



**Economic and Social
Council**

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ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION

Meeting of the Parties to the Convention on the
Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses
and International Lakes

and

Meeting of the Signatories to the Protocol on Water
and Health to the Convention

Working Group on Water and Health
Sixth meeting
Geneva, 31 May – 2 June 2006

ANNOTATED PROVISIONAL AGENDA FOR THE SIXTH MEETING¹

To be held at the Palais des Nations *
starting on Wednesday, 31 May 2006, at 10 a.m.

¹ This document is being issued on the above date owing to a lack of human resources in the secretariat.

* New accreditation procedures have been introduced for all delegates attending meetings at the Palais des Nations. Delegates are therefore requested to complete the attached registration form, which is also available from the Water Convention's website (<http://www.unece.org/env/water/meetings/registrationmeeting.htm>), and to transmit it to the UNECE secretariat no later than 10 days prior to the meeting, that is, by **20 May 2006**, either by fax (+ 41 22 917 0107) or by e-mail (water.convention@unece.org) with a copy to francesca.bernardini@unece.org). On their way to the meeting, delegates should obtain an identification badge at the Pass and Identification Unit of the UNOG Security and Safety Section, located at the Villa Les Feuillantines, 13, Avenue de la Paix (see attached map).

As was agreed at the fifth meeting, some documents for the sixth meeting of the Working Group will be in English only, due to the short interval between the two meetings.

Meeting documents, working papers and other relevant information can be downloaded from the Convention's website at www.unece.org/env/water/meetings/documents.htm#wh and/or the WHO/EURO websites at www.euro.who.int/watsan.

Item 1: Adoption of the agenda

Item 2: Adoption of the report of the fifth meeting (MP.WAT/WG.4/2005/2 – EUR/05/5047554/2)

Item 3: Progress in the ratification process

1. By 1 March 2006, the following 17 countries had ratified the Protocol, which entered into force on 4 August 2005: Albania, Azerbaijan, Belgium, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Finland, France, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Norway, the Republic of Moldova, Romania, the Russian Federation, Slovakia and Ukraine. Representatives of the other countries will report on their progress in the ratification process and on possible assistance needed to speed up the process. Such requests for assistance will be taken into account in the discussion on the programme of work under agenda item 5.

Item 4: Legal and administrative aspects of the Protocol's implementation

(a) Draft compliance procedure under the Protocol

2. At its fifth meeting, the Working Group endorsed the draft compliance procedure (MP.WAT/WG.4/2005/3 – EUR/05/5047554/3) prepared by the Legal Board. The Working Group is expected to submit this document to the first meeting of the Parties to the Protocol.

(b) Draft rules of procedure

3. At its fifth meeting, the Working Group, while noting a scrutiny reservation by Germany on the text of paragraph 3 of rule 20 of the rules of procedures, agreed in principle on the draft rules of procedure for the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol prepared by the Legal Board (ECE/MP.WAT/WG.4/2006/3 – EUR/06/5059736/3). The Working Group is expected to finalize the draft rules of procedure and submit this document to the first meeting of the Parties. The first meeting of the Parties is expected to use these draft rules of procedures until their formal adoption in the preparations for and in the course of that meeting.

(c) Focal points for activities under the Protocol

4. At its fifth meeting, the Working Group discussed and agreed on the text of a draft decision of the Meeting of the Parties on the designation of focal points and their responsibilities (ECE/MP.WAT/WG.4/2006/4 – EUR/06/5059736/4). The Working Group is expected to finalize the text and submit it to the first meeting of the Parties.

5. The Working Group will invite Parties and non-Parties to nominate their focal points for activities under the Protocol, if they have not already done so.

6. The Working Group will also examine a list of NGOs qualified or having an interest in the fields to which the Protocol relates that have requested to be involved in work under the Protocol, and will decide on any amendment or addition.

(d) Opening the Protocol for ratification, acceptance, approval or accession to countries outside the UNECE region

7. The Working Group will examine a document outlining the advantages of opening the Protocol to countries outside the UNECE region together with a draft text of such an amendment (ECE/MP.WAT/WG.4/2006/5 – EUR/06/5059736/5). The Working Group will discuss the opportunity of presenting such an amendment to the first meeting of the Parties. In accordance with article 18 of the Protocol, any Party that wishes to propose such an amendment should submit the proposal in writing to the secretariat so that the secretariat can circulate it to all Parties at least 90 days before the first meeting of the Parties.

(e) Mainstreaming activities and priorities of work under the Protocol into the policy making of the World Health Organization (WHO)

8. The Working Group will examine a draft decision on mainstreaming activities and priorities of work under the Protocol into the policy making of WHO (ECE/MP.WAT/WG.4/2006/6 – EUR/06/5059736/6). It is expected to finalize the text and submit it to the first meeting of the Parties.

Item 5: Programme of work 2007–2009 under the Protocol

9. The Working Group will examine a substantiated and costed draft programme of work prepared by an ad hoc group of Parties and Signatories which met in Bonn on 6–7 March 2006 (ECE/MP.WAT/WG.4/2006/7 – EUR/06/5059736/7).

(a) Target setting and indicators for review and assessment of progress

10. The Working Group will examine the progress achieved in this area, in particular the set of indicators endorsed at its last meeting (MP.WAT/WG.4/2005/4 – EUR/05/5047554/4), and will agree on activities to be carried out in the programme of work 2007–2009 in order to establish and publish the national and local targets as required by the Protocol and to agree on progress indicators.

