

PROTOCOL FOCAL POINTS

Prepared by the secretariat

Under the Water Convention, similarly as under many other multilateral agreements, a system of national focal points was established to facilitate communication and exchange of information.

Focal points are nominated by Parties, non-Parties and relevant international organizations. They receive regular updates on the activities under the Convention and are responsible for the dissemination of information to the appropriate recipients in their countries/organizations. Focal points should promote of the Water Convention activities and products in their countries/organizations. They are also requested to provide information to the secretariat as a follow-up to decisions by the Meeting of the Parties, as well as any other information related to the Convention that could be of use for its implementation, in particular for other Parties.

Such a system of focal points has been successfully used also in the interim implementation of the Protocol. It is therefore proposed to submit the decision below for adoption by the Parties to the Protocol at their first meeting in order to ensure the continuation of such a coordination mechanism and to clarify the responsibilities of national focal points.

DRAFT DECISION ON DESIGNATION OF FOCAL POINTS AND THEIR RESPONSIBILITIES

The Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol on Water and Health,

1. Calls on Parties to designate one or more national focal points for the Protocol and, as appropriate, contact persons for specific topics under its auspices, if they have not already done so, and to submit the relevant contact information to the secretariat, including any modifications or additions as they occur;
2. Invites non-Parties and interested organizations to designate one or more focal points for the Protocol and, as appropriate, contact persons for specific topics under its auspices, if they have not already done so, and to submit the relevant contact information to the secretariat, including any modifications or additions as they occur; and
3. Requests the secretariat to maintain the list of focal points and contact persons up date and to post it on the Protocol's web site to facilitate the sharing of information.

4. Calls on nominated focal points to promote and support activities related to the Protocol within their countries/organizations by facilitating, inter alia:

(a) Dissemination of information related to the Protocol to other concerned national authorities, organizations, general public, as applicable;

(b) Follow-up to decisions of the Meeting of the Parties;

(c) Provision of relevant information to the secretariat, including information required under the Protocol and other information, which could be of use for other Parties and non-Parties in their implementation of the Protocol.

Annex

List of focal points under the Protocol as communicated to the joint secretariat as of November 2004

Below are listed the focal points and their contacts as they appear in the joint secretariat database. Participants to the Working Group on Water and Health are invited to check that the list reflect the most updated information and to inform the joint secretariat of any mistakes, changes or new nominations. The joint secretariat will use this list for communications related to the preparations for first meeting of the Parties (beside official communications through the usual diplomatic channels).

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