

Workshop on Reporting under the Protocol on Water and Health
Geneva, 16-17 February 2010

Conclusions of the workshop

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General conclusions - 1

- All countries represented at the workshop informed that they will submit the reports to the secretariat by the end of March
- Reporting is straightforward when targets have been set, more difficult when there is an intersectoral coordination mechanism but no targets are adopted, and very difficult, if not impossible, when there is no cooperation
- Not just any information should be included: the report should be a picture of where the country is in the implementation of the Protocol.

General conclusions - 2

- Reporting is complex but useful and Parties should take advantage of the process in particular to review the targets they have established or to advance the setting of targets if this is not completed
- To be able to analyse the results and to address them within the programme of work of the Protocol on 2011-2013 it is crucial that Parties and other interested countries submit their report by 31 March 2010.
- Preparation of national report is a long exercise, many Parties seem to be late and should speed up their national process

General conclusions - 3

- Intersectoral cooperation continue to be one of the main challenges, also for reporting. At the same time reporting provides a trigger to strengthen intersectoral cooperation (one of the advantages)
- Reporting through an intersectoral coordination can in particular allow identifying needs that might have not been detected at the sectoral level and that can become the subject of a future target
- The same intersectoral coordination group/platform that is responsible for target setting should be also responsible for reporting

General conclusions - 4

- For some of the questions raised during the workshop (e.g. definitions), explanations are available in the template itself or in the guidelines for setting targets, evaluation of progress and reporting => countries should carefully study the guidelines developed under the Protocol
- Monitoring systems, data collection, analysis and storage are crucial for the implementation of the Protocol and for reporting and if gaps are identified in the reporting process these can become the subject of a future target

General conclusions - 5

- It is important the national reports respect the length limit of 50 pages
- When writing their reports, countries should think about the usefulness and readability of the information for other countries
- It is important to take stocks of lessons learned in the preparation of the report: both on the substance and on the process.
- Take stock also from reporting under other mechanisms

Reporting when targets have not been set

- Many Parties are late in setting their targets and this causes problems for reporting
- But it is important to report even if targets have not been formally adopted.
- In their report, countries which have not set targets tend to focus on the common indicators but this is not in line with the Protocol's principle
- In particular, reports can include information on the baseline analysis in each areas identified by article 6 together, if possible, with indications on the directions towards targets that are under discussion and might be set.

Common indicators

- The information provided under this section depends on what is available at the national level and how the data are measured:
 - ⇒ Baseline year can vary for the different indicators
 - ⇒ For access to water and sanitation it is not mandatory to use JMP definition, other methodologies to measure access can be used
 - ⇒ The description of the methodology used for the different indicators should be included, when it deviates from the methodology suggested in the template
 - ⇒ Important to provide information qualifying the data provided and putting them into context.
- Need to revise the indicators and questions for effectiveness of management of freshwater resources
- The reports received might point out to the need to clarify definitions of indicators to promote uniformity of subsequent reports, however this should be seen as a long term objective and should not prevent countries from reporting as the template allows to use national methodologies

Issues that could be addressed in the programme of work 2011-2013

- Facilitating intersectoral cooperation
- Public participation: how to involve the public in the setting of targets and in the reporting
- Under specific target areas:
 - 6, 2 (f) application and assessment of water safety plans
 - 6, 2 (c) and 6 2 (d) access to water and sanitation: common problem to promote access in rural, sparsely populated areas: some good practices / approaches to set targets to promote progress in this area.
 - Access to sanitation and performance of waste water systems
 - Specific contaminants (arsenic, nitrite)