11. The Working Group may also wish to invite countries to provide the secretariat with written information on the targets they have established, so that the secretariat can compile a document on common approaches and gaps for consideration by the Parties at their first meeting.

(b) Development of guidelines for reporting

12. The Working Group will examine a working paper on the complementarity and overlap between the reporting obligation under EU directives on water (Water Framework Directive, Drinking Water Directive, Bathing Waters Directive) and the Protocol. It will advise the secretariat on the finalization of the document for submission to the first meeting of the Parties.

13. It will also discuss and agree on draft reporting guidelines for progress related to targets on water supply and sanitation (article 6, para. 2 (a) to (e)) (ECE/MP.WAT/WG.4/2006/8 – EUR/06/5059736/8). It will request the secretariat to finalize the draft guidelines and submit this document to the first meeting of the Parties to the Protocol.

14. The Working Group will discuss options for completing the reporting guidelines on the other targets set out in article 6 (para. 2 (f) to (n)), and other activities to be undertaken under the programme of work 2007–2009 with the aim of preparing a final draft version of the reporting guidelines for adoption by the second meeting of the Parties.

(c) Surveillance and early-warning systems, contingency plans and response capacities

15. The Working Group will examine the progress to date in this area, including the procedure for the assessment of surveillance systems developed by WHO (MP.WAT/WG.4/2005/5 – EUR/05/5047554/5) and the outcome of an expert meeting on surveillance (Budapest, 9–10 May 2006). It will agree on activities to be carried out in this area under the programme of work 2007–2009.

(d) Follow-up to the Roundtable on Water and Health in Europe

16. The Working Group will discuss and agree on the proposal for a follow-up activity to the Roundtable on Water and Health in Europe included in the draft programme of work, aiming to support implementation of the Protocol. The Working Group will also discuss and finalize the text of a draft decision for the first meeting of the Parties (ECE/MP.WAT/WG.4/2006/9 – EUR/06/5059736/9) and will submit the document.

(e) Other activities under the programme of work

17. The Working Group will discuss and agree on other activities included in the draft programme of work prepared by the ad hoc group (ECE/MP.WAT/WG.4/2006/7 – EUR/06/5059736/7) as well as other possible proposals, including joint activities under the Water Convention and the Protocol. The Working Group will also agree on modalities for finalizing the document for submission at the first meeting of the Parties to the Protocol.

Item 6: Resources required to implement the programme of work and establishment of trust funds under the Protocol

18. Representatives of Parties and non-Parties will exchange information on their intentions to provide resources to support the implementation of the programme of work 2007–2009.

19. The Working Group will discuss and agree on ways and means to mobilize human and financial resources needed for implementing the programme of work.

20. The Working Group will also examine a draft decision on the establishment of trust funds under the Protocol Parties (ECE/MP.WAT/WG.4/2006/10 – EUR/06/5059736/10), and will finalize the text and submit the document to the first meeting of the Parties.

Item 7: Further preparations for the first meeting of the Parties to the Protocol

(a) Bureau of the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol and composition of the Compliance Committee

21. The Working Group will consider candidates for the Bureau of the Meeting of the Parties and their possible role in the preparations for the first meeting of the Parties.

22. The Working Group will also make arrangements to submit nominations of candidates for the Compliance Committee to the secretariat in accordance with the draft compliance procedure (MP.WAT/WG.4/2005/3 – EUR/05/5047554/3, para. 4 of the annex).

(b) Draft agenda for the first meeting of the Parties

23. On the basis of a working paper prepared by the secretariat, the Working Group will discuss and agree on the draft agenda for the first meeting of the Parties and on the list of official documents for the meeting.

(c) Draft declaration of the first meeting of the Parties to the Protocol

24. The Working Group will examine a preliminary version of the draft declaration of the first meeting of the Parties (ECE/MP.WAT/WG.4/2006/11 – EUR/06/5059736/11) and will agree on the modalities for finalizing the document for submission to the first meeting of the Parties to the Protocol.

(d) Date and venue of the first meeting of the Parties

25. Two alternative sets of dates have been tentatively booked in Geneva and Copenhagen: 17–19 January and 24–26 January 2007. The Working Group is expected to set the meeting dates and agree on the venue of the meeting.

(e) Resources required for the first meeting of the Parties

26. The Working Group will examine an assessment prepared by the secretariat of the resources required for the first meeting of the Parties and will make arrangements to raise the needed funds.

Item 8: Other business

27. At the time of writing, the secretariat had no points to propose under this item.

Item 9: Closure

28. The Chairperson will close the meeting of the Working Group on 2 June at 5.30 p.m.



UNITED NATIONS OFFICE AT GENEVA
Annex I Conference Registration Form

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Date

Please fax this completed form to the Host Secretariat and **BRING THIS ORIGINAL** with you to Geneva.
 An additional form is required for spouses.

Title of the Conference

WORKING GROUP ON WATER AND HEALTH (sixth meeting)

Delegation/Participant of Country, Organization or Agency

Participant

Family Name

First Name

Mr.

Mrs.

Ms.

Date of Birth

 / /

(DD/MM/YYYY)

Participation Category

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Observer Organisation

Participating From / Until

Delegation Member

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From

Observer Country

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ANNEX II – MAP OF THE UNITED NATIONS OFFICE AT GENEVA

