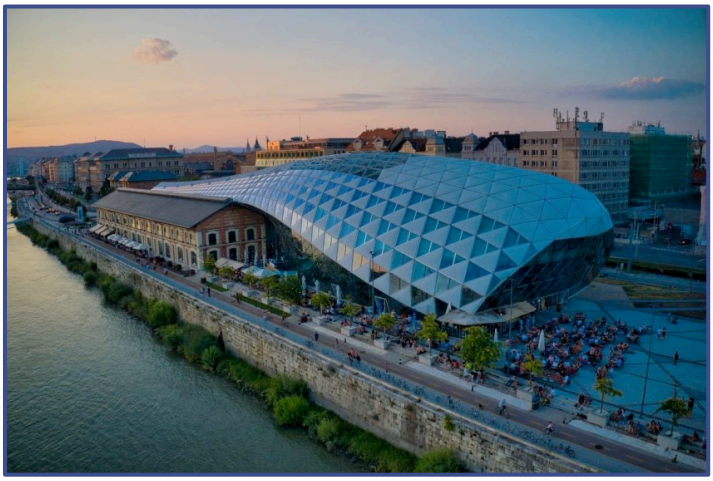
SEVENTH MEETING OF THE PARTIES TO THE PROTOCOL ON WATER AND HEALTH
BUDAPEST, HUNGARY | 5–7 NOVEMBER 2025

PRACTICAL INFORMATION NOTE

(Revised on 21 October 2025)

MEETING VENUE

Bálna Conference Centre
Fővám square 11-12
Budapest, Hungary



Access to the meeting venue will only be granted to registered participants upon presentation of a badge.

Badges will be issued at the venue upon first entry, after presenting a valid passport.

The venue is accessible to participants with reduced mobility.

The meeting will be held at the Bálna Conference Centre. Bálna (Whale) is one of the most iconic buildings of Budapest. The building has a glass structure in the shape of a whale, giving a magnificent panoramic view to the Danube and the Buda side and it serves as a wonderful multifunctional space.

In 2022, at the initiative of the Ministry of Defense and on the occasion of the 175th anniversary of the Hungarian Forces, Bálna was transformed into a defense-themed center, offering an interactive exhibition to visitors.

SUMMARY OF DEADLINES

22 September	**Deadline for submission of applications for financial support, including a completed financial support request form and registration in Indico**
5 October	**Deadline for online registration in Indico (for all participants)**
22 October	**Deadline for submission of scanned copies of credentials by email (for Parties)**
22 October	**Deadline to inform the joint secretariat by email if a delegation is planning to deliver a high-level statement from the floor during the high-level segment**
29 October	**Deadline for submission of statements by delegations by email**
5 November	**Deadline for presenting original credentials in Budapest (for Parties)**

The above-mentioned submissions should be sent to the joint secretariat by email (protocol.water_health@un.org) within the specified deadlines.

REGISTRATION OF PARTICIPANTS

Countries and organizations are invited to **designate their representative(s) by 5 October 2025.**

All participants are requested to **register online by 5 October 2025,** using the following link: https://indico.un.org/e/PWHMOP.

To complete the registration, participants should follow these two steps:

Step 1: Create an Indico Account
Step 2: Register for the Meeting in Indico

Please note that participation in the meeting is subject to approval by the joint secretariat.

Should you encounter any issues with registration, please contact the joint secretariat by email (protocol.water_health@un.org).

CREDENTIALS

Only applicable to Parties to the Protocol on Water and Health

In accordance with the rules of procedure for the meetings of the Parties to the Protocol, credentials of all representatives of **Parties to the Protocol** and the names of alternate representatives and advisers shall be submitted to the joint secretariat. To facilitate the procedure of verification of credentials, **Parties** are invited to inform the joint secretariat of the name(s) of their representative(s) at their earliest convenience.

Credentials, which are issued either by the Head of State, the Head of Government, Minister for Foreign Affairs, or any other person duly empowered to do so by any of these, such as the Minister for Environment, should indicate the composition of the delegation, including the head of delegation, and should state that the respective delegation is empowered to participate in the meeting and take decisions on behalf of the respective Government, following the applicable rules of procedure. Credentials should list all official representatives of the corresponding Party. Parties are encouraged to include in the credentials the representatives of their embassies based in Budapest, Hungary. An example of credentials could be found **here**.

