



Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
22 August 2016

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

Fourth session

Geneva, 14–16 November 2016

Item 1 of the provisional agenda

Opening of the session and adoption of the agenda

Annotated provisional agenda for the fourth session

**To be held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva, starting on Monday,
14 November 2016, at 10 a.m.***

I. Provisional agenda

High-level segment

1. Opening of the session and adoption of the agenda.
2. Status of ratification of the Protocol and report on credentials.
3. Elections of the Chair and Vice-Chairs of the fourth session of the Meeting of the Parties.

* In accordance with United Nations accreditation procedures, participants are requested to complete the online registration procedure available on the web page for the fourth session (http://www.unece.org/env/water/protocol_mop4.html) as soon as possible, **but not later than 31 October 2016**. 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: <http://www.unece.org/meetings/practical.html>). In case of difficulty, please contact the secretariat by telephone at +41 22 917 2596.



4. Special session on moving forward on the water and sanitation agenda in the pan-European region: the role of the Protocol on Water and Health in achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

General segment

5. Elections of other members of the Bureau.
6. Review of past activities and discussion of future activities in the different areas of work:
 - (a) Setting targets, implementing measures and reporting under the Protocol;
 - (b) Prevention and reduction of water-related diseases;
 - (c) Small-scale water supplies and sanitation;
 - (d) Safe and efficient management of water supply and sanitation systems;
 - (e) Equitable access to water and sanitation;
 - (f) Compliance procedure;
 - (g) Assistance to support implementation at the national level.
7. Partners in implementation and relevant global and regional processes and initiatives.
8. Programme of work for 2017–2019, terms of reference of bodies established to implement it and resources needed for its implementation.
9. Date and venue of the fifth session of the Meeting of the Parties.
10. Other business.
11. Presentation of the main decisions.
12. Closing of the session.

II. Annotations

1. The fourth session of the 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 (Water Convention) will be held from 14 to 16 November 2016, at the Palais des Nations in Geneva, at the invitation of the Government of Switzerland.

2. The session will comprise a high-level segment followed by a general segment. The high-level segment, dealing with agenda items 1 to 4, will be held on the morning of Monday, 14 November, starting at 10 a.m. The general segment, addressing agenda items 5 to 12, will start on Monday at 3 p.m. and run until 5.30 p.m. on Wednesday, 16 November.

3. A number of side events will be organized during the meeting. The detailed programme of these side events will be available in October 2016. Additional practical information on the meeting as well as all relevant documentation will be made available in due course on a dedicated page on the Protocol's website.¹

¹ See http://www.unece.org/env/water/protocol_mop4.html.

High-level segment

1. Opening of the session and adoption of the agenda

Tentative timing: Monday, 14 November, 10–10.50 a.m.

4. Alain Berset, Swiss Federal Councillor, Head of the Federal Department of Home Affairs, and a high-level representative of the Federal Office for the Environment of Switzerland, will open the session.

5. The Executive Secretary of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) and the Regional Director of the World Health Organization Regional Office for Europe (WHO/Europe) will address the Meeting of the Parties.

6. The Meeting of the Parties is expected to adopt its agenda as set out in the present document.

Documentation

Annotated provisional agenda for the fourth session (ECE/MP.WH/12–EUPCR/1611921/2.1/2016/MOP-4/03)

Organization of work (MOP4/WH/2016/INF.1)²

2. Status of ratification of the Protocol and report on credentials

Tentative timing: Monday, 14 November, 10.50–11 a.m.

7. The joint secretariat of the Protocol will inform the Meeting of the Parties about the status of ratification of the Protocol on Water and Health.

8. Delegates from States or regional economic integration organizations not yet Party to the Protocol will be invited to briefly present their plans to ratify, accept, approve or accede to the Protocol.

