

Overview of the results of the first reporting exercise and lessons learned

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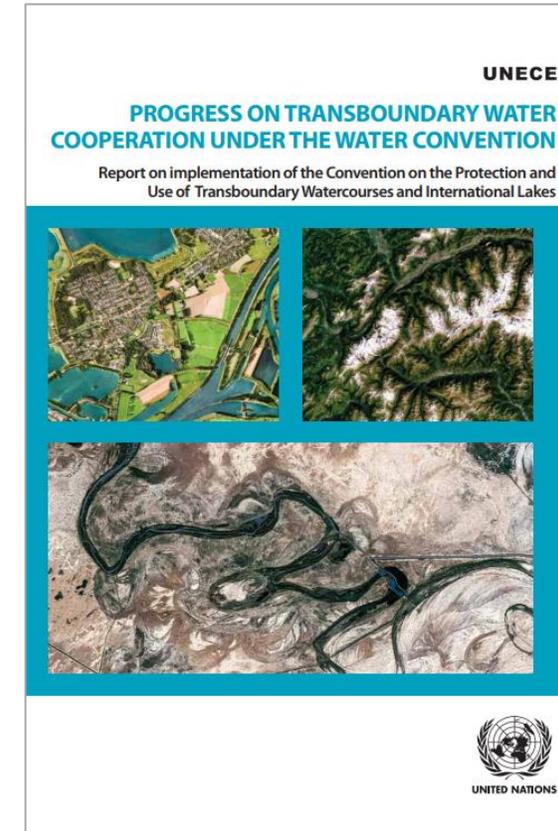


Overview of reporting process under the Convention

- Decision to report under the Water Convention taken in 2015
- Coincided with SDGs and SDG indicator 6.5.2 on transboundary water cooperation
 - UNECE and UNESCO designated as custodian agencies for 6.5.2
- Early 2017 questionnaire/ reporting template sent to all 153 UN Member States sharing transboundary waters
 - Deadline 15 May (Water Convention)/ June (6.5.2) 2017
 - 15 reports submitted by 15 May; and a further 23 by Feb 2018
 - 38 out of 40 riparian parties reported
- 3 yearly intervals for reporting

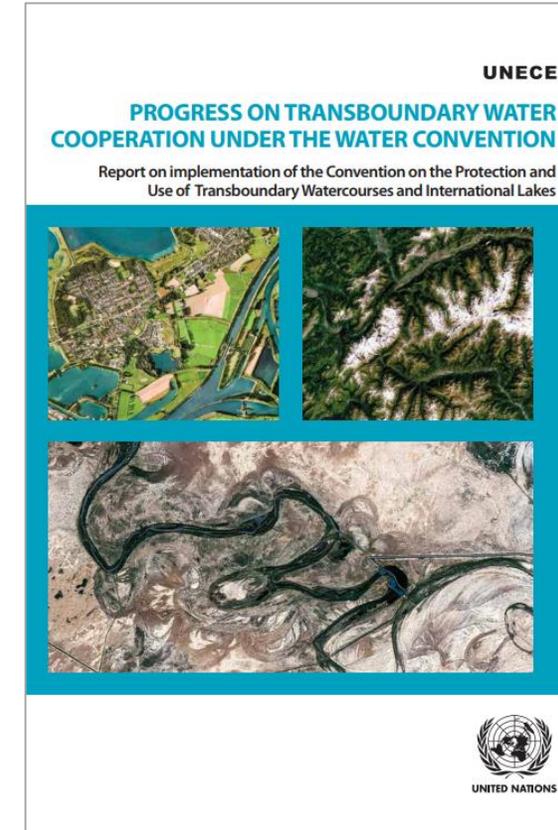
Results from the first reporting exercise under the Water Convention – national level

- Water Convention requires countries to adopt appropriate legal, administrative, economic, financial and technical measures to prevent, control and reduce transboundary impact (Arts. 2 & 3)
- Most countries have adopted
 - Laws and policies related to transboundary impact (Water Law)
 - Systems for licensing, control and monitoring pollution (point and non-point source)
 - Law and policies related to Environmental Impact Assessment



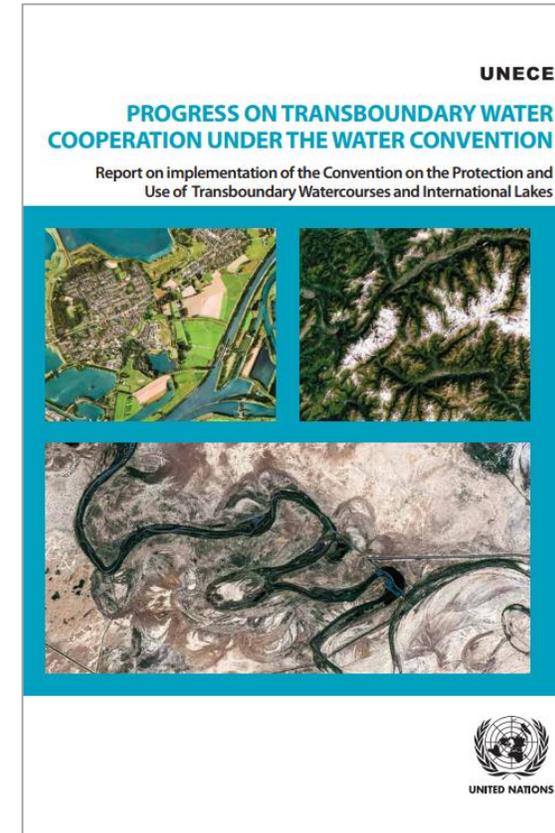
Results from the first reporting exercise under the Water Convention – Arrangements (Art. 9(1))

