

STRATEGIC ROUNDTABLE ON INCREASING RESILIENCE TO CLIMATE CHANGE IN THE WATER AND SANITATION SECTOR

Palais des Nations, Geneva, 13-14 November 2023

Programme

Day 1: Monday, 13 November

Opening and setting the scene (10-10:50)

Welcoming remarks

- Opening of the meeting and welcoming remarks – Mr. Dmitry Mariyasin, Deputy Executive Secretary of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe
- Opening by the WHO Regional Office for Europe – Ms. Francesca Racioppi, Head of the World Health Organization European Centre for Environment and Health
- High-level opening by lead Parties
 - o H.E. Mr. Vincenzo Grassi, Ambassador of Italy to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva
 - o H.E. Mr. Paul Bekkers, Ambassador of the Kingdom of the Netherlands to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva

Moderation: Ms. Ana Maria de Roda Husman, National Institute for Public Health and the Environment of the Netherlands

Climate change effects on water in the pan-European region: Keynote speech, Mr. Nicolas A. Franke, World Meteorological Organization

- Presentation of the Strategic Paper: “Strengthening climate resilience in the water and sanitation sector through the Protocol on Water and Health” – Mr. Guy Howard, University of Bristol
- Introduction to the Protocol and the aims and programme of the workshop – Ms. Sonja Koeppel, UNECE and Mr. Oliver Schmoll, WHO Regional Office for Europe

Session I – Understanding the issue – climate impacts and risks (10:50-11:30)

Moderation: Mr. Harold Van Der Berg, National Institute for Public Health and the Environment of the Netherlands

Selected case studies on climate impacts

- **Impact of water scarcity and flooding on bathing waters: the representative case of Emilia-Romagna, Italy** – Mr. Luca Lucentini, National Institute of Health; Mr. Giuseppe Bortone, Regional Environmental Protection Agency Emilia Romagna Region
- **Climate Change and Infectious Diseases** – Mr. Jan Semenza, European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control



- **Assessing climate risks and vulnerability of water services in Finland** – Ms. Vuokko Laukka, Finnish Environment Institute (Syke)

Interactive discussion with the audience

Session II – Navigating the climate landscape – governance frameworks and stakeholder involvement (11:30 to 13)

Moderation: Mr. Luca Lucentini, National Institute of Health, Italy

- Setting the scene “Planetary Health: A holistic vision for people and the planet” – Ms. Danielle Brady, European Policy Centre
- Opportunities to integrate water in international climate processes – Ms. Supriya Dharkar, secretariat of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)
- Water supply and sanitation – how is climate change included in the EU legislations? – Mr. Michel Sponar, European Commission

Panel discussion on national governance frameworks for water, sanitation and climate change

- Reflections on the integration of water and sanitation issues in the Dutch National Adaptation Plan – Mr. Jesse Limaheluw, National Institute for Public Health and the Environment of the Netherlands
- Integration of water and sanitation issues into the National Adaptation Strategy in Türkiye – Ms. Berna Yigit, Ministry of Environment, Urbanization and Climate Change of Türkiye
- Integration of water and sanitation issues into the National Adaptation Strategy of Azerbaijan – Mr. Shervin Shakuri, Ministry of Health of Azerbaijan

Session III – Taking action to increase resilience (15 – 18)

Selected approaches/examples of action taken to target climate resilience

Moderation: Mr. Guy Howard, University of Bristol

- A. Approaches for risk-based planning and management
 - Risk-based approaches for water and sanitation providers
 - o Climate-resilient sanitation safety planning – Ms. Kate Medicott, World Health Organization
 - o Risk prevention and managing in water systems vs different climate scenarios – Mr. Luca Lucentini, National Institute of Health of Italy; Ms. Sabrina Sorlini, University of Brescia
 - Scenario-based planning /climate risk narratives – Mr. Rob Wilby, University of Loughborough
- B. Green and grey infrastructure and other adaptation measures
 - Rainwater management: Mr. Marc Hans, Water Management Agency, Luxembourg
 - Climate change and challenges of the water and sanitation sector in Uzbekistan: adaptation measures, Ms. Olga Mirshina, Ministry of Health of Uzbekistan

COFFEE BREAK



- C. Measures relating to climate change and water resources
 - Flood Forecasting and Early Warning System in the Sava River Basin – Ms. Gorana Basevic, Ministry of Foreign Trade and Economic Relations of Bosnia and Herzegovina
 - Climate adaptation and integrated water management – Ms. Anna Paldy, National Center for Public Health and Pharmacy, Hungary
 - Priority Measures for the period of 2022-2026 within the Water Sector Adaptation Plan of Armenia – Ms. Lilit Abrhamyan, Ministry of Environment of the Republic of Armenia
- D. Public health and climate resilience
 - Drinking water quality monitoring in cases of natural disasters – Ms. Vasiliki Karaouli, Ministry of Health, Greece

Interactive discussion - group work and reporting back (1h)

Day 2: Tuesday, 14 November

Session IV – Enabling action: unlocking finance for climate resilience (10-11)

Note: The key aim of this session is awareness-raising for the audience concerning different sources of climate financing that are available for water and sanitation

Moderation: Ms. Sonja Koeppel, UNECE

- EU taxonomy and climate adaptation in the water sector – Mr. Juan Bofill, European Investment Bank
- Merging climate finance and water security – Mr. Bapon Fakhruddin, Green Climate Fund
- Economic incentives for financing climate resilience – Mr. Christian Minelli, Association of European Water Regulators (WAREG)
- Case study on accessing climate funding – Mr. Arduen Karagjozi, Water Resources Management Agency of Albania

Interactive discussion with the audience

Session V – Way forward and the role of the Protocol (11-12.45)

Moderation: Ms. Nataliya Nikiforova, UNECE and Mr. Oliver Schmoll, WHO Regional Office for Europe

- The Protocol on Water and Health – what can it offer? – Teaser by Ms. Nataliya Nikiforova, UNECE and Mr. Oliver Schmoll, WHO Regional Office for Europe
- Climate change and target setting:
 - o Target-setting in Luxembourg – Mr. Bruno Alves, Ministry of the Environment, Climate and Sustainable Development of Luxembourg
 - o Climate change and the water and sanitation sector in Montenegro: priorities, ongoing processes, challenges – Mr. Borko Bajic, Institute of Public Health, Montenegro



Interactive discussion on climate-related needs and possible role of the Protocol – group work and reporting back (1h)

Note: Participants to be divided in groups and asked to discuss (a) their needs and strategic priorities in the area of climate change more broadly, (b) which of these could be addressed under the Protocol and its programme of work, considering the material presented during the workshop.

Closing (12:45-13)

Closing remarks by lead Parties – Italy and Netherlands