Overview of the meeting and the lessons from the reporting on SDG indicator 6.5.2 and under the Water Convention

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Technical meeting on the template for reporting on SDG Indicator 6.5.2 and under the Water Convention, Budapest, Hungary, 16-17 January 2018
Background to reporting – SDG6.5.2

• SDG indicator framework developed by UN Member States through Inter-agency and Expert Group on SDG Indicators (IAEG-SDGs)

• Framework included SDG indicator 6.5.2
  • Proportion of transboundary basin area with an operational arrangement for water cooperation

• Indicator framework adopted by UN General Assembly, 6 July 2017

• All SDG6 (Water) targets and indicators co-ordinated through Integrated Monitoring of Water and Sanitation Related SDG Targets (GEMI)
  • UNECE and UNESCO contribute as custodian agencies for SDG6.5.2
Background to reporting – Water Convention

• Decision (VII/2) taken at Seventh Meeting of the Parties, Budapest, 17-19 November 2015
  • Establish regular reporting mechanism under the Convention
  • Pilot reporting exercise 2016-2017 to test template for reporting
  • Underline synergies with SDGs and in particular target 6.5
  • Review reporting template and procedures at Eighth Session of the Meeting of the Parties (MoP), Astana, Kazakhstan, 10-12 October 2018
    • Reporting also to be considered at 13th Working Group on IWRM, 29-30 May 2018, Geneva, Switzerland
• Parties and non-Parties encouraged to report
  • Why non-Parties?
    • Share transboundary rivers, lakes and aquifers with Parties
    • Interested in accession to the Water Convention
    • Involved in activities under the Water Convention
First reporting on SDG 6.5.2 and under the Water Convention

• Request to report under the Water Convention and SDG6.5.2 were coupled

• UNECE sent invitations to Parties (Ministers responsible for transboundary waters) to report under the Convention and on SDG 6.5.2
  • Deadline for reporting 15 May 2017

• UNECE and UNESCO jointly sent invitations to non-Parties (Ministers responsible for transboundary waters) to report on SDG 6.5.2
  • Deadline for reporting 15 June 2017
  • Non-Parties were invited to fill in sections based on the template for reporting under the Water Convention (but non-Parties are not formally reporting under the Convention)

• Countries supported by a set of measures (methodological guidance, helpdesk, capacity building, including webinars and face-to-face sessions in UNECE and UNESCO events, notably the Convention’s Working Group on IWRM)

• 105 country responses end of 2017 (out of 154)
  71 validated for surface water by UNECE
  40 validated for groundwater by UNESCO
  37 Parties out of 40 reported under the Water Convention
### Why couple SDG 6.5.2 and reporting under the Water Convention?

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<tr>
<th>SDG 6.5.2</th>
<th>Water Convention</th>
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<tr>
<td>Seeks to monitor transboundary water cooperation</td>
<td>A framework instrument designed to foster transboundary water cooperation</td>
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<td>Determines proportion of transboundary basin area with an operational arrangement</td>
<td>Requires parties to establish cooperative agreements or arrangements for their transboundary waters (Art. 9)</td>
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<td>Part of UN global SDG process</td>
<td>Water Convention now open to all UN Member States</td>
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<td><strong>Enhance efficiencies, e.g. one request to report and build on synergies of the two process, including for the follow up and support to progress</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Draw on combined expertise of UNESCO and UNECE</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Provide a fuller picture of transboundary water cooperation beyond the indicator value and support self-assessment</strong></td>
<td>=&gt; Next reporting cycle the template should be exactly the same for Parties and non-Parties</td>
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**Note:**

- The table above summarizes the reasons for coupling SDG 6.5.2 with reporting under the Water Convention. The Water Convention serves as a framework instrument designed to foster transboundary water cooperation, requiring parties to establish cooperative agreements or arrangements for their transboundary waters. It is part of the UN global SDG process and is now open to all UN Member States. Coupling these two processes enhances efficiencies, builds on synergies, and supports self-assessment, leading to a clearer picture of transboundary water cooperation beyond indicator values.
Next steps in 2018: how reports results are going to be used at the global level

- Submit SDG6.5.2 Indicator Values to UN Statistical Commission (15 February 2016) => crucial to promptly respond to custodians’ questions to be able to validate as many reports as possible => input to the Secretary General report to the high level political forum in July 2017

- All validated reports will be made available online to promote exchange of experiences

- UN-Water Synthesis Report on SDG 6 (June)

- UNECE-UNESCO Joint Report on SDG 6.5.2 (July)
  Scope: all countries, focused on SDG 6.5.2 and the criteria for its calculation

- Two reports by UNECE Secretariat and Implementation Committee on the implementation of the Water Convention for 8th MoP (October)
  Scope: Parties to the Water Convention, all issues covered by the questionnaire
Aims and objectives of the meeting

• Draw lessons from the first reporting exercise under SDG6.5.2 and the Water Convention in order to improve future reporting
  • How might we improve the template for reporting?
    • SDG 6.5.2 calculation: Section I (Session 2)
    • Water Convention: Sections II to IV (Session 3)
  • Can we enhance the process of reporting? (Session 4)
    • E.g. timing, deadlines, guidance and feedback

• Discuss how to maximise the benefits of reporting (Session 5)
  • Inform progress towards SDG target 6.5, and related SDGs
  • Monitor implementation and development of the Water Convention and of transboundary water cooperation
Lessons learned from the reporting exercise

• Feedback received from countries, custodian agencies and experts
  • Written responses from 15 countries
    • Azerbaijan, Austria, Columbia, Estonia, Czech Republic, France, Germany, Ghana, Kenya, Hungary, Luxembourg, Peru, Portugal, Switzerland and Turkmenistan
  • Discussions during 12 Meeting of Water Convention’s Working Group on IWRM, July 2017
  • Feedback from Implementation Committee of Water Convention, May 2017
  • Discussions during the GEMI/UN-Water meeting on the Integrated Monitoring Initiative for SDG 6, November 2017
  • Reflections from Custodian Agencies (UNECE and UNESCO) and international experts

• An overview of comments received is provided in Information document 4
Overview of the Agenda

**Day 1**

Session 1 10:00 – 11:00  Introduction
Session 2 11:00 – 14:45  Revision and clarification of section of the template for reporting on SDG indicator 6.5.2 and relevant methodology
Session 3 14:45 – 18:00  Revision and clarification of the section of the template for reporting under the Water Convention

**Day 2**

Session 3 (ctd) 9:30 – 12:00  Review of the process for reporting on SDG indicator 6.5.2 and under the Water Convention
Session 4 12:00 – 15:15  Next steps: use of the reports and preparing for the next reporting cycle
Session 5 15:15 – 17:00
Outcomes from the meeting

• Proposed revisions to template for calculation of SDG indicator 6.5.2 (information document 1)
• Proposed revisions to step-by-step methodology for SDG indicator 6.5.2 (information document