9. In accordance with the rules of procedure for the meetings of the Parties to the Protocol (ECE/MP.WH/2/Add.1–EUR/06/5069385/1/Add.1), the Bureau will report on the credentials submitted by the Parties.³ Parties to the Protocol are therefore invited to inform the secretariat of the name(s) of their representative(s) at their earliest convenience, and to submit the credentials or a copy of them to the ECE secretariat by **4 November 2016**. Those Parties that have submitted a copy of the credentials should present the originals to the secretariat before the fourth session of the Meeting of the Parties, on their arrival at the meeting in Geneva.

Documentation

Status of ratification of the Protocol on Water and Health (MOP4/WH/2016/INF.2)

² Please note that documents with symbols ending in “INF.” and a number are informal documents, produced without translation or editing.

³ Credentials, which are normally issued either by the Head of State or Government, by the minister for foreign affairs, or by any other person duly empowered to do so, should indicate the composition of the delegation, including the head of delegation, and should state that the respective delegation is empowered to participate in the meeting and take decisions on behalf of the respective Government, following the applicable rules of procedure.

3. Elections of the Chair and Vice-Chairs of the fourth session of the Meeting of the Parties

Tentative timing: Monday, 14 November, 11–11.10 a.m.

10. In accordance with its rules of procedure, the Meeting of the Parties will elect a chair and two vice-chairs. The Chair and Vice-Chairs will remain in office until the next elections at the fifth session of the Meeting of the Parties.

4. Special session on moving forward on the water and sanitation agenda in the pan-European region: the role of the Protocol on Water and Health in achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

Tentative timing: Monday, 14 November, 11.10 a.m.–1 p.m.

11. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (2030 Agenda) and its Sustainable Development Goals will shape the dynamics in which the international community approaches its main challenges. In the pan-European region, the Protocol on Water and Health has supported remarkable progress in water, sanitation and health in recent years, in particular in terms of access to water and sanitation, the quality of drinking water and the reduction of water-related disease. There are still many challenges that require further attention. The region has not met the Millennium Development Goal target on sanitation. It still faces an unacceptable burden of water-related disease and significant inequities in access to water and sanitation services remain, including with respect to rural-urban disparities and in institutions such as schools and hospitals. Realizing the effects of global drivers such as climate change and urbanization, there is a need to increase the resilience of water supply and sanitation systems to extreme weather events, including growing water scarcity, and to strengthen safe and efficient management approaches of water and sanitation services, including specific attention to wastewater reuse. Generally, intersectoral cooperation between the water, health and other relevant sectors needs to be further enhanced to effectively deal with the problems at stake. All these issues, which are part of the ambitions of the 2030 Agenda, have been recognized as priorities under the Protocol.

12. The 2030 Agenda sets ambitious objectives to be achieved in the next 15 years. Reaching them will require stepping-up efforts in the region; more efficient approaches and stronger cross-sectoral partnerships are therefore essential. The Protocol features a number of strengths that make it very relevant to support meeting the 2030 Agenda commitments across the pan-European region.

13. The Protocol's provisions and work are fully aligned with Sustainable Development Goal 6 "Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all" and relevant targets under Goal 3 "Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages". The Protocol also clearly supports the implementation of other Sustainable Development Goals pertinent to water, sanitation and health, specifically Goal 1 on ending poverty, Goal 2 on improving nutrition, Goal 4 on equitable quality education, Goal 11 on safe, resilient and sustainable cities and Goal 13 on combating climate change and its impacts.

14. With a strong integrated and intersectoral approach, its focus on the coherence of policies and its attention to inclusivity and equity issues, the Protocol's objectives, principles and approaches are consistent with the 2030 Agenda. Moreover, the Protocol's legally binding nature, which allows it to channel long-term efforts, and its intergovernmental framework — open to all stakeholders — makes it possible for the Protocol to respond to changing and varying needs across the region.

15. The Protocol can therefore be a powerful tool to promote and operationalize the achievement of the 2030 Agenda in national and regional contexts. Its planning and accountability approach — through target setting and reporting — offers a practical framework for Parties to translate the ambitions of the 2030 Agenda into specific national targets and actions. The Protocol also offers a pan-European hub for all relevant stakeholders to build evidence, strengthen political commitment, develop policy and technical guidance, build capacities and share experiences and good practices for attaining the 2030 Agenda targets on water, sanitation and health.

