
Economic Commission for Europe

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

Second draft of the template for a possible reporting mechanism under the UNECE Water Convention

For consideration by the Parties and the Core Group on Reporting

Background

At its sixth session (Rome, 28–30 November 2012), the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes (Water Convention) mandated the Working Group on Integrated Water Resources Management, in consultation with the Implementation Committee, to carry out an analysis on the needs for reporting under the Convention. The Working Group was to take into account the capacity of countries and other relevant reporting mechanisms. Such an analysis was to serve as the basis for the possible elaboration of the scope and modalities of a reporting mechanism to be submitted for consideration and possible adoption by the Meeting of the Parties at its seventh session in November 2015. A questionnaire was sent to all focal points in autumn 2013 and results were summarized in document *Draft analysis on the needs for reporting under the Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes (ECE/MP.WAT/WG.1/2014/3)*.

At its ninth meeting on 25–26 June 2014, the Working Group reviewed the questionnaire results and decided to establish a Core Group that would develop a proposal for a mechanism for reporting, for consideration at its tenth meeting on 24–25 June 2015 and possible adoption by the Meeting of the Parties. Such a reporting mechanism should be simple, smart and based on, to the extent possible, already existing reporting requirements under European Union (EU) directives and other relevant multilateral environmental agreements. All focal points were invited to nominate members for the core group.

The Core Group held its first meeting in Geneva on 15–16 December 2014. A draft template for reporting under the Water Convention was developed based on the discussions at the first meeting and sent to the Core Group members and the Bureau for comments. The comments received were integrated as much as possible in the present version.

Parties and Non-Parties are invited to comment on this second version of the draft template for reporting. Comments should be sent by 29 March to: Sonja.Koeppel@unece.org. Based on these comments, a revised version is to be discussed and subsequently submitted by the Core Group to the Working Group at its tenth meeting. The Meeting of the Parties in November will then take a decision on how to proceed.

Purposes of the reporting (*to be included in decision*):

- (a) Provide data and information on the implementation of provisions of the Convention;
- (b) Accumulate lessons, good practices and experiences to enhance implementation of the Convention;

- (c) Identify emerging issues and difficulties in the implementation of the Convention and so inform the future programme of work under the Convention and provide information to the Implementation Committee, among other things;
- (d) Provide a means to enhance basin-specific cooperation and respond to the specific characteristics of each basin;
- (e) Support national implementation of the Convention;
- (f) Provide information to support the mobilization of resources for capacity-development and technical assistance activities.

Section I.
Transboundary water management at the national level

In this first section, you are requested to provide general information on transboundary water management at the national level. Information on management of specific transboundary waters/ basins should be presented in section II and not repeated here.

<p>1. (a) How is transboundary water management reflected in your national legislation (art. 2 of the Convention)?</p> <p>(b) Please describe your main national laws, policies action plans and strategies to sustainably manage and use transboundary waters, improve their status and prevent, control and reduce transboundary impacts on both surface waters and groundwater.</p>										
<p>(c) Does your country have a national licensing or permitting system for wastewater discharges/ point source pollution (art. 3.1 b)? (e.g., in industry, mining, energy, municipal, wastewater management, other sectors)</p> <p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/>/ No <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p><i>If yes, for which sectors?</i></p> <p>- <i>If not, please explain why not (giving the most important reasons) or provide information if there are plans to introduce a licensing or permitting system.</i></p> <p><i>If you have a licensing system does the system provide for setting emission limits based on best available technology?</i></p> <p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/>/ No <input type="checkbox"/></p>										
<p>(d) Are the authorized discharges monitored and controlled (art 3.1(c))?</p> <p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/>/ No <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p><i>If yes, how?</i></p> <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="padding-left: 20px;">Monitoring of discharges</td> <td style="text-align: right;"><input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding-left: 20px;">Monitoring of impacts on water</td> <td style="text-align: right;"><input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding-left: 20px;">Conditions on permits</td> <td style="text-align: right;"><input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding-left: 20px;">Inspectorate</td> <td style="text-align: right;"><input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding-left: 20px;">Others: _____</td> <td></td> </tr> </table>	Monitoring of discharges	<input type="checkbox"/>	Monitoring of impacts on water	<input type="checkbox"/>	Conditions on permits	<input type="checkbox"/>	Inspectorate	<input type="checkbox"/>	Others: _____	
Monitoring of discharges	<input type="checkbox"/>									
Monitoring of impacts on water	<input type="checkbox"/>									
Conditions on permits	<input type="checkbox"/>									
Inspectorate	<input type="checkbox"/>									
Others: _____										

Monitored parameters _____

If you do not have a discharge monitoring system, please explain why not or provide information if there are plans to introduce a discharge monitoring system.

