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**UNITED NATIONS  
ECONOMIC  
COMMISSION FOR EUROPE**

**WORLD HEALTH  
ORGANIZATION  
REGIONAL OFFICE FOR EUROPE**

**Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol on Water and Health to the  
Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary  
Watercourses and International Lakes**

**Working Group on Water and Health  
Sixth meeting**

Geneva, 3 and 4 July 2013  
**Item 3 of the provisional agenda**

**INFORMATION PAPER 4**

**SUMMARY OF MAIN FINDINGS, CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE  
WORKSHOP ON REPORTING UNDER THE PROTOCOL ON WATER AND HEALTH  
(Geneva, 12-13 February 2013)**

**General comments**

1. For some of the questions raised during the workshop (e.g. definitions), explanations are available in the reporting template itself or in the Guidelines on target setting, evaluation of progress and reporting. Countries should carefully study the guidelines developed under the Protocol when preparing their national reports.
2. One of the main objectives of preparing a national report is to exchange experience. Thus, when writing their reports, countries should take into account the usefulness and readability of the information for other countries.
3. Most of the countries represented at the workshop, Parties and non Parties, informed that they plan to submit their national summary reports to the secretariat by 29 April 2013.
4. It is important for the national reports not to exceed the limit of 50 pages.

## **Main findings**

5. Intersectoral cooperation continues to be one of the main challenges, also for reporting. At the same time reporting provides a trigger to strengthen intersectoral cooperation.
6. The experience of the first pilot reporting exercise is very important and lessons learned from it will help better plan the report preparation process, the coordination among diverse ministries and stakeholders involved, and to improve the contents of the reports.
7. The same intersectoral coordination group/platform that is responsible for target setting and/or ratification/accession process should also be responsible for reporting based on the accumulated experience and communication arrangements.
8. Reporting is a complex but at the same time very useful mechanism 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 they were not adopted yet.
9. Preparation of the national report is a long exercise, in particular the collection of data from several sources and the approval by political authorities. Thus, efforts need to be done to properly plan and coordinate the process to speed up the overall completion of the report.
10. To be able to analyse the results and to address them within the programme of work of the Protocol for 2014-2016 it is crucial that Parties and other interested countries submit their reports on time by 29 April 2013.
11. Public participation in the reporting process was discussed in detail during the workshop. It was particularly mentioned that non-governmental organizations can serve as useful sources of data, especially on local level. Additionally, it was underlined that the non-governmental actors should be provided with sufficient time to provide their comments on the draft national reports, thus, encouraging countries to post their draft reports on-line as early as possible.
12. Countries should be critical and provide more analysis of the results instead of just listing information on the existing legislative and institutional arrangements: the report should present a picture of where the country stands in the implementation of the Protocol.
13. 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 a subject of a future target.
14. Countries should take stock of experience and lessons learned in the preparation of the report: both from the point of view of the substantial issues and with regard to the process of preparation.
15. Many other conventions and mechanisms foresee reporting obligations. Some of the difficulties encountered in the reporting under the Protocol might have been encountered and solved before

under some other framework, thus, at national level, it is important to learn from the experience of reporting under different mechanisms.

### **Reporting when targets have been / have not been set (Part III of the report)**

16. Reporting under the Protocol appeared more structured when targets have been set. However, even countries that have not yet adopted their targets, have also expressed their willingness to report based on national activities and programmes on water and health, overall implementation of the Protocol, and also on draft targets that are soon to be adopted.
17. Many Parties are late in setting their targets and this causes problems for reporting, however, it was generally considered important to report even if targets have not been set and formally adopted.
18. In their reports, countries which have not set targets tend to focus on the common indicators but this is not in line with the Protocol's principle, which is not intended to be a data gathering tool but a governance and management tool that fosters integration of sectoral policies and continuous progress.
19. Thus, for countries that have not set targets, it is also important that reports include information in Part three of the template. In particular reports can at least include information on the baseline analysis in each of the areas identified by article 6 together, if possible, with indications on the targets that are under discussion and might be set.