16. The special high-level session will foster a strategic discussion between Parties, other States, international and non-governmental organizations and academia on the different perspectives on and expectations for advancing the water and sanitation agenda in the pan-European region and in particular how the Protocol can best fulfil its potential role in this respect and support countries and other stakeholders in their efforts.

17. A keynote presentation will set the scene and highlight the vision, challenges and opportunities for achieving the water, sanitation and health-related Goals and targets under the 2030 Agenda, enriched by the lessons learned from efforts to achieve the Millennium Development Goals and evidence from science.

18. A panel composed of high-level representatives from countries, international and non-governmental organizations and the private sector will discuss implementation of the 2030 Agenda with regard to water, sanitation and health, and the role of the Protocol, around the following questions:

(a) How will the 2030 Agenda with its aspirations and drive impact on your water, sanitation and health policies, initiatives and programmes? What will be the main opportunities and challenges?

(b) How can silos be broken and interlinkages and cooperation promoted among all relevant sectors, including environment, health, education, nutrition, financing and infrastructure? What cross-sectoral partnerships need to be strengthened to advance the 2030 Agenda on water, sanitation and health issues?;

(c) What have been the main successes of the work of the Protocol so far and what are the implications of the 2030 Agenda for its future work? How can the Protocol, its governance structure and its activities best support the implementation of the relevant Sustainable Development Goals?

19. Subsequently, Parties, other States and stakeholders will be invited to participate in an interactive moderated discussion on the above issues. Due to the limited time available, interventions and statements should not exceed three minutes. To facilitate the running of the special session, delegations planning to make a statement are invited to inform the secretariat in advance.

Documentation

The Protocol on Water and Health: A tool to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (brochure)

Programme of the special session on moving forward on the water and sanitation agenda in the pan-European region: the role of the Protocol on Water and Health in achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (MOP4/WH/2016/INF.3)

General segment

5. Elections of other members of the Bureau

Tentative timing: Monday, 14 November, 3–3.10 p.m.

20. In accordance with its rules of procedure, the Meeting of the Parties will elect additional officers to serve as members of the Bureau. The Bureau members will remain in office until the next elections at the fifth session of the Meeting of the Parties.

6. Review of past activities and discussion of future activities in the different areas of work

21. The Meeting of the Parties will review the achievements under the current programme of work for 2014–2016 (ECE/MP.WH/11/Add.1–EUDCE/1206123/3.1/2013/MOP-3/06/Add.1) and examine proposals for activities under the programme of work for 2017–2019. A discussion on the overall programme of work for 2017–2019 will take place under agenda item 9.

Documentation

Report on the implementation of the programme of work for 2014–2016, including an overview of contributions and expenditures (ECE/MP.WH/2016/1–EUPCR/1611921/2.1/2016/MOP-4/07)

Draft programme of work for 2017–2019 (ECE/MP.WH/2016/2–EUPCR/1611921/2.1/2016/MOP-4/08)

(a) Setting targets, implementing measures and reporting under the Protocol

Tentative timing: Monday, 14 November, 3.10–6 p.m.

22. The Chair of the Task Force on Target Setting and Reporting will present the outcomes of the work of the Task Force in the past triennium. In particular, the Meeting of the Parties will be informed about the elaboration and publication of the *Collection of Good Practices and Lessons Learned on Target Setting and Reporting under the Protocol on Water and Health*, prepared based on the experience of countries and organizations in setting and implementing targets and reporting in accordance with the Protocol. The Meeting of the Parties will be invited to endorse the *Collection*, which will complement the *Guidelines on the Setting of Targets, Evaluation of Progress and Reporting*.⁴

23. With reference to article 6, paragraph 3, of the Protocol, those Parties that have yet to establish and publish targets will be invited to report on progress achieved in the setting of targets. Participants will be invited to discuss the specific challenges encountered by Parties when setting targets and existing solutions and lessons learned. Participants will also be invited to highlight how other areas of work under the Protocol have influenced target setting at the national and local levels.