(e) What are the main legislative, economic and technical measures which your country takes to reduce diffuse sources of water pollution on transboundary waters (art. 3.1)? (e.g. from agriculture or transport)

- **Legislative measures**

Norm for uses of fertilizers

Norms for uses of manure

Bans or norms for use of pesticides

Others

- **Economic measures**

Monetary incentives

Environmental support systems

Environmental taxes (such as fertilizer taxes)

Others

- **Advisory programmes for farmers**

- **Technical measures**

- **Source control measures**

Crop rotation

Tillage control

Winter cover crops

Others

- **'End of pipe' measures**

Buffer/filter strips

Wetland reconstruction

Sedimentation traps

Chemical measures

Others

(f) Does your country take into account ecological aspects in legislation on transboundary waters, including the application of the ecosystems approach (art 3.1 (i) and 2.1 (d))? If yes how?

(g) Which additional specific measures does your country implement to prevent the pollution of groundwaters (art 3.1(k))?

<p>2. Do you have a regulatory system regulating transboundary water abstraction and allocation?</p> <p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/>/ No <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Are abstractions monitored and controlled?</p> <p><i>If yes, how and how efficiently?</i></p> <p><i>If no, please explain briefly why not?</i></p>
<p>3. Does your national legislation require transboundary environmental impact assessment (EIA)?</p> <p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/>/ No <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Does your country have procedures for transboundary EIA?</p> <p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/>/ No <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p><i>If yes, please make reference to the legislative basis.</i></p> <p><i>If your country is a Party to the Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context, you may refer to your country's report under that Convention.</i></p>
<p>4. Does your country have transboundary agreements, whether bilateral, multilateral or basin level?</p> <p>(a) List bilateral agreements (name the countries concerned)</p> <p>(b) List basin agreements (name the basins concerned)</p> <p>(c) Please also list your country's transboundary basins and aquifers. If you are listing only a subset of all such basins, for example because there are numerous smaller basins of limited importance, please also state the criteria for selecting which basins and aquifers to list here.</p>

Section II.

**Questions for each transboundary water: river, lake, aquifer basin/
sub-basin or aquifer**

You are kindly requested to complete this second section for each transboundary basin/ sub-basin or aquifer. In some instances, you may provide information on both a basin and one of its sub-basins, for example where you have agreements¹ on both the basin and its sub-basin. You may coordinate your responses with other States with which you share the basin or aquifer or even prepare a joint report for shared basins. General information on transboundary water management at the national level should be provided in section I and not repeated here.

¹ In section II, "agreement" covers all kinds of treaties, conventions and agreements ensuring cooperation in the field of transboundary waters.

If you have bilateral agreements with neighbouring countries, possibly covering multiple basins, please fill in section II for each such agreement. In addition, if possible please also complete information on the individual basins covered by the agreement, as conditions in the individual basins may differ significantly.

1. Please name the transboundary basin, river, lake or aquifer and list the riparian States.
<p>2. (a) Does your country/ the basin have one or more transboundary (bilateral or multilateral) agreements on this basin (art. 9)?</p> <p>One or more agreements exist and are in force <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Agreement developed but not signed <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Agreement developed, signed but not ratified by all countries <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>No agreement <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p><i>If there is no agreement or it is not in force, please explain briefly why not and provide information on any plans to address the situation.</i></p>
<p>(b) If there is an agreement (bilateral or multilateral), does it specify the catchment area subject to cooperation?</p> <p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/>/ No <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>If yes does it cover the entire basin and all riparian States?</p> <p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/>/ No <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Which States (including your own) have ratified the agreement?</p>
<p>(c) Are connected aquifers (or groundwater bodies) covered by the agreement?</p> <p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/>/ No <input type="checkbox"/></p>
<p>(d) What is the sectoral scope of the agreement?</p> <p>All water uses <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Several water uses or sectors (please list below) <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>A single use or a specific project (please specify below) <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p><i>List of water uses or sectors:</i></p> <p>Industry <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Agriculture <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Transport (navigation,...) <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Urban development <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Energy: hydropower and other energy types <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Tourism <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Nature protection <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Other <input type="checkbox"/></p>

