



Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
6 March 2012

Original: English

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

Fourth meeting

Geneva, 1 and 2 November 2011

Report of the Working Group on Water and Health on its fourth meeting*

Contents

	<i>Paragraphs</i>	<i>Page</i>
I. Introduction	1–7	3
A. Attendance	2–5	3
B. Organizational matters	6–7	3
II. Adoption of the agenda	8	3
III. Progress in the ratification process	9	4
IV. Setting targets and reporting under the Protocol	10–14	4
V. Surveillance and early warning systems, contingency plans and response capacities	15–19	5
VI. Cross-cutting issues	20–28	6
A. Water supply and sanitation under extreme weather events and the impacts of climate change	20–24	6
B. Small-scale water supply and sanitation	25–28	7
VII. Project Facilitation Mechanism	29–33	7

* This document has been submitted late due to technical reasons.

VIII.	Promotion of the Protocol and advocacy	34–37	8
IX.	Public awareness, access to information and public participation	38–40	8
X.	Equitable Access	41–46	9
XI.	Compliance procedure	47–49	10
XII.	Management of enclosed waters generally available for bathing.....	50–52	10
XIII.	Seventh “Environment for Europe” Ministerial Conference.....	53–54	11
XIV.	Strengthening synergies between the different activities under the Protocol	55–57	11
XV.	Financial arrangements to support implementation of the Protocol.....	58–60	11
XVI.	Implementation and prospects for the programme of work for 2011–2013	61–62	12
XVII.	Other business	63	12
XVIII.	Date and venue of the fifth meeting of the Working Group.....	64	12
XIX.	Closure of the meeting	65	12

I. Introduction

1. The fourth meeting of the Working Group on Water and Health was held on 1 and 2 November 2011 in Geneva.

A. Attendance

2. The meeting was attended by representatives of the following countries: Armenia, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Czech Republic, France, Georgia, Germany, Hungary, Italy, Kazakhstan, Norway, Republic of Moldova, Serbia, Slovakia, Switzerland, Tajikistan, Ukraine and Uzbekistan.

3. The World Health Organization (WHO) Collaborating Centre for Health Promoting Water Management and Risk Communication (Institute for Hygiene and Public Health, University of Bonn) was also represented.

4. Representatives of the following non-governmental organizations (NGOs) participated in the meeting: MAMA 86, the Union for the Defence of the Aral Sea and Amudarya, Solidarity Water Europe, WaterLex and Women in Europe for a Common Future (WECF).

5. In addition, six members of the Compliance Committee under the Protocol on Water and Health to the Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes (Water Convention) were present during the meeting.

B. Organizational matters

6. The Director of the Environment Division of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) opened the meeting and reviewed various activities undertaken since the second session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol on Water and Health (Bucharest, 23–25 November 2011). Recent work had led to an increased awareness of the Protocol, which provided a strong momentum for furthering its implementation. Parties should support further progress in implementation and countries which had not yet done so should accede to the Protocol. Furthermore, in order to assure the Protocol's viability and long-term sustainability — and thereby strengthen implementation — it was important that Parties contributed financially or in-kind to the programme of work.

7. The Working Group elected Mr. Kjetil Tveitan (Norway) as Chair and Mr. Thomas Kistemann (WHO Collaborating Centre for Health Promoting Water Management and Risk Communication) as Vice-Chair. The Chair opened the meeting and welcomed the participants.

II. Adoption of the agenda

8. The Working Group adopted its agenda as set out in document ECE/MP.WH/WG.1/2011/1–EUR/DHP1003944/4.2/2011/5.

III. Progress in the ratification process

9. The Chair noted that, since the second session of the Meeting of the Parties, Bosnia and Herzegovina had ratified the Protocol, bringing the total number of Parties to 25. Serbia briefed the meeting about its ongoing process of accession to the Protocol. In a similar vein, the secretariat said it had been informed that Slovenia was also in the process of ratifying it.

IV. Setting targets and reporting under the Protocol

10. The Chair of the Task Force on Target Setting and Reporting informed the Working Group about the activities and progress made by the Task Force and presented the outcome of the fourth Task Force meeting (Tbilisi, 19–20 October 2011).

