



# 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

Geneva, Switzerland, 9-10 May 2019  
To be held at the Palais des Nations, room VIII, starting at 10am

## Provisional Agenda

The drafting group meeting will be chaired by *Mr. Seppo Rekolainen, Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, Finland*, and by *Mr. Callist Tindimugaya, Ministry of Water and Environment, Uganda*.

**Day 1**                      **Thursday, 9 May 2019**

**Session 1**                **Introduction**

10:00 – 10:30            Welcome and opening remarks  
*Mr. Péter Kovács, Vice-chair of the Bureau of the Water Convention, and Head of Department, Ministry of Interior, Hungary*

Introductory tour de table

Background, objectives and expectations of the drafting group meeting  
*Ms. Francesca Bernardini, Secretary to the Water Convention, UNECE*

**Session 2**                **Background and context to reporting**

*Objectives: Discuss the main result and lessons from the first reporting exercise and the process of reporting with the aim guiding the development of the Guide to reporting.*

10:30 – 11:30            Overview of the results of the first reporting exercise and lessons learned from the process

*Mr. Alistair Rieu-Clarke, University of Northumbria, UNECE consultant, and Mr. Aurélien Dumont, UNESCO IHP*

Roundtable discussion on lessons learned from the process which can guide the development of the Guide.

**Session 3**                **Objectives and scope of the Guide**

*Objectives: This session aims at establishing the objectives and scope of the Guide building from the rationale behind the decision to produce a Guide.*

11:30 – 13:00            Presentation by the Secretariat on the objectives and scope of the Guide stemming from the experience of the first reporting exercise.

The drafting group will discuss the purpose of the Guide, intended audience, the scope of guidance both for the reporting process, as well as on using the reporting process.

### **Relationship between reporting under the Water Convention and SDG6.5.2**

How to elaborate a Guide to reporting under the Water Convention that contributes to the reporting on SDG indicator 6.5.2

- Perspectives from a Party to the Water Convention  
*Mr. Ales Bizjak, Slovenian Water Agency, Slovenia*
  
- Perspectives from a non-Party to the Water Convention  
*Mr. Fernando Reategui Villegas, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Peru*

The drafting group will discuss synergies between the Guide to reporting under the Water Convention and SDG 6.5.2 reporting and what needs to be clarified in the Guidance to avoid misunderstanding between the two processes.

13:00 – 15:00

Lunch

### **Session 4**

#### **Guidance on approaching the reporting, especially related to basin / arrangement level reporting (Section II, questions 1 and 2 of the reporting template)**

*Objectives: Clarify and come to a common understanding on the needed guidance for approaching the reporting, with a special focus on how to present information on different agreements and basins in section II of the reporting template.*

15:00 – 16:30

The secretariat will present on the structure and approach to reporting, raising issues that call for general guidance.

Presentation and discussion on questions where a response may require an explicit or implicit interpretation of an arrangement, open questions, inconsistencies.

Presentations and plenary discussion on different ways to report on transboundary waters and arrangements.

Presentation by Hungary [sharing one basin with multiple countries and having adopted multiple agreements at basin and sub-basin levels].

*Mr. Péter Kovács, Vice-chair of the Bureau of the Water Convention, and Head of Department, Ministry of Interior, Hungary*

Presentation by Finland [sharing multiple basins with one country and having adopted one agreement].

*Mr. Seppo Rekolainen, Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, Finland*

Presentation by Botswana [sharing multiple basins with multiple countries and with multiple agreements at basin, sub-basin and bilateral levels]

*Mr. David Rax Molefha, Ministry of Land Management, Water and Sanitation Services, Botswana*

Presentation and discussion on the guidance needed for filling out Section II, questions 1 and 2 on agreements and arrangements.

## **Session 5**

### **Joint Bodies (Section II, question 3)**

*Objectives: Using the draft text in the Guide prepared for Section II, question 3 of the reporting template as an example, discuss content, style and presentation of this session and recommendations for other parts of the Guide.*

16:30 – 18:00

The secretariat will present a draft text on definitions (e.g. joint body, tasks and activities) and guidance to be included in the Guide for comment by the drafting group.

