

The Protocol on Water and Health: Advantages for Armenia to become a Party

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Why a treaty to manage water resources and prevent water-related diseases ?

In the European Region, poor-quality drinking-water causes over 13 000 deaths from diarrhoea among children aged 0–14 years (5.3% of all deaths in this age group) each year

140 million (16%) do not have a household connection to a drinking-water supply

In central and eastern Europe water is safe only in 30—40% of households.

85 million (10%) do not have improved sanitation

Emerging threats: protozoan infestations of drinking-water supply systems, proliferation of *Legionella*, and potential health problems related to the increasingly complex chemical environment.

The Protocol on water and health:

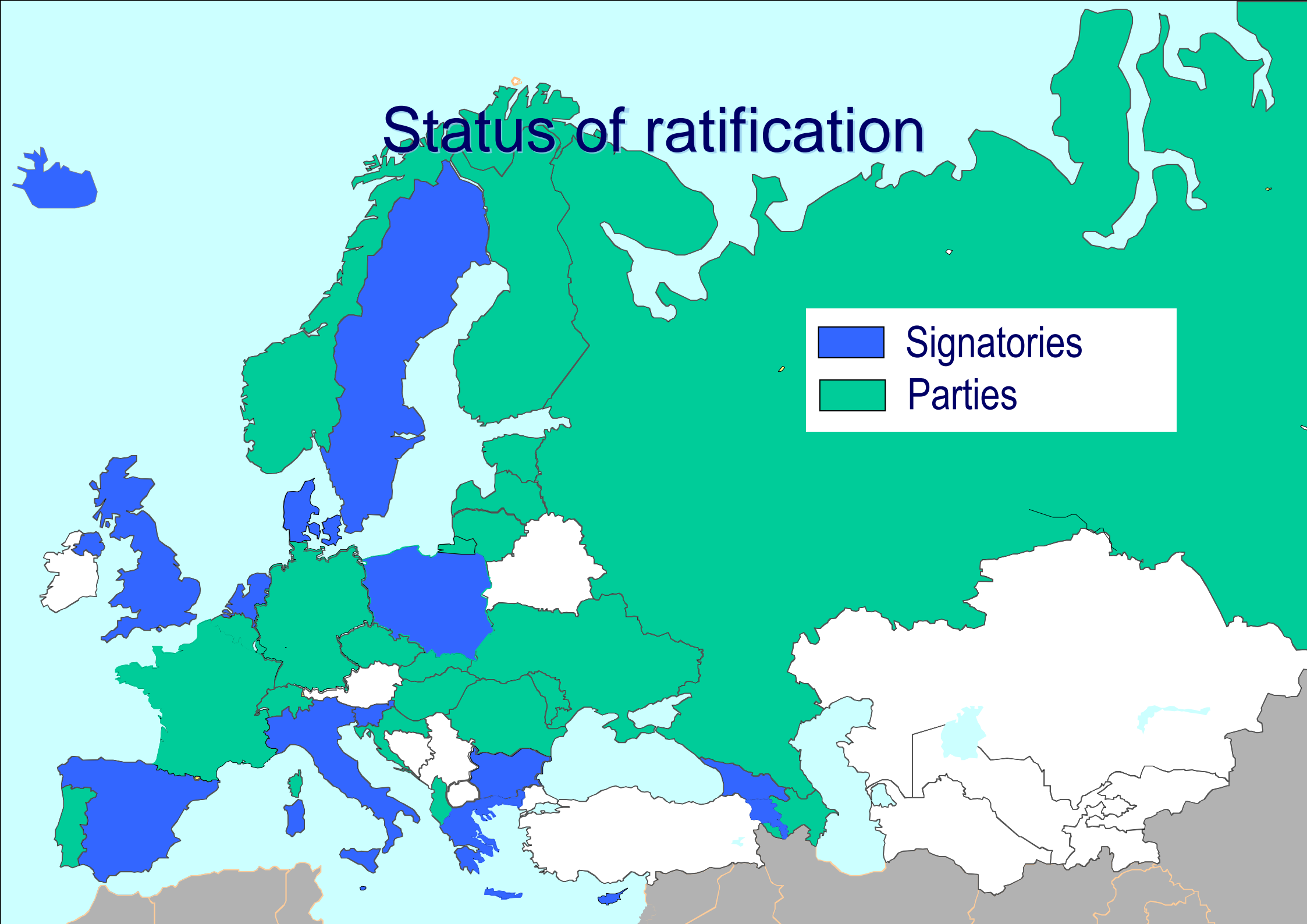
It is the world's first legal treaty designed to reduce water-related deaths and diseases through improved water management.