11. At its fourth meeting, the Task Force had reviewed the use of the *Guidelines on the Setting of Targets, Evaluation of Progress and Reporting*,¹ and reiterated their usefulness in supporting the target-setting process. It had also concluded that the Guidelines did not require any amendments at that stage. The Task Force had noted that significant progress in target setting had been made throughout the region: numerous countries had either initiated or completed the process of setting targets and some had been developing national action plans for their implementation. However, among the targets set several areas had been neglected, such as direct health interventions, affordability issues, access to water and sanitation by vulnerable groups and the performance of collective systems. Furthermore, there was a need to consider synergies between national reporting exercises and the collection of information for the WHO/United Nations Children's Fund Joint Monitoring Programme (JMP) for Water Supply and Sanitation and the Global Annual Assessment of Sanitation and Drinking-Water (GLAASS) in order to avoid duplication. It had also been stressed again that key prerequisites for target setting were the establishment of a national working group or council involving key stakeholders and reliance on existing strategies and laws — including, as needed, the holistic revision of such laws with a view to complementing or strengthening them with targets — as well as political support for the process. The Task Force had agreed to focus discussion in future meetings on the content of the targets, their accompanying measures and prioritization.

12. Germany and Ukraine said that they had recently completed their target-setting process. The Working Group requested the secretariat to establish a web page gathering all targets set by Parties with links to the respective reference documents.

13. The secretariat provided information on the outcome of two subregional workshops on water and health in Minsk (5–6 April 2011) and in Almaty, Kazakhstan (26–27 October 2011). The workshop in Minsk had been particularly useful for the sharing of experiences among countries with different levels of advancement in target setting, particularly regarding methodology — with the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine being more advanced, and Belarus and the Russian Federation being less advanced. The workshop in Kazakhstan had proven useful to exchange experiences among Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan and Turkmenistan on the water and health challenges encountered in Central Asia, and measures which had been put into place. The Protocol was recognized as a useful tool for streamlining national and international action to support access to water and sanitation, and to prevent water-related diseases. During the workshop, all five Central

¹ United Nations publication, Sales No. E. 10.II.E.12. Available from <http://www.unece.org/env/water/publications/pub.html>.

Asian countries had expressed their interest in acceding to the Protocol, in the short or longer term.

14. The Working Group recognized the usefulness of subregional events and encouraged the organization of additional workshops throughout the region. The secretariat highlighted that Finland was financially supporting the organization of subregional workshops in the countries of Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia with the support of the ECE secretariat. Countries in Western Europe were encouraged to organize subregional events on their own initiative, with limited support from the secretariat. Slovakia, through the International Water Assessment Centre, was planning a subregional event in 2012 to share experiences between the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Hungary, Poland, Romania and Slovenia. Norway was also considering organizing a subregional meeting under the umbrella of the Nordic Council at the end of 2012.

V. Surveillance and early warning systems, contingency plans and response capacities

15. The Chair of the Task Force on Water Related Disease Surveillance provided an overview of past achievements. The Task Force's mandate included the development of guidance on priority setting in water-related disease surveillance as well as individual fact sheets on chemical contaminants, as requested by the Parma Ministerial Conference on Environment and Health. Delegations supported the development of chemical fact sheets, especially on emerging pathogens, highlighted the possible cooperation with the European Union (EU) project on the priority list of pollutants (organic chemicals and pesticides) and supported the idea of developing a guidance document on target setting for priority water-related diseases.

16. The representative of the WHO Regional Office for Europe (WHO-Europe) recalled the recommendation of the WHO Strategic Advisory Group of Experts (SAGE) on Immunization to include rotavirus vaccinations of infants in all national immunization programmes. At present, only three Protocol Parties (Belgium, Luxembourg and Finland) had implemented the SAGE recommendation. In view of the high impact of rotavirus on children's health, the favourable cost-benefit ratio of the vaccination, and the overall objective of the Protocol to reduce water-related disease, the implementation of the SAGE recommendation should be included among the national targets set in the framework of the Protocol.

17. The representative of WHO-Europe also drew attention to the issue of helminthic diseases and their impact on children. An important demand for anti-helminthic treatments existed in some Parties to the Protocol, particularly Azerbaijan, the Republic of Moldova and Romania, as well as in certain Signatory (Armenia) and Central Asian countries (Kyrgyzstan). Technical and scientific support was available from WHO through a special headquarters-based unit, a subregional centre of excellence in Minsk, and the global WHO Collaborating Centre for the Monitoring of Anti-helminthic Drug Efficacy for Soil-Transmitted Helminthiasis in Belgium. It was suggested that countries declare the eradication of helminthic diseases as a priority under the Protocol. In that connection, there was a possibility of raising funds from donor countries to fight such diseases through the Global Alliance on Vaccination and Immunization.

