

1. Country/Organization:

*Maria M. Galambos,
Minsitry of Rural development, Hungary*

2. Title of the action committed to in 2011 (see the annex)

Upgrading bilateral transboundary water agreements

3. Overview of progress made

(a) *Has the action been implemented?*

Yes / In progress / No

Please elaborate (up to 250 words):

Hungary has bilateral transboundary water agreements with all 7 neighbouring countries however some of them still need upgrading and bringing hem in line with the latest international law developments on transboundary waters.

Presently agreements with Slovakia and Serbia are in process.

(b) *What challenges were encountered during the implementation of the action?
What lessons were learned?*

(up to 250 words)

It takes time to translate international framework agreements into the conditions of the 2 particular countries concerned . Personal changes as well as changes in the organizational structures can slow down the process.

(c) *What future steps, if any, are planned in relation to the action implementation/follow up?*

Negotiations on the text will continue: text with Slovakia has once already completed, but dues to some changes in certain circumstances some technical parts have to be updated. With Serbia the negotiations are at the beginning phase.

4. Usefulness of the Astana Water Action

Please indicate how strongly you agree or disagree with the following statements and provide an explanation, as appropriate.

(a) *The Astana Water Action was useful to strengthen political support related to sustainable water management issues:*

strongly agree / somewhat agree / somewhat disagree / strongly disagree

These actions have been decided before the AWA. However reference to AWA can be used as argument to try to speed up processes.

(b) *The Astana Water Action has helped my country to comply with its international obligations:*

strongly agree / somewhat agree / somewhat disagree / strongly disagree

If agreeing, please elaborate how (e.g. European Union Directives, UNECE and other environmental agreements, Millennium Development Goals, Commitments made within the "Environment for Europe" process) (up to 250 words)

When this activity will be completed the answer can be "yes"

(c) *Would your country be interested in continuing to submit and monitor new actions within the AWA framework in the future?*

Yes / No

Please elaborate (up to 250 words)

In principle yes but the added value has to be carefully considered as well as avoiding duplication with other similar "reporting" type of actions