order to minimize environmental concerns in the era of globalization;
(c) exchanging information with environment and health processes in other regions;
(d) reaching out to the scientific community, particularly through its research organizations, recognizing that we live in a rapidly changing world and therefore need to improve our fore-
sight of environment and health matters and antici-
pate future developments, as well as dealing with problems already identified.
56. The European Centre for Environment and Health (ECEH) was established after our first con-
ference (Frankfurt, 1989) and has served as a source of technical expertise for the Region and of scientific support for the identification of effective evidence-based environment and
health policies. We are extremely grateful for the support given to ECEH, principally by Italy, the
Netherlands and France. Partnership with ECEH should include:
(a) ensuring that ECEH continues to play an effective role and further develops its capacities, especially for implementation of the actions we have agreed at this conference;
(b) encouraging more Member States and WHO to share in providing the necessary finan-
cial support to ECEH.
57. We want to enhance solidarity and, in partic-
ular, to recognize and effectively address the dif-
ferences in environment and health status be-
tween countries of the Region. Partnership with Member States should include:
(a) assisting countries of central and eastern Europe (CEE) and newly independent states (NIS), particularly through building up their ca-
pacities and providing support to the reform of regulatory structures, including the development and implementation of environment and health "acquis" and effectively addressing the differ-
ences in access to the EU for a number of CCEE, so as to maximize benefit to the environment and health;
(b) a "bottom-up" approach, in which countries identify priorities for international activity and are committed to implementing them;
(c) promoting sub-regional collaboration, for example to build on the successful model offered by the Visegrad, Nordic/Baltic, Central Asian and South-Eastern Europe countries and other collaboration between countries such as that between Azerbaijan, Armen-
nia and Georgia in the south Caucasus region, in developing and implementing NEHAPs;
(d) sharing information and promoting increas-
es in scientific, technical and economic matters, as a basis for innovative and effective policies;
(e) carrying forward a strong programme of im-
plementing NEHAPs in partnership, as envisaged in this Declaration and coordinated by EECHE.
58. We welcome the extensive activity taking place at local level to protect the environment and health, through the Community's Health Cities network, Local Agenda 21 and many other networks and initiatives. We want to pay more attention to en-
hancing local-level activity and making full use of the skills and experience available. Partner-
ship with local agencies should include:
(a) promoting the recognition and representa-
tion of local health agencies and other local agencies in the Environment and Health process and in other relevant international
activities;
(b) supporting local initiatives aimed at meet-
ing NEHAP and Agenda 21 objectives.
59. We appreciate the value of the contribu-
tions made by NGOs and members of the public to environment and health matters, and we spe-
cifically welcome NGOs' contributions to prepa-
rations for this Conference and the implementation of NEHAP in it. Partnership with NGOs should include:
(a) promoting NGO participation in the future development of the Environment and Health process and maximizing the contribution that NGOs and members of the public can make to actions that it initiates;
(b) promoting public participation, access to in-
formation and access to justice as a cross-cut-
ting priority in line with the 1998 UN/ECE Con-
vention on Access to Information, Public Partici-
pation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters (the "Århus Conven-
tion");
(c) ensuring that NGOs can participate in the implementation of the commitments to action agreed at this Conference and in regular and transparent reviews of progress.
60. We recognize that economic activity can make a significant difference to the environment and health, as well as to social and economic development. Partnership with business, indus-
try, trade unions and private and public sector enterprises should include:
(a) making greater use of the existing knowl-
edge and capacities that the economic sectors often have to support our efforts;
(b) promoting the economic sectors' participa-
tion in the Environment and Health process.
61. We pledge ourselves to work in partnership to implement the actions we have set out in this

Protocol on Water and Health*

The Parties to this Protocol,
Mindful that water is essential to sustain life and that the availability of water in quantities, and of a quality sufficient to meet basic human needs is a prerequisite both for improved health and for sustainable development,
Acknowledging the benefits to human health and well-being that accrue from wholesome and clean water and a harmoni-
ous and properly functioning water environ-
ment,
Aware that surface waters and groundwa-
ter are renewable resources with a limited ca-
pacity to recover from adverse impacts from hu-
man activities on their quantity and quality, that any failure to respect those limits may result in adverse effects, in both the short and long terms, on the health and well-being of those who rely on those resources and their quality, and that in consequence sustainable manage-
ment of the hydrological cycle is essential for both meeting human needs and protecting the environment,

