

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

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# Overview of reporting process

- 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 May (Water Convention)/ June (6.5.2) 2017
- 3 yearly intervals for reporting



# Goal 6 Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all



**6.5 By 2030, implement integrated water resources management at all levels, including through transboundary cooperation as appropriate**

6.5.1 Degree of integrated water resources management implementation



6.5.2 Proportion of transboundary basin area with an operational arrangement for water cooperation



# Results from the reporting exercise under SDG indicator 6.5.2

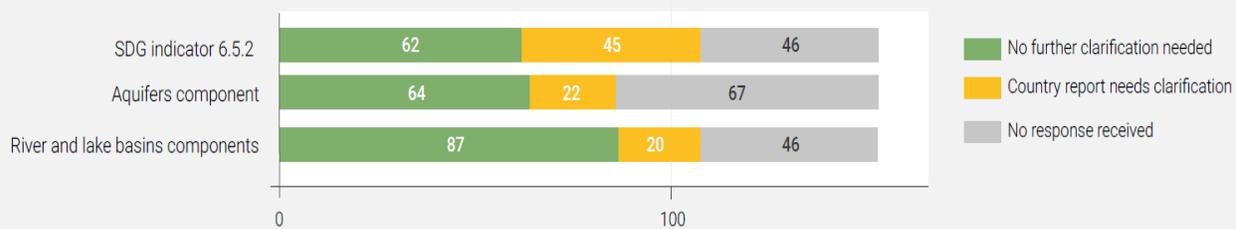
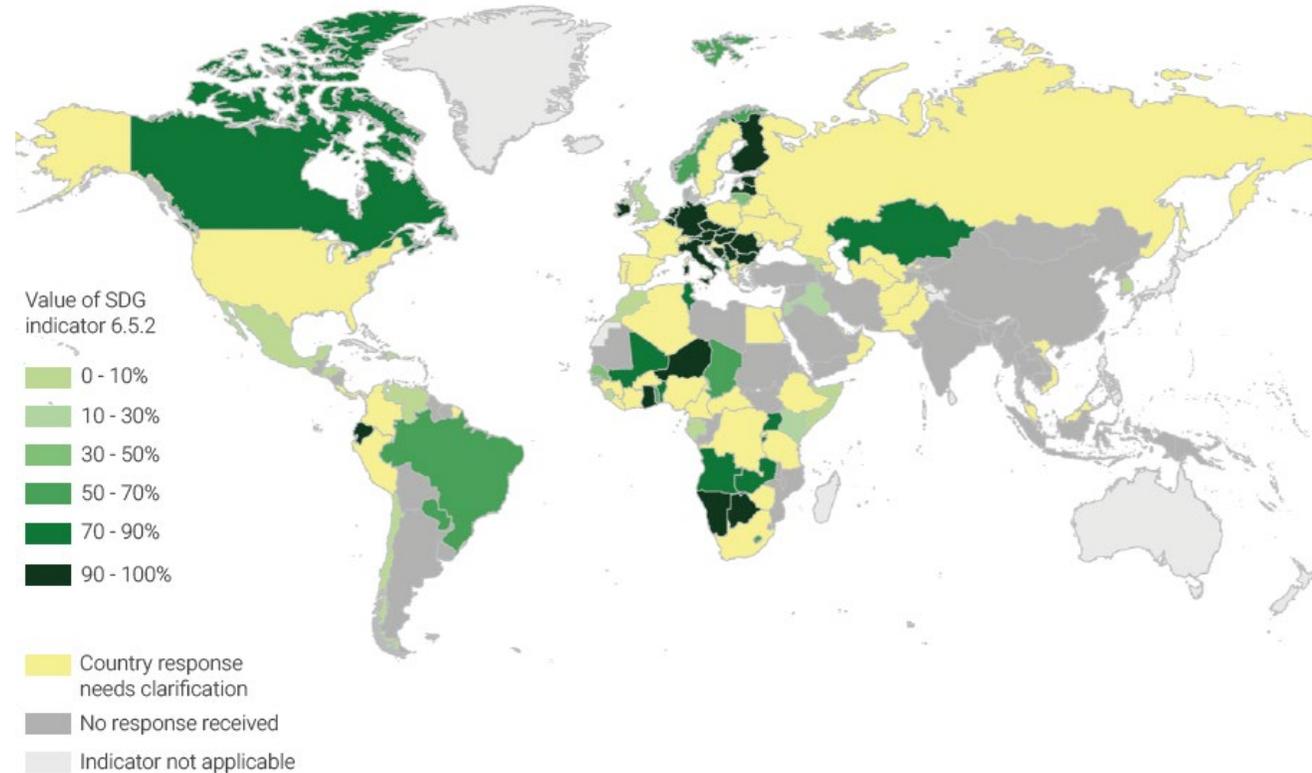