(e)	What topics/ subjects of cooperation are included in the agreement (art. 9)?	
	Joint vision and management objectives	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Joint significant water management issues	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Environmental protection (ecosystem)	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Conflict prevention and resolution	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Institutional cooperation (joint bodies)	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Water quality	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Water quantity or allocation	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Cooperation in addressing floods	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Cooperation in addressing droughts	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Climate change adaptation	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Joint assessments	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Data collection and exchange	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Joint monitoring	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Maintenance of joint pollution inventories	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Elaboration of joint water quality objectives	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Common early-warning and alarm procedures	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Exchange of experience between riparian States	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Exchange of information on planned measures	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Consultation on planned measures	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Development of international or joint river basin management or action plans	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Management of shared infrastructure	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Development of shared infrastructure	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Navigation	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Mutual assistance	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Other _____	<input type="checkbox"/>
(f) Does the basin have a procedure in place for mutual assistance in case of an emergency (art.15)? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> / No <input type="checkbox"/>		
(g) Please attach a copy of the agreement(s) or provide the web address of the document.		

3.	Is there an operational joint body/ joint bodies for this basin (art. 9)? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> / No <input type="checkbox"/>
(a)	If yes, which kind of joint body (<i>please tick one</i>)? Plenipotentiaries <input type="checkbox"/> Basin or similar commission <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ <input type="checkbox"/>
(b)	Does the joint body have any of the following features (<i>please tick the ones applicable</i>)? A secretariat <input type="checkbox"/> If the secretariat is a permanent one, is it a joint secretariat or does each country hosts its own secretariat (please describe). _____ A subsidiary body or bodies <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Please list (e.g. working groups on specific topics)</i> _____ Other _____ <input type="checkbox"/>
(c)	Which are the tasks of this joint body (art. 9.2)? ² Identification of pollution sources <input type="checkbox"/> Data collection and exchange <input type="checkbox"/> Joint monitoring <input type="checkbox"/> Maintenance of joint pollution inventories <input type="checkbox"/> Setting emission limits <input type="checkbox"/> Elaboration of joint water quality objectives <input type="checkbox"/> Common early-warning and alarm procedures <input type="checkbox"/> Water allocation (flow regulation) <input type="checkbox"/> Policy development <input type="checkbox"/> Control of implementation <input type="checkbox"/> Exchange of experience between riparian States <input type="checkbox"/> Exchange of information on existing and planned uses of water and related installations <input type="checkbox"/> Settling of differences and conflicts <input type="checkbox"/>

² This may include tasks according to the agreement or tasks added by the River basin commission. Often joint bodies coordinate, rather than taking measures in practical terms.

<p>Consultations on planned measures <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Exchange of information on best available technology <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Participation in EIA <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Training <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Development of river basin management or action plans <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Management of shared infrastructure <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Addressing hydromorphological alterations <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Climate change adaptation <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Joint communication strategy <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Basin-wide or joint public participation and consultation of, for example, basin management plans <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Joint resources to support transboundary cooperation <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Training <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Any other tasks: _____ <input type="checkbox"/></p>
<p>(d) Does the basin have any action plan or strategy specifically to improve the status of the transboundary basin or aquifer? (art. 9.2(f))</p> <p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/>/ No <input type="checkbox"/></p>
<p>(e) Which are the main difficulties and challenges that your country faces in implementing the agreement and with the operation of the joint body?</p> <p>Governance issues <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Unexpected planning delays <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Lack of finance <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Lack of mechanism for implementing measures <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Lack of effective measures <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Unexpected extreme events <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Other: _____ <input type="checkbox"/></p>
<p>(f) Which achievements did you reach and what were the lessons learned?</p>
<p>(g) If not all riparian States are members of the joint body how does the body cooperate with them?</p> <p>No cooperation <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>They have observer status <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Other: _____</p>
<p>(h) What difficulties exist for those riparian States not members of the joint body?</p>