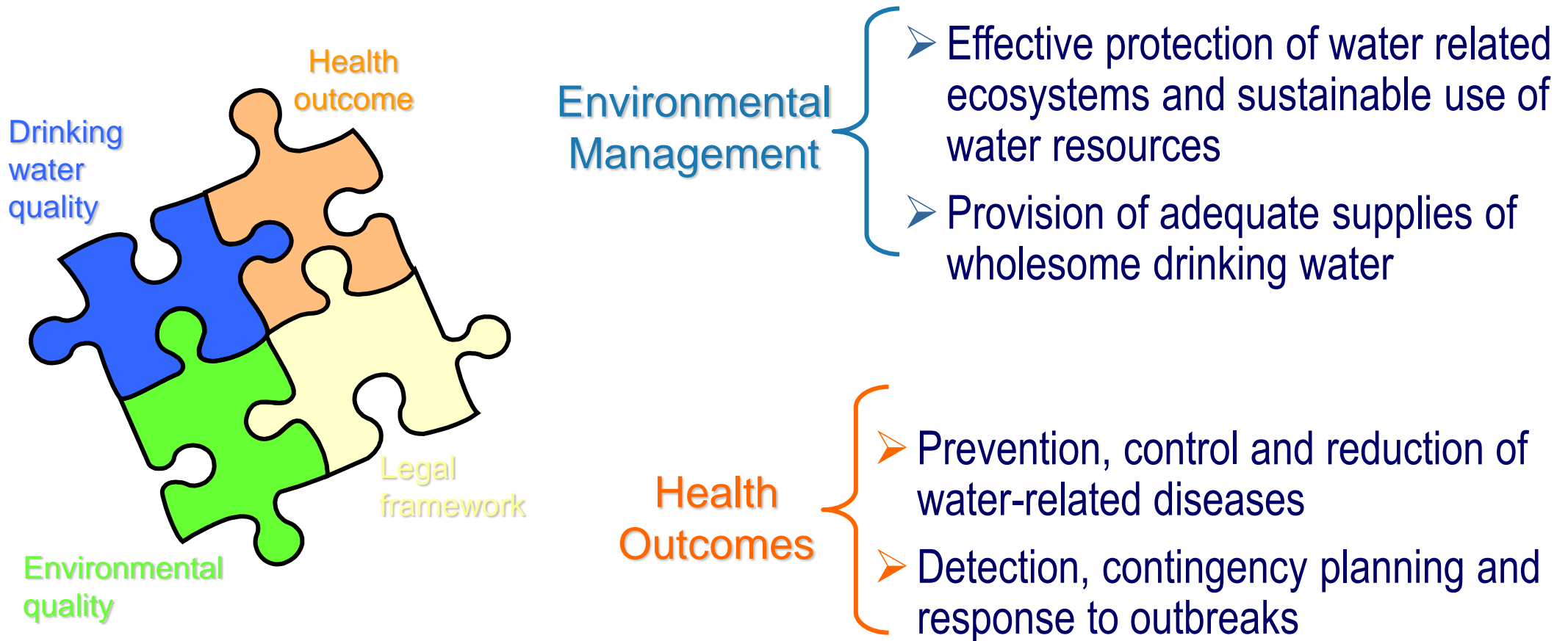
It is up to the countries to translate its code into the reality of greater access to safe water and improved sanitation.

Status of ratification

-  Signatories
-  Parties



Goal: Protect human health and well being by better management of water resources



Goal: Protect human health and well being by providing institutional framework for:

- Sustainable development and MDGs, post-2015, SDGs
- Poverty reduction
- Policies integration
- Cooperation between sectors and countries
- Human right to water and sanitation, equitable access

Scope

Costal and estuarine waters



Surface waters

Water during abstraction, transport, treatment and supply



Wastewater collection, transport, treatment, discharge, reuse

Parties shall:

ESTABLISH TARGETS

- Water supply and sanitation
- Water management
- Health protection

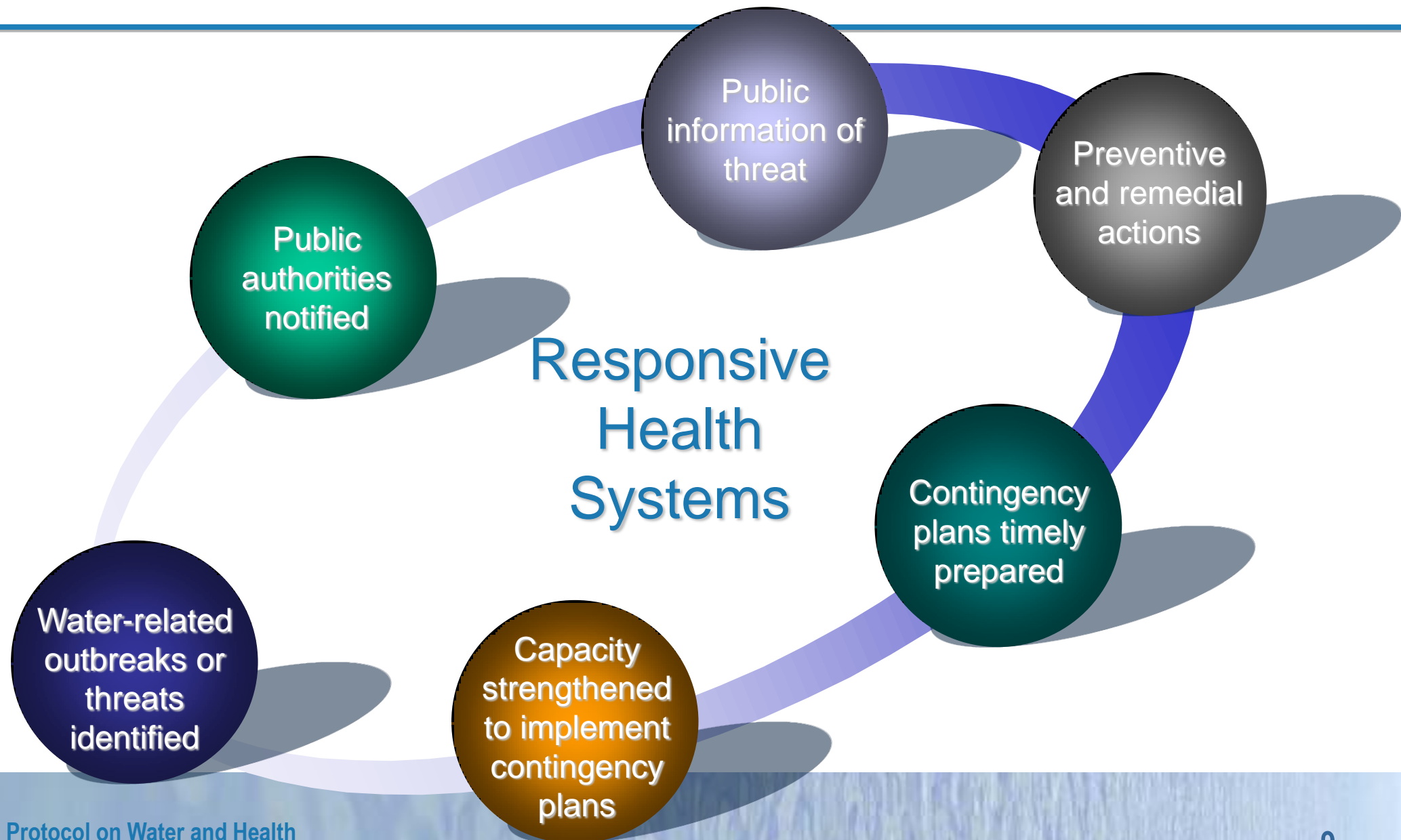
SET DATES

Within 2 years of becoming a Party, each country sets and publishes targets, and dates for achieving them

