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

Working Group on Integrated Water Resources Management

Thirteenth meeting*

Working Group on Monitoring and Assessment

Fourteenth meeting*

Geneva, 28–30 May 2018

Item 7 of the provisional agenda

**Reporting under the Convention and on Sustainable
Development Goal indicator 6.5.2**

Draft decision on reporting and revised template for reporting under the Convention

**Prepared by the secretariat in consultation with the Bureau and with
the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization**

Summary

At its seventh session in November 2015, by decision VII/2, the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes introduced a regular reporting mechanism under the Convention starting with a pilot reporting exercise.

The introduction of the reporting under the Convention coincided with the adoption of the Sustainable Development Goals and their targets in 2015 followed by the adoption of indicator 6.5.2 to measure progress on transboundary water cooperation as part of the

* Second joint meeting of the two working groups.



global indicator framework for the Sustainable Development Goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The United Nations Economic Commission for Europe and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization have been designated as “custodian agencies” for the indicator.

In order to maximize synergies and efficiencies, the pilot reporting under the Convention and the first reporting on indicator 6.5.2 were combined.

Decision VII/2 requested the Working Group on Integrated Water Resources Management to review the template for reporting under the Convention 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 reporting template.

The present document contains the draft decision on reporting under the Convention and the draft revised template for reporting. Annex I, containing section I on the calculation of indicator 6.5.2 is presented for information only as is it not part of the template for reporting under the Convention. Annex II, containing sections II to IV, formally constitutes the template for reporting under the Convention for its Parties.

The joint meeting of the Working groups is invited to discuss and review the draft decision and revised template for reporting under the Convention and endorse them for submission and adoption at the eighth session of the Meeting of the Parties (Astana, 10–12 October 2018).

I. Introduction

1. At its seventh session in November 2015, by decision VII/2, the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes (Water Convention) introduced a regular reporting mechanism under the Convention. By decision VII/2, the Meeting of the Parties encouraged 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 by submitting to the secretariat their filled-out reporting forms and their comments on the reporting template. On the basis of the reports submitted, the secretariat was asked to prepare a report providing an overview of the Convention's implementation and the advancement of transboundary water cooperation.

2. The introduction of the reporting under the Convention coincided with the adoption of the Sustainable Development Goals and their targets in 2015. Target 6.5 calls for countries to implement integrated water resources management at all levels, including through transboundary cooperation as appropriate. To measure progress, indicator 6.5.2 was agreed by the United Nations Statistical Commission in March 2016 and was subsequently adopted in July 2017 by the General Assembly as part of the global indicator framework for the Sustainable Development Goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The indicator is defined as the "proportion of transboundary basin area with an operational arrangement for water cooperation".¹ The United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) have led the development of the step-by-step methodology to calculate indicator 6.5.2 and have been designated as "custodian agencies" for the indicator.

3. In order to maximize synergies and efficiencies, at the eleventh meeting of the Working Group on Integrated Water Resources Management (Geneva, 18–19 October 2016), it was decided to combine the reporting under the Convention and the reporting on indicator 6.5.2 and to send only one template to all Parties to gather this information. Therefore, the Working Group decided that the template to be used for reporting in the pilot reporting exercise under the Convention would be slightly different compared with the template in decision VII/2 to ensure coherence with indicator 6.5.2.

4. Similarly, all other countries in the world sharing transboundary waters were invited to report on indicator 6.5.2 through a questionnaire which, in addition to a section on the calculation of 6.5.2, includes three other sections based on the Convention's reporting template. This makes it possible to outline a complete picture of the situation concerning transboundary water cooperation, track progress more closely beyond the indicator value and better describe the current baseline.

5. All Parties were invited to report under the Convention and on Sustainable Development Goal indicator 6.5.2 by 15 May 2017. All other countries were invited to report on indicator 6.5.2 by 15 June 2017. Countries were requested to send their reports to both ECE and UNESCO. As of 28 February 2018, 106 countries have submitted a reply.