<p>(i) Did the joint body ever invite a coastal State to cooperate (art. 9.3 and 9.4)?</p> <p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/>/ No <input type="checkbox"/></p>
<p>4. How is the transboundary basin protected and how is sustainable and rational water use ensured, including the protection of ecosystems (<i>e.g. through afforestation, restoration of ecosystems, maintenance of minimum available flow</i>)?</p>
<p>5. (a) Does your country exchange information and data with other riparian States in the basin (art.13)?</p> <p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/>/ No <input type="checkbox"/></p>
<p>(b) If yes, on what subjects are information and data exchanged?</p> <p>Point-source pollution sources <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Diffuse pollution sources <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Environmental conditions <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Hydro-morphological alterations (dams, etc.) <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Discharges <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Infrastructure development <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Emission monitoring data (art. 13.1 (c)) <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Research activities and application of best available techniques (art. 5, 12 and 13.1(b)) <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Planned measures taken to prevent, control or reduce transboundary impacts <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Other <input type="checkbox"/></p>
<p>(c) Is there a shared database or information platform?</p> <p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/>/ No <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>(d) If yes, and if the database or platform is public, please provide the web address:</p>
<p>(e) Which are the main difficulties and challenges with data exchange?</p>
<p>(f) Which are the main achievements with data exchange?</p>
<p>6. Do the riparian States carry out joint monitoring in the transboundary basin (art. 11.1)?</p> <p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/>/ No <input type="checkbox"/></p>
<p>(a) What does the joint monitoring cover?</p> <p>Border surface waters <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Surface waters in the entire basin <input type="checkbox"/></p>

Surface waters on the main watercourse	<input type="checkbox"/>
Connected transboundary aquifers (or groundwaters)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Aquifers not connected to surface waters (confined)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Infrastructure development	<input type="checkbox"/>
(b) If joint monitoring is carried out, how is this done?	
Monitoring stations connected through a network or common stations	<input type="checkbox"/>
Joint and agreed upon methodology	<input type="checkbox"/>
Joint sampling	<input type="checkbox"/>
Common monitoring network	<input type="checkbox"/>
Common agreed upon substances	<input type="checkbox"/>
(c) Please describe the main achievements regarding joint monitoring.	
(d) Please describe any difficulties experienced with joint monitoring? <i>(maximum 200 words)</i>	
7. Do the riparian States carry out joint assessment of the transboundary river or lake basin or aquifer (art. 11)? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> / No <input type="checkbox"/> <i>If yes, please provide more details on the date of the last or only assessment, the frequency and scope (e.g. surface waters or groundwaters only, pollution sources etc.) of the assessment</i> Have the cooperating countries developed and agreed on joint methodologies and approaches? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> / No <input type="checkbox"/>	
8. Have the riparian States agreed to use joint water quality standards? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> / No <input type="checkbox"/> <i>If yes, is the basis an international or regional standard (please specify which) or has it been adapted from the national standards of the riparian States? _____</i>	
9. What are the measures implemented to prevent or limit the impact of accidental pollution (art. 14)?	
Notification and communication	<input type="checkbox"/>
Coordinated/joint alarm system for accidental water pollution	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other _____	<input type="checkbox"/>
No measures	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>If not, which difficulties does your country face? (maximum 200 words)</i>	
10. What are the measures implemented to prevent or limit the impact of extreme weather events (art. 14)?	

Notification and communication	<input type="checkbox"/>
Coordinated/joint alarm system for floods	<input type="checkbox"/>
Coordinated/joint alarm system for droughts	<input type="checkbox"/>
Joint adaptation/disaster risk reduction strategy	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other _____	<input type="checkbox"/>
No measures	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>If not, which difficulties does your country face? (maximum 200 words)</i>	
11. Is the public involved in transboundary water management in the basin (art. 16)?	
Yes <input type="checkbox"/> / No <input type="checkbox"/>	
<i>If yes, how? (please tick one or more boxes)</i>	
NGOs have observer status in the Commission	<input type="checkbox"/>
Provision of information	<input type="checkbox"/>
Consultation on planned measures or river basin management plans	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other (please specify): _____	

Please remember to complete section II for each of the transboundary basins and aquifers.
Please also remember to attach copies of agreements, if any.

Section III: Final questions

1. What are the main challenges your country faces to implement the Convention?
2. What are the main achievements in implementing the Convention? What were the keys for such success?
3. Contact details of the person who filled out the questionnaire:
4. Please include any additional information on which institutions have been consulted and on the process of preparing the report (e.g. about exchange/consultation within the joint body/with riparian countries)
5. If you have any other comments please add them here.

Thank you very much for taking the time to complete this template.