Lessons learned from the first reporting process

Professor Alistair Rieu-Clarke
Northumbria University, Newcastle, UK
UNECE Consultant
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
Questions?

Alistair.rieu-Clarke@northumbria.ac.uk