18. Norway stated that, in the context of the Nordic Council and the Northern Dimension, discussions on cooperation in north-western Russia were planned, comprising a programme of vaccination and control of neglected diseases. The health component of that cooperation, however, remained to be further developed, in cooperation with WHO.

19. The representative of WHO-Europe informed participants about discussions with the Russian authorities concerning the holding of the first session of the Task Force on Water-related Disease Surveillance, tentatively scheduled to be held in March or April 2012, in Saint Petersburg, Russian Federation. During the meeting, special attention would be given to further strengthening the mainstreaming of the Protocol in the WHO-Europe programme.

VI. Cross-cutting issues

A. Water supply and sanitation under extreme weather events and the impacts of climate change

20. The secretariat said that the *Guidance on Water Supply and Sanitation in Extreme Weather Events*,² which had been prepared by the Task Force on Extreme Weather Events and had been adopted at the second session of the Meeting of the Parties, was being printed by WHO-Europe. That Guidance should be seen as complementary to the *Guidance on Water and Adaptation to Climate Change*,³ which had been prepared under the Water Convention in 2007–2009 by the Task Force on Water and Climate, in cooperation with the Task Force on Extreme Weather Events. Currently, activities on water and climate change under the Water Convention included a programme of eight pilot projects and a platform for exchanging experience on climate change adaptation in transboundary basins, consisting of a web-based platform and regular meetings. The next such meeting would be held from 24–26 April 2012.⁴ Representatives of the Protocol on Water and Health were invited to participate in the exchange of experience under the platform.

21. It was underlined that the programme of pilot projects offered an opportunity for cooperation between the Water Convention and the Protocol on Water and Health, since several of the pilot projects also considered health issues, for example, by assessing climate change impacts on water quality and by taking into account impacts of extreme weather events on drinking-water supply. Most of the pilot projects were moving to the stage of vulnerability assessment, where health impacts of climate change had to be taken into account, and therefore representatives of ministries of health should be involved.

22. Hungary, Slovakia and Norway reported on national projects and activities which considered the impact of climate change on health, water quality or target setting.

23. The Working Group supported the cooperation in activities on water and climate change between the Protocol and the Water Convention.

24. The secretariat recalled that the first reporting exercise under the Protocol in 2010 had shown that few countries had taken climate change into account when setting their targets under the Protocol. Currently, no separate activities on water and climate change were carried out under the Protocol, although the Working Group recognized that, in the longer term, the area of adaptation to climate change impacts deserved greater attention in the Protocol's work programme. The secretariat called on Parties to express their interest in taken a leadership role for that area of work.

² L. Sinisi and R. Aertgeerts, eds. (Geneva: WHO-Europe, 2011). Available from <http://www.euro.who.int/en/what-we-do/health-topics/environment-and-health/water-and-sanitation/publications/>.

³ United Nations publication, Sales No. 09.II.E.14. Available from <http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=11658&L=0>.

⁴ For more information on the pilot projects programme and the platform for exchanging experience see <http://www1.unece.org/ehlm/platform/display/ClimateChange/Welcome>.

B. Small-scale water supply and sanitation

25. A representative of Germany presented progress made in the area of small-scale water supply and sanitation, including the development of a questionnaire; a draft outline of a policy guidance document; field work; facilitating the sharing of experience; and enhanced regional networking. The questionnaire had been developed with the objective of improving the evidence base of small systems and collecting comprehensive comparable data to be used to support policy development. The questionnaire should be distributed in February 2012 and the data assessed by the end of 2012.

26. It was clarified that the definitions proposed for the purpose of the questionnaire were guiding definitions and, when differing, national definitions could be referred to and provided, as necessary.

27. The development of a policy guidance document was under way. The objective of the policy guidance document was to provide an integrated perspective on drinking water and sanitation, on the basis of best practices and case studies.

28. The Working Group endorsed the general structure of the questionnaire and the policy guidance, and agreed to provide its comments on the two documents by the end of November 2011. It entrusted Germany, the Czech Republic and WECF, leaders for that area of work, to take account of the comments received and on that basis, to proceed with the data collection through the questionnaire and the further development of the policy guidance.