24. The Meeting of the Parties will be invited to review the implementation of the Protocol on the basis of the national summary reports submitted by Parties during the third

⁴ United Nations publication, Sales No. E.10.II.E.12. Available from <http://www.unece.org/env/water/publications/pub.html>.

reporting cycle and the regional report prepared by the joint secretariat. It is also expected to take note of reports submitted by signatories and other States not Party to the Protocol.

25. Participants will be invited to discuss the main trends, challenges and solutions emerging from the reporting exercise of 2015–2016.

26. The Meeting of the Parties will be briefed on developments related to the global framework for monitoring of the Sustainable Development Goals pertinent to water, sanitation and hygiene, as well as on the regional highlights on water and sanitation from global monitoring programmes, such as the WHO/United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) Joint Monitoring Programme for Water Supply and Sanitation (JMP) and the UN-Water Global Assessment and Analysis of Sanitation and Drinking Water (GLAAS).

27. The Chair of the Task Force will introduce the draft decision on reporting in accordance with article 7 of the Protocol, including guidelines and a template for summary reports. The Meeting of the Parties will be invited to discuss and adopt the decision.

28. The lead Parties for this area of work will present future planned activities for 2017–2019. The Meeting of the Parties will discuss the proposal.

Documentation

Regional report on the status of implementation of the Protocol (ECE/MP.WH/2016/3–EUPCR/1611921/2.1/2016/MOP-4/09)

Draft decision on reporting in accordance with article 7 of the Protocol (ECE/MP.WH/2016/4–EUPCR/1611921/2.1/2016/MOP-4/10)

Collection of Good Practices and Lessons Learned on Target Setting and Reporting under the Protocol on Water and Health (ECE/MP.WH/14)

Overview of national summary reports submitted by Parties and other States (MOP4/WH/2016/INF.4)⁵

Investing in water and sanitation: increasing access, reducing inequalities. GLAAS 2014 findings — Highlights for the European Region (MOP4/WH/2016/INF.5)⁶

A snapshot of sanitation and drinking water in the WHO European Region (MOP4/WH/2016/INF.6)

(b) Prevention and reduction of water-related diseases

Tentative timing: Tuesday, 15 November, 10 a.m.–12.15 p.m.

29. Lead Parties of programme area 2.1 on water-related disease surveillance will present the outcomes of the work in the past triennium. In particular, the Meeting of the Parties will be informed of the publication *The situation of water-related disease in the pan-European region: results of a review conducted under the Protocol on Water and Health*. The Meeting of the Parties will be invited to endorse the publication.

30. The Meeting of the Parties will be also informed about the proposed future activities in this area of work for 2017–2019 and invited to discuss the proposal.

⁵ All summary reports submitted by Parties and others States are available from http://www.unece.org/env/water/protocol_third_reporting_cycle.html.

⁶ See http://www.who.int/water_sanitation_health/publications/glaas-2014-euro-highlights/en/.

31. Lead Parties of programme areas 2.3 on supporting cost-effective drinking water quality surveillance will present the outcomes of work in the past triennium. The Meeting of the Parties will also be informed about proposed future activities in this area of work for 2017–2019 and invited to discuss the proposal.

32. Lead Parties of programme area 2.4 on strengthening water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) in schools will present the outcomes of work in the past triennium. The Meeting of the Parties will specifically be informed of the two publications *The situation of water, sanitation and hygiene in schools in the pan-European Region* and *Prioritizing education, health and well-being: water, sanitation and hygiene in schools in the pan-European region*. The Meeting of the Parties will be invited to endorse these two publications.

33. The Meeting of the Parties will be informed about the outcomes of the activities on WASH in schools implemented by the European Environment and Health Youth Coalition.

34. The Meeting of the Parties will be informed about the proposed future activities under the expanded new programme area on institutional WASH for 2017–2019 and invited to discuss the proposal.