6. Decision VII/2 also requested the Working Group on Integrated Water Resources Management, in consultation with the Implementation Committee, to review the template for reporting under the Convention 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

¹ See the "Step-by-Step Monitoring Methodology for Indicator 6.5.2 on Transboundary Cooperation", developed by ECE and UNESCO and available from the UN-Water website: <http://www.unwater.org/publications/step-step-methodology-monitoring-transboundary-cooperation-6-5-2/> (version 11 January 2017).

a draft decision on reporting, including the frequency and modalities of reporting, together with a revised template.

7. In July 2017, and subsequently in October 2017, countries that had submitted a national report on indicator 6.5.2 and on the implementation of the Water Convention were invited to provide comments on the process of reporting and the reporting template. Comments on the template for reporting under the Water Convention were received from Parties and non-Parties in writing and during discussions at the twelfth meeting of the Working Group on Integrated Water Resources Management (Geneva, 5–6 July 2017).

8. Based on these comments, a revised template was developed by the secretariat and UNESCO and discussed at the “Technical meeting on the template for reporting on Sustainable Development Goal indicator 6.5.2 and under the Water Convention” (Budapest, 16–17 January 2018).² The technical meeting brought together over 50 participants from all over the world, representing both Parties and non-Parties, and was targeted primarily at experts responsible for completing the template for reporting.

9. The present document contains the draft decision on reporting under the Convention and the draft template for reporting under the Convention (annex II), as revised based on the discussions at the technical meeting. In the revised draft template for reporting, deleted text compared to the template used for the pilot reporting exercise is indicated as strikethrough and new text is indicated in bold (or bold underline for text already in bold).

10. Annex I, containing section I on the calculation of indicator 6.5.2, is being submitted to the working groups for information only, as is it not part of the template for reporting under the Convention. Annex II, containing sections II to IV, formally constitutes the template for reporting under the Convention for its Parties. As in the first reporting exercise on indicator 6.5.2, it will be offered to all countries sharing transboundary waters to complete sections I to IV.

II. Draft decision on reporting under the Convention

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

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,

Further recalling its decision VII/2 through which it introduced a regular reporting mechanism under the Convention, starting with a pilot reporting exercise,

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

² Documents for the technical meeting, including the template for reporting considered at the meeting, are available on a dedicated web page of the Convention website: <https://www.unece.org/index.php?id=47476>.

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 experience to enhance implementation of the Convention,

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

Also recalling the adoption by the United Nations General Assembly in July 2017 of the global indicator framework for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development which includes indicator 6.5.2 on transboundary water cooperation for which the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) have been designated as custodian agencies,

Recognizing the relevance of the Water Convention as an instrument that can help countries reach the Sustainable Development Goal on clean water and sanitation,

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

Expressing appreciation for the outcomes of the first reporting exercise under the Water Convention and on indicator 6.5.2 carried out in 2017–2018,

Recognizing the many benefits of the first reporting exercise highlighted by countries, such as improved cooperation at the national level, increased political attention to transboundary water cooperation and exchange of experience with other countries and, when templates have been filled out together or in coordination, discussion and agreement on issues and problems with other riparian countries, especially in the framework of existing joint bodies,

1. *Welcomes* the submission of 38 reports by Parties on the implementation of the Convention during the pilot reporting exercise;

2. *Also welcomes* the 106 responses by countries in the first reporting exercise on Sustainable Development Goal Indicator 6.5.2;

3. *Commends* the alignment of the reporting under the Convention and the reporting on Sustainable Development Goal indicator 6.5.2 to increase synergies between the processes and avoid duplication of efforts,

[4. *Takes note with appreciation* of the first report on implementation of the Convention prepared by the secretariat and the indicator report on progress on Sustainable Development Goal indicator 6.5.2 prepared by ECE and UNESCO;]

[5.] *Calls upon* countries to make use of the reports in order to improve their transboundary cooperation, for example by setting national or basin-wide targets;

