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**ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE**

**WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION  
REGIONAL OFFICE FOR EUROPE**

**MEETING OF THE SIGNATORIES TO  
THE PROTOCOL ON WATER AND HEALTH  
TO THE 1992 CONVENTION ON THE  
PROTECTION AND USE OF TRANSBOUNDARY  
WATERCOURSES AND INTERNATIONAL LAKES**

First meeting,  
Budapest, 2-3 November 2000  
Item 11 of the provisional agenda

**WORK PLAN 2000-2003**

1. At its consultation in Budapest on 3-4 April 2000, the Working Group on Water and Health requested the joint secretariat to prepare together with the Chairman of the Working Group and Health a document on work needed to prepare the first meeting of the Protocol's Parties.

2. The annex below contains draft elements for the work plan which update and specify programme area IV "Water and human health" of the 2000-2003 work plan under the Convention (ECE/MP.WAT/5, annex II) as follows:

(a) In the rationale for the programme area, "The possibility to include measures on compliance into the work plan will be also explored" has been deleted as the revised draft contains a programme element on this issue, following article 15 of the Protocol. The last sentence was replaced by "The work-plan elements included in this programme area were updated in the light of the decisions taken by the Signatories to the Protocol at their first meeting (Budapest, 2-3 November 2000)";

(b) Programme element 4.1 "Protocol on Water and Health - interim implementation" is intended to cover such activities as surveillance, early-warning and notification systems; assessment of health risks; facilitation of access to sources of finance; and workshops on sustainable water management and health, which are being considered under items 5 to 10 of the provisional agenda;

(c) Under programme element 4.2 "Preparations for the first meeting of the Parties to the Protocol", draft documents will be drawn up following, in particular, the provisions of articles 7, 15 and 16 of the Protocol.

#### Draft decisions

4. The Meeting of the Signatories may wish to:

(a) Consider the proposed programme elements for the extended 2000-2003 work plan, programme area IV "Water and human health" (annex);

(b) Update these programme elements in the light of the discussion on the relevant agenda items;

(c) Adopt its work plan for the 2000-2003 period;

(d) Take note of the terms of reference of the Bureau of the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention (ECE/MP.WAT/5, annex VII), and recommend that the Bureau of the Meeting of the Parties should replace the elements of programme area IV of its work plan, as contained in annex II to document ECE/MP.WAT/5, with the new programme elements.

Annex

**DRAFT PROPOSAL FOR THE 2000-2003 WORK PLAN UNDER THE PROTOCOL  
UPDATING PROGRAMME AREA IV ON WATER AND HUMAN HEALTH  
OF THE 2000-2003 WORK PLAN UNDER THE CONVENTION**

**PROGRAMME AREA IV: WATER AND HUMAN HEALTH**

Responsible body: Working Group on Water and Health, with Hungary as lead Party.

Rationale: The focus of programme area IV is on the interim implementation of the Protocol on Water and Health pending its entry into force. The activities will promote sustainable water supply and management in cities and rural areas, the rehabilitation of defective water-supply and sewage systems, and the minimization of the adverse impact of human activities (e.g. wastewater discharges, water resources development projects) on human health and safety. The programme area also aims at reducing health problems and diseases due to poor water quality. Soft-law instruments and methodologies will be developed. Human resources development and institutional capacity building, for example through workshops, training courses and pilot programmes or projects, are also foreseen. The work-plan elements included in this programme area were updated in the light of the decisions taken by the Signatories to the Protocol at their first meeting (Budapest, 2-3 November 2000).

Main partners: UN/ECE, WHO/EURO, UNEP, UNDP, European Commission, European Environment and Health Committee (EEHC) and relevant NGOs.

**4.1 Protocol on Water and Health: interim implementation**

Objectives: The Parties to the Convention and the Signatories to the Protocol on Water and Health will implement relevant provisions of the Protocol pending its entry into force. The International Water Assessment Centre (IWAC) established under the Convention will assist, as appropriate, in the implementation of the programme element.

