The UNECE-WHO/Europe Protocol on Water and Health
A tool to translate into practice the human rights to water and sanitation

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“Fresh water agreements and the Human Right to Water”
8 November 2016
The Human Right to Water and Sanitation

UNGA Res (2010): Water & sanitation = basic human right

Everyone is entitled to water & sanitation which is:

… available
… accessible
… of good quality / safety contamination
… affordable
… acceptable

Principles of the human right:

- Non-discrimination and equality
- Accountability
- Sustainability
- Information and transparency
- Participation
The Human Right to Water and Sanitation

States obligation:
- Progressive realisation and maximum available resources
- Respect, protect, fulfil

Calling on States to achieve progressively the full realization of human rights obligations:
- including unserved and underserved areas
- attention to vulnerable & marginalized groups
Equitable access under the Protocol on Water and Health

The Protocol key objectives:

(a) Access to drinking water for everyone
(b) Provision of sanitation for everyone

A specific focus on equitable access:

“Equitable access to water, adequate in terms both of quantity and of quality, should be provided for all members of the population, especially those who suffer a disadvantage or social exclusion” (art. 5)

Obligation of cooperation in relation to transboundary waters (incl. adaptation of agreements regarding TB waters to eliminate contradiction with Protocol principles)
Equitable access under the Protocol on Water and Health

- **Safety**: Ensure «adequate supplies of water free from [...] substances which constitute a potential danger to human health»

- **Implementation strategy**: Set targets and target dates, develop plan for achieving the targets, provisions for public participation

- **Monitoring**: Establish arrangement for monitoring achievement of targets, Compliance Committee

→ The Protocol: a practical instrument to progressively implement the human rights to water and sanitation and contribute to the SDGs implementation
Activities on equitable access to water and sanitation

2011
Collecti on of good practic es

2012-2013
Development & piloting of self assessment tool

2014-...
Support assessment & development of action plans

2012
2013
2016
No One Left Behind

- Identifies key challenges in ensuring equitable access to water and sanitation
- Analyzes national governance frameworks and options for them to address equitable access
- Presents concrete good practices and lessons learnt on policy options and measures to address inequities
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Dimension</th>
<th>Inequities in access to water and sanitation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Geographical disparities:</strong> water resources, WSS infrastructure</td>
<td>Certain areas of a country (rural areas, poor urban neighborhoods) have no physical access or have access of lower quality than other areas</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Social disparities:</strong> vulnerable and marginalised groups</td>
<td>Within areas with good access, certain groups do not have access because they don’t have private facilities, the public and institutional facilities they rely on are not adequate, or suffer unintended or intended discrimination</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Economic disparities:</strong> affordability issues</td>
<td>Within areas with good access, the water and sanitation bill represents too large a share of disposable income for some households</td>
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Need to steer governance frameworks to ensure equitable access

Good water governance and management
- transparency and access to information
- inclusive participation
- efficiency incentives for operators
- accountability and redress mechanisms

“Equitable access lens” to speed up progress
- country situation analysis (indicator-based)
- action plan (results-oriented)
The Equitable Access Score-card

• A self-evaluation analytical tool…

• … that can be used by governments (and other stakeholders) in establishing a baseline, tracking progress, and prompting discussions on further actions needed to achieve equitable access to water and sanitation…

• … in order to support the implementation of policies and practices to uphold the human rights to water and sanitation under the principle of “progressive realization”.

The Equitable Access Score-card

 supporting policy processes to achieve the human right to water and sanitation

Protocol on Water and Health to the Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes

UNIVERSITY OF EUROPE

UNICEF

World Health Organization

UNICEF

UNIVERSITY OF EUROPE

UNICEF
Progress in assessing equitable access

- **Pilot projects (2012-2013):** France (Paris), Portugal, Ukraine

- **Finalized assessments (2014-2016):** Republic of Moldova, Hungary, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Armenia, Spain (Castelló de la Plana)

  - **On going assessments:** Azerbaijan

- **Upcoming assessments and action planning (2017-2019):** Serbia, Albania?, Bulgaria?
Guidance Note on the development of equitable access action plans

- **Objective:** To help countries in translating the priorities identified through the self-assessment into actions.

- **Content:** Recommendation on the content of Equitable Access Action Plans and their process of development: identifying priority actions to be implemented and ways of implementing them.

- **Target audience:** government authorities and stakeholders in the water, health, education, social affairs, finance and other relevant sectors interested to take action to reduce inequities in access to water and sanitation services.
Thank you for your attention

Invitation

4th session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol on Water and Health

(Geneva, 14 - 16 November 2016)

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www.unece.org/env/water/