- [6.] *Adopts* the revised reporting template as contained in annex II for future reporting under the Convention;
- [7.] *Decides* that the frequency of reporting under the Convention should be every three years, in line with the frequency of the Meeting of the Parties;
- [8.] *Also decides* that the deadline for the submission of reports in the next reporting exercise will be 30 June 2020;
- [9.] *Further decides* that subsequent reporting deadlines are set triennially on 30 June;
- [10.] *Requests* all Parties to submit to the secretariat their completed templates by the set deadlines;
- [11.] *Strongly encourages* all countries sharing transboundary waters to report on Sustainable Development Goal indicator 6.5.2;
- [12.] *Encourages* riparian countries to cooperate when preparing their national reports;
- [13.] *Entrusts* the Working Group on Integrated Water Resources Management with the support of the secretariat to develop a guide for reporting under the Convention, in time for the next reporting cycle;
- [14.] *Requests* the secretariat to make the national reports under the Convention publicly available on the Convention's website in the languages in which they were submitted;
- [15.] *Also requests* the secretariat, based on the national reports received, to prepare regular reports for future sessions of the Meeting of the Parties on the implementation of the Convention, pending availability of resources;
- [16.] *Further requests* the secretariat to develop a proposal for an online reporting system, including technical and financial implications, for review and discussion by the Bureau and the Working Group on Integrated Water Resources Management;
- [17.] *Also requests* the secretariat to carry out capacity-building activities, pending availability of resources. Such activities should, among others, promote the findings of the national reports and the setting of national or basin targets on transboundary cooperation, enhance the quality of future reports and promote broad participation in future reporting exercises;
- [18.] *Invites* UNESCO to closely cooperate with the secretariat in the development of the guide for reporting under the Convention, the proposal for an online reporting system and on capacity building activities;
- [19.] *Requests* the Working Group on Integrated Water Resources Management and the Working Group on Monitoring and Assessment to organize regular sessions allowing countries to review progress on transboundary water cooperation and exchange experience on reporting.

Annex I

Calculation of Sustainable Development Goal indicator 6.5.2

I. Calculation of Sustainable Development Goal indicator 6.5.2¹

Methodology

1. Using the information gathered in section II, the information gathered in this section allows for the calculation of Sustainable Development Goal global indicator 6.5.2, which is defined as the proportion of transboundary basin area with an operational arrangement for water cooperation.
2. The step-by-step monitoring methodology for indicator 6.5.2, developed by ECE and UNESCO in the framework of UN-Water, should be referred to for details on the necessary data, the definitions and the calculation.²
3. The value of the indicator at the national level is derived by adding up the surface area in a country of those transboundary basins (river and lake basins and aquifers) that are covered by an operational arrangement and dividing the area obtained by the aggregate total area in a country of all transboundary basins (both river and lake basins, and aquifers).
4. Transboundary basins are basins of transboundary waters, that is, of any surface waters (notably rivers, lakes) or groundwaters which mark, cross or are located on boundaries between by two or more States. For the purpose of the calculation of this indicator, for a transboundary river or lake, the basin area is determined by the extent of its catchment. For groundwater, the area to be considered is the extent of the aquifer.
5. An “arrangement for water cooperation” is a bilateral or multilateral treaty, convention, agreement or other formal arrangement among riparian countries that provides a framework for cooperation on transboundary water management.
6. For an arrangement to be considered “operational” all the following criteria need to be fulfilled:
 - (a) There is a joint body, joint mechanism or commission (e.g., a river basin organization) for transboundary cooperation (criterion 1);
 - (b) There are regular (at least once per year) formal communications between riparian countries in form of meetings (either at the political or technical level) (criterion 2);
 - (c) Joint objectives, a common strategy, a joint or coordinated management plan, or an action plan have been agreed upon by the riparian countries (criterion 3);
 - (d) There is a regular (at least once per year) exchange of data and information (criterion 4).

Calculation of indicator 6.5.2

7. Please list in the tables below the transboundary basins (rivers and lakes and aquifers) in your country’s territory and provide the following information for each of them:

¹ Section I for the calculation of indicator 6.5.2 is not part of the template for reporting under the Convention. Some additional changes to this section might be made by ECE and UNESCO in the next reporting exercise on indicator 6.5.2.

² Available from the UN-Water website: <http://www.unwater.org/publications/step-step-methodology-monitoring-transboundary-cooperation-6-5-2/> (version 11 January 2017).