Aware also of the consequences for public health of shortfalls of water in the quantities, and of the quality, sufficient to meet basic human needs, and of the serious effects of such short-
tfalls, in particular on the vulnerable, the disad-
vantaged and the socially excluded,
Conscious that the prevention, control and reduc-
tion of water-related disease are important and urgent tasks which can only be satisfactorily
discharged by enhanced cooperation at all lev-
els and among all sectors, both within countries and between States,
Conscious also that surveillance of water-
related disease and the establishment of early-
warning systems and response systems are im-


As submitted to the Third Ministerial Conference on En-

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portant aspects of the prevention, control and reduction of water-related disease.

Basing themselves upon the conclusions of the United Nations Conference on Environ-
ment and Development (Rio de Janeiro, 1992), in particular the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development and Agenda 21, as well as upon the programme for the further implementation of Agenda 21 (New York, 1997) and the conclusions and recommendations of the Commission on Sustainable Development on the sustainable management of freshwater (New York, 1996),

Deriving inspiration from the relevant provi-
sions of the 1992 Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes and emphasizing the need
both to encourage more widespread application of those provisions and to complement that Convention with further measures to strengthen the protection of public health,

Article 2 Definitions
For the purpuse of this Protocol,
1. "Water-related disease" means any signifi-
cant adverse effects on human health, such as
colitis, disability, illness or disorders, caused
directly or indirectly by the condition, or changes
in the quantity or quality, of any waters.
2. "Drinking water" means water which is
used, or intended to be available for use, by
humans for drinking, cooking, food preparation,
personal hygiene or similar purposes.
3. "Groundwater" means water which is be-
low the surface of the ground in the saturation
zone and in direct contact with the ground or
subsoil.
4. "Enclosed waters" means artificially created
water bodies separated from surface freshwater or
coastal water, whether within or outside a
building.
5. "Transboundary waters" means any surface
or ground waters which mark, cross or are located
on boundaries between two or more States; wher-
ever transboundary waters flow directly into the
sea, these transboundary waters end at a straight
line across their respective mouths between points
on the low-water line of their banks.
6. "Transboundary effects of water-related dis-
ease" means any significant adverse effects on
human health, such as death, disability, illness
or disorders, in an area under the jurisdiction
of one Party, caused directly or indirectly by the
condition, or changes in the quantity or quality,
of waters in an area under the jurisdiction of an-
other Party, whether or not such effects consti-
tute a transboundary impact.
7. "Transboundary impact" means any signifi-
cant adverse effect on the environment resulting
from a change in the conditions of transbound-
ary waters caused by a human activity, the
physical origin of which is situated wholly or in
part within an area under the jurisdiction of a
Party to the Convention, within an area under the
jurisdiction of another Party to the Conven-
ion. Such effects on the environment include ef-
fecrs on human health and safety, flora, fauna,
soil, air, water, climate, landscape, and historic,
monuments or other physical structures or the
interaction among these factors; they also in-
clude effects on the cultural heritage or socio-
economic conditions resulting from alterations
to those factors.
8. "Sanitation" means the collection, trans-
port, treatment and disposal or reuse of human
excreta or domestic waste water, whether
through collective systems or by installations
serving a single household or undertaking.
9. "Collective system" means:
(a) A system for the supply of drinking water
to a number of households or undertakings;
and/or
(b) A system for the provision of sanitation
which serves a number of households or under-
takings and, where appropriate, also provides
for the collection, transport, treatment and dis-
posal or reuse of industrial waste water,
whether provided by a body in the public sector,
an undertaking in the private sector or by a part-
nership between the two sectors;
10. "Water management plan" means a plan for
the development, management, protection and/or
use of the water within a territorial area or
groundwater aquifer, including the protection of
the associated ecosystems;
11. "The public" means one or more natural or
legal persons, and, in accordance with national
legislation or practice, their associations, organi-
zations or groups;
12. "Public authority" means:
(a) Government at national, regional and other
levels;
(b) Natural or legal persons performing public
administrative functions under national law,
including specific duties, acting in relation to
the environment, public health, sani-
tation, water management or water supply;
(c) Any other natural or legal persons having
public responsibilities or functions, or providing
public services, under the control of a body or
person falling within subparagraphs (a) or (b)
above;
(d) The institutions of any regional economic
integration organization referred to in article 21
of the Convention.
This definition does not include bodies or institu-
tions acting in a judicial or legislative capacity;
13. "Convention" means the Convention on the
Protection and Use of Transboundary Water-
courses and International Lakes, done at Helsinki on 17 March 1992;
14. "Meeting of the Parties to the Convention"
means the body established by the Parties to
the Convention in accordance with its article 17;
15. "Party" means, unless the text otherwise in-
dicates, a State or a regional economic integra-
tion organization referred to in article 21 which
has consented to be bound by this Protocol and
for which this Protocol is in force;
16. "Meeting of the Parties" means the body
established by the Parties in accordance with
article 16.