VII. Project Facilitation Mechanism

29. The Chair of the Project Facilitation Mechanism reported on progress achieved since the third meeting of the Working Group. The target-setting process had been completed in the Republic of Moldova and in Ukraine, supported by the Swiss Agency for Development Cooperation and the Norwegian Ministry for Foreign Affairs. Norwegian support to the projects on setting targets in Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan was going to begin soon; similarly, Finland had confirmed its support to a project on target setting in Armenia as of early 2012. Unfortunately, the proposal submitted by Montenegro to the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) Water Fund had been rejected.

30. The Chair of the Project Facilitation Mechanism stressed that setting targets enabled countries to apply more easily for funding to implement the targets. Other donor countries should consider supporting the EBRD Water Fund, which was funded by Norway and Finland. In that context, WECF recalled the recommendation from the Seventh "Environment for Europe" Ministerial Conference to scale-up financial resources for water and health, and suggested working more actively in cooperation with the EBRD Water Fund.

31. The secretariat recalled that in some countries the projects under the Project Facilitation Mechanism were linked to the ongoing National Policy Dialogues under the EU Water Initiative, facilitated by ECE and the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD). The National Policy Dialogues could be an important vehicle to ensure donor coordination, such as in the cases of Georgia and Armenia.

32. The date, format and venue of the next meeting of the Project Facilitation Mechanism were under discussion, and comments could be sent to the secretariat and the Bureau. The Chair of the Project Facilitation Mechanism invited expressions of interest to chair the mechanism, as she wished to step down from her functions in due course. Expressions of interest could be sent to the secretariat.

33. The Working Group agreed that there was a need to review the functioning of the Project Facilitation Mechanism and to draw on experiences and lessons learned when considering potential reform. The maintenance of an effective mechanism of mutual assistance should be ensured. Synergies of the work on target setting under the Project Facilitation Mechanism with the OECD and ECE National Policy Dialogues needed to be considered and further strengthened, where appropriate. The Working Group entrusted the Bureau, with the assistance of the joint secretariat and in particular WHO-Europe, to plan for the next steps under the Project Facilitation Mechanism.

VIII. Promotion of the Protocol and advocacy

34. The Working Group discussed ways and means to better promote the Protocol and its achievements at the national, local and regional level and the role of focal points in that effort. It stressed the importance of providing targeted information to the different ministerial authorities involved, as well as to relevant stakeholders and the public at large.

35. Examples and suggestions raised included making use of specific events such as World Water Days, using regional networks, addressing the media and promoting the use of brochures and guidance materials, translating them into national languages and making them available on websites. The provision of specific guidance materials for certain occupational groups, e.g., for mayors, was also suggested. Bilateral and multilateral information sharing between countries on the target-setting process, through the organization of stakeholder consultations, was also encouraged.

36. The Working Group agreed that institutions, such as the Aarhus Centres, and environmental groups could be an effective multiplier to disseminate information on the Protocol and to engage the public. The secretariat briefed participants on a recent meeting with the Aarhus Centre in Georgia, and plans to provide information about the Protocol to the Aarhus Centres throughout the region.

37. The Working Group was informed about the preparations for the Sixth World Water Forum, to be held in Marseille, France, from 12 to 17 March 2012, and of the efforts to promote the Protocol and its products in the Forum. Participants were invited to contribute to the promotion of the Protocol by sharing national successful experiences to be presented during the Forum.

IX. Public awareness, access to information and public participation

38. The secretary of the Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice on Environmental Matters (Aarhus Convention) informed participants of the plans for a joint activity on public participation under the Aarhus Convention's Task Force on Public Participation and the Protocol on Water and Health, including the organization of a workshop in spring 2012 in Romania. The workshop would address both general issues of public participation, as well as specific issues related to water and health. The main outcome expected from that joint activity would be the development by a drafting group of guidelines for involving the public in consultations and decision-making processes under the Protocol on Water and Health, taking into account the implementation guide to the Aarhus Convention,⁵ which provided both a general overview

⁵ *The Aarhus Convention — An Implementation Guide* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.00.II.E.3). Available from <http://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/env/pp/acig.pdf>.

of that Convention and its obligations, as well as a detailed article-by-article analysis. Countries and international and non-governmental organizations were invited to nominate members for the drafting group by 15 December 2011.

39. The Working Group welcomed and endorsed the organization of the joint work on public participation and entrusted Romania and WECF together with the Chair of the Aarhus Convention's Task Force on Public Participation, and with the support of the secretariats of the Protocol and of the Aarhus Convention, to plan and arrange for the future work in that area.

