



Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
8 September 2015

Original: English

Economic Commission for Europe

Meeting of the Parties to the Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes

Seventh session

Budapest, 17–19 November 2015

Item 4 (f) of the provisional agenda

**Review of past activities and discussion of future activities in
the different areas of work: consideration of the need for
reporting under the Convention**

Draft decision on reporting under the Convention

Submitted by the Bureau

Summary

At its sixth session (Rome, 28–30 November 2012), the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes mandated the Working Group on Integrated Water Resources Management, in consultation with the Implementation Committee, to carry out an analysis on the needs for reporting under the Convention. Such an analysis was to serve as a basis for the possible elaboration of the scope and modalities of a reporting mechanism to be submitted for possible adoption by the Meeting of the Parties at its seventh session (see ECE/MP.WAT/37/Add.1, item 1.4). To support this analysis, a questionnaire was sent to Parties, other States and organizations in October 2013 in order to understand their views on reporting and the possible design of such a mechanism. The secretariat submitted a draft analysis (ECE/MP.WAT/WG.1/2014/3) to the Working Group at its ninth meeting (Geneva, 25 and 26 June 2014).

Due to the overall positive feedback, at its ninth meeting, the Working Group decided to create a core group to elaborate, with the help of the Bureau and the secretariat, a proposal for a possible reporting mechanism. At its tenth meeting (Geneva, 24–25 June 2015), the Working Group endorsed the proposal by the core group and entrusted the Bureau to prepare for submission to the Meeting of the Parties a draft decision introducing a reporting mechanism under the Convention as well as a draft template for reporting.

The present document contains the draft decision and a draft template for reporting. The Meeting of the Parties is invited to adopt the draft decision.



The Meeting of the Parties,

Determined to facilitate the implementation and application of and compliance with the Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes (Water Convention),

Recalling article 17, paragraph 2 (f), of the Convention, which states that the Meeting of the Parties shall consider and undertake any additional action that may be required for the achievements of the purposes of the Convention,

Also recalling article 17, paragraph 2, of the Convention, which states that, at their meetings, the Parties shall keep under continuous review the implementation of the Convention,

Recognizing that reporting is key for reviewing and enhancing national implementation of the Convention as well as accession to it,

Also recognizing that reporting provides a means to enhance basin-specific cooperation,

Noting that regular reporting may also serve as a means to keep the public informed of measures taken to implement the Convention,

Underlining that reporting provides information that helps to identify the specific needs of basins, and thereby supports the mobilization of resources, for example, for capacity-building and technical assistance activities,

Noting that reporting also allows for the identification of emerging issues and difficulties in the implementation of the Convention, and so can inform the development of future programmes of work under the Convention and the work of the Implementation Committee,

Recognizing that reporting promotes the accumulation and exchange of lessons learned, good practices and experiences to enhance implementation of the Convention,

Recalling the adoption by the international community of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including the establishment of the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) to “Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all” (SDG 6), with a target calling for transboundary cooperation to implement integrated water resources management (target 6.5),

Recognizing the relevance of the Water Convention as an instrument that can help countries reach the SDG on water,

Emphasizing the role of reporting under the Convention as a useful means for reviewing countries’ progress towards achieving target 6.5,

1. *Decides* to establish a regular reporting mechanism under the Convention;
2. *Also decides* to start with a pilot reporting exercise in 2016–2017 in order to test the template for reporting contained in the annex to this decision, and to set 30 June 2017 as the deadline for submitting the pilot reports in order to leave enough time for revision of the template, if needed, before its eighth session;
3. *Encourages* all Parties and non-Parties, especially those sharing basins with Parties and those considering accession to the Convention, to participate in the pilot reporting exercise and submit to the secretariat their filled out reporting forms electronically in the English, French or Russian languages, in accordance with the template set out in the annex to this decision, as well as their comments on the reporting template, by 30 June 2017;
4. *Requests* the secretariat to post the national reports on the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) website in the languages in which they are

available and to prepare a synthesis report in all official languages for the Meeting of the Parties, summarizing the progress made and identifying significant trends, challenges and solutions;

5. *Decides* to review the reporting template and reporting procedures at its next session in 2018, also in the light of the follow-up to and review of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the SDGs and their indicators, currently under development;

6. *Requests* the Working Group on Integrated Water Resources Management, in consultation with the Implementation Committee, to review the reporting template in 2017–2018 based on the experience with the pilot reporting exercise and the comments received, and to submit to the Meeting of the Parties at its eighth session a draft decision on reporting, including the frequency and modalities of reporting, together with a revised template.