**107 country responses** by March 2018 (out of 153 countries sharing transboundary waters)

- 1<sup>st</sup> time countries submitted such information
- 70% of countries sharing transboundary waters responded
- Indicator 6.5.2 calculation available for 60% of the responses
- 95% of the Parties to Water Convention submitted a report

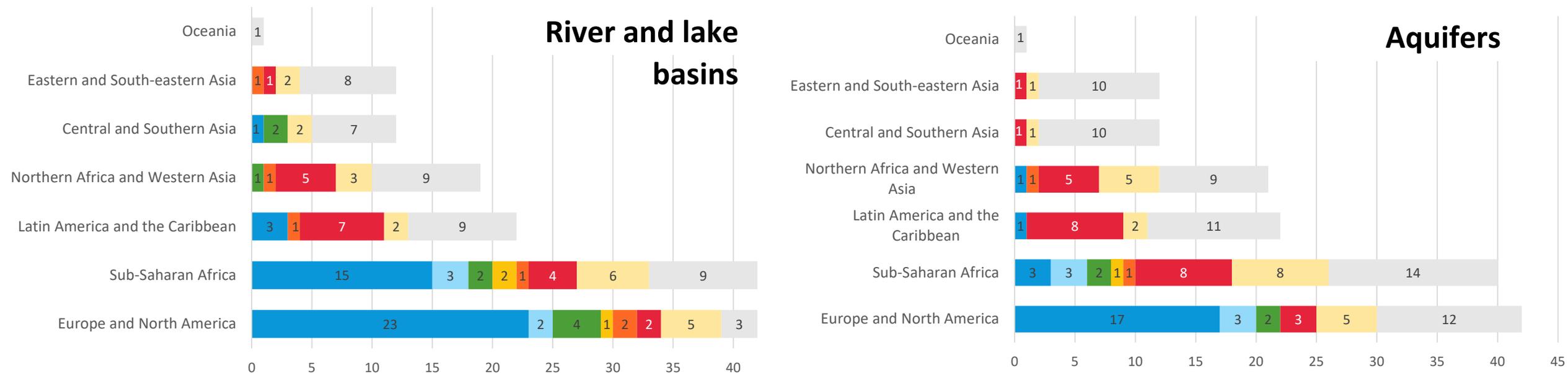
**59%** = average national percentage of transboundary basins covered by operational arrangement in 2017/2018 (62 out of 153 countries)

**Only 17 countries** with **all** transboundary

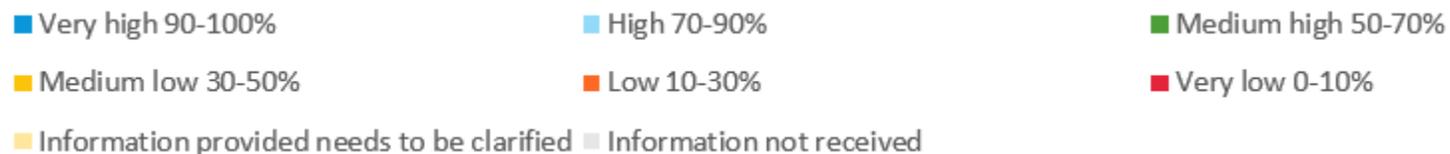


# Initial results of the first reporting on SDG 6.5.2

Regional breakdown of the number of countries sharing basins and level of transboundary water cooperation (based on SDG 6.5.2 indicator)