40. WECF stressed the importance of exchange of information between NGOs active in the Protocol's implementation and called for the establishment of a web-based platform to facilitate such exchange.

X. Equitable Access

41. A representative of France, the lead Party for work on equitable access, informed the Working Group about progress in the development of the good practice document, "No one left behind: Good practices to ensure equitable access to water and sanitation in the pan-European region". As part of the document's preparation, a regional workshop on "Equitable Access to Water and Sanitation: Challenges, Good Practices and Lessons Learned" had been held on 4 and 5 July 2011 in Geneva.

42. The Working Group praised the quality and usefulness of the document and underlined the importance of addressing discrimination issues in the implementation of the Protocol and in providing access to water and sanitation. It thanked France for leading that area of work, as well as all the members of the drafting group for their work.

43. The Working Group was invited to provide final comments on the document by 15 November 2011. It entrusted France, in cooperation with the secretariat, to finalize the document and requested the secretariat to publish it in time for its launching at the Sixth World Water Forum in March 2012.

44. The representative of France presented a proposal for further work in the area of equitable access, including (a) support for the use and implementation of the good practices document by furthering action on the ground, in particular through the development of a self-evaluation tool (such as a score card) that would allow national and local institutions and decision makers to assess equity aspects related to access to water and sanitation, as well as the testing of such tool in concrete cases, and the development of specific guidelines to take into account equity aspects when setting targets in accordance with the Protocol; and (b) advocacy and awareness-raising through the development of promotional material, participation in national and international events, etc.⁶

45. The Working Group welcomed the proposals and entrusted France, with the assistance of the secretariat, to continue planning and implementing actions in that area of work, taking into account resources available and partnerships with international actors. France confirmed its financial commitment to continuing its support to activities on equitable access in 2012. The Working Group invited Parties, non-Parties and international partners to express their interest in participating in future activities on equitable access.

⁶ See information paper No. 6, "Note on possible further work on equitable access to water and sanitation", available from <http://www.unece.org/environmental-policy/treaties/water/envwatermeetings/working-group-on-water-and-health/2011/fourth-meeting-of-the-working-group-on-water-and-health/working-group-on-water-and-health.html>.

46. The Working Group also underlined the importance of synergies with other areas of work under the Protocol, in particular reporting and small-scale water supply and sanitation.

XI. Compliance procedure

47. The Chair of the Compliance Committee informed the Working Group about the decision of the Committee at its sixth meeting (Geneva, 1–2 March 2011) to enhance its facilitation and assistance functions by means of a new Consultation Process.

48. The Compliance Committee Chair outlined the agreed nature, scope, objectives, and procedures of the Consultation Process (see report ECE/MP.WH/C.1/2011/2–EUR/DHP1003944/4.2/2011/2). The process was to be considered outside the framework of the compliance procedure. It was not of an inquisitive nature; it was simple, consultative and non-adversarial. The Chair stressed that the process posed no threat to Parties, as it did not aim at establishing whether a Party was not in compliance with the Protocol, but rather at providing advice and assistance.

49. Parties were invited to approach the Compliance Committee with requests for further information on the Consultation Process during the time set aside for that purpose on the afternoon of 2 November 2011, or to subsequently approach the Committee or the secretariat for more information. The secretariat underlined that the purpose of the Compliance Committee in developing the new process was to show responsiveness and flexibility in addressing the needs of Parties.

XII. Management of enclosed waters generally available for bathing

50. A representative of Hungary gave a presentation on the use of man-made pools and spas for recreation, which was increasing. Recently, pathogens related to pools and spas had been recognized as a risk to human health due to the lack of awareness and good practice on the side of operators of such facilities, and the insufficient hygienic practice and lack of information on the side of consumers. Travel-associated illnesses could also increase. Environment and health surveillance of bathing pathogens and illnesses was thus crucial, as was the education of and provision of information to pool owners, operators and customers.

51. At the international level, there was a need for the transfer of know-how and cooperation in research, fund-raising and international standardization. The outcomes of the international pool and spa conferences held in 2005, 2007 and 2011 were presented, as well as plans for the next Conference to be held in 2013.

52. The Working Group recommended that the revised WHO *Guidelines for Safe Recreational Water Environments — Volume 2: Swimming pools and similar environments*,⁷ should include aspects related to the health benefits of recreational water environments.