The drafting group will discuss the content, style and presentation of the information in the draft text, as an example for other sections of the Guide.

## **Day 2**

**Friday, 10 May 2019**

9:30 – 10:00

Day one recap: summary of the main conclusions from the first day that should guide discussions on the second one

## **Session 6**

### **Implementing arrangements (Section II, questions 4-8)**

*Objectives: Discuss questions 4 to 8 in Section II of the reporting template and agree on the guidance required.*

10:00 – 11:15

Presentation by the Secretariat on the different ways to report on joint objectives, strategy or plans (question 4) and short presentation by Bosnia and Herzegovina on challenges and lessons from filling the reporting template for this question.

*Mr. Bosko Kenjic, Ministry of Foreign Trade and Economic Relations, Bosnia and Herzegovina*

Discussion on the guidance needed for this question

Presentation by the Secretariat, and general discussion on what terms need to be defined on the protection of ecosystems (question 5).

Discussion on the guidance needed for this question

Presentation by the Secretariat on the question on regular exchange of data and information (question 6) and presentation by Côte d'Ivoire on challenges and lessons from filling the reporting template for this question.

*Mr. Martin Kouadio Kouassi, Ministry of Water and Forests, Côte d'Ivoire (TBC)*

Discussion on the guidance needed for this question

Presentation by Cameroon on challenges and lessons from filling out the template on joint monitoring and assessment (questions 7 and 8).

*Mr. Daniel Claude Wang Sonne, Ministry of Water Resources and Energy, Cameroon*

Discussion on the guidance needed for these questions.

## **Session 7**

### **Implementing arrangements (Section II, questions 9-13)**

*Objectives: Discuss questions 9 to 13 in Section II of the reporting template and agree on the guidance required.*

11:15 – 12:30

#### *Joint water quality standards (Question 9)*

Short presentation by the Secretariat on the replies to the question on joint water quality standards. General discussion on which terms should be defined in the Guide and what other guidance is needed.

#### *Accidental pollution (Question 10)*

Presentation by the secretariat on the replies to the question on accidental pollution establishing the rationale of the multiple-choice answers and the implicit understanding for a yes and a no. General discussion on which terms should be defined in the Guide and what other guidance is needed.

#### *Extreme weather events and climate change (Question 11)*

Short presentation by the Republic of Moldova on challenges and lessons from filling out the template on this question. General discussion on which terms should be defined in the Guide and what other guidance is needed.

*Mr. Andrian Delinschi, Integrated Water Resources Management Department, Republic of Moldova*

#### *Mutual assistance (Question 12)*

The secretariat will present a draft text for the Guide to reporting on mutual assistance in critical situations. General discussion on which terms should be defined in the Guide and what other guidance is needed.

*Stakeholder participation (Question 13)*

Short presentation by Vietnam on challenges and lessons from filling out the template on this question. General discussion on which terms should be defined in the Guide and what other guidance is needed.

*Ms. Thu Hang Ngo, Department of Water Resources Management, Vietnam (TBC)*

12:30 – 14:30

Lunch

**Session 8**

**Water management at the national level (Section III)**

14:30 – 16:15

*Objectives: Group discussion on guidance needed to fill in Section III of the template based on the outline prepared by the secretariat.*

Brief presentation by the secretariat on the Section III outline.

The drafting group will be divided in sub-groups that will review different parts of the outline and report back. The entire group will then have the opportunity to discuss the guidance of the following questions.

- **National laws and policies** Guidance on questions 1 (a) and (b)
- **Regulation of wastewater and pollution** Guidance on questions 1 (c) to 1 (h)
- **Environmental Impact Assessment** Guidance on question 2
- **Final questions (Section IV) – Main challenges and achievements in cooperating on transboundary waters and the process of reporting.** Challenges and benefits of cooperation (Guidance on questions 1 and 2) and reporting process (Guidance on questions 3-5).

16:15 – 17:00

Reporting back from groups and general discussions

**Session 9**

**Wrapping up and next steps**

17:00 – 17:30

Concluding remarks and agreement on next steps

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