

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**



UNITED NATIONS

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FOREWORD

Ensuring access to safe drinking water and sanitation for all members of the population, without discrimination, is an obligation for all governments. Everybody, whether rich or poor, men, women and children, people living in urban and rural areas, having a suitable accommodation or not, people with physical disabilities or people living in institutions like prisons or hospitals, has the right to access these services.

In 2005, the Protocol on Water and Health entered into force, committing its Parties in the pan-European region to ensure that “equitable access to water, adequate in terms both of quantity and of quality, (is) provided for all members of the population, especially those who suffer a disadvantage or social exclusion”. The recognition of access to water and sanitation as a human right by the United Nations General Assembly and the Human Rights Council in 2010, which was strongly supported by France, confirmed the obligation of governments to ensure that water and sanitation services are available, accessible, safe, acceptable and affordable for all without discrimination. Global targets and initiatives, such as the Millennium Development Goals and the commitment made by countries at the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development in 2012 to ensure the progressive realization of the human right to water and sanitation, as well as the on-going reflection for the post-2015 agenda and the future Sustainable Development Goals, have restated the importance of concentrating our efforts and financial means on implementing the human right to water and sanitation into practice.

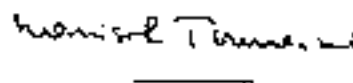
The continuous support from France to the activities on equitable access under the Protocol on Water and Health permitted the development of this new publication, which aims at supporting policy processes to achieve the human right to water and sanitation. The Equitable Access Score-card presented in this publication is a contribution to the general reflection on how in practice to implement these obligations and commitments. Defining policies and targeted measures to improve the situation of access to water and sanitation for all requires having a detailed knowledge of the current situation, in terms of existing policy instruments, financing strategies and programmes of measures that contribute to reducing the gaps in access.

The Equitable Access Score-card is an analytical self-evaluation tool that can help Governments and other stakeholders to establish a baseline, discuss further actions to be taken and evaluate progress. It builds on the findings of the previous publication *No one left behind: good practices to ensure equitable access to water and sanitation*, which was launched in March 2012 at the sixth World Water Forum in Marseille, France. *No one left behind* identified water resources availability, the urban-rural gap, access for

vulnerable and marginalized groups and affordability as the main contextual challenges framing current inequities in the pan-European region. The Equitable Access Score-card calls for information on policy options that may be chosen by countries to overcome those different challenges.

We must encourage countries to voluntarily engage in this self-assessment process, which can provide a comprehensive overview of the situation of equity of access. This exercise has proven to bring many benefits during its pilot phase, for example in the City of Paris where the self-assessment exercise was carried out and provided useful information for the formulation of the new national and Regional Plans for Health and Environment, especially their equity dimension. As this exercise involves a broad range of stakeholders, from the environmental to the social and the financing sectors, it helps to identify the right partners and to initiate collaboration to undertake future work. In addition, the outcomes of the self-assessment can be used to help define an equity-related target under the Protocol, as well as related measures, based on a detailed assessment of the gaps to be bridged.

I trust that this publication will stimulate countries to use the Equitable Access Score-card and support the progressive realization of the human right to water and sanitation by supporting the inclusion of an equitable access dimension in existing policy processes.



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France



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预览已结束，完整报告链接和二维码

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