas of water, environment, sanitation, hygiene and health, including the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the outcomes of and follow-up to the United Nations 2023 Water Conference (New York, 22–24 March 2023), the Declaration of the Seventh Ministerial Conference on Environment and Health (Budapest Declaration) and other relevant global and regional environmental and health commitments.

### **5. Improving governance for water and health through setting targets, implementing measures and reporting**

*Tentative timing: Tuesday, 16 April, 11.15 a.m.–12.30 p.m.*

10. The 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 thirteenth meeting of the Task Force (Geneva, 14 November 2023), and will present the plans for future activities. The Working Group will discuss the proposed activities.

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

12. The Working Group will be updated about the development of the online reporting system under the Protocol that should be deployed for the sixth reporting cycle (to be initiated in late 2024 and to continue until spring 2025).

13. The Working Group will exchange experience in monitoring and reporting on water, sanitation, hygiene and health-related Sustainable Development Goal indicators and will discuss how the work under the Protocol could further support these efforts. The Working Group will also be informed about the upcoming launch of the UN-Water Global Analysis and Assessment of Sanitation and Drinking Water 2024 country survey.

14. The Working Group will also be informed about progress with improving governance on water and health at the national level through providing support to Parties and other States in setting targets, establishing action plans and implementing measures to achieve them, including through several ongoing projects, the “EU4Environment – Water Resources and Environmental Data” programme for the Eastern Partner Countries and the Biennial Collaborative Agreements and Country Cooperation Strategies established between ministries of health and the World Health Organization (WHO) Regional Office for Europe.

### **Documentation**

Report of the thirteenth meeting of the Task Force on Target Setting and Reporting (informal document)

## **6. Prevention and reduction of water-related diseases**

*Tentative timing: Tuesday, 16 April, 3–4 p.m.*

15. 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 on: (a) strengthening national capacities for surveillance and outbreak management of water-related diseases; (b) strengthening national capacities for risk-based surveillance of drinking water supply and quality; and (c) improving capacity for environmental surveillance of wastewater.

16. Participants will be invited to provide information on prevention and reduction of water-related diseases in accordance with article 8 of the Protocol on Water and Health.

17. Lead Parties will inform the Working Group about the planned activities in this programme area for the upcoming period 2024–2025. The Working Group will discuss the proposed activities.

## **7. Water, sanitation and hygiene in institutional settings and public places**

*Tentative timing: Tuesday, 16 April, 4–5 p.m.*

18. Representatives of Georgia, Hungary, Lithuania, North Macedonia and the Republic of Moldova, lead countries for programme area 3 on water, sanitation and hygiene in institutional settings and public places, will inform the Working Group about the progress of work on: (a) improving water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) in health-care facilities; (b) WASH in schools; and (c) scaling up action for hand hygiene in institutions, public places and workplaces. In particular, the above-mentioned representatives will, in conjunction with the WHO Regional Office for Europe secretariat, present the outcomes of the third subregional workshop on WASH in schools (Astana, 11–13 December 2023), the ongoing work on the collection of good practices on hand hygiene and menstrual health in school settings, and the appraisal of evidence on practices and enabling factors for promoting and sustaining hand hygiene practices in public places.

19. Participants will be invited to provide information on national activities on WASH in institutional settings and public places, including setting and implementing targets under the Protocol.

20. Lead countries will inform the Working Group about the planned activities in this programme area for the upcoming period 2024–2025. The Working Group will discuss the proposed activities.

### **Documentation**

*The status of water, sanitation and hygiene in health-care facilities in the pan-European region (draft)*

*National situational analysis of water, sanitation and hygiene in health-care facilities in Montenegro: Summary report (draft)*

*Water, sanitation and hygiene in schools: Meeting summary, 11–13 December 2023 (draft)*

## **8. Small-scale water supplies and sanitation**

*Tentative timing: Tuesday, 16 April, 5–6 p.m.*

21. 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 progress of

work on: (a) supporting an enabling environment for small-scale systems; (b) strengthening policy uptake and application of approaches to safe management of small-scale systems; and (c) improving the evidence base and supporting policy action on small-scale sanitation. In particular, the outcomes of a project on integrated water and sanitation safety planning in small-scale systems, including the tools developed in the project, will be presented. Furthermore, the draft document “Small-scale water supply and sanitation systems: Country activities towards achieving safe services” will be presented to the Working Group.