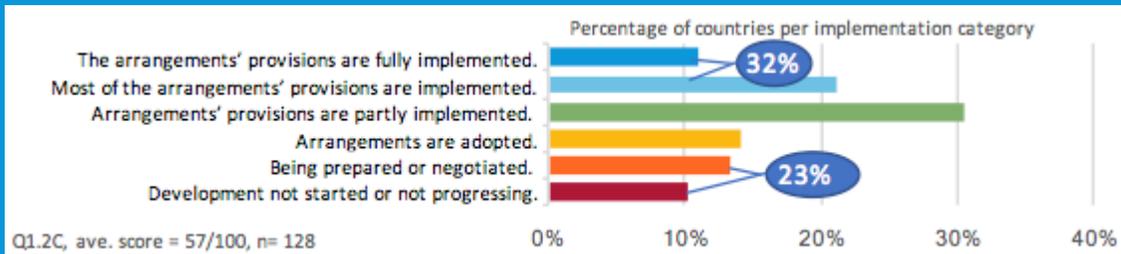


The average of the national percentage covered by an operational arrangement is 64% for transboundary rivers and lake basins and 48% for aquifers.

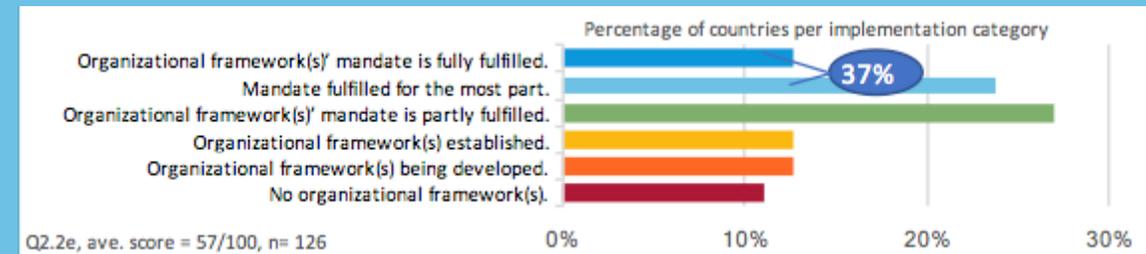


# Results through SDG indicator 6.5.1

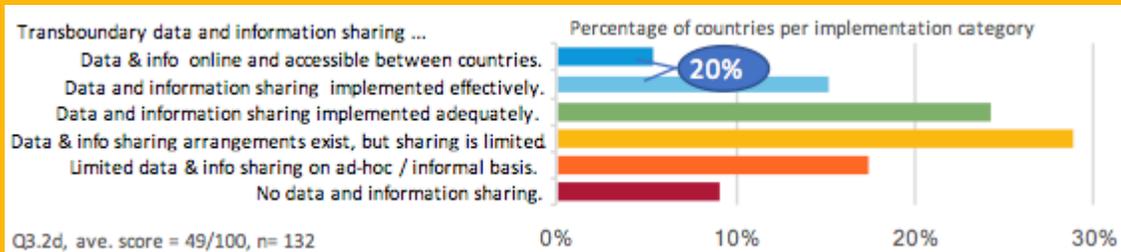
## Transboundary arrangements:



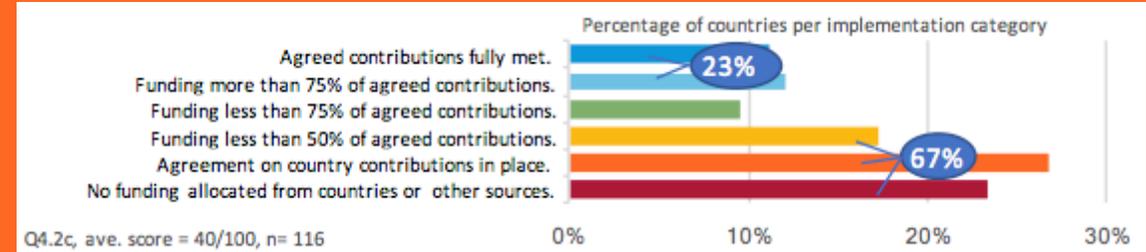
## Transboundary organisational frameworks:



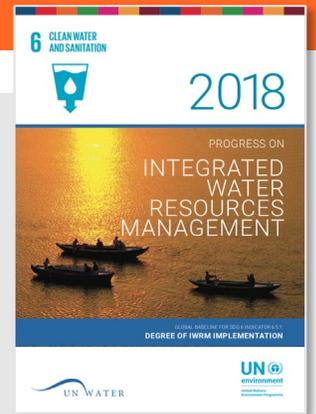
## Data and information sharing:



## Funding transboundary initiatives:

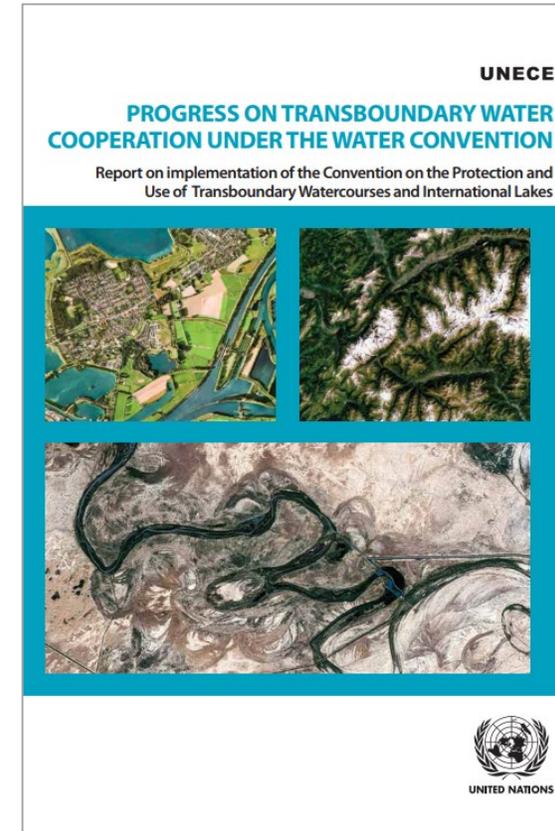


- Approximately one third of the **132 countries** that reported on the transboundary questions for 6.5.1, reported that they had most or all of their arrangements and organisational frameworks in place.
- While about half of responding countries thought that data and information sharing was non-existent to limited, the other half thought that data information sharing was satisfactory.
- Funding for transboundary work was found to be problematic, with about two thirds of countries reporting very limited or no funding.



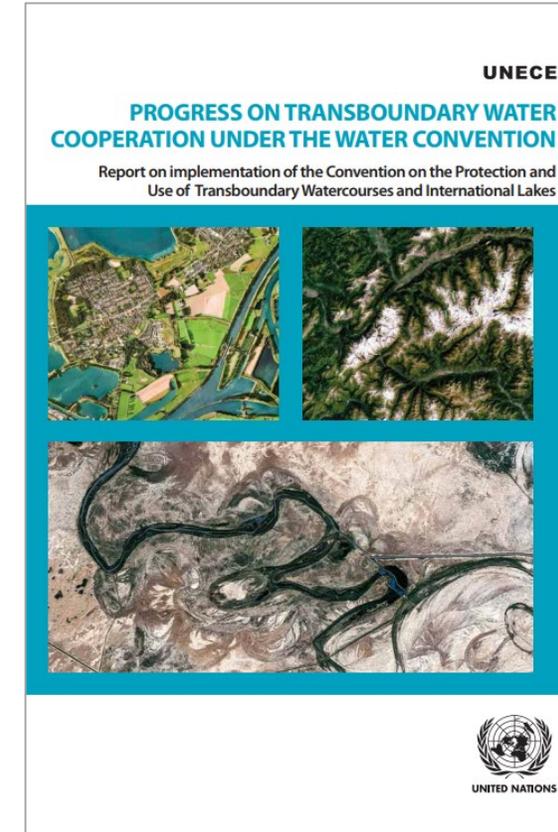
# Results from the first reporting exercise under the Water Convention – national level

