

# Session 7 - Implementing arrangements (Section II, questions 9-13)

## Question 9 on Joint water quality standards

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  
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9. Have the riparian States agreed to use joint water quality standards?

Yes /No

If yes, what standards have been applied, e.g. international or regional standards (please specify which), or have national standards of the riparian States been applied?: [fill in]

### **Suggestions to be included in the Guide**

1. Definition/scope

- Explain what is meant by ‘joint water quality standards’.
- Provide examples of international and regional standards that have been adopted.

- **Convention text:** Article 3(3) requires that “each Party shall define, where appropriate, water quality objectives and adopt water-quality criteria for the purpose of preventing, controlling and reducing transboundary impact.”
- Article 9(2)(e) goes further by calling on the joint bodies “to elaborate joint water quality objectives and criteria [...] and, where necessary, propose relevant measures for maintaining and, where necessary, improving the existing water quality.”

### ⇒ Issues addressed with the reformulation of the question

⇒ Clearly asking what standards are being applied

⇒ And asking for the type of standards (international, regional, national)

### • Examples of joint water quality standards used or applied:

- Responses to this question suggest that standards were mainly national and, where applicable, derived from European Union legislation.

# Guidance on elements that could be included in the answer to the open question

- Nature / Origin of the standards
- Content / scope of the standards (in particular for those based on national standards)
- How and when they were agreed
- Timeframe for implementation
- ....

Questions?