Article 3 Scope
The provisions of this Protocol shall apply to:
(a) Surface freshwater;
(b) Groundwater;
(c) Estuaries;
(d) Coastal waters which are used for recre-
ation or for the production of fish by aquaculcure
or for the production or harvesting of shellfish;
(e) Enclosed waters generally available for
fishing; a
(f) Water in the course of abstraction, trans-
port, treatment or supply;
(g) Waste water throughout the course of col-
lection, transport, treatment and discharge or
reuse.

Article 4 General Provisions
1. The Parties shall take all appropriate mea-
sures to prevent, control and reduce water-relat-
ed disease within a framework of integrated wa-
ter-management systems aimed at sustainable
use of water resources, ambient water quality
which does not endanger human health, and
protection of water ecosystems.
2. The Parties shall, in particular, take all ap-
propriate measures for the purpose of ensuring:
(a) Adequate supplies of wholesome drinking
water which is free from any micro-organisms,
parasites and substances which, owing to their
regional or concentration cause a potential
danger to human health. This shall include the
protection of water resources which are used as
sources of drinking water, treatment of water
and the establishment, improvement and main-
tenance of collective systems;
(b) Adequate sanitation of a standard which
sufficiently protects human health and the envir-
ment.
roment. This shall in particular be done through the establishment, improvement and maintenance of catchment areas, with the aims of linking the management of water supply and sanitation respectively; (c) The area of territory, or the population sizes or proportions, which should be served by collective systems for the supply of drinking water or where the supply of drinking water by other means should be improved; (d) The area of territory, or the population sizes or proportions, which should be served by collective systems of sanitation or where sanitation systems or proportions, which should be improved; (e) The levels of performance to be achieved by such collective systems and by such other means of sanitation; (f) The application of recognized good practice to the management of water supply and sanitation, including the promotion of waters used as sources for drinking water; (g) The occurrence of discharges of: (i) Untreated waste water; and (ii) Untreated storm water overflows from waste-water collection systems to waters within the scope of this Protocol; (h) The quality of discharges of waste water from waste-water treatment installations to waters within the scope of this Protocol; (i) The disposal or reuse of sewage sludge from collective systems of sanitation or other sanitation installations and the quality of waste water used for irrigation purposes, taking into account the Guidelines for the safe use of waste water and excretia in agriculture and aquaculture of the World Health Organization and the United Nations Environment Programme; (j) The quality of waters which are used as sources for drinking water, which are generally used for bathing or which are used for aquaculture or for the production or harvesting of shellfish;

Article 6

1. In order to achieve the objective of this Protocol, the Parties shall pursue the aims of: (a) Access to drinking water for everyone; (b) Provision of sanitation for everyone within a framework of integrated water-management systems aimed at sustainable use of water resources, ambient water quality which does not endanger human health, and protection of water ecosystems.