A scanned copy of the credentials should be submitted to the joint secretariat by email (protocol.water_health@un.org) by **22 October 2025**. **The original credentials** should be presented to the joint secretariat upon arrival on **5 November** at the meeting venue in Budapest, prior to the opening of the 7th session.

Countries that are not Parties to the Protocol do not need to submit credentials.

CONFERENCE DETAILS

Provisional Organization of Work

The 7th session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol on Water and Health will start at 10:00 on Wednesday, 5 November 2025 and will end at 17:30 on Friday, 7 November 2025.

Please note: on Friday, 7 November, the session will start at 9:00am.

<table>
<tr><th colspan="3">5 November</th><th colspan="3">6 November</th><th colspan="2">7 November</th></tr>
<tr><td>8:00-10:00</td><td colspan="2">Registration</td><td>8:15-9:45</td><td>By invitation: Donor breakfast</td><td>Side events</td><td></td><td></td></tr>
<tr><td>10:00-13:00</td><td colspan="2">High-level segment</td><td>10:00-13:00</td><td colspan="2">General segment</td><td>9:00-12:00</td><td>General segment</td></tr>
<tr><td>13:00-15:00</td><td>By invitation: High-level lunch</td><td>Side events (13:30-14:45) & Lunch</td><td>13:00-15:00</td><td colspan="2">Side events (13:30-14:45) & Lunch</td><td>12:00-14:00</td><td>Side events (12:30-13:45) & Lunch</td></tr>
<tr><td rowspan="2">15:00-18:00</td><td colspan="2">High-level segment (concluding part)</td><td rowspan="2">15:00-18:00</td><td colspan="2" rowspan="2">General segment</td><td rowspan="2">14:00-17:30</td><td rowspan="2">General segment</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="2">General segment</td></tr>
<tr><td></td><td colspan="2">Dinner Reception</td><td></td><td colspan="2"></td><td></td><td></td></tr>
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All official sessions will be organized in the form of a plenary. More information on the programme will become available on the meeting's webpage (https://unece.org/MOP7_Protocol) in due course.

Statements During the Meeting

Representatives are invited to contribute to the plenary discussions. Speakers are asked to limit the length of their interventions to three minutes during the high-level segment and two minutes during the general segment. The Chair will strictly enforce these time limits.

Delegations are asked to inform the joint secretariat by **29 October 2025** if they intend to make a statement and to specify under which agenda item(s). Statements should be submitted to the joint secretariat by email (protocol.water_health@un.org) prior to the meeting, in order to facilitate the work of the interpreters. In case of insufficient time for all interventions to be delivered, submitted statements will be made available on the meeting's webpage (https://unece.org/MOP7_Protocol).

For participation in the high-level segment, delegations planning to deliver a high-level statement from the floor during the interactive discussion are invited to inform the joint secretariat **by 22 October 2025**, indicating the panel after which they wish to intervene. For more information, please see the Concept Note of the High-Level Segment.

Documents

All official and informal documents for the meeting will be made available on the webpage of the 7th session of the Meeting of the Parties (https://unece.org/MOP7_Protocol).

The meeting will follow a PaperSmart model. Therefore, participants are asked to bring their own copies of documents or laptops. Internet access will be provided during the meeting. No paper copies of documents will be available in the meeting room.

Working Languages

Simultaneous interpretation in English, French, and Russian will be provided during all plenary sessions.

Livestreaming of the Meeting

The meeting will be livestreamed in all three languages. The connection link will be provided closer to the event.

SIDE EVENTS

A programme of side events, organized by various partners and addressing pressing WASH-related challenges, will complement the official agenda. Detailed information will be made available on the meeting's webpage (https://unece.org/MOP7_Protocol) closer to the event date.

FINANCIAL SUPPORT

Limited funds are available to support participation of nominated representatives from UNECE-WHO/Europe countries eligible for financial support.

Applications for financial support should be submitted together with **the financial support request form duly signed by an authorized high-level official** and **registration in Indico** (https://indico.un.org/e/PWHMOP) to the joint secretariat (protocol.water_health@un.org) **as soon as possible**, but no later than **22 September 2025**. No late requests will be considered.

