

7th Meeting of the Expert Group on Equitable Access to Water and Sanitation under the Protocol on Water and Health

28-29 May 2024, 09:30-12:30 (on both days)

Virtual Meeting

FINAL PROGRAMME

28 May 2024	
<p>9:30-9:50</p> <p>5 minutes</p> <p>5 minutes</p> <p>5 minutes</p>	<p>Opening remarks</p> <p><u>Moderator</u>: Ms. Mathilde Merlo, Head of Water Quality Office, Sub-Directorate for the Prevention of Environmental and Food-Related Risks, Ministry of Work, Health and Solidarities, France</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ms. Laurence Caté, Acting Deputy Director, General Directorate of Health, Ministry of Work, Health and Solidarities, France - Mr. Albert Torma, Deputy General to the Chief Medical Officer, National Centre for Public Health and Pharmacy, Hungary - Ms. Sonja Köppel, Co-Secretary of the Protocol on Water and Health, UNECE
<p>Session 1 – Where do we stand?</p> <p><u>Moderator</u>: Ms. Mathilde Merlo, Head of Water Quality Office, Sub-Directorate for the Prevention of Environmental and Food-Related Risks, Ministry of Work, Health and Solidarities, France</p>	
<p>9:50-10:30</p> <p>10 minutes</p> <p>10 minutes</p>	<p>Stock-tacking: Equitable access work and Score-card revision process</p> <p><i>The Expert Group will be informed on the progress made since the 6th meeting of the Expert Group (online, 24-25 March 2021), particularly concerning the revision process of the Equitable Access Score-card initiated in 2022, which will be finalized in late 2024 and was piloted in Montenegro and Albania in 2023/2024.</i></p> <p>The Equitable Access Score-card: the past, present and ways forward</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mr. Armin Bigham Ghazani, Associate Environmental Affairs Officer, joint secretariat of the Protocol on Water and Health, UNECE <p>Piloting the draft revised Score-card in Montenegro and Albania: lessons learned, limitations and ways forward</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ms. Dijana Djurovic, Director of Centre for Hygiene and Environmental Health, Institute of Public Health, Montenegro

10 minutes	- Mr. Arduen Karagjozi , Director, Directory of Strategic Management, Water Resources Management Agency, Albania
5 minutes	Questions and answers
Session 2 – Revising the Equitable Access Score-card Climate change impacts and other emergencies	
Moderator: Ms. Marta Vargha , Lead Expert, Department of Public Health Laboratories and Methodology, National Centre for Public Health and Pharmacy, Hungary	
10:30-11:00	<p><i>The Expert Group will identify suitable parameters and entry points to consider in the revised Score-card to ensure WASH services to all populations, particularly vulnerable and marginalized communities, in emergencies such as extreme weather events and other natural disasters. Proposed parameters include the assessment of policies and measures to allow WASH service providers to continue services in emergency settings and without jeopardizing their financial sustainability.</i></p>
7 minutes	<p>Assessing the emergency responsiveness of WASH service providers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mr. Guillaume Pierrehumber, Head of Water and Habitat Unit, International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)
7 minutes	<p>Increasing resilience to climate change in the water and sanitation sector: lessons learned from the Republic of Moldova</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mr. Ion Salaru, Head of Department for Prevention and Control of Non-Communicable Diseases, National Agency for Public Health, Republic of Moldova
10 minutes	<p>Proposals included in the draft revised Score-card</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mr. Armin Bigham Ghazani, Associate Environmental Affairs Officer, UNECE
11:00-11:30	<p>Group discussions: reflecting climate change and other emergencies in the revised Score-card</p>
25 minutes	<p>Moderator: Ms. Barbara Mateo, UNECE consultant</p> <p>Guiding questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>To what extent do the proposed parameters help to fully assess the emergency responsiveness of WASH service providers in the context of climate change impacts and other emergencies?</i> - <i>What other parameters do you identify that could help WASH service providers ensure the continuity of services for all in the context of climate change impacts and other emergencies?</i>
5 minutes	Summary and conclusion of session outcomes

Session 3 – Revising the Equitable Access Score-card: Hygiene, gender, and institutional settings

Moderator: Ms. Marta Vargha, Lead Expert, Department of Public Health Laboratories and Methodology, National Centre for Public Health and Pharmacy, Hungary

<p>11:30-12:00</p> <p>7 minutes</p> <p>7 minutes</p> <p>10 minutes</p>	<p>The Expert Group will identify best parameters and entry points to consider in the revised Score-card to ensure all hygiene practices and to distinguish them from sanitation. Special focus will be given to menstrual hygiene and health and the role of healthcare facility workers to ensure better knowledge of menstrual hygiene management and prevention of disease in all settings where women and girls are exposed to. Proposed parameters also seek to include questions to gather data on gender diversity and measures to eliminate their inequalities in the WASH sector.</p> <p>Update on the findings and recommendations related to hygiene, healthcare facilities, and gender in the last GLASS report</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ms. Fiona Gore, Lead, UN-Water Global Analysis & Assessment of Sanitation & Drinking Water, WHO <p>Menstrual health, hygiene management, and gender equality: lessons learned from North Macedonia</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ms. Natasha Dokovska, Programme Director, Journalists for Human Rights, North Macedonia <p>Proposals included in the draft revised Score-card</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ms. Diane Guerrier, UNECE
<p>12:00-12:30</p> <p>25 minutes</p> <p>5 minutes</p>	<p>Group discussions: adequately reflecting hygiene, gender, and institutional settings in the revised Score-card</p> <p>Moderator: Ms. Barbara Mateo, UNECE consultant</p> <p>Guiding questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To what extent do you distinguish hygiene practices from sanitation? Is it important to keep specific questions to wastewater collection and wastewater treatment? If yes, why? - What other parameters should be included to ensure that all settings where women and girls are exposed to menstruate are prepared to manage menstrual health and hygiene adequately? - What else should be considered when applying a gender equality perspective in the Score-card? <p>Summary and conclusion of session outcomes</p>

