

Ref.: 2024/OES/16/ENV/220

Geneva and Copenhagen, 16 January 2025

Dear Ministers,

We have the honour to invite you to report in accordance with your Government's obligation under article 7 of the Protocol on Water and Health, jointly serviced by the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) and the World Health Organization Regional Office for Europe (WHO/Europe). According to this provision, every three years, Parties shall collect and evaluate data on their progress towards the achievement of the targets set under article 6 of the Protocol, and on indicators designed to show how far that progress has contributed towards preventing, controlling or reducing water-related diseases. Parties must provide a summary report of the data collected and evaluated and of the progress achieved to the Protocol secretariat. On the basis of the national summary reports, the Meeting of the Parties evaluates the situation with implementation of the Protocol.

The seventh session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol, which we hope you will attend, will take place in Budapest, from 5 to 7 November 2025. In accordance with the established procedures, the deadline for submission of summary reports is **9 April 2025**. We would like to reiterate the importance of timely reporting, which was emphasized by the Meeting of the Parties in its [decision VI/1 on general issues of compliance](#), also noting that failure to submit summary reports within the specified deadlines, i.e. 210 days before the next session of the Meeting of the Parties, is inconsistent with the requirements of the Protocol.

We also emphasize that the reporting exercise is aimed at assessing progress achieved in each individual country, as well as identifying the most relevant regional developments related to the Protocol's implementation. Therefore, in your reports we invite you to highlight any relevant action taken under the Protocol in the priority areas of its work, such as increasing resilience to climate change, promoting equitable access to water and sanitation, and strengthening the prevention and reduction of water-related diseases through effective surveillance systems and safe management of water and sanitation services in communities and institutions. We also invite you to describe existing challenges, concrete good practices, and focus on impacts achieved when implementing the different areas of work of the Protocol.

Ms. Yoko Alender  
Minister of Climate  
of the Republic of Estonia  
Tallinn

Ms. Riina Sikkut  
Minister of Health  
of the Republic of Estonia  
Tallinn

National summary reports must be prepared in accordance with the enclosed guidelines and template, which were adopted at the fourth session of the Meeting of the Parties (Geneva, 14–16 November 2016), as annexes to [decision IV/1 on reporting](#). We have also enclosed for your reference, a document prepared by the Protocol Compliance Committee, which contains specific observations and comments, in the form of informal annotations to the reporting template, that the Committee prepared with the aim to facilitate and streamline reporting under the Protocol. The documents are also available on the [webpage of the sixth reporting exercise](#).

Finally, please note that the new [online reporting system](#) under the Protocol is now fully deployed and available for use of the reporting Parties. We strongly encourage you to submit your reports through this system, although the use of the Word format template (enclosed), which remains unchanged, is still possible as an alternative in the current cycle. The final report should be submitted to the secretariat as a pdf file with physical signature of the competent authorities.

In order to enable the use of the online reporting system, we kindly ask you to send by 31 January 2025 names and email addresses of one or more respondents, typically the Protocol focal points, in your country to [protocol.water\\_health@un.org](mailto:protocol.water_health@un.org) so that they can be registered in the online reporting system. We encourage you to initiate the data collection process as soon as possible, even before the registration takes place.

The joint secretariat remains at your disposal for any assistance the focal points of your country may need in the process of preparation of the summary report.

Yours sincerely,



Tatiana Molcean  
Executive Secretary  
United Nations  
Economic Commission for Europe



Hans Henri P. Kluge  
Regional Director  
World Health Organization  
Regional Office for Europe

Enclosures