⁷ WHO, 2006. Available from http://whqlibdoc.who.int/publications/2006/9241546808_eng.pdf.

XIII. Seventh “Environment for Europe” Ministerial Conference

53. The Working Group was informed about the outcome of the Seventh “Environment for Europe” Ministerial Conference, which had been held from 21 to 23 September 2011 in Astana. “Sustainable management of water and water-related ecosystems” had been one of the main Conference themes, along with “Greening the economy: mainstreaming the environment into economic development”. The Ministerial event provided a platform for increasing the visibility and implementation of the Protocol. In the Chair’s Summary of the Conference, the Protocol was recognized as “a unique tool to address ... the challenges of lack of access to safe water and adequate sanitation, impacts on human health and social development, degradation of water resources and their unsustainable use”.⁸ In the Astana Ministerial Declaration,⁹ Ministers invited countries to ratify and accede to the Protocol and highlighted the need to strengthen implementation, monitor progress and enforce policies and laws in the water sector.

54. A side event on the Protocol organized in the framework of the Conference had provided an opportunity to present the way in which specific areas related to Protocol implementation had been addressed by selected countries and organizations, notably Norway, Hungary, the Republic of Moldova, Romania, France, Italy, and the NGO WECF.

XIV. Strengthening synergies between the different activities under the Protocol

55. The Working Group recognized that synergies were crucial in the implementation of the Protocol at the national level, as well as at the level of the programme of work.

56. The Chair of the Task Force on Target Setting and Reporting presented possible synergies among different areas of work under the Protocol from the perspective of target setting. The possible synergies between the areas of work of setting targets and reporting, small-scale water supply and sanitation, and equitable access were recognized. It was agreed that means should be explored to further promote such synergies, for example, through back-to-back meetings and the promotion of the inclusion of specific targets and indicators.

57. The Working Group entrusted the Bureau to further develop a strategy and practical measures to strengthen synergies between different areas of work under the Protocol, and agreed to discuss the issue again at its next meeting. Delegates were invited to suggest possibilities for synergies under the different programme areas and to actively contribute their views to the discussion on the strengthening of synergies between different activities under the Protocol.

XV. Financial arrangements to support implementation of the Protocol

58. A representative of the ECE secretariat reported to the Working Group on the financial status of the ECE Technical Cooperation Trust Fund, indicating contributions by five countries. Though the funds available had increased since the previous year, a greater diversity of Parties contributing to the Trust Fund was crucial to ensure the long-term

⁸ ECE/ASTANA.CONF/2011/2/Add.2, para. 27.

⁹ ECE/ASTANA.CONF/2011/Add.1, paras. 5 and 6.

services of the secretariat and to support implementation and ratification of the Protocol. A representative of WHO-Europe stressed that the financial situation was difficult, and called for contributions to the WHO trust fund.

59. A representative of Switzerland confirmed a contribution of CHF 50,000 for activities implemented under the Protocol until the end of 2011.

60. A representative of Germany confirmed that the German Ministry of Environment would maintain its level of support to the trust fund, and would in addition cover the costs for meetings on small-scale water supply and sanitation.

XVI. Implementation and prospects for the programme of work for 2011–2013

61. The secretariat summarized the progress achieved in the implementation of the programme of work adopted at the second session of the Meeting of the Parties. The Chair informed participants about discussions in the Bureau to improve the funding situation, actions taken to date and ideas linked to enhancing fund-raising, in particular from alternative sources, such as foundations.

62. The Working Group entrusted the Bureau with continuing to monitor the financial situation and to revise, as needed, future activities. It also entrusted the Bureau with the pursuit of fund-raising activities.

XVII. Other business

63. The representative of WHO-Europe briefed the meeting concerning the activities of the WHO Children's Environment and Health Action Plan for Europe (CEHAPE) Youth Network, and proposed that they contribute to the creation of a web page on the Protocol on Water and Health.

XVIII. Date and venue of the fifth meeting of the Working Group

64. The fifth meeting of the Working Group was tentatively scheduled to be held in Geneva from 10 to 11 October 2012, back to back with the Compliance Committee meeting (12 October 2012).

XIX. Closure of the meeting

65. The Chair thanked all participants for their contributions, the Vice-Chair for his help in co-chairing the sessions, the joint secretariat for the preparation of documents and servicing, and closed the meeting.
