



9th session of the
**MEETING OF THE PARTIES
TO THE WATER CONVENTION**
29 September – 1 October 2021 Geneva & Hybrid



Draft decision on reporting

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1. Rationale and mandate



- Reports received in Word/PDF format in 2017 and 2020 – drawbacks:
 - Manual data entry and review increase the risk of human error and delay the processing of data. Online reporting system will facilitate the comparison, synthesis, and analysis of the responses and ensure the reliability of submitted data.
- By decision VIII/3, MOP8 of the Convention requested the secretariat:
 - To develop a proposal for an online reporting system
 - Invited UNESCO to cooperate on the process
- UNECE undertook research on the existing options and considerations:
 - Results presented in a note (ECE/MP.WAT/WG.1/2021/INF.7) at the third joint meeting of the Working Group on IWRM and the Working Group on Monitoring and Assessment (Geneva, 26–28 April 2021).



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2. Indicative requirements and characteristics of the system, and expected changes



Technical


- ✓ data entry by countries
- ✓ delegation function
- ✓ all relevant question types supported
- ✓ draft version submission possible
- ✓ automatic answer checks and controls
- ✓ interface availability in all reporting languages
- ✓ in-built references to guidance documents
- ✓ possibility to extract data in commonly used formats
- ✓ guaranteed compatibility of future system updates with its older versions

Organisational

- ✓ reliability and experience of the software developer
- ✓ assistance with the adaptation of the template to online format
- ✓ ongoing support to countries and the UNECE/UNESCO after the set-up
- ✓ readiness to implement changes, when the need arises

Desirable

- ✓ possibility for UNECE/UNESCO to provide comments and suggestions for countries directly in the system
- ✓ monitoring of the reporting progress by UNECE/UNESCO
- ✓ 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

 Slight adjustments to the current reporting template are needed – **no** major changes in the content of the template



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3. Draft decision - elements



The Meeting of the Parties to the Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes:

...

6. *Reiterates* the need to set up an online reporting system for future reporting exercises under the Convention and on indicator 6.5.2 of the Sustainable Development Goals in order to facilitate the filling of the template by countries, and data verification and analysis by the co-custodian agencies;
7. *Takes note* of the indicative requirements and characteristics for the future online reporting system as contained in the annex to the present decision;
8. *Requests* the secretariat, in cooperation with UNESCO, to introduce the online reporting system, to the extent possible, by the third reporting exercise, taking into account the indicative requirements;
9. *Entrusts* the secretariat, in consultation with the Bureau, with the task of adjusting the reporting template as needed to respond to the functionalities of the online reporting;

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4. Next steps

2021 - early 2022	Selection of the organisation/software developer
First half of 2022	UNECE & UNESCO to work with the software developer to set up the online reporting system
Second half 2022	UNECE & UNESCO to organize a test-run of the system with the software developer and a core group of volunteer countries
2023	Third reporting exercise using the online reporting system
2024-2025	Evaluation of the online reporting system based on the experience during the third reporting round



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Thank you!



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For more information: https://unece.org/environmental-policy/water/transboundary_water_cooperation_reporting



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