29 May 2024

**Session 4 –Revising the Equitable Access Score-card
Accountability framework and finance**

Moderator: Ms. Marta Vargha, Lead Expert, Department of Public Health Laboratories and Methodology, National Centre for Public Health and Pharmacy, Hungary

<p>09:30-10:00</p> <p>7 minutes</p> <p>7 minutes</p> <p>10 minutes</p>	<p>Focus Area: Accountability framework and finance</p> <p><i>The Expert Group will identify best parameters and measures to consider in the revised Score-card to ensure an accountability framework in the WASH sector to allow right-holders, and in particular vulnerable and marginalized communities, to monitor and participate in WASH-related processes and interventions of their concern (water subsidies, WASH budget, and programmes, complaint mechanisms etc.) at national and local levels. Remedial actions are defined from the WASH service level to the judiciary level. Proposed parameters also seek to assess accountability and transparency of the financing of the WASH sector and how affordability to the services can be guaranteed.</i></p> <p>Lessons learned and good practices in applying the accountability framework at local and national levels</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mr. Alejandro Jiménez, Director, Water and Sanitation Department, Stockholm International Water Institute (SIWI) <p>Securing resources for an equitable access to water and sanitation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ms. Manon Gallego, Coordinator of Operations in France, Solidarités International, Coalition Eau <p>Proposals included in the draft revised Score-card</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ms. Barbara Mateo, UNECE consultant
<p>10:00-10:30</p> <p>25 minutes</p> <p>5 minutes</p>	<p>Group discussions: introducing an effective accountability framework in the WASH sector, including its financing</p> <p><u>Moderator:</u> Ms. Barbara Mateo, UNECE consultant</p> <p>Guiding questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To what extent do the proposed parameters help fully assess an accountability framework in the WASH sector, including its financing? - What other parameters do you identify to ensure that right-holders, particularly vulnerable and marginalized groups, monitor and participate in WASH-related processes? - What other measures could be included to ensure coordination among national and local WASH actors, including with vulnerable and marginalized communities? <p>Summary and conclusion of session outcomes</p>

Session 5 – Other changes and next steps in the revision of the Score-card and under Equitable Access to Water and Sanitation	
Moderator: Ms. Marta Vargha, Lead Expert, Department of Public Health Laboratories and Methodology, National Centre for Public Health and Pharmacy, Hungary	
<p>10:30-11:00</p>	<p>Other changes in the Equitable Access Score-card</p> <p><i>The Expert Group will review possible remaining parameters to be integrated into the Score-Card.</i></p> <p>Implementing TrackFin: how to better track finance flows allocated to the WASH sector? Experiences from Ghana</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ms Suzzy Abaidoo, WASH Programme Officer, Ministry of Sanitation and Water Resources, Ghana <p>Lessons learned from assessing equitable access to drinking water in the European Union Member States</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ms. Laura Huber, German Environment Agency, WHO Collaborating Centre for Research on Drinking-Water- Hygiene, Germany <p>Proposals included in the draft revised Score-card</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ms. Barbara Mateo, UNECE consultant
<p>7 minutes</p>	
<p>7 minutes</p>	
<p>10 minutes</p>	
<p>11:00-11:30</p>	<p>Group discussions: Revising the current draft Score-card and identifying other parameters for revision</p> <p><u>Moderator: Ms. Barbara Mateo, UNECE consultant</u></p> <p>Guiding questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>To what extent do the current proposed parameters, and structure of the Score-card help to fully assess equity to water and sanitation on all scales in consideration of current and emerging challenges?</i> - <i>What other parameters do you identify that should be incorporated in the next revision round to make the tool fit-for-purpose for the next decades?</i>
<p>25 minutes</p>	
<p>5 minutes</p>	<p>Summary and conclusion of session outcomes</p>
<p>11:30-12:15</p>	<p>Future work under Equitable Access to Water and Sanitation under the Protocol on Water and Health</p> <p><u>Moderator: Ms. Marta Vargha, Hungary</u></p> <p>Equitable access to water and sanitation in the current 2023-2025 programme of work and potential ways forward</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ms. Diane Guerrier, Environmental Affairs Officer, UNECE <p>Discussion</p>
<p>10 minutes</p>	

<p>30 minutes</p>	<p>Guiding questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>In consideration of the strategic priorities as well as current and emerging challenges in your country, what type of support would your country need from the joint secretariat to continue enhancing equitable access to water and sanitation?</i> - <i>How could the Protocol on Water and Health further collaborate with civil society on equitable access to water and sanitation?</i> - <i>What concrete activities do you suggest being possibly included under this programme area in the upcoming 2026-2028 programme of work?</i>
<p>5 minutes</p>	<p>Summary and conclusion of session outcomes</p>
<p>12:15-12:30</p>	<p>Conclusions and ways forward</p> <p><u>Moderator:</u> Ms. Diane Guerrier, UNECE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ms. Julie Deffon, <i>Officer, Sub-Directorate for the Prevention of Environmental and Food-Related Risks, Ministry of Work, Health and Solidarities, France</i> - Ms. Marta Vargha, <i>Lead Expert, Department of Public Health Laboratories and Methodology, National Centre for Public Health and Pharmacy, Hungary</i> - Mr. Mihail Kochubovski, <i>Chief of Department of Water Safety and Environmental Sanitation, Institute of Public Health, North Macedonia</i>