- Almost all reported basins have an agreement or other arrangements in force
- However,
 - At least 15 basins where agreement or other arrangement doesn't cover the entire basin
 - At 29 basins do not have arrangements covering transboundary aquifers
- Main topics of cooperation contained within the Water Convention well covered by agreements and arrangements
 - Topics less well reflected include, elaboration of water quality objectives, mutual assistance, maintenance of joint pollution inventories and climate adaptation



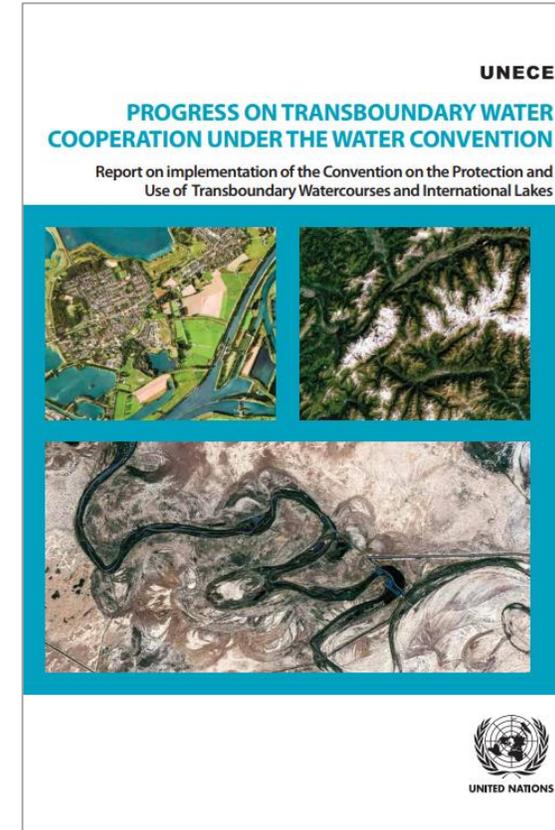
Results from the first reporting exercise under the Water Convention – Joint bodies (Art 9(2))

- Widespread practice of adopting joint bodies
- Many tasks and activities contained within the Water Convention well covered by joint bodies
- Less well reflected tasks include, maintenance of pollution inventories, setting of emission limits, climate change adaptation, and basin-wide or joint public participation



Key findings – Implementation

- Widespread practice of adopting joint or co-ordinated water management plans
- Measures to protect ecosystems commonly in place
- Data and information exchange reported in almost all basins
 - Shared databases or platforms not widely used
- Concerted efforted to adopt joint monitoring and assessment programmes
- Joint water quality standards in place for majority of basins
- Measures related to accidental pollution, mutual assistance, and public participation appear to be less well implemented



Summary and conclusions

- Significant progress both in the implementation of the Water Convention and the adoption of operational arrangements (SDG6.5.2)
- Need to strengthen cooperative arrangements for transboundary waters
- Strong response to first reporting round offers solid foundations for subsequent reporting rounds
 - Opportunities to improve geographic coverage of reports (SDG 6.5.2)
 - Opportunities to improve quality of the reports with each iteration

Lessons learned (reporting process)

Overview of the feedback process

- Decision VII/2, November 2015
 - requested IWRM Working Group, in consultation with others, to review template for reporting based on pilot reporting exercise
- July and October 2017 invitation to countries that had submitted a national reports to provide comments
 - Comments from parties and non-parties received in writing
 - Discussions at the 12th meeting of the IWRM working group (July 2017)
 - Also feedback from Implementation Committee, UNESCO and Secretariat
- Revised template developed by the Secretariat and UNESCO
 - Reviewed at Budapest Workshop (16-17 January 2018)
 - 50 participants (parties and non-parties)

Feedback received

- **Value of template**

- Good opportunity to support national coordination, cooperation and data-sharing between national institutions
- Assess strengths and weakness existing national framework for transboundary waters, review agreements and arrangements, and assess implementation of Water Convention

- **Length of template**

- Took more time than expected but worth it
- Make use of the information collected in future reporting exercises
- Avoid overlap and simplify questions
- More opportunities to explain answers could be added

Feedback received

- **Structure**

- Countries had difficulties in completing section II
- Must accommodate diverse range of governance contexts
 - Bilateral agreements and/ or basin and/or sub-basin agreements
 - Number of transboundary basins shared by countries

- **Presentation and style**

- Avoid overlap in questions
- Some questions are too general or vague
- Inconsistencies
 - related questions answered differently
 - Different responses between countries sharing the same basin

Feedback resulted in decision to revise reporting template

- Include consistent terminology
 - Transboundary basin (river and lake basin, or aquifer)
 - Agreements or arrangements
 - Joint body or mechanism
- More tick box questions
 - Speed up completion time
 - Based on response from 1st exercise
- Additional opportunities to explain answers
- Clarify certain questions

... and develop a guide to reporting

Lessons learned for the Guide

- **Provide guidance to support reporting approach**
 - Support countries when they determine how to report their basins and arrangements
- **Provide guidance to address inconsistencies and differing interpretations of key terms**
 - Clear definitions of key terminology, such as ‘agreement’, or ‘joint body’
- **Provide guidance on how to provide ‘better’ answers**
 - Offer an explanation of the rationale behind certain questions
 - Offer support on scope of a particular question
 - Draw from experiences of first reporting round

Thanks for listening

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