- (a) The country/ies with which the basin is shared;
- (b) The surface area of the basin (the catchment of rivers or lakes and the aquifer in the case of groundwater) within the territory of your country (in square kilometres (km²));
- (c) Whether a map and/or a geographical information system (GIS) shapefile of the basin has been provided;
- (d) Whether there is an arrangement in force for the basin;
- (e) The verification of each of the four criteria to assess operability;
- (f) The surface area of the basin within the territory of your country which is covered by a cooperation arrangement that is operational according to the above criteria.

In case an operational arrangement is in place only for a sub-basin or a portion of a basin, please list this sub-basin just after the transboundary basin it is part of. In case there is an operational arrangement for the whole basin, do not list sub-basins in the table below.

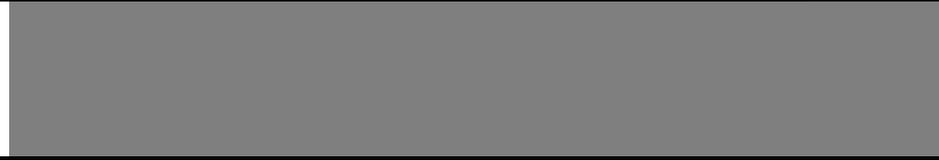
Table 1
Transboundary river or lake basin (please add rows as needed)

<i>Name of transboundary river or lake basin/sub-basin</i>	<i>It is a basin or a sub-basin?^a</i>	<i>Countries shared with</i>	<i>Surface area of the basin/sub-basin (in km²) within the territory of the country</i>	<i>Map and/or GIS shapefile provided (yes/no)</i>	<i>Covered by an arrangement (entirely, partly, no) (Ref. to questions in sect. II)</i>	<i>Criterion 1 applied (yes/no) (Ref. to questions in sect. II)</i>	<i>Criterion 2 applied (yes/no) (Ref. to questions in sect. II)</i>	<i>Criterion 3 applied (yes/no) (Ref. to questions in sect. II)</i>	<i>Criterion 4 applied (yes/no) (Ref. to questions in sect. II)</i>	<i>Surface area of the basin/sub-basin (in km²) covered by an operational arrangement within the territory of the country</i>
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(A)
Total surface area of transboundary basins/sub-basins of rivers and lakes covered by operational arrangements within the territory of the country (in km²)
(do not double count sub-basins)



(B)
Total surface area of transboundary basins of rivers and lakes within the territory of the country (in km²)
(do not double count sub-basins)



^a List sub-basins after the basin they belong to.

Table 2
Transboundary aquifers (please add rows as needed)

<i>Name of the transboundary aquifer</i>	<i>Countries shared with</i>	<i>Surface area of the aquifer (in km²) within the territory of the country</i>	<i>Map and/ or GIS shapefile provided (yes/no)</i>	<i>Covered by an aquifer specific arrangement (entirely, partly, no) (Ref. to questions in sect. II)</i>	<i>Covered within an arrangement not specific to the aquifer^a (entirely, partly, no) (Ref. to questions in sect. II)</i>	<i>Criterion 1 applied (yes/no) (Ref. to questions in sect. II)</i>	<i>Criterion 2 applied (yes/no) (Ref. to questions in sect. II)</i>	<i>Criterion 3 applied (yes/no) (Ref. to questions in sect. II)</i>	<i>Criterion 4 applied (yes/no) (Ref. to questions in sect. II)</i>	<i>Surface area of the aquifer (in km²) covered by an operational arrangement within the territory of the country</i>

(C)
Sub-total: surface area of transboundary aquifers covered by operational arrangements (in km²)



(D)
Total surface area of transboundary aquifers (in km²)



^a In the text of the agreement or arrangement or in the practice.

Indicator value for the country

Surface waters:

Percentage of surface area of transboundary basins of rivers and lakes covered by an operational arrangement:

$$A/B \times 100 =$$

Aquifers:

Percentage of surface area of transboundary aquifers covered by an operational arrangement:

$$C/D \times 100 =$$

Sustainable Development Goal indicator 6.5.2:

Percentage of surface area of transboundary basins covered by an operational arrangement:

$$((A + C)/(B + D)) \times 100 =$$

Spatial information

If a map (or maps) of the transboundary surface water catchments and transboundary aquifers (i.e., “transboundary basins”) is available, please consider attaching them. Ideally, shapefiles of the basin and aquifer delineations that can be viewed in GIS should be sent.

