

Session 3 - Objectives and scope of the Guide stemming from the experience of the first reporting exercise

First meeting of the drafting group on the guide to reporting under the water convention and as a contribution to SDG indicator 6.5.2

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Why reporting is important and what a guide offers?

- To review and enhance national implementation of the Convention as well as accession to it
- To enhance basin-specific cooperation, identify the specific needs of basins, and thereby supports the mobilization of resources, for example, for capacity-building and technical assistance
- To keep the public informed of measures taken
- To identify emerging issues and difficulties in the implementation of the Convention / transboundary water cooperation, and so inform the development of future programmes of work under the Convention
- To promote the accumulation and exchange of lessons learned, good practices and experience to enhance implementation of the Convention and progress on transboundary cooperation
- To increase political attention to transboundary water cooperation at the national level
- To foster the exchange of experience with other countries and, when templates are 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,

=> Guide should:

- Allow countries reap the benefits of reporting (e.g. more complete answers, clearer messages coming out from the reports)
- Improve consistency of reporting by creating a common understanding of how to report, including terminology => benefits at both basin and global levels
- Support those countries which have not reported in the first exercise to embark in the next reporting exercise

Objectives of the Guide to reporting under the Water Convention

- Provide guidance on how to organize the reporting process
 - Provide guidance on how to use the reporting to have an impact on implementation
 - Provide clarifications on how to fill in the template
 - Provide definitions of terms and the scope of the questions.
 - Provide examples giving practical illustrations on how to fill in the template.
- ⇒ Practical hands-on document for experts responsible for reporting:
- ⇒ Not too long (maximum 100 pages)
 - ⇒ Cannot explain basic issues related to IWRM and transboundary water cooperation but should focus on issues which could be misunderstood (references can be provided for further reading)
 - ⇒ Final format should enhance usability and reader-friendliness

Main structure of the Guide

- Introduction (2 pages)
- I. How to organise the reporting process (2 pages)
- II. How to make the most out of reporting to advance transboundary cooperation (2 pages)
- III. TEMPLATE FOR REPORTING UNDER THE CONVENTION (20 pages plus the text of the questionnaire; each explanatory text should be short and easy to understand)

=> Questions for discussion:

- Is the proposed outline OK? Proposal for revision?
- Any missing topic /content from the proposed outline?

Introduction

- Reporting context
- Aims and objectives of the guide
 - Building on comments and observations from pilot reporting
- Intended audience
- Process of developing the guide
- Rationale for layout/ format of the guide
- *Relationship with related materials, including step-by-step methodology for the calculation of SDG indicator 6.5.2 (separate discussion on this)*

=> Questions for discussion:

- Any missing main topic to be included in the introduction
- Any specific suggestion for messages / information to be contained in the introduction?

I. How to organise the reporting process

- Opportunities to engage with different stakeholders during the reporting exercise
 - Make reference to Section IV (question 3)
 - Benefits of engaging with other countries, basin organisations, and regional organisations (include text box examples)
- Support available from UNECE and UNESCO to enhance the reporting process, and respective roles of custodian agencies
- Ways in which to build upon previous reporting processes

=> Questions for discussion:

- Any missing main topic to be included in this section?
- Any specific suggestion for messages / information to be contained in this section?
- Any good practice / example to be included?

II. How to make the most out of reporting to advance transboundary cooperation

- How to use both process of reporting and results of reports

=> Questions for discussion:

- Any specific suggestion for messages / information to be contained in this section?
- Any good practice / example to be included?

Tips on completing the template

- Include some advice on completing the template based on experiences from the first reporting process.
- Advice might include:
 - Reports should tell a «meaningful story»: answers to be comprehensive but succinct
 - Check consistency between responses, e.g. transboundary waters listed in section I are also included in section II
 - Provide responses in a different colour font
 - Send the draft template to the Secretariat to review prior to formal submission
 - Attach maps of transboundary waters and the text of any agreements or other arrangements, or include references to relevant sources

=> Questions for discussion:

- Other general advice / tips?