Documentation

The situation of water-related disease in the pan-European region (Copenhagen, WHO Regional Office for Europe, 2016)

The situation of water, sanitation and hygiene in schools in the pan-European region (Copenhagen, WHO Regional Office for Europe, 2016)

Prioritizing pupils' education, health and well-being: water, sanitation and hygiene in schools in the pan-European region (Copenhagen, WHO Regional Office for Europe, 2016)

Annotated outline of the guidance document on risk-based drinking water quality surveillance (MOP4/WH/2016/INF.7)

Effective approaches to drinking water quality surveillance: meeting report (MOP4/WH/2016/INF.8)⁷

“Hygiene Much” (brochure of the European Environment and Health Youth Coalition) (MOP4/WH/2016/INF.9)

European Environment and Health Youth Coalition summary report of the survey on hygiene knowledge, attitude and practice (MOP4/WH/2016/INF.10)

(c) Small-scale water supplies and sanitation

Tentative timing: Tuesday, 15 November, 12.15–1 p.m. and 3–3.45 p.m.

35. Lead Parties for the work on small-scale water supplies and sanitation will present activities and achievements made in the past triennium. In particular, two publications will be presented: *Taking policy action to improve small-scale water supply and sanitation systems: tools and good practices from the pan-European region*; and *Status of small-scale water supplies in the WHO European Region: results of a survey conducted under the*

⁷ See <http://www.euro.who.int/en/health-topics/environment-and-health/water-and-sanitation/publications/water-and-sanitation-in-the-who-european-region-2014-highlights/effective-approaches-to-drinking-water-quality-surveillance>.

Protocol on Water and Health. The Meeting of the Parties will be invited to endorse the publications.

36. The Meeting of the Parties will be informed about the outcomes of national consultations, capacity-building workshops and projects related to small-scale water supply and sanitation.

37. The Meeting of the Parties will also be informed about the proposed future activities in this area of work for 2017–2019 and invited to discuss the proposal.

Documentation

Taking policy action to improve small-scale water supply and sanitation systems: tools and good practices from the pan-European region (Copenhagen, WHO Regional Office for Europe, 2016)

Status of small-scale water supplies in the WHO European Region: results of a survey conducted under the Protocol on Water and Health (Copenhagen, WHO Regional Office for Europe, 2016)

Report of the seventh meeting of the International Small Community Water Supply Management Network (Bishkek, 26–27 June 2014)⁸ (MOP4/WH/2016/INF.11)

(d) Safe and efficient management of water supply and sanitation systems

Tentative timing: Tuesday, 15 November, 3.45–4.30 p.m.

38. The activities and achievements made in the past triennium in the area of the safe and efficient management of water supply and sanitation systems will be presented, in particular publications in the area, such as a field guide to improving drinking water safety in small communities, and the subregional and national capacity-building activities to support national uptake of the water safety plan approach. The Meeting of the Parties will be further informed about the challenges encountered in the implementation of the planned activities.

39. The Meeting of the Parties will be informed about the proposed future activities in this area of work for 2017–2019 and invited to discuss the proposal.

Documentation

Water safety plan: a field guide to improving drinking-water safety in small communities (Copenhagen, WHO Regional Office for Europe, 2014)⁹

Water safety plans in Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia: summary of a workshop on building capacities for the development of water safety plans (Bishkek, 24–25 June 2014) (MOP4/WH/2016/INF.12)¹⁰

⁸ See http://www.who.int/water_sanitation_health/dwq/scwsm_international/en/.

⁹ See <http://www.euro.who.int/en/publications/abstracts/water-safety-plan-a-field-guide-to-improving-drinking-water-safety-in-small-communities>.

¹⁰ See <http://www.euro.who.int/en/health-topics/environment-and-health/water-and-sanitation/publications/2014/water-safety-plans-in-eastern-europe,-the-caucasus-and-central-asia>.

(e) **Equitable access to water and sanitation**

Tentative timing: Tuesday, 15 November, 4.30–6 p.m.

40. The lead Parties will report on activities and progress made in the area of equitable access to water and sanitation.