Additional information

If the respondent has comments that clarify assumptions or interpretations made for the calculation, or the level of certainty of the spatial information, please write them here:

Annex II

Draft revised template for reporting under the Convention

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

Yes /No

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

II. Questions for each transboundary basin, sub-basin, part of a basin, or group of basins (river, lake or aquifer)

Please complete this second section for each transboundary basin (river **or lake basin**, or aquifer), **sub-basin, part of a basin** or ~~for a~~ group of basins ~~or aquifers~~ covered by the same agreement or arrangement ~~and~~ where conditions are similar.⁵ ~~It might also be convenient to group basins or sub-basins for which your country's share is very small.~~ In some instances, you may provide information on both a basin and one or more of its sub-basins **or parts thereof**, for example, where you have agreements⁶ **or arrangements** on both the basin and its sub-basin. You may coordinate your responses with other States with which your country shares **transboundary waters** ~~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 III and not repeated here.

Please reproduce this whole section with its questions for each transboundary ~~basin, river, lake or aquifer, or group of basins~~ **basin, sub-basin, part of a basin or group of basins** for which you will provide a reply.

Name of the transboundary basin, ~~river, lake or aquifer, or group thereof~~ sub-basin, part of a basin or group of basins: [fill in]

List of the riparian States: [fill in]

In the case of an aquifer, what is the nature of the aquifer and its relation with the river or lake basin:

Unconfined aquifer connected to the river or lake

Unconfined aquifer with no or limited relation with surface water

Deep confined aquifer

Other

Please describe: [fill in]

No information

⁵ In principle, section II 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.

⁶ 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.

Percentage of your country's territory within the basin, sub-basin, part of a basin or group of basins ~~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, **sub-basin, part of a basin or group of basins**?

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 agreement(s) or arrangement(s) [fill in]

Agreement or arrangement is under development

No agreement **or arrangement**

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 or mechanism for the transboundary ~~basin, river, lake or aquifer~~ **basin, sub-basin, part of a basin or group of basins then jump to question 4; if there is no agreement or arrangement, but a joint body or mechanism 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~~ **sub-basin, part of a basin or group of 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

~~If not, what does it cover?:~~ **Additional explanations?** [fill in]

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

Yes /No

Additional explanations? [fill in]

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

(b) **If the agreement or arrangement relates to a river or lake basin or sub-basin, does it also cover aquifers? ~~Are aquifers? (or groundwater bodies) covered by the agreement/arrangement?~~**

Yes /No

If yes, please list the aquifers covered by the agreement **or arrangement:** [fill in]

(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 one or 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

Fisheries

- Tourism
- Nature protection

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

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

Procedural and institutional issues

- Dispute and conflict prevention and resolution
- Institutional cooperation (joint bodies)
- Consultation on planned measures
- Mutual assistance

Topics of cooperation

- Joint vision and management objectives
- Joint significant water management issues
- Navigation

Human health

- Environmental protection (ecosystem)
- 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
- Joint monitoring
- Maintenance of joint pollution inventories
- Elaboration of joint water quality objectives
- Common early warning and alarm procedures

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]

Aligning implementation of agreement or arrangement with national laws, policies and programmes

Aligning implementation of agreement or arrangement with regional laws, policies and programmes

Lack of financial resources

Insufficient human capacity

Insufficient technical capacity

Tense diplomatic relations

Non-participation of certain riparian countries in the agreement

No significant difficulties

Other (*please describe*): [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 any ~~operational~~ joint body **or mechanism** ~~or joint bodies~~ for this agreement ~~or arrangement~~?

Yes /No

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

Where there is a joint body ~~(or bodies)~~ or mechanism

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

Plenipotentiaries

Bilateral commission

Basin or similar commission

Expert group meeting or meeting of national focal points

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

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

Yes /No

~~If no, what does it cover?: [fill in]~~

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

(d) Are there any riparian States that are not members of the joint body **or mechanism**? (*please list*): [fill in]

(e) If not all riparian States are members of the joint body **or mechanism** how does the joint body **or mechanism** cooperate with them?

No cooperation

They have observer status

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

(e f) Does the joint body **or mechanism** 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-g) What are the tasks and activities of this joint body **or mechanism**?⁷

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

Surveillance and early warning of water related disease

Water allocation and/or flow regulation

⁷ 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.

