Item 9. Reporting on
SDG indicator 6.5.2 and under the Water Convention

Proposal for a future on-line reporting system

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3rd joint meeting of the Working Group on IWRM and Working Group
on Monitoring and Assessment (26-28 April 2021)

Online reporting system - Background and rationale

- So far, 2 reporting exercises in 2017 and 2020
  - Reports received in word/pdf formats
  - Analysis and database: manual review and data entry
    => delays in the processing of data and increasing the risk of human errors

- Countries requested to develop an online reporting system
- Included in the workplan

- The online system should
  - Improve reliability of the data reported by countries
  - Facilitate the comparison, synthesis and analysis of the responses

Online reporting system – Preliminary research

- Consulted with UN agencies, multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs) and experts
  - to learn from their experience
  - understand existing online systems and requirements, as well as to learn from their challenges, lessons learned and recommendations and establish the list of criteria

- Importance of establishing an online reporting system
  - tailored for countries to easily input their data and
  - allowing for straightforward data extraction for subsequent analysis

- Initial evaluation
  - use an existing and well-established system
  - countries able to capitalize on past experience with such system

System requirements and preferred characteristics

- Technical requirements
  - data entry by country representatives
  - delegation function
  - support for all question types in the report
  - possibility to submit draft reports
  - automatic answer checks and controls
  - interface availability in 4 reporting languages
  - reference to guidance documents
  - possibility to extract data in most-commonly used formats
  - guarantee that future iterations of the system will be compatible with its older versions

- Organisational requirements
  - reliability and reputation of the organisation/software developer
  - assistance with the adaptation of the template to online format
  - ongoing support to countries and the UNECE/UNESCO after the initial system set-up
  - readiness to implement changes, when the need arises

- Additional criteria/desirable characteristics:
  - possibility for UNECE/UNESCO to provide comments and suggestions for countries directly in the system
  - overview of the status of the responses received
  - possibility for countries to choose basins and agreements from indicative lists compiled by UNECE/UNESCO
  - data analysis and visualisation tools provided by the developer, e.g., via an API (application program interface)
  - compatibility with UN-Water SDG 6 data portal

- Implications of an online system
  - Template may need to be adjusted to requirement of the online format. The content of the template will not be changed.

Proposed next steps

- Address and integrate comments and suggestions received into the requirements

- 2nd quarter 2021: UNECE & UNESCO to consult with UN-Water

- Present a concept note for an online reporting system at MOP9 (29 Sep – 1 Oct 2021)

- 2nd half 2021/early 2022: selection of the organisation/software developer

- 1st half 2022: UNECE & UNESCO to work with the software developer to facilitate setting up of the online reporting system

- 2nd half 2022: UNECE & UNESCO to organize a test-run of the system with the software developer and a core group of volunteer countries

- 2023: 3rd reporting exercise using the online reporting system

- 2024-2025: Evaluation of the online reporting system based on the 3rd reporting exercise's experience

Thanks for listening!