### **Common indicators (Part II of the report)**

20. The part two of the template for reporting (common indicators) was discussed at length and it was reiterated that information provided under this part depends on what is available at the national level and how the data are measured (the methodology used).
21. The template has been designed to allow countries to provide information also if the proposed indicator and methodology used to measure it are not the one used by the country. Thus, in particular:
  - ⇒ 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 different indicators should be included, when it deviates from the methodology suggested in the template
  - ⇒ It is always important to provide information that explains the data provided and allows putting it into context.
22. It was suggested to revise the data requested and the formulation of the question under section V on the effectiveness of management of freshwater resources.

23. 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 using national methodologies.

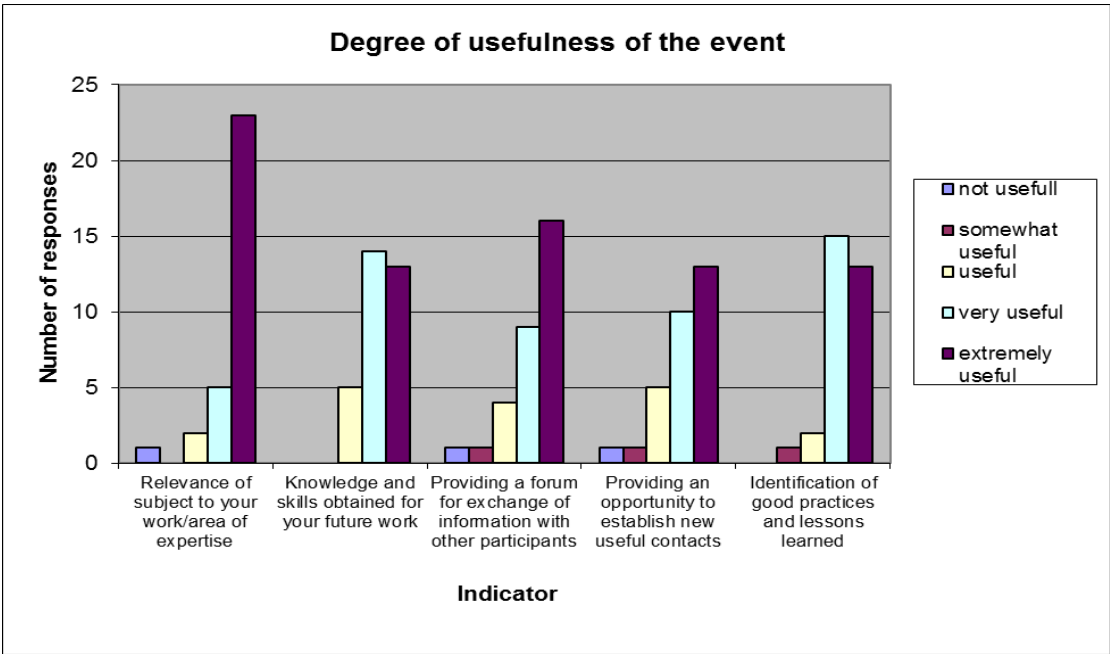
**Comments for the future reporting exercises (to the secretariat)**

- Explore the need to review and optimize the template, in particular Part IV
- Consider possibility of integrating the concept of "water safety plan" into the reporting template
- Provide information to countries on possibilities of obtaining international support for the "target setting process", as has been previously done under the umbrella of the Project Facilitation Mechanism.