22. Participants will be invited to provide information on national activities to improve small-scale water supplies and sanitation, specifically actions taken by the participating countries to enhance enabling environments for small-scale systems, improve the evidence base, and support the uptake of safe management in small systems.

23. Lead Parties will inform the Working Group about the planned activities in this programme area for the upcoming period 2024–2025. The Working Group will discuss the proposed activities.

24. A representative of WHO will present the new edition of the WHO *Guidelines for drinking water quality: small water supplies*, along with the associated *Sanitary inspection packages: a supporting tool for the Guidelines for drinking water quality: small water supplies*.

#### **Documentation**

Draft document “Small-scale water supply and sanitation systems: Country activities towards achieving safe services”

### **9. Long-term vision and strategy for implementation of the Protocol on Water and Health**

*Tentative timing: Wednesday, 17 April, 9.30–11 a.m.*

25. The Chair of the Bureau of the Meeting of the Parties will present the document containing the draft long-term vision and strategy for implementation of the Protocol on Water and Health, prepared by the Bureau with the support of the joint secretariat. The Working Group will be invited to participate in an interactive discussion on the structure and content of the document. The Working Group will also agree on the ways and means for further development and finalization of the document for its submission to the seventh session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol (tentatively planned for autumn 2025).

#### **Documentation**

Draft long-term vision and strategy for implementation of the Protocol on Water and Health (informal document)

### **10. Safe management of water supply and sanitation systems**

*Tentative timing: Wednesday, 17 April, 11–11.45 a.m.*

26. Representatives of the Netherlands and Bosnia and Herzegovina, the lead Parties for programme area 5 on safe management of water supply and sanitation systems, will inform the Working Group about the progress made on: (a) supporting safe and climate-resilient management of water and sanitation services; and (b) strengthening attention to sanitation, wastewater reuse and wastewater quality.

27. Participants will be invited to provide information on national processes and activities towards adopting the water safety and sanitation safety planning approaches in policy and practice at national level.

28. Lead Parties will inform the Working Group about the planned activities in this programme area for the upcoming period 2024–2025. The Working Group will discuss the proposed activities.

## 11. Equitable access to water and sanitation

*Tentative timing: Wednesday, 17 April, 11.45 a.m.–12.30 p.m.*

29. Representatives of France, Hungary and North Macedonia, lead Parties for programme area 6 on equitable access to water and sanitation, will present the progress of work, in particular the revision process of *The Equitable Access Score-card: Supporting policy processes to achieve the human right to water and sanitation*.<sup>2</sup>

30. Representatives of Montenegro and Albania will report on progress made in assessing the equity of access to water and sanitation through the pilot application of the draft revised Score-card, the lessons learned and the way forward.

31. The Working Group will be invited to discuss the ongoing process of revision of the Score-card and to agree on ways and means to finalize and publish the revised publication.

32. Lead Parties will inform the Working Group about the planned activities in this programme area for the upcoming period 2024–2025. 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* (United Nations publication, ECE/MP.WH/20).

## 12. Increasing resilience to climate change

*Tentative timing: Wednesday, 17 April, 2.30–3.15 p.m.*

33. Representatives of Italy and the Netherlands, lead countries for programme area 7 on increasing resilience to climate change, will present the progress of work, in particular the outcomes of the Strategic Round Table on Increasing Resilience to Climate Change under the Protocol on Water and Health (Geneva, 13–14 November 2023) and the key messages of the strategic paper on strengthening climate resilience in the drinking water and sanitation sector through the Protocol on Water and Health that was prepared as a background for the Round Table.

34. The joint secretariat will briefly report on the outcomes of the twenty-eighth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Conference on Climate Change (Dubai, United Arab Emirates, 30 November–12 December 2023) that are relevant to the Protocol.

35. Lead Parties will present plans regarding the planned activities in this programme area for the upcoming period 2024–2025. The Working Group will discuss the proposed activities.

