



Item7. Outcomes of the technical meeting on the template for reporting on SDG indicator 6.5.2 and under the Water Convention

(Budapest, 16–17 January 2018)

Alistair Rieu-Clarke, UNECE & Aurélien Dumont, UNESCO

Joint session of the Working Group on IWRM and Working Group on Monitoring and Assessment

28 - 30 May 2018



Technical meeting on the template for reporting on SDG 6.5.2 and under the Water Convention

- Purpose of the meeting
 - Draw lessons from the first reporting exercise in order to improve the template for future reporting.
 - Revise and clarify
 - section of the template on reporting on indicator 6.5.2 and the relevant methodology
 - sections of the template for reporting under the Water Convention
 - Discuss how to enhance the reporting process
 - Discuss how to maximise the benefits of reporting
- Attended by 43 country representatives, the majority of which were non-Parties to the Water Convention



Guidance for discussions on the reporting process

- Feedback received from countries, custodian agencies and experts
 - Written responses from 15 countries
 - Discussions during 12th Meeting of Water Convention's Working Group on IWRM, July 2017
 - Feedback from Implementation Committee of Water Convention, May 2017
 - Discussions during the GEMI/UN-Water meeting on the Integrated Monitoring Initiative for SDG 6, November 2017
 - Reflections from Custodian Agencies (UNECE and UNESCO) and international experts



Overall considerations on reporting from the feedback received before and during the meeting

- Most countries expressed that:
 - Reporting is demanding but useful to identify good practices, improve coordination nationally and cooperation with riparians
 - Reporting increased visibility and awareness of the problems at national and transboundary levels
 - Continuity between reporting cycles is needed, and in this respect, making major changes were not desirable, and improving the clarity was preferable
 - Important to discuss outcome of reporting and needed responses => important framework offered by the Water Convention
- ⇒ In general, template proved robust to capture diverse practice of transboundary cooperation
- ⇒ 1st reporting cycle confirmed the soundness of the indicator



Main outcomes from the meeting (1)

- Proposed revisions to template for calculation of SDG indicator 6.5.2
 - Introduce additional columns in the tables compiling the information necessary for SDG 6.5.2 calculation, limited to the criteria not to create any confusion
- Proposed revisions to step-by-step methodology for SDG indicator 6.5.2
 - Have a clearer and more user-friendly document, not to make the document more complex, reduce the introductory part, include a glossary with clear and improved definitions
- Proposed revisions to template for reporting under the Water Convention
 - Avoid overlap and simplify questions rather than make any substantial changes to the template
 - Key changes were
 - the use of consistent terminology, e.g. 'agreement or arrangements' and 'joint body or mechanism'
 - the introduction of more 'tick box' answers, e.g. describing the main difficulties and challenges faced in implementing an agreement or arrangement (Sect. II, question 2(e)), and
 - Provide additional opportunities to explain answers, e.g. describe relevant laws and policy at the national level, rather than list them (Sect. III, question 1)



Main outcomes from the meeting (2)

- Suggestions to improve the next reporting process
 - Develop a guide to completing the template under the Water Convention / Sections II to IV of the 6.5.2 indicator reporting template
- Suggestions on how to make use of the reports to strengthen transboundary water cooperation and how to prepare for the next reporting cycle
 - Raised the importance of making the reports publicly available
 - Useful practice: riparian countries sharing draft reports during the reporting process
 - Importance of UNECE and UNESCO to carry-out capacity building initiatives on reporting during the lead up to the next reporting cycle



Thanks for listening!