41. Representatives of Parties and non-Parties that have applied the Equitable Access Score-card¹¹ will report on progress made in assessing the equity of access to water and sanitation and actions to improve equitable access.

42. The Meeting of the Parties will be also informed about the elaboration and publication of the *Guidance Note on the Development of Action Plans to Ensure Equitable Access to Water and Sanitation*. The Meeting of the Parties will be invited to endorse the Guidance Note.

43. The Meeting of the Parties will discuss proposed future activities in this area of work for 2017–2019.

Documentation

Guidance Note on the Development of Action Plans to Ensure Equitable Access to Water and Sanitation (ECE/MP.WH/15)

(f) **Compliance procedure**

Tentative timing: Wednesday, 16 November, 9.30–10.45 a.m.

44. The Chair of the Compliance Committee under the Protocol on Water and Health will report on the Committee's activities since the third session of the Meeting of the Parties (Oslo, 25–27 November 2013), and present any findings and recommendations of the Committee with respect to compliance by specific Parties. Moreover, he will report on the outcomes of the Committee's consultations with Albania, Azerbaijan and Bosnia and Herzegovina under the Consultation Process.

45. The Meeting of the Parties will be invited to take note of the Committee's report, including any general recommendations contained therein, and to consider, revise as necessary, and adopt draft decisions on compliance issues.

46. Parties will be invited to express interest in undertaking a consultation with the Committee under the Consultation Process in the period 2017–2019, as part of the future programme of work.

47. The Meeting of the Parties is expected to elect four members of the Compliance Committee in accordance with the procedure set out in decision I/2 on review of compliance (ECE/MP.WH/2/Add.3–EUR/06/5069385/1/Add.3).

Documentation

Report of the Compliance Committee to the Meeting of the Parties (ECE/MP.WH/2016/5–EUPCR/1611921/2.1/2016/MOP-4/11)

¹¹ *The Equitable Access Score-card: Supporting policy processes to achieve the human right to water and sanitation* (ECE/MP.WH/8), available from <http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=34032>.

List of provisionally nominated candidates for the Compliance Committee, together with curricula vitae and supporting documentation (MOP4/WH/2016/INF.13)

(g) Assistance to support implementation at the national level

Tentative timing: Wednesday, 16 November, 10.45–11.30 a.m.

48. The ECE secretariat will inform Parties about the support for implementation of the Protocol at the national level provided by the ECE-led National Policy Dialogues on Integrated Water Resources Management, operated under the European Union Water Initiative in countries of Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia.

49. The joint secretariat will update the Meeting of the Parties about the progress in the implementation of assistance activities, in particular in Kyrgyzstan, the Republic of Moldova and Tajikistan.

50. The WHO/Europe secretariat will inform Parties about the assistance provided to member States through the framework of bilateral collaborative agreements to support the Protocol's implementation.

51. The Meeting of the Parties will be invited to discuss the added value of the assistance activities under the Protocol, the challenges encountered and opportunities for future work.

Documentation

Report on implementation of the European Union Water Initiative National Policy Dialogues (MOP4/WH/2016/INF.14)

7. Partners in implementation and relevant global and regional processes and initiatives

Tentative timing: Wednesday, 16 November, 11.30 a.m.–12.30 p.m.

52. In accordance with article 16, paragraph 3 (c), of the Protocol, the Chair of the Meeting of the Parties to the Water Convention will inform the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol of the progress made in the implementation of the Water Convention, the decisions taken at the seventh session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention (Budapest, 17–19 November 2015), especially regarding the globalization of the Convention, the implementation of the programme of work and the opportunities for joint action by the two governing bodies.

53. Parties will also be informed about the preparations for the Sixth Ministerial Conference on Environment and Health to be held in 2017, including the status of development of possible targets and commitments on water, sanitation and health to be included in the Conference's outcome document. The Meeting of the Parties will be invited to discuss the proposed commitments, as well as interlinkages and synergies between the European Environment and Health Process and the future priorities of work under the Protocol.