- 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



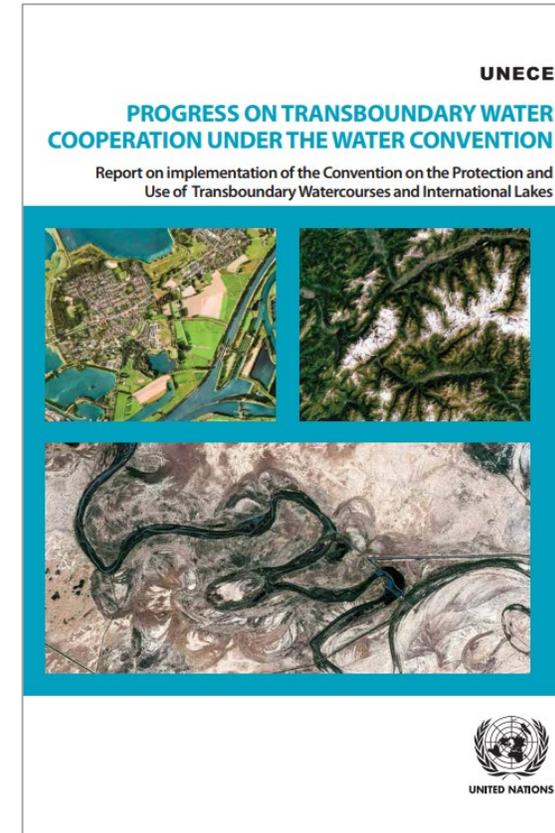
# Results from the first reporting exercise under the Water Convention – Arrangements (Art. 9(1))

- 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



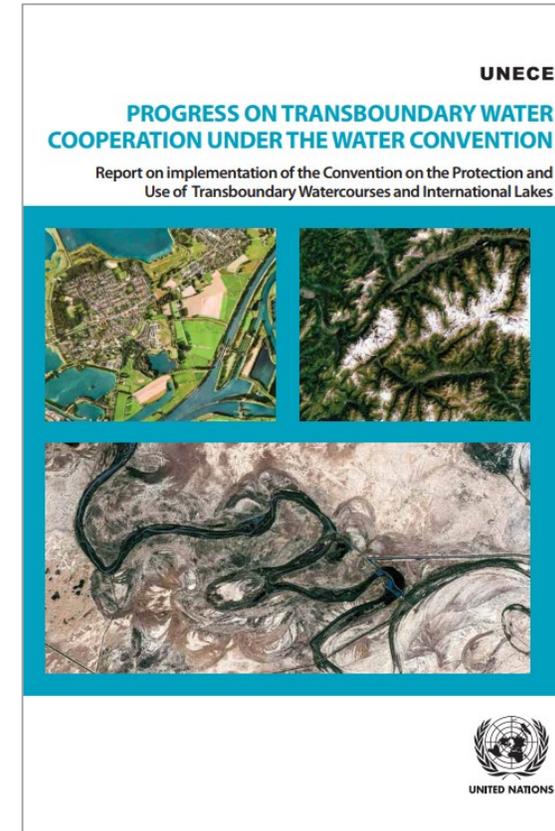
# Results from the first reporting exercise under the Water Convention – Joint bodies (Art 9(2))

- 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 1<sup>st</sup> 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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