-
- 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
 - 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]

(**h**) What are the main difficulties and challenges that your country faces with the operation of the joint body **or mechanism**, 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]

(h i) Does the joint body **or mechanism**, or its subsidiary bodies meet regularly?

Yes /No

If yes, how frequently does it meet? ~~[fill in]~~

More than once per year

Once per year

Less than once per year

(i j) What are the main achievements with regards to the joint body **or mechanism**?: [fill in]

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

~~Yes /No~~

(k) Did the joint body **or mechanism** ever invite a **non-riparian** coastal State to cooperate?

Yes /No

If yes, please give details. If no, why not, e.g. are the relevant coastal States also riparian States and therefore already members of the joint body or mechanism?:
 [fill in]

4. ~~Is there a joint or coordinated management plan (such as an action plan or a common strategy) or have joint objectives been set specifically on the transboundary waters subject to cooperation? Have joint objectives, a common strategy, a joint or coordinated management plan or action plan been agreed for the basin, sub-basin, part of a basin or group of basins?~~

Yes /No

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

5. How is the transboundary basin, ~~river, lake or aquifer~~ **sub-basin, part of a basins or group of basins** protected, including the protection of ecosystems, in the context of sustainable and rational water use?

Regulation of urbanization, deforestation, and sand and gravel extraction.

Environmental flow norms, **including consideration of levels and seasonality**

Water quality protection, e.g. nitrates, pesticides, faecal coliforms, heavy metals

Water-related species and habitats protection

~~Afforestation~~

~~Restoration of ecosystems~~

~~Groundwater measures (e.g., protection zones)~~

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

6. (a) Does your country **regularly** exchange information and data with other riparian States in the basin, **sub-basin, part of a basin or group of basins**?

Yes /No

(b) If yes, how often:

More than once per year

Once per year

Less than once per year

(c) Please describe how information is exchanged (e.g. in connection with meetings of joint bodies): [fill in]

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

Environmental conditions

Research activities and application of best available techniques

Emission monitoring data

Planned measures taken to prevent, control or reduce transboundary impacts

Point source pollution sources

Diffuse pollution sources

Existing hydromorphological alterations (dams, etc.)

~~Discharges~~ **Flows or water levels (including groundwater levels)**

Water abstractions

Climatological information

Future planned measures with transboundary impacts, such as infrastructure development

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

Other comments, e.g. spatial coverage of data and information exchange:
[fill in]

(e-d) 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]

Frequency of exchanges

Timing of exchanges

Comparability of data and information

Limited spatial coverage

Inadequate resources (technical and/or financial)

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

Additional comments: [fill in]

(f) What are the main benefits of data exchange on the ~~transboundary waters~~ **subject to cooperation basin, sub-basin, part of a basin or group of basins?** (please describe): [fill in]

7. Do the riparian States carry out joint monitoring in the transboundary basin, ~~river, lake or aquifer?~~ **sub-basin, part of a basin or group of basins**?

Yes /No

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

	<i>Covered?</i>	<i>Hydrological</i>	<i>Ecological</i>	<i>Chemical</i>
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"/>
Surface waters in part of the basin please describe [fill in]	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Connected Transboundary aquifer(s) (or groundwaters) (connected or unconnected)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Unconnected aquifers (or groundwaters) Aquifer(s) in the territory of one riparian connected to a transboundary river or lake	<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

Please describe: [fill in]

Joint and agreed methodologies

Please describe: [fill in]

Joint sampling

Please describe: [fill in]

Common monitoring network

Please describe: [fill in]

Common agreed parameters

Please describe: [fill in]

(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?~~ **sub-basin, part of a basin or group of basins?**

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, and assessment methodology applied: [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 what standards have been applied, e.g. international or regional standards (please specify which), or have national standards of the riparian States been applied?: [fill in]

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

Notification and communication

Coordinated or joint **early warning or** alarm system for accidental water pollution

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]

11. What are the measures implemented to prevent or limit the transboundary impact of extreme weather events **and climate change**?

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?

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~~ **basin, sub-basin, part of a basin or group of basins**?