**Annex: Evaluation of the workshop on reporting under the Protocol on Water and Health**

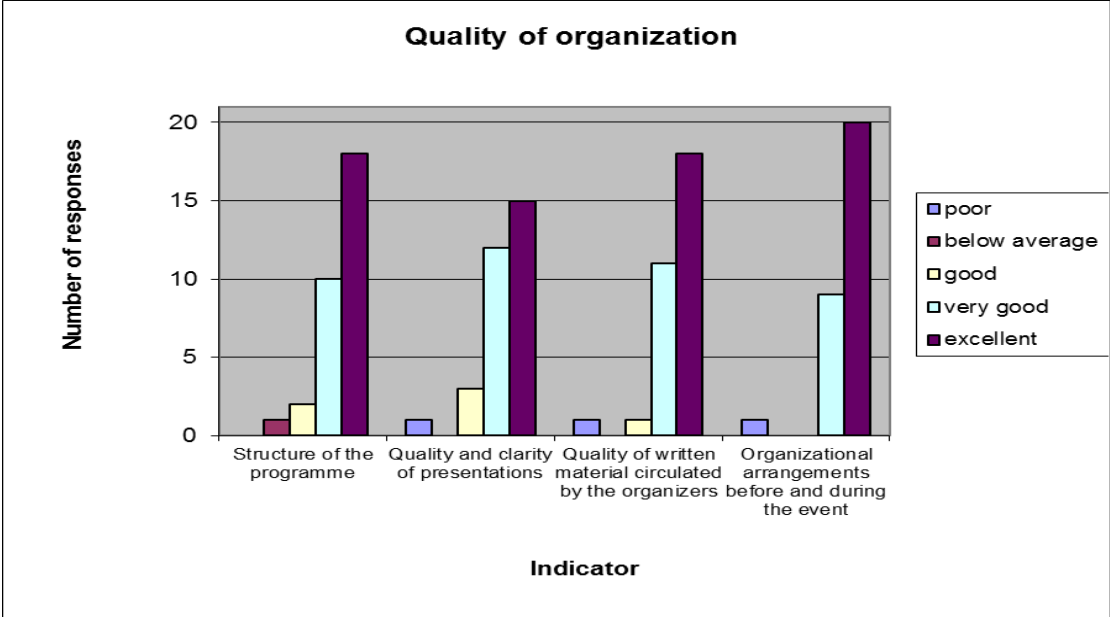
1. The workshop was evaluated by participants through an evaluation form. 31 evaluation forms were completed in total by representatives of 15 participating countries, 4 NGOs, the Compliance Committee members and 5 participants who preferred not to disclose their names. The following summarizes the findings of the analysis of these forms.

2. The evaluation of the degree of usefulness of the event is presented in Figure 1



**Figure 1. The degree of usefulness of the event**

3. The assessment of the event in terms of quality and organization is presented in Figure 2.



**Figure 2. The quality of the organization.**

4. The overall evaluation of the event was very positive. Participants appreciated the opportunity to exchange information and experience among countries on the implementation of the Protocol, reporting, problems encountered and achievements made, and aspects of public participation. Participants also appreciated a lively, relevant and active dialogue in break-out groups and professional atmosphere at the workshop. Moreover, the importance of the workshop on reporting was underlined as being useful for the future work under the Protocol. Participants also assessed positively the timely organization of the workshop vis-à-vis the deadline for reporting.

5. Participants were positively impressed by the following aspects of the workshop: a concrete and rich content of presentations, activities mentioned in them, visible and impressive progress of the Protocol on Water and Health in comparison to the previous workshop on reporting, presence of new Parties, good practices and lessons shared by countries, active inputs from all countries and participants. Participants noted the lack of participation from the Western European countries. Participants also expressed interest in receiving additional information on organizing a national process on target setting and the official adoption of targets, on the role of local authorities and on technical aspects of measures towards the implementation of targets.

6. Participants highly appreciated the knowledge obtained during the workshop, which they can transmit to their colleagues involved in the preparation of the national reports and use in their future work for facilitating dialogues with authorities, for reporting and for the overall implementation of the Protocol.

7. Participants recommended including the following aspects in future workshops:

- Provide more examples of high-quality reports under the Protocol
- Information on the links with the post-2015 development agenda and possible targets and indicators on water
- Dedicate more time to discussion on Part 4 of the reporting template - Overall assessment of progress made in the implementation of the Protocol
- Effectiveness and relevance of the indicators on reporting (including common indicators)
- More information on coordination and communication mechanisms for target setting and reporting
- Provide information on identifying and monitoring particularly contaminated sites
- Involvement of local authorities, communities and public
- How to better organize the next reporting cycle by conducting preliminary preparatory activities
- Provide concrete examples of practical data use, not only theoretical aspects
- More information on target setting and reporting on bathing waters
- International cooperation in setting targets and reporting

8. Participants also suggested:

- to post presentations from the workshop and national reports on the Protocol website
- to develop a publication on good practices on reporting
- to organize a follow-up workshop to study the shortcomings of the second reporting cycle
- to continue the practice of organizing workshops on reporting prior to future reporting cycles
- to better control / limit time (of interventions) in order to give the floor to every participant