54. Partners from international and non-governmental organizations have been crucial in implementing the Protocol's programme of work for 2014–2016. Existing and potential partners from international organizations and non-governmental organizations will be invited to present ideas and proposals for cooperation in the framework of the programme of work for 2017–2019.

Documentation

Background paper on the Sixth Ministerial Conference on Environment and Health and proposed input to the outcome document of the Conference (MOP4/WH/2016/INF.15)

8. Programme of work for 2017–2019, terms of reference of bodies established to implement it and resources needed for its implementation

Tentative timing: Wednesday, 16 November, 2.30–4.30 p.m.

55. The joint secretariat will provide an overview of the financial resources that were made available for the implementation of the programme of work for 2014–2016, highlighting specific challenges encountered as a result of lack of funds.

56. The Chair will recall that, at its third session, the Meeting of the Parties requested the Bureau to examine the possibilities for a sustainable financing mechanism to support implementation of future programmes of work, to review decision I/5 on the financial arrangements to support the implementation of the Protocol and to present a draft decision in that regard for consideration at the next session of the Meeting of the Parties. The Bureau subsequently presented a proposal for a draft decision on a sustainable financing arrangement under the Protocol to the Working Group on Water and Health at its eighth meeting (Geneva, 21–22 October 2015). Following discussions at that meeting and at the sixteenth meeting of the Bureau (Geneva, 10 March 2016) — and also taking into account the outcomes of similar processes to introduce sustainable financial mechanisms under other ECE multilateral environmental agreements — it was determined that there was not enough consensus at the present stage to introduce a sustainable financial mechanism under the Protocol. The Bureau then decided to prepare an informal document, “Overview and consolidation of financial arrangements”. The Meeting of the Parties will take note of the informal document.

57. On the basis of the discussions under previous agenda items, the Meeting of the Parties is expected to finalize and adopt its programme of work for 2017–2019. In doing so, the Meeting of the Parties will:

(a) Agree on the structure of the programme of work, future activities, lead countries and partners;

(b) Agree on the intergovernmental bodies, along with their respective mandates, to guide the implementation of the programme of work;

(c) Make arrangements related to the financial and human resources needed to implement the activities in the programme of work, and indicate funding for these activities according to their priority. Parties, other interested States and organizations are invited to inform the joint secretariat in advance of the session of their intention to contribute financially to the programme of work’s implementation. The joint secretariat will make the information received available to the Meeting of the Parties and delegations will be invited to provide any supplementary information.

Documentation

Report on the implementation of the programme of work for 2014–2016, including an overview of contributions and expenditures (ECE/MP.WH/2016/1–EUPCR/1611921/2.1/2016/MOP-4/07)

Draft programme of work for 2017–2019 (ECE/MP.WH/2016/2–EUPCR/1611921/2.1/2016/MOP-4/08)

Overview and consolidation of financial arrangements (MOP4/WH/2016/INF.16)

Provisional calendar of meetings under the Water Convention and the Protocol on Water and Health in 2017 (MOP4/WH/2016/INF.16)

9. Date and venue of the fifth session of the Meeting of the Parties

Tentative timing: Wednesday, 16 November, 4.30–4.40 p.m.

58. The Meeting of the Parties will be invited to set dates for its fifth ordinary session. Delegations are encouraged to offer to host the fifth session so that the Meeting of the Parties will be able to decide on its venue.

10. Other business

Tentative timing: Wednesday, 16 November, 4.40–4.50 p.m.

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

11. Presentation of the main decisions

Tentative timing: Wednesday, 16 November, 4.50–5.20 p.m.

60. The Chair will present the main decisions taken by the Meeting of the Parties. The Meeting of the Parties will be invited to entrust the joint secretariat, in consultation with the Bureau, with finalizing the report of its fifth session.

12. Closing of the session

Tentative timing: Wednesday, 16 November, 5.20–5.30 p.m.

61. The Chair and a representative of the host country will be invited to make final statements. The Chair will then officially close the session.
