

# Lessons learned from the first reporting process

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# Overview of the feedback process

- Decision VII/2, November 2015
  - requested IWRM Working Group, in consultation with others, to review template for reporting based on pilot reporting exercise
- July and October 2017 invitation to countries that had submitted a national reports to provide comments
  - Comments from parties and non-parties received in writing
  - Discussions at the 12th meeting of the IWRM working group (July 2017)
  - Also feedback from Implementation Committee, UNESCO and Secretariat
- Revised template developed by the Secretariat and UNESCO
  - Reviewed at Budapest Workshop (16-17 January 2018)
    - 50 participants (parties and non-parties)

# Feedback received

- **Value of template**

- Good opportunity to support national coordination, cooperation and data-sharing between national institutions
- Assess strengths and weakness existing national framework for transboundary waters, review agreements and arrangements, and assess implementation of Water Convention

- **Length of template**

- Took more time than expected but worth it
- Make use of the information collected in future reporting exercises
- Avoid overlap and simplify questions
- More opportunities to explain answers could be added

# Feedback received

- **Structure**

- Countries had difficulties in completing section II
- Must accommodate diverse range of governance contexts
  - Bilateral agreements and/ or basin and/or sub-basin agreements
  - Number of transboundary basins shared by countries

- **Presentation and style**

- Avoid overlap in questions
- Some questions are too general or vague
- Inconsistencies
  - related questions answered differently
  - Different responses between countries sharing the same basin

# Feedback resulted in decision to revise reporting template

- Include consistent terminology
  - Transboundary basin (river and lake basin, or aquifer)
  - Agreements or arrangements
  - Joint body or mechanism
- More tick box questions
  - Speed up completion time
  - Based on response from 1<sup>st</sup> exercise
- Additional opportunities to explain answers
- Clarify certain questions

... and develop a guide to reporting

# Lessons learned for the Guide

- **Provide guidance to support reporting approach**
  - Support countries when they determine how to report their basins and arrangements
- **Provide guidance to address inconsistencies and differing interpretations of key terms**
  - Clear definitions of key terminology, such as ‘agreement’, or ‘joint body’
- **Provide guidance on how to provide ‘better’ answers**
  - Offer an explanation of the rationale behind certain questions
  - Offer support on scope of a particular question
  - Draw from experiences of first reporting round

# Questions?

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