Work accomplished: Protocol on Water and Health to the 1992 Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes, adopted in London on 17 June 1999. Conference on sustainable water management and health, held during the Fourth International Congress and Trade Fair "ECWATECH-2000" (Moscow, 1 June 2000).

#### **4.1.1 Surveillance, early-warning and notification systems**

Work to be undertaken: Based on the suggestions made by the delegation of Hungary in a note to be considered under item 7 of the provisional agenda, the Working Group on Water and Health will draw up draft guidelines on good practices in national and international surveillance, early-warning and notification systems for consideration by the Parties to the Protocol at their first meeting.

Lead Party/Signatory: [to be decided at the meeting of the Signatories]

#### **4.1.2 Assessing health risks to be addressed under the Protocol**

Work to be undertaken: [to be decided on the basis of the outcome of the discussion on item 9 of the provisional agenda]

Lead Party/Signatory: [to be decided on the basis of the outcome of the discussion on item 9 of the provisional agenda]

#### **4.1.3 Facilitating access to sources of finance, through improving the formulation of programmes and projects**

Work to be undertaken: [to be decided on the basis of the outcome of the discussion on item 10 of the provisional agenda]

Lead Party/Signatory: [to be decided on the basis of the outcome of the discussion on item 10 of the provisional agenda]

#### **4.1.4 Workshops on sustainable water management and health**

Work to be undertaken: Preparation and development of international workshops and other events, including the ECWATECH-2002 Conference on sustainable water management and health, and preparation of follow-up activities for consideration by the Bureau.

Lead Party/Signatory: Russian Federation for the Conference to be held on the occasion of ECWATECH-2002.

### **4.2 Preparations for the first meeting of the Parties**

Objectives: The Parties to the Convention and the Signatories to the Protocol on Water and Health will prepare the first meeting of the Parties to the Protocol.

Work accomplished: Geneva Strategy and Framework for Monitoring Compliance with Agreements on Transboundary Waters (MP.WAT/2000/4, 5 and Add.1).

#### **4.2.1. Arrangements for the preparation of meeting documents on compliance review**

Work to be undertaken: The Working Group on Water and Health assisted by the Working Group on Legal and Administrative Aspects will draw up multilateral arrangements of a non-confrontational, non-judicial and consultative nature for reviewing compliance with the provisions of the Protocol for consideration by the Parties to the Protocol at their first meeting. Use will be made, as appropriate, of the work undertaken by a group of invited experts who have drawn up the Geneva Strategy and Framework for Monitoring Compliance with Agreements on Transboundary Waters (MP.WAT/2000/4, 5 and Add.1)

Lead Party/Signatory: [to be decided at the meeting of the Signatories]

#### **4.2.2. Arrangements for the preparation of meeting documents on reporting**

Work to be undertaken: Article 16, paragraph 3 (b), of the Protocol requests the Parties to evaluate progress in implementing the Protocol on the basis of information provided by the Parties in accordance with guidelines established by the Meeting of the Parties. Such guidelines shall avoid duplication of effort in reporting requirements. The Working Group on Water and Health will draw up a draft guidance document on reporting following the relevant provisions of the Protocol, particularly those of articles 6 and 7.

Lead Party/Signatory: [to be decided at the meeting of the Signatories]

#### **4.2.3. Arrangements for the preparation of other meeting documents**

Work to be undertaken: On the basis of drafts to be prepared by the joint secretariat, the Working Group on Water and Health will finalize the following documents for consideration by the Parties to the Protocol at their first meeting: (a) draft rules of procedure for the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol; (b) draft guidance document on modalities for the participation of competent international governmental and non-governmental bodies in all meetings and other activities pertinent to the achievement of the purposes of the Protocol (art. 16, para. 3 (f)); (c) draft guidance document on priority of work under the Protocol; and (d) a draft declaration of the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol. Other meeting documents will be drawn up, if need be.

Lead Party/Signatory: None. To be implemented by the joint secretariat with the assistance of the Chairperson of the Working Group on Legal and Administrative Aspects (Greece) and the Chairperson of the Working Group on Water and Health (Hungary).