Annex

Draft template for reporting under the Convention

Country name: [fill in]

This template or reporting form is in the form of a questionnaire to be filled out. Questions can be either “closed”, Yes /No , with appropriate boxes to tick; “open”, requiring further information to be supplied, indicated by the words in square brackets [fill in]; or a combination of both. Depending on the country situation, it will not always be necessary to fill in extra information where space is provided for this.

The questions are divided into three parts: national (section I); by transboundary basin, river, lake or aquifer (section II); and final questions (section III). Please answer open questions very briefly, and in less than 200 words, using bullet points as appropriate. Section II will need to be completed for each of the transboundary basins, rivers, lakes or aquifers (please just copy the template for these questions and fill out again for each additional transboundary basin, river, lake or aquifer).

The template encourages those reporting to refer to the reporting under other multilateral environmental agreements to which their country is a Party. Both Parties and non-Parties are encouraged to fill out the reporting form.

I. Transboundary water management at the national level

In this first section, you are requested to provide general information on transboundary water management at the national level. Information on specific transboundary basins, rivers, lakes or aquifers and agreements should be presented in section II and not repeated here.

1. (a) Does your country’s national legislation refer to measures to prevent, control and reduce any transboundary impact (art. 2 of the Convention)?

Yes /No

If yes, list the main national legislation: [fill in]

- (b) Do your country’s national policies, action plans and strategies refer to measures to prevent, control and reduce any transboundary impact?

Yes /No

If yes, list the main national policies, action plans and strategies: [fill in]

- (c) Does your country’s legislation provide for the following principles?

Precautionary principle Yes /No

Polluter pays principle Yes /No

Sustainable development Yes /No

- (d) Does your country have a national licensing or permitting system for wastewater discharges and other point source pollution (art. 3, para. 1 (b)) (*e.g., in industry, mining, energy, municipal, wastewater management or other sectors*)?

Yes /No

If yes, for which sectors? (please list): [fill in]

If not, please explain why not (giving the most important reasons) or provide information if there are plans to introduce a licensing or permitting system: [fill in]

If your country has a licensing system, does the system provide for setting emission limits based on best available technology?

Yes /No

(e) Are the authorized discharges monitored and controlled (art. 3, para. 1 (b))?

Yes /No

If yes, how? (Please tick the ones applicable):

Monitoring of discharges

Monitoring of physical and chemical impacts on water

Monitoring of ecological impacts on water

Conditions on permits

Inspectorate

Other means (*please list*): [fill in]

If your country does not have a discharge monitoring system, please explain why not or provide information if there are plans to introduce a discharge monitoring system: [fill in]

(f) What are the main measures which your country takes to reduce diffuse sources of water pollution on transboundary waters (art. 3, para. 1) (*e.g., from agriculture, transport, forestry or aquaculture*)? *The measures listed below relate to agriculture, but other sectors may be more significant. Please be sure to include these under "others":*

Legislative measures

Norm for uses of fertilizers

Norms for uses of manure

Bans on or norms for use of pesticides

Others (*please list*): [fill in]

Economic and financial measures

Monetary incentives

Environmental taxes (such as fertilizer taxes)

Others (*please list*): [fill in]

Agricultural extension services

Technical measures

Source control measures

Crop rotation

Tillage control

Winter cover crops

Others (*please list*): [fill in]

Other measures

Buffer/filter strips

Wetland reconstruction

Sedimentation traps

Chemical measures

Others (*please list*): [fill in]

Other types of measures

If yes, please list: [fill in]

(g) What are the main measures which your country takes to enhance water efficiency (art. 3)?

Please tick as appropriate (not all might be relevant)

A regulatory system regarding water abstraction

Monitoring and control of abstractions

Water rights are clearly defined

Water allocation priorities are listed

Water-saving technologies

Advanced irrigation techniques

Demand management activities

Other means (*please list*)

(h) Does your country apply the ecosystems approach (art. 3, para. 1 (i), and art. 2, para. 1 (d))?

Yes /No

If yes, please describe how: [fill in]

(i) Does your country take specific measures to prevent the pollution of groundwaters (art. 3, para. 1 (k))?

Yes /No

If yes, please list the most important measures: [fill in]

2. Does your country require transboundary environmental impact assessment (EIA)?

Yes /No

Does your country have procedures for transboundary EIA?

Yes /No

If yes, please make reference to the legislative basis (please insert the name and section of the relevant laws). (Please note: If your country is a Party to the Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context, you may refer to your country's report under that Convention.): [fill in]

3. Does your country have transboundary agreements or arrangements for the protection and/or management of transboundary waters (i.e., surface waters or aquifers), whether bilateral, multilateral and/or at the basin level?

Yes /No

If yes, list the bilateral, multilateral and basin agreements (listing for each of the countries concerned): [fill in]

II. Questions for each transboundary basin, river, lake or aquifer

Please complete this second section for each transboundary basin, river, lake or aquifer, or for group of basins covered by the same agreement or arrangement and where conditions are similar. It might also be convenient to group basins or sub-basins for which your country's share is very small.^a In some instances, you may provide information on both a basin and one or more of its sub-basins, for example, where you have agreements^b on both the basin and its sub-basin. You may coordinate your responses with other States with which your country shares the basin or aquifer or even prepare a joint report for shared basins. General information on transboundary water management at the national level should be provided in section I and not repeated here.

Please reproduce the whole section II with its questions for each transboundary basin, river, lake or aquifer, or group of basins for which you will provide a reply.

Name of the transboundary basin, river, lake or aquifer, or group thereof, list of the riparian States, and country's share of the basin: [fill in]

1. Is there one or more transboundary (bilateral or multilateral) agreement(s) or arrangement(s) on this basin (art. 9)?

One or more agreements or arrangements exist and are in force

Agreement or arrangement developed but not in force

Agreement or arrangement developed, but not in force for all riparians

Please insert the name of the agreement or agreements or arrangements: [fill in]

Agreement or arrangement is under development

No agreement

If there is no agreement or arrangement or it is not in force, please explain briefly why not and provide information on any plans to address the situation: [fill in]

If there is no agreement or arrangement and no joint body for the transboundary basin, river, lake or aquifer then jump to question 4; if there is no agreement, but a joint body then go to question 3. →

Questions 2 and 3 to be completed for each bilateral or multilateral agreement or arrangement in force in the transboundary basin, river, lake or aquifer or group of basins or sub-basins

2. (a) Does this agreement or arrangement specify the basin area subject to cooperation?

Yes /No

If yes, does it cover the entire basin, or group of basins, and all riparian States?

Yes /No

^a In principle, section 2 should be submitted for every transboundary basin, river, lake or aquifer in the country, but States may decide to group basins in which their share is small or leave out basins in which their share is very minor, e.g., below 1 per cent.

^b In section II, "agreement" covers all kinds of treaties, conventions and agreements ensuring cooperation in the field of transboundary waters. Section II can also be completed for other types of arrangements, such as memorandums of understanding.

If not, what does it cover?: [fill in]

Or, if the agreement or arrangement relates to a sub-basin, does it cover the entire sub-basin?

Yes /No

Which States (including your own) are bound by the agreement or arrangement?
(Please list): [fill in]

(b) Are connected^c aquifers (or groundwater bodies) covered by the agreement/arrangement?

Yes /No

(c) What is the sectoral scope of the agreement or arrangement?

All water uses

A single water use or sector

Several water uses or sectors

If several water uses or sectors, please list (check as appropriate):

Water uses or sectors

Industry

Agriculture

Transport (e.g., navigation)

Households

Energy: hydropower and other energy types

Tourism

Nature protection

Other (please list): [fill in]

(d) What topics or subjects of cooperation are included in the agreement or arrangement (art. 9)?

Procedural and institutional issues

Dispute and conflict prevention and resolution

Institutional cooperation (joint bodies)

Consultation on planned measures

Mutual assistance (art. 15)

Topics of cooperation

Joint vision and management objectives

Joint significant water management issues

Navigation

Environmental protection (ecosystem)

^c Either hydraulically connected to the watercourse or those located within the basin area.

Water quality

Water quantity or allocation

Cooperation in addressing floods

Cooperation in addressing droughts

Climate change adaptation

Monitoring and exchange

Joint assessments

Data collection and exchange (art. 13)

Joint monitoring (art. 11)

Maintenance of joint pollution inventories

Elaboration of joint water quality objectives

Common early warning and alarm procedures (art. 14)

Exchange of experience between riparian States

Exchange of information on planned measures

Joint planning and management

Development of joint regulations on specific topics

Development of international or joint river, lake or aquifer basin management or action plans

Management of shared infrastructure

Development of shared infrastructure

Other (*please list*): [fill in]

(e) What are the main difficulties and challenges that your country faces with the agreement or arrangement and its implementation, if any (*please describe, if applicable*): [fill in]

(f) What are the main achievements in implementing the agreement or arrangement and what were the keys to achieving such success?: [fill in]

(g) Please attach a copy of the agreement or arrangement or provide the web address of the document (*please attach document or insert web address, if applicable*): [fill in]

3. Is your country a member of an operational joint body or joint bodies for this agreement/arrangement (art. 9)?

Yes /No

If no, why not? (please explain): [fill in]

Where there is a joint body (or bodies)

(a) If there is a joint body, which kind of joint body (*please tick one*)?

Plenipotentiaries

Bilateral commission

Basin or similar commission

Other (*please describe*): [fill in]

(b) Does the joint body cover the entire transboundary basin or sub-basin, river, lake or aquifer, or group of basins, and all riparian States?

Yes /No

(c) Which States (including your own) are member of the joint body? (*Please list*): [fill in]

(d) Does the joint body have any of the following features (*please tick the ones applicable*)?

A secretariat

If the secretariat is a permanent one, is it a joint secretariat or does each country host its own secretariat? (Please describe): [fill in]

A subsidiary body or bodies

Please list (e.g., working groups on specific topics): [fill in]

Other features (*please list*): [fill in]

(e) What are the tasks and activities of this joint body (art. 9, para. 2)?^d

Identification of pollution sources

Data collection and exchange

Joint monitoring

Maintenance of joint pollution inventories

Setting emission limits

Elaboration of joint water quality objectives

Management and prevention of flood or drought risks

Preparedness for extreme events, e.g., common early warning and alarm procedures

Water allocation and/or flow regulation

Policy development

Control of implementation

Exchange of experience between riparian States

Exchange of information on existing and planned uses of water and related installations

Settling of differences and conflicts

Consultations on planned measures

Exchange of information on best available technology

Participation in transboundary EIA

Development of river, lake or aquifer basin management or action plans

^d This may include tasks according to the agreement or tasks added by the joint body, or its subsidiaries. Both tasks which joint bodies coordinate and tasks which they implement should be included.

- Management of shared infrastructure
- Addressing hydromorphological alterations
- Climate change adaptation
- Joint communication strategy
- Basin-wide or joint public participation and consultation of,
for example, basin management plans
- Joint resources to support transboundary cooperation
- Capacity-building
- Any other tasks (*please list*): [fill in]

(f) What are the main difficulties and challenges that your country faces with the operation of the joint body, if any?

- Governance issues
Please describe, if any: [fill in]
- Unexpected planning delays
Please describe, if any: [fill in]
- Lack of resources
Please describe, if true: [fill in]
- Lack of mechanism for implementing measures
Please describe, if true: [fill in]
- Lack of effective measures
Please describe, if true: [fill in]
- Unexpected extreme events
Please describe, if any: [fill in]
- Lack of information and reliable forecasts
Please describe, if any: [fill in]
- Others (*please list and describe, as appropriate*): [fill in]

(g) If not all riparian States are members of the joint body how does the body cooperate with them?

- No cooperation
- They have observer status
- Other (*please describe*): [fill in]

(h) What are the main achievements with regards to the joint body?: [fill in]

(i) Are representatives of international organizations invited to the meetings of the joint body (or bodies) as observers?

Yes /No

(j) Did the joint body ever invite a coastal State to cooperate (art. 9, paras. 3 and 4)?

Yes /No

If yes, please give details. If no, why not?: [fill in]

4. Is there an action plan or strategy specifically to improve the status of the transboundary waters subject to cooperation (art. 9, para. 2 (f)) ?

Yes /No

If yes, please provide further details: [fill in]

5. How is the transboundary basin, river, lake or aquifer protected, including the protection of ecosystems, in the context of sustainable and rational water use (art. 2, para. 2 (b), and art. 3, para. 1 (i)) ?

Afforestation

Restoration of ecosystems

Environmental flow norms

Groundwater measures (e.g., protection zones)

Other measures (*please list*): [fill in]

6. (a) Does your country exchange information and data with other riparian States in the basin (art. 13)?

Yes /No

- (b) If yes, on what subjects are information and data exchanged?

Environmental conditions (art. 13, para. (1) (a))

Research activities and application of best available techniques (arts. 5, 12 and 13, para. 1 (b))

Emission monitoring data (art. 13, para. 1 (c))

Planned measures taken to prevent, control or reduce transboundary impacts (art. 13, para. 1 (d))

Point source pollution sources

Diffuse pollution sources

Existing hydromorphological alterations (dams, etc.)

Discharges

Water abstractions

Future planned measures with transboundary impacts, such as infrastructure development

Other subjects (*please list*): [fill in]

- (c) Is there a shared database or information platform?

Yes /No

- (d) Is the database publicly available?

Yes /No

If yes, please provide the web address: [fill in]

- (e) What are the main difficulties and challenges to data exchange, if applicable? (*please describe*): [fill in]

- (f) What are the main benefits of data exchange on the transboundary waters subject to cooperation? (*please describe*): [fill in]

7. Do the riparian States carry out joint monitoring in the transboundary basin, river, lake or aquifer (art. 11, para. 1)?

Yes /No

- (a) If yes, what does the joint monitoring cover?

	Covered?	Hydrological	Ecological	Chemical
Border surface waters	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Surface waters in the entire basin	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Surface waters on the main watercourse	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Connected aquifers (or groundwaters)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Unconnected aquifers (or groundwaters)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

- (b) If joint monitoring is carried out, how is this done?

National monitoring stations connected through a network or common stations	<input type="checkbox"/>
Joint and agreed methodologies	<input type="checkbox"/>
Joint sampling	<input type="checkbox"/>
Common monitoring network	<input type="checkbox"/>
Common agreed parameters	<input type="checkbox"/>

- (c) Please describe the main achievements regarding joint monitoring, if any: [fill in]

- (d) Please describe any difficulties experienced with joint monitoring: [fill in]

8. Do the riparian States carry out joint assessment of the transboundary basin, river, lake or aquifer (art. 11)?

Yes /No

If yes, please provide the date of the last or only assessment, the frequency and scope (e.g., surface waters or groundwaters only, pollution sources, etc.) of the assessment: [fill in]

9. Have the riparian States agreed to use joint water quality standards?

Yes /No

If yes, is the basis an international or regional standard (please specify which) or has it been adapted from the national standards of the riparian States?: [fill in]

10. What are the measures implemented to prevent or limit the transboundary impact of accidental pollution (art. 14)?

Notification and communication	<input type="checkbox"/>
Coordinated or joint alarm system for accidental water pollution	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other (<i>please list</i>): [fill in]	
No measures	<input type="checkbox"/>

If not, why not? What difficulties does your country face in putting in place such measures?: [fill in]

11. What are the measures implemented to prevent or limit the transboundary impact of extreme weather events (art. 14)?

- Notification and communication
- Coordinated or joint alarm system for floods
- Coordinated or joint alarm system for droughts
- Joint climate change adaptation strategy
- Joint disaster risk reduction strategy
- Other (*please list*): [fill in]
- No measures

If not, why not? What difficulties does your country face in putting in place such measures?: [fill in]

12. Are procedures in place for mutual assistance in case of a critical situation (art. 15)?

Yes /No

If yes, please provide a brief summary: [fill in]

13. Are the public or relevant stakeholders involved in transboundary water management in the basin, river, lake or aquifer? (art. 16)?

Yes /No

If yes, how? (please tick all applicable) (Please note: If your country is a Party to the Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters (Aarhus Convention), you may refer to your country's report under that Convention.):

Stakeholders have observer status in a joint body

If yes, please specify the stakeholders for each joint body: [fill in]

Availability of information to the public

Consultation on planned measures or river basin management plans^e

Public involvement

Other (*please specify*): [fill in]

Please remember to complete section II for each of the transboundary basins, rivers, lakes or aquifers. Please also remember to attach copies of agreements, if any.

^e Or, where applicable, aquifer management plans.

III. Final questions

1. What are the main challenges your country faces in implementing the Convention? (*Please describe*): [fill in]
2. What have been the main achievements in implementing the Convention? What were the keys to achieving that success? (*Please describe concrete examples*): [fill in]
3. Name and contact details of the person(s) who filled out the questionnaire (*please insert*): [fill in]
Date: [fill in] Signature: [fill in]
4. Please include any additional information on the process of preparing the report (e.g., whether there was an exchange or consultation within the joint body or with riparian countries), in particular which institutions have been consulted (*please describe*): [fill in]
5. If you have any other comments please add them here (*insert comments*): [fill in]

Thank you very much for taking the time to complete this report.