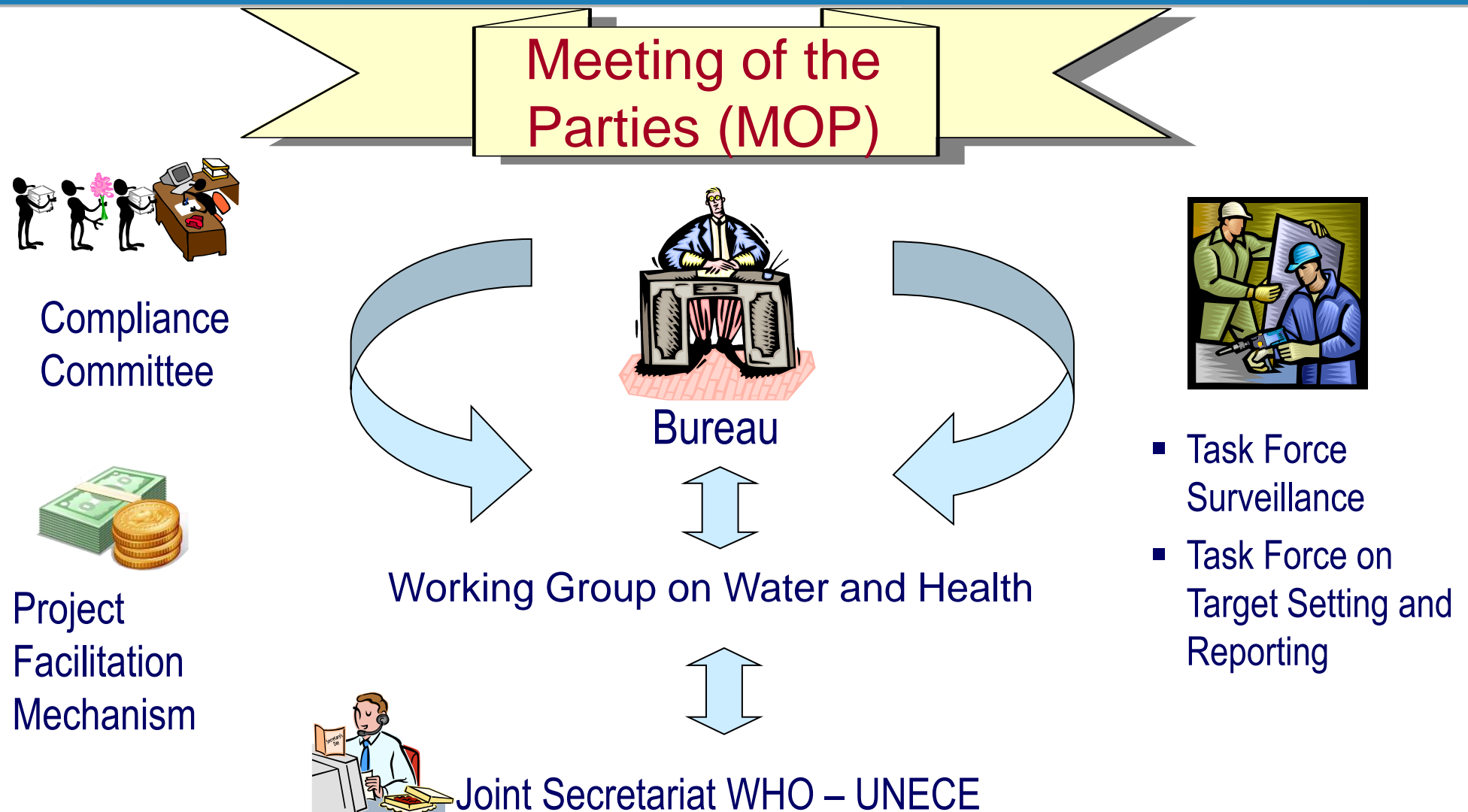
REVIEW PROGRESS

- collect and evaluate data
- publish results
- review progress
- provide summary reports

Within 3 years each country shall establish systems for surveillance and control of water-related diseases



How does the Protocol function?



The Protocol offers:

- ✓ International assistance coordinated and strengthened through Project Facilitation Mechanism
- ✓ Basis for cooperation on water and health between the countries of the European Union and other countries of the UNECE and WHO Europe
- ✓ Identifies and promotes more flexible and cost-effective development alternatives according to regional, national and local priorities
- ✓ Includes novel approaches such as contingency planning and water safety plan approaches

Further advantages:

- ✓ Designed to support continuous progress with pace and objectives tailored to countries' priorities and capacities
- ✓ Programme of work supports implementation and harmonization in the region as well as a framework for dealing with emerging issues
- ✓ Catalyses coordinated national actions by different stakeholders and promotes inter-sectoral cooperation and holistic approach
- ✓ Facilitates public participation.

Advantages of becoming a Party

- Country joins the institutional regime of the Protocol (Meeting of the Parties, Bureau, subsidiary bodies, including possibility to being elected as chair/member of those)
- Parties can participate in meetings of Working Group, Task Force, Expert/Drafting groups, etc
- No obligatory financial contribution scheme
- Opportunity to get assistance from Consultation Process within the Compliance Committee of the Protocol (exclusive for Parties)
- International cooperation and support to national action (Art. 11-14)

International support to national action (Art. 14)

- Preparation of water management plans in national and transboundary context and schemes to improve water supply and sanitation
- Improved formulation of projects, especially infrastructure projects, identify sources of finance - PFM
- Establishment of systems of surveillance and early warning systems, contingency plans, response capacities in relation to water-related diseases
- Preparation of legislation needed to support the implementation of the Protocol
- Education and training of key professional and technical staff

International support, cnt'd

- R&D into cost-effective means and techniques for preventing, controlling and reducing water-related disease
- Operation of effective networks to monitor and assess the provision and quality of water-related services, and development of integrated information systems and databases
- Achievement of quality assurance for monitoring activities, including inter-laboratory comparability

Additional benefits

Armenia will have more opportunities to:

- Demonstrate its achievements in water supply and sanitation sectors, including in prevention, control and reduction of water-related diseases
- Participate in intergovernmental process of decision making and priority setting under the Protocol on Water and Health
- Have better access to funding opportunities for policy and infrastructure development projects

www.unece.org/env/water

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