Up to two participants per country (one from water/environment sector, the other one from the health sector) may be eligible for support. Priority consideration will be given to Parties to the Protocol, countries represented at ministerial level, countries in accession, and presenters. The joint secretariat will inform in early October whether applications have been accepted.

Countries and organizations are encouraged to look for additional sources of funding through their institutions' budget, national projects and partners, as the joint secretariat may not be able to respond positively to all requests.

TRAVEL MEDICAL INSURANCE

All participants are personally responsible for obtaining adequate travel medical insurance coverage for the duration of their stay in Hungary. The organizers will not be liable for any medical expenses incurred during or in connection with the meeting.

VISA FACILITATION

Please indicate clearly in the Indico registration form if a personal invitation letter for visa purposes is needed.

Hungary joined the Schengen Area on 21 December 2007. From that time, visas and residence permits issued by one of the Member States are valid also for Hungary, and visas/residence permits issued by Hungarian authorities are as a general rule also valid for the entire Schengen Area. Holders of passports issued by the countries, entities or territories listed on the following website are granted visa-free travel to Hungary (please pay attention to the type of passport): https://konzinfo.mfa.gov.hu/en/visa-free-travel-hungary.

Participants who need a visa to enter Hungary are advised to submit their application to the competent Hungarian mission as early as possible, and no later than 4 weeks before the intended travel.

Documents needed upon visa applications:

- Completed **visa application form**;
- Travel document with at least two empty pages. The passport should have been issued within the last 10 years. The passport must be valid for at least 3 months beyond the date on which you intend to leave the Schengen territory.
- Travel medical insurance (covering emergency medical treatment, hospitalization and repatriation. The minimum cover should be of 30,000 EUR. This insurance must be valid for the entire Schengen area and throughout the duration of the stay).
- Flight / travel reservations or other proof of intended transport: Reservation(s) - Bus, Train, Plane, Vehicle, Ferry etc. - must include PNR (reservation number) or ticket number, name of the passenger(s) and travel dates. In case of travel to more than one country, city/country transfers must be shown in the application.
- Travel itinerary and hotel reservation. If the invitation letter does not include evidence of a hotel booking, the reservation must contain a confirmation number and the name(s) of the passenger(s). Reservations without a name or reservation number will not be accepted.
- Proof of means of subsistence: e.g., bank account statement on the account turnover during the last three months, and proof of regular income e.g., salary slips of the last three months (or similar).
- An email confirmation of Indico registration approval from the joint secretariat and an official invitation from the host country (Hungary), received after registration, and a certification issued by the delegating organization.
- Visa fee (90 EUR). Participants from UNECE Member States are exempt from paying visa fees.

ACCOMMODATION

Participants are responsible for booking and covering the costs of their accommodation. The Hungarian organization team offers the following hotels with negotiated rates for participants of the seventh session of the Meeting of the Parties, which are close to the meeting venue and easily accessible by public transport. Please find detailed hotel descriptions and a map **here**.

Reservations shall be made individually by the participants by using the links below. Please set arrival and departure date according to your choice. Bookings must be guaranteed by a credit card, providing the card number and the expiration date.

Please note that the pre-booked rooms at preferential rates are only available until stated below. From that date, reservation will be subject to room's availability and general conditions will apply.

Mercure Budapest Korona

Address: H-1053 Budapest, Kecskeméti str. 14.
Room rates: - single room: 139 EUR/night
- double room: 149 EUR/night
Reservation: Mercure Budapest Korona****
Deadline: reservation upon availability

Danubius Hotel Astoria City Center

Address: H-1053 Budapest, Kossuth Lajos str. 19-21.
Room rates: 15% discount from daily rates
Reservation: https://www.danubiushotels.com/en/vej2025
Deadline: reservation upon availability

Cloe Hotel Budapest

Address: H-1056 Budapest, Só str. 4.
Room rates: - single standard room: 94 EUR/night
- single superior room: 109 EUR/night
- double occupancy: extra 15 EUR/night
Reservation: https://chloehotelbudapest.com/book-now/ promotion code: **VEJ2025**
Deadline: 2nd October

Three Corners Lifestyle Hotel

Address: H- 1092 Budapest, Hőgyes Endre str. 4.
Room rates: premium or superior room: 99 EUR/night (single occupancy)
Reservation: threecornerslifestylehotel.book-online.now
Deadline: 31st October