### Documentation

Strategic paper on strengthening climate resilience in the drinking water and sanitation sector through the Protocol on Water and Health (informal document)

## 13. Compliance procedure

*Tentative timing: Wednesday, 17 April, 3.15–3.45 p.m.*

36. The Chair of the Compliance Committee under the Protocol will provide an update on the different follow-up actions planned and implemented as a result of the decisions taken by the Meeting of the Parties at its sixth session. In particular, the Chair will report on the

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<sup>2</sup> United Nations publication, ECE/MP.WH/8.

outcomes of the Committee's twenty-fourth meeting (Geneva, 13–14 March 2023) and its upcoming activities.

#### **Documentation**

Decision IV/1 on general issues of compliance (ECE/MP.WH/24/Add.2-EUCHP/2219533/3.1/2022/MOP-6/06/Add.2)

Report of the Compliance Committee to the Meeting of the Parties including the draft decision on general issues of compliance (ECE/MP.WH/2022/6-EUCHP/2219533/3.1/2022/MOP-6/12)

Report of the Compliance Committee on its twenty-fourth meeting (ECE/MP.WH/C.1/2023/2-EUCHP/2219533/3.1/2023/CC/06)

### **14. Raising awareness on the Protocol and facilitating accession**

*Tentative timing: Wednesday, 17 April, 3.45–4.15 p.m.*

37. The joint secretariat will briefly report on the activities undertaken to raise awareness on the Protocol, including through participation in different international events, and activities undertaken or planned to promote accession to the Protocol.

### **15. Implementation of the programme of work for 2023–2025**

*Tentative timing: Wednesday, 17 April, 4.15–4.30 p.m.*

38. On the basis of the discussion under previous agenda items, the Working Group will review progress made with regard to the implementation of the Protocol's programme of work for 2023–2025 and discuss prospects for further implementation. The Working Group will be reminded that the implementation of planned activities is subject to the availability of resources and the mandate given by the Meeting of the Parties to the Bureau to prioritize activities according to the financial resources available.

#### **Documentation**

Programme of work for 2023–2025 (ECE/MP.WH/24/Add.1-EUCHP/2219533/3.1/2022/MOP-6/06/Add.1)

### **16. Financial resources to support the implementation of the Protocol**

*Tentative timing: Wednesday, 17 April, 4.30–5.20 p.m.*

39. The Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol entrusted the Working Group to oversee the management of the funds of the Protocol under the ECE Technical Cooperation Trust Fund and the WHO Regional Office for Europe Voluntary Fund. On the basis of an informal document prepared by the joint secretariat, the Working Group will be informed about 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 2023–2025.

40. The Chair of the Bureau will brief participants on the efforts undertaken by the Bureau towards fundraising for the resources needed for the implementation of the programme of work for 2023–2025. The joint secretariat will complement this information.

41. Representatives of Parties, other States, relevant international and non-governmental organizations and other partners will be invited to inform the Working Group of their intention to contribute to the activities contained in the programme of work, among other things, through financial and in-kind contributions.

42. A representative of the Bureau will present the draft proposal for a system of financial targets under the Protocol, prepared by the Bureau following the mandate provided by the Meeting of the Parties to prepare a draft decision on strengthening the financial sustainability

of the work under the Protocol for consideration by the Meeting of the Parties at its seventh session.<sup>3</sup> The Working Group will be invited to comment on the system and to discuss the next steps for its finalization.

43. The Working Group will be invited to comment on the information provided and to discuss ways and means to attain the level of financial support needed to implement the Protocol's programme of work.

#### **Documentation**

Overview of contributions and expenditures related to the Protocol and resources required up to the seventh session of the Meeting of the Parties compared with funds raised (informal document)

Draft proposal for a system of financial targets under the Protocol (informal document)

### **17. Other business**

*Tentative timing: Wednesday, 17 April, 5.20–5.25 p.m.*

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

### **18. Date and venue of the fifteenth meeting**

*Tentative timing: Wednesday, 17 April, 5.25–5.30 p.m.*

45. The Working Group will set a tentative date and venue for its fifteenth meeting.

### **19. Closure of the meeting**

46. The Chair will close the meeting at 5.30 p.m. on Wednesday, 17 April 2024.

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<sup>3</sup> ECE/MP.WH/24–EUCHP/2219533/3.1/2022/MOP-6/06, para. 101 (e).