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

- or mechanism
- Stakeholders have an advisory role in the joint body
- Stakeholders have a decision-making role in the joint body
- If yes, please specify the stakeholders for ~~the each~~ joint body or mechanism:*
 [fill in]
- Intergovernmental organizations
- Private sectors organizations or associations
- Water user groups or associations
- Academic or research institutions
- Other non-governmental organizations
- General public
- Other (please specify): [fill in]
- Availability of information to the public
- Consultation on planned measures or river basin management plans⁸
- Public involvement
- Other (please specify): [fill in]

Please remember to complete section II for each of the transboundary basins, sub-basin, part of a basin or group of basins, ~~rivers, lakes or aquifers~~. Please also remember to attach copies of agreements or arrangements, if any.

III. ~~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 **as it relates to transboundary waters**. Information on specific transboundary basins, ~~rivers, lakes or aquifers~~ **sub-basins, part of basins and groups of basins, and agreements** should be presented in section II and not repeated here.

1. (a) Does your country's national legislation, **policies, action plans and strategies** refer to measures to prevent, control and reduce any transboundary impact?

Yes /No

If yes, ~~list the main national legislation~~ please briefly describe the main national laws, policies, action plans and strategies [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]

- (e b) Does your country's legislation provide for the following principles?

⁸ Or, where applicable, aquifer management plans.

Precautionary principle Yes /No

Polluter pays principle Yes /No

Sustainable development Yes /No

User pays principle Yes /No

If yes, please briefly describe how these principles are implemented at the national level: **[fill in]**

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

Yes /No

If yes, for which sectors?

Industry

Mining

Energy

Municipal

Livestock raising

Aquaculture

Other (please list): [fill in]

Please briefly describe the licensing or permitting system, indicating whether the system provides for setting emission limits based on best available technology?

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?

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 (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

Permitting system

- 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 resources allocation and use efficiency?

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?

Yes /No

If yes, please describe how: [fill in]

(i) Does your country take specific measures to prevent the pollution of groundwaters?

Yes /No

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

2. Does your ~~country~~ **national laws** require transboundary environmental impact assessment (EIA)?

Yes /No

~~Does your country have procedures for transboundary EIA?~~

~~Yes /No~~

~~*If yes, please ~~make reference to~~ briefly describe the legislative basis (please insert the name and section of the relevant laws), and any related implementing procedures. (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]

~~*If not, do other measures provide for transboundary EIA? [fill in]*~~

IV. Final questions

1. What are the main challenges your country faces in ~~implementing the Convention and~~ cooperating on transboundary waters? ~~(Please describe):~~ [fill in]

Differences between national administrative and legal frameworks

Lack of relevant data and information

Difficulties in data and information exchange

Sectoral fragmentation at the national level

Language barrier

Resource constraints

Environmental pressures, e.g. extreme events

Sovereignty concerns

Please list other challenges and/or provide further details: [fill in]

2. What have been the main achievements in ~~implementing the Convention and~~ cooperating on transboundary waters? ~~What were the keys to achieving that success?~~ ~~(Please describe concrete examples):~~ [fill in]

Improved water management

Enhanced regional integration, i.e. beyond water

Adoption of cooperative arrangements

- Adoption of joint plans and programmes
- Long-lasting and sustained cooperation
- Financial support for joint activities
- Stronger political will for transboundary water cooperation
- Better knowledge and understanding
- Dispute avoidance
- Stakeholder engagement

Please list other achievements, keys to achieving success, and/or provide 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]~~

3. Please **indicate which institutions were consulted during the completion of the questionnaire** ~~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]~~

- Joint body or mechanism
- Other riparian or aquifer countries
- National water management authority
- Environment agency/ authority
- Basin authority (national)
- Local or provincial government
- Geological survey (national)
- Non-water specific ministries, e.g. foreign affairs, finance, forestry and energy
- Civil society organizations
- Water user associations
- Private sector
- Other (please list): [fill in]

Please briefly describe the process by which the questionnaire was completed: [fill in]

4. If you have any other comments please add them here (*insert comments*): [fill in]

5. **Name and contact details of the person(s) who filled out the questionnaire (please insert): [fill in]**

Date: [fill in] Signature: [fill in]

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