Ibis Styles Budapest City

Address: H-1095 Budapest, Soroksári str. 12.
Room rates: - single design room: 90 EUR/night
- double design room: 96 EUR/night
Reservation: accor.com/ibisstylesbudapestcity
Deadline: 3rd October

MEALS AND RECEPTION

During all three days of the meeting, the Government of Hungary will offer refreshments at the meeting venue. Lunch services will also be arranged at the meeting venue. On the evening of the first day of the meeting (Wednesday, 5 November), the Ministry of Interior on behalf of the Government of Hungary will host an official dinner reception for all participants, accompanied by a cultural program.

TRANSFER FROM THE AIRPORT TO THE CITY

Participants who arrive with a commercial flight will arrive at Terminal 2A or 2B of Budapest Liszt Ferenc International Airport. Please note that no shuttle service will be provided by the organisers, so participants are responsible for their own travel arrangements.

Budapest Airport Shuttle Service

Budapest Airport itself offers an airport shuttle service for an extra fee, called MiniBUD. (Information on the shuttle services can be found at: www.minibud.hu)

Public Transport (Budapest Transport Centre – BKK)

Public transport bus line 100E Airport Express provides a direct and fast connection to the city centre. Single ticket costs 2,200 HUF (approximately €5.50-6), tickets can be purchased at the ticket machines at the airport.

For more information regarding public transportation within the city, please consult the website of BKK, where you can also learn about the costs of different types of tickets and information on public transport routes: https://bkk.hu/en/

Taxi

At your landing spot, Budapest Liszt Ferenc International Airport, you have the opportunity to book a taxi to get you to your accommodation. The official partner of Budapest Airport is Főtaxi (Tel: +36 1 222 2 222, information on taxi services can be found at: https://fotaxi.hu/en/). Főtaxi operates a designated office outside of both arrival terminals.

Transfer for VIPs

Ministers, Vice-Ministers, and State Secretaries of Parties to the Protocol on Water and Health and other United Nations Member States will be welcomed at Budapest Airport. Their transfers to and from the airport will be arranged by the organizers.

ABOUT HUNGARY

- Official name: Hungary
- State form: Republic
- Area: 93,022 km^2
- Population: 9,584,627 (2024)
- Neighbouring countries: Austria, Slovakia, Ukraine, Romania, Serbia, Croatia, Slovenia
- Official language: Hungarian
- Capital and largest city: Budapest (population: 1,729,040)

Hungary, located in the heart of Central Europe, is known for its distinctive language and rich cultural heritage. Hungary is often referred to as the "land of waters," it is home to Lake Balaton — the largest lake in Central Europe — and over a thousand thermal springs across the country.

The capital, Budapest, offers an eclectic and unique atmosphere with a mix of Baroque, Art Nouveau, and Neo-Classical architectural styles. Budapest, united by the River Danube, with hills and valleys on one side and plains on the other, connected with a series of graceful bridges, offers a unique panorama, which is part of the UNESCO World Heritage.

In Budapest, the average November temperature does not rise above 7 °C, with a chance of frost by dawn. The weather is generally windy and rainy, so it is recommended to dress warmly.

About Hungary: https://visithungary.com/

Emergency number: 112 (ambulance, police, fire brigade)
Country code: +36 (Hungary)
Electricity: 230 V, 50 Hz
Local time: GMT +2:00 – Central European Summer Time (CEST)
Currency: HUF – Hungarian Forint (official currency)

For official daily exchange rates, please consult the website of the Magyar Nemzeti Bank (National Bank of Hungary): https://www.mnb.hu/en/arfolyamok

CONTACT DETAILS

For advice on substantive or programme-related matters:
protocol.water_health@un.org and euwatsan@who.int

For issues related to financial support and registration: protocol.water_health@un.org

For visa information *(Please send requests to both of the e-mail addresses indicated below)*:
Fanni Klaudia Mosolygó - fanni.klaudia.mosolygo@bm.gov.hu; +36 (1) 441 1896
Nelli Benefi-Zatureczki – nelli.benefi-zatureczki@bm.gov.hu; +36 (1) 999 4840

For information on accommodation: judit.daniel@bm.gov.hu