2. For these purposes, the Parties shall each establish and publish national and/or local targets for the standards and levels of performance that need to be achieved or maintained for a high level of protection against water-related disease. These targets shall be periodically revised. In doing all this, they shall make appropriate practical and/or other provisions for public participation, within a transparent and fair framework, and shall ensure that due account is taken of the outcome of the public participation. These targets should be informed by national and local circumstances making them irrelevant for preventing, controlling and reducing water-related disease, the targets shall cover, inter alia:

- (a) The quality of the drinking water supplied, taking into account the Guidelines for drinking-water quality of the World Health Organization;
- (b) The reduction of the scale of outbreaks and incidents of water-related disease;
- (c) The area of territory, or the population sizes or proportions, which should be served by collective systems for the supply of drinking water or where the supply of drinking water by other means should be improved;
The application of recognized good practice to the management of enclosed waters generally include:

1. The identification and remediation of particularly contaminated sites which adversely affect water quality, and
2. The monitoring of the progress made in achieving the targets referred to in article 6, paragraph 2, under this Protocol shall include a review of the targets referred to in article 6, paragraph 2, with a view to improving the targets in the light of scientific and technical knowledge.

Each Party shall provide to the secretariat referred to in article 17, for publication of the relevant information produced for other international forums.

6. The Meeting of the Parties shall evaluate the progress achieved. Such reports shall be in accordance with guidelines established by the Meeting of the Parties. These guidelines shall provide that the Parties can use for this purpose reports covering the relevant information produced for other international forums.

Article 8 Response Systems

1. The Parties shall each, as appropriate, ensure that:

(a) Comprehensive national and/or local surveillances and early-warning systems are established, improved or maintained which will:

(i) Identify outbreaks or incidents of water-related disease or significant threats of such outbreaks or incidents, including those resulting from water-pollution incidents or extreme weather events;

(ii) Give prompt and clear notification to the relevant public authorities about such outbreaks, incidents or threats;

(iii) In the event of any imminent threat to public health from water-related disease or significant threats of such outbreaks or incidents, disseminate such information to members of the public who may be affected and that could help the public to prevent or mitigate harm;

(iv) Make recommendations to the relevant public authorities and, where appropriate, to the public about preventive and remedial actions;

(b) Comprehensive national and local contingency plans and response capacities in relation to water-related disease may be combined with those in relation to other matters.

2. Surveillance and early-warning systems, contingency plans and response capacities to handle information about long-term trends, current concerns and past problems and successful solutions to them in the field of water and health, and provision of such information to competent authorities.

Article 9 Public Information

1. As a complement to the requirements of this Protocol for Parties to publish specific information or documents, each Party shall take steps within the framework of its legislation to publish information:

(a) About the establishment of targets and of target dates for the achievement of and, where necessary, enforcing the targets referred to in article 6, paragraph 2; and

(b) About the public health benefits from water-related disease, dissemination of information relevant to the implementation of this Protocol or of other water-related disease or significant threats of such outbreaks or incidents, including those resulting from water-pollution incidents or extreme weather events;

(c) About the information concerns material in the public sector, as well as their moral obligations to contribute to the protection of the water environment and the conservation of water resources.

2. The Parties shall promote:

(a) The collection and publication of the public-health aspect of their work by those responsible for water management, water supply and sanitation; and

(b) The development of integrated information systems to handle information about long-term trends, current concerns and past problems and successful solutions to them in the field of water and health, and provision of such information to competent authorities.

Article 10 Training, Research and Development and Information

1. The Parties shall ensure that:

(a) The Parties shall make available to the public at all reasonable times for inspection free of charge, and shall provide members of the public with reasonable facilities for obtaining from the Parties, on payment of reasonable charges, copies of such information.

(b) The Parties shall make such information as is held by public authorities and is reasonably needed to inform public discussion of:

(i) The establishment of targets of target dates for the achievement of and, where necessary, enforcing the targets referred to in article 6, paragraph 2; and

(ii) The establishment, improvement or maintenance of water-management plans in accordance with article 5.

(c) The promotion of public awareness, education, training, research and development and information in accordance with article 9.

2. Each Party shall ensure that public authorities, in response to a request for other information relevant to the implementation of this Protocol, shall make such information available within a reasonable time to the public, within the framework of national legislation.

3. Each Party shall ensure that information referred to in article 7, paragraph 4, and paragraph 1 of this article shall be available to the public at all reasonable times for inspection free of charge, and shall provide members of the public with reasonable facilities for obtaining from the Parties, on payment of reasonable charges, copies of such information.

4. Nothing in this Protocol shall require a public authority to publish information or make information available to the public if:

(a) The public authority does not hold the information;

(b) The request for the information is manifestly unfounded or formulated in too general a manner; or

(c) The information concerns material in the course of completion or concerns intercommunications of public authorities where such an exemption is provided for in national law or customary practice, taking into account the public interest served by disclosure.
5. Nothing in this Protocol shall require a public authority to publish information or make information available to the public if disclosure of the information would adversely affect:
(a) The confidentiality of the proceedings of public authorities, where such confidentiality is provided for under national law;
(b) International relations, national defence or public security;
(c) The process of justice, the ability of a person to receive a fair trial or the ability of a public authority to conduct an enquiry of a criminal or disciplinary nature;
(d) The confidentiality of commercial or industrial information, where such confidentiality is protected by law in order to protect a legitimate economic interest. Within this framework, information on emissions and discharges which are relevant for the protection of the environment shall be disclosed;
(e) Intellectual property rights;
(f) The confidentiality of personal data and/or files relating to a natural person where that person has not consented to the disclosure of the information to the public, where such confidentiality is provided for in national law;
(g) The interests of a third party which has been under, or been capable of being put under, a legal obligation to do so, and which may have that party does not consent to the release of the material; or
(h) The environment to which the information relates, such as the breeding sites of rare species.

These grounds for not disclosing information shall be interpreted in a restrictive way, taking into account whether disclosure and taking into account whether the information relates to emissions and discharges into the environment.

Article 11
International Cooperation
The Parties shall cooperate and, as appropriate, assist each other:
(a) In international actions in support of the objectives of this Protocol;
(b) On request, in implementing national and local plans in pursuance of this Protocol.

Article 12
Joint and Coordinated International Action
In pursuance of article 11, subparagraph (a), the Parties shall promote cooperation in international action relating to:
(a) The development of commonly agreed targets for matters referred to in article 6, paragraph 2;
(b) The development of indicators for the purposes of article 7, paragraph 1 (b), to show how far action on water-related disease has been successful in preventing, controlling and reducing such disease;
(c) The establishment of joint or coordinated systems for surveillance and early-warning systems, contingency plans and response capacities as part of, or to complement, the national systems maintained in accordance with article 8 for the purpose of responding to outbreaks and incidents of water-related disease and significant threats of such outbreaks and incidents, especially from water-pollution incidents or extreme weather events;
(d) Mutual assistance, where such assistance is needed, in responding to outbreaks and incidents of water-related disease and significant threats of such outbreaks and incidents, especially from water-pollution incidents or extreme weather events;
(e) The development of integrated information systems and databases, exchange of information and sharing of technical and legal knowledge and experience;
(f) The prompt and clear notification by the competent authorities of one Party to the corresponding authorities of other Parties which may be affected of:
(i) Outbreaks and incidents of water-related disease, and
(ii) Significant threats of such outbreaks and incidents which have been identified;
(g) The exchange of information on effective means of disseminating to the public information about water-related disease.

Article 13
Cooperation in Relation to Transboundary Waters
1. Where any Parties border the same transboundary waters, as a complement to their obligations under articles 11 and 12, they shall cooperate and, as appropriate, assist each other to prevent, control and reduce transboundary effects of water-related disease. In particular, they shall:
(a) Exchange information and share knowledge about the transboundary waters and the problems and risks which are present with the other Parties bordering the same waters;
(b) Endeavour to establish with the other Parties bordering the same transboundary waters, joint or coordinated water-management plans in accordance with article 6, paragraph 5 (b), and surveillance and early-warning systems and contingency plans in accordance with article 8, paragraph 1, for the purpose of responding to outbreaks and incidents of water-related disease, and significant threats of such outbreaks and incidents, especially from water-pollution incidents or extreme weather events;
(c) On the basis of equality and reciprocity, adapt their agreements and other arrangements regarding their transboundary waters in order to eliminate any contradictions with the basic principles of this Protocol and to define their mutual relations and conduct regarding the aims of this Protocol;
(d) Consult each other, at the request of any one of them, on the significance of any adverse effect on human health which may constitute a water-related disease.

2. Where the Parties concerned are Parties to the Convention, the cooperation and assistance in respect of any transboundary effects of water-related disease which are transboundary impacts shall take place in accordance with the provisions of the Convention.

Article 14
International Support for National Action
When cooperating and assisting each other in the implementation of national and local plans in pursuance of article 11, subparagraph (b), the Parties shall, in particular, consider how they can best help to promote:
(a) Preparation of water-management plans in transboundary, national and/or local contexts and of schemes for improving water supply and sanitation, in accordance with the provisions of the Convention;
(b) Improved formulation of projects, especially infrastructure projects, in pursuance of such plans and schemes, in order to facilitate access to sources of finance;
(c) Effective execution of such projects;
(d) Establishment of systems for surveillance and early-warning systems, contingency plans and response capacities in relation to water-related disease;
(e) Education and training of key professional staff;
(g) Research into, and development of, cost-effective means and techniques for preventing, controlling and reducing water-related disease;
(h) Operation of effective networks to monitor and assess the provision and quality of water-related services maintained in accordance with the provisions of the Convention; and
(i) Achievement of quality assurance for monitoring activities, including inter-laboratory comparability.

Article 15
Review of Compliance
The Parties shall review the compliance of the Parties with the obligations arising from this Protocol on the basis of the reviews and assessments referred to in article 7. Multilateral arrangements of a non-confrontational, non-judicial and consultative nature for reviewing compliance shall be established by the Parties at their first meeting. These arrangements shall allow for appropriate public involvement.

Article 16
Meeting of the Parties
1. The first meeting of the Parties shall be convened no later than eighteen months after the date of the entry into force of this Protocol. Thereafter, ordinary meetings shall be held at regular intervals to be determined by the Parties, but at least every three years, except in so far as other arrangements are necessary to achieve the aims of paragraph 2 of this article. The Parties shall hold an extraordinary meeting if they so decide in the course of an ordinary meeting or at the written request of any Party, provided that, within six months of it being communicated to all Parties, the said request is supported by at least one third of the Parties.

2. Where possible, ordinary meetings of the Parties shall be held in conjunction with the meetings of the Parties to the Convention.

3. At their meetings, the Parties shall keep under continuous review the implementation of this Protocol, and, with this purpose in mind, shall:
(a) Review the policies for and methodological approaches to the prevention, control and reduction of water-related disease, promote their convergence, and strengthen transboundary and international cooperation in accordance with articles 11, 12, 13 and 14;
(b) Evaluate progress in implementing this Protocol on the basis of information provided by the Parties in accordance with guidelines established by the Meeting of the Parties. Such guidelines shall avoid duplication of effort in reporting requirements;
(c) Be kept informed on progress made in the implementation of the Convention;
(d) Exchange information with the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention, and consider the possibilities for joint action with it;
(e) Seek, where appropriate, the services of relevant bodies of the Economic Commission for Europe and of the Regional Committee for Europe of the World Health Organization; and
(f) Establish the modalities for the participation of other competent international governmental and non-governmental bodies in all meetings and other activities pertinent to the achievement of the purposes of this Protocol.
Article 17
Secretariat
1. The Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Europe and the Regional Director of the Regional Office for Europe of the World Health Organization shall carry out the following secretariat functions for this Protocol:
(a) The convening and preparing of meetings of the Parties;
(b) The transmission to the Parties of reports and other information received in accordance with the provisions of this Protocol;
(c) The preparation of such other functions as may be determined by the Meeting of the Parties on the basis of available resources.
2. The Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Europe and the Regional Director of the Regional Office for Europe of the World Health Organization shall:
(a) Set out details of their work-sharing arrangements in a Memorandum of Understanding, and inform the Meeting of the Parties accordingly;
(b) Report to the Parties on the elements of, and the modalities for carrying out, the programme of work referred to in article 16, paragraph 3.

Article 18
Amendments to the Protocol
1. Any Party may propose amendments to this Protocol.
2. Proposals for amendments to this Protocol shall be considered at a meeting of the Parties.
3. The text of any proposed amendment to this Protocol shall be submitted in writing to the secretariat, which shall communicate it to all Parties at least ninety days before the meeting at which it is proposed for adoption.
4. An amendment to this Protocol shall be adopted by consensus of the representatives of the Parties present at the meeting. The adopted amendment shall be communicated by the secretariat to the Depositary, who shall circulate it to all Parties for their acceptance. The amendment shall enter into force for any other Party on the ninetieth day after the date on which that Party deposits its instrument of acceptance of the amendment.

Article 19
Right to Vote
1. Except as provided for in paragraph 2 of this article, each Party shall have one vote.
2. Regional economic integration organizations, in matters within their competence, shall exercise their right to vote with a number of votes equal to the number of their member States which are Parties. Such organizations shall not exercise their right to vote if their member States exercise theirs, and vice versa.

Article 20
Settlement of Disputes
1. If a dispute arises between two or more Parties about the interpretation or application of this Protocol, they shall try to settle the dispute by negotiation or by any other means of dispute settlement acceptable to the parties to the dispute.
2. When signing, ratifying, accepting, approving or acceding to this Protocol, or at any time thereafter, a Party may declare in writing to the Depositary that for a dispute not resolved in accordance with paragraph 1 of this article, it accepts one of the following means of dispute settlement as compulsory in relation to any Party thereafter accepting the same obligation:
(a) Where the Parties are Parties to the Convention, and have accepted as compulsory in relation to each other or both of the means of dispute settlement provided for in the Convention, the settlement of the dispute in accordance with the provisions of the Convention for the settlement of disputes arising under the Convention;
(b) In any other case, the submission of the dispute to the International Court of Justice, unless the Parties agree to arbitration or some other form of dispute resolution.

Article 21
Signature
This Protocol shall be open for signature in London on 20th June 1999 by the occasion of the Third Ministerial Conference on Environment and Health, and thereafter at United Nations Headquarters in New York until 18 June 2000, by States members of the Economic Commission for Europe, by States members of the Regional Committee for Europe of the World Health Organization, by States having consultative status with the Economic Commission for Europe pursuant to paragraph 8 of Economic and Social Council resolution 36 (IV) of 28 March 1947, and by regional economic integration organizations constituted by sovereign States members of the Economic Commission for Europe or members of the Regional Committee for Europe of the World Health Organization to which their member States have transferred competence over matters governed by this Protocol, including the competence to enter into treaties in respect of these matters.

Article 22
Ratification, Acceptance, Approval and Accession
1. This Protocol shall be subject to ratification, acceptance or approval by signatory States and regional economic integration organizations.
2. This Protocol shall be open for accession by the States and organizations referred to in article 21.
3. Any organization referred to in article 21 which becomes a Party without any of its member States being a Party shall be bound by all the obligations under this Protocol. In the case of such organizations, one or more of whose member States is a Party, the organization and its member States shall determine their respective responsibilities for the performance of their obligations under this Protocol. In such cases, the organization and the member States shall not be entitled to exercise rights under this Protocol concurrently.
4. In their instruments of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession, the regional economic integration organizations referred to in article 21 shall declare the extent of their competence in respect of the matters governed by this Protocol. These organizations shall also inform the Depositary of any substantial modification to the extent of their competence.
5. The instruments of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession shall be deposited with the Secretary-General of the United Nations.

Article 23
Entry into Force
1. This Protocol shall enter into force on the ninetieth day after the date of deposit of the sixteenth instrument of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession.
2. For the purposes of paragraph 1 of this article, any instrument deposited by a regional economic integration organization shall be counted as additional to those deposited by States members of such an organization.
3. For each State or organization referred to in article 21 which ratifies, accepts or approves this Protocol or accedes thereto after the deposit of the sixteenth instrument of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession, the Protocol shall enter into force on the ninetieth day after the date of deposit by such State or organization of its instrument of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession.

Article 24
Withdrawal
At any time after three years from the date on which this Protocol came into force with respect to a Party, that Party may withdraw from the Protocol by giving written notification to the Depositary. Any such withdrawal shall take effect on the ninetieth day after the date of its receipt by the Depositary.

Article 25
Depositary
The Secretary-General of the United Nations shall act as the Depositary of this Protocol.

Article 26
AUTHENTIC TEXTS
The original of this Protocol, of which the English, French, German and Russian texts are equally authentic, shall be deposited with the Secretary-General of the United Nations.

In Witness Whereof the undersigned, being duly authorized thereto, have signed this Protocol.

Done in London, this 17th day of June one thousand nine hundred and ninety-nine.