

PROTOCOL ON WATER AND HEALTH

BUREAU/2008/1

BUREAU OF THE MEETING OF THE PARTIES

Second meeting
Geneva, 18-19 September 2008

ANNOTATED PROVISIONAL AGENDA FOR THE SECOND MEETING

Prepared by the joint secretariat

The meeting of the Bureau of the Protocol on Water and Health will take place in the Palais des Nations in room A-206. The meeting will take place after the joint meeting of the Bureaux of the Water Convention and of the Protocol (from 11.30 to 17.00 on 18 September). It will start at 17.00 on 18 September and end on 19 September 2008 at 16.30.

The meeting will be held in English.

In line with the accreditation procedures for meetings held at the Palais des Nations, participants of the Bureau meeting are requested to complete the registration form available from the UNECE web site (<http://www.unece.org/env/water/meetings/registrationmeeting.htm>) and to transmit it to the UNECE secretariat by **10 September 2007** by e-mail (olga.carlos@unece.org). Prior to the meeting, the participants are requested to present themselves at the Pass and Identification Unit of the UNOG Security and Safety Section, located at the Pregny Gate (across from the Red Cross building - buses 8, Z, V, 28, at stop "Appia"), 14, Avenue de la Paix (working hours 8am-5pm) a map is available at the above web address. Please allow enough time for accreditation.

- 1. Adoption of the agenda**
(Thursday 18 September, 17.00-17.10)
- 2. Composition of the Bureau**
(Thursday 18 September, 17.10-17.20)

Ms. Sirkka Haunia who was elected Bureau member at the first meeting of the Parties is unfortunately unable to serve in the Bureau. According to rule 17 of the Rules of Procedure, the remaining members of the Bureau shall co-opt a successor by consensus, taking into account the proposal for a successor by Finland.

- 3. Resources to implement the programme of work and implementation of unfunded activities**
(Thursday 18 September, 17.20- 18.30)

On the basis of a paper prepared by the joint secretariat, the Bureau will be informed about the financial status of the UNECE Technical Cooperation Trust Fund and the WHO-EURO Voluntary Fund, the contributions received, funds used and the missing resources necessary for implementing the core elements of the work programme.

In addition to information provided by other countries at the first meeting of the Working Group on Water and Health, Bureau members will be invited through a tour de table to indicate how they intend to contribute for the year 2008-2009 and to advice on how the missing funds could be raised.

Resources available might be insufficient to carry out all of the activities, and implement the core elements foreseen in the work programme under the Protocol. The Bureau will thus consider the potential consequences of lack of financial resources.

In discussing the following agenda item, the Bureau will take into account the financial situation and if necessary will revise the programme of work.

4. Implementation of activities in the programme of work
(Friday 19 September, 9.00 - 12.00)

Since the first Meeting of the Parties, all bodies established under the Protocol initiated their activities and significant steps forward in the implementation of the programme of work have been achieved, as underlined at first meeting of the Working Group on Water and Health. On the basis of information provided by the secretariat, by the Chairpersons of the Task Force and other lead countries, the Bureau will examine progress made and difficulties encountered.

The following areas of activities and future planned meetings will be discussed. The Bureau will advise on further implementation.

(a) Surveillance and early-warning systems, contingency plans and response capacities: Roger Aertgeerts/Massimo Cozzone will inform about progress and future plans related to the Task Force on Surveillance;

(b) Development of targets and indicators and reporting, including development of guidelines: Pierre Studer will inform about progress and future plans of the Task Force on Indicators and Reporting;

(c) Compliance procedure: Francesca Bernardini will report on the activities of the Compliance Committee, in particular the outcome of its first meeting (12 March 2008) and future plans;

(d) Water supply and sanitation in short-term critical situations and adaptation to climate change: Roger Aertgeerts/Massimo Cozzone will inform about progress and future plans related to the Task Force on Extreme Weather Events¹

(e) Ad Hoc Project Facilitation Mechanism: Kjetil Tveitan/ Roger Aertgeerts-Roisin Rooney will inform about the outcome of its first meeting (Geneva, 25 June 2008) and future perspectives

(f) Equitable access: Francesca Bernardini will inform about progress and future plans in this area of work

(g) Public awareness, education, training, research and development and information: Ana Drapa will inform about future Romanian plans to organize a workshop on public participation;

(h) Workshop on Water Safety in Small Scale Water Supplies in the European Region: Roger Aertgeerts will inform about the preparations of the workshop and the future perspectives.

¹ This discussion will complement the one held together with the Bureau of the Water Convention.

5. New activity under the Protocol: assessment of the use of the WHO Guidelines for recreational water quality

(Friday 19 September, 12.00-12.30)

The Bureau will examine a proposal by the Robens Centre for Public and Environmental Health to assess the use of the WHO Guidelines for recreational-water quality (coastal and freshwaters, and pools) in the European region.

In preparation of the third International Swimming Pool & Spa Conference organized by the Pool Water Treatment Advisory Group, the Robens Centre propose to develop, jointly with the Task Force on Indicators and Reporting, an appropriate questionnaire in English and possibly Russian, and host this questionnaire at the website of their institute free of charge. They could also envisage providing technical support to the data gathering, notably by advising key personnel in other countries. It is also proposed that a final report on the outcome of this data collection exercise be prepared for the meeting of the Working Group on Water and Health.

The Bureau will discuss and agree on whether such activity should be included in the Protocol's programme of work.

6. Progress in the ratification process and other issues related to the promotion of the Protocol²

(Friday 19 September, 13.30-14.30)

Following the discussion on promotion and communication held together with the Bureau of the Water Convention, the Protocol's Bureau will further discuss specific issues of relevance to the Protocol, for instance:

- (a) How to speed up the ratification process;
- (b) Opportunities linked to the Ministerial Conference on Environment and Health and how to ensure that the Protocol is included in the Conference official agenda.

The Bureau will discuss and agree on actions to be carried out by the Bureau itself, all Parties and the secretariat at local, national and international levels.

7. Strategic partnerships and positioning of the Protocol within other organization's programmes

(Friday 19 September, 14.30-15.30)

The Bureau will discuss opportunities to strengthen cooperation with and to mainstream the Protocol in the programme of work of strategic partners, such as:

- (a) Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights in particular in relation to role of the Protocol in the implementation of the human right to water and sanitation
- (b) EECCA Component of the European Union Water Initiative
- (c) United Nations Development Programme
- (d) Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development
- (e) Other partners

² This item will allow treating more in depth issues which have already been discussed in the Joint Bureaux meeting on 18 September but need further deliberation by the Protocol's Bureau.

8. Future meetings under the Protocol and distribution of tasks in the joint secretariat
(Friday 19 September, 15.30-16.00)

The Bureau will review future calendar of future meetings under the Protocol and be informed on the relevant distribution of tasks within the joint secretariat.

9. Next Bureau meetings
(16.00-16.15)

The Bureau will start a discussion on the date and venue of the second meeting of the Parties and will tentatively schedule its next meetings accordingly.

10. Other business
(16.15-16.30)

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

11. Closing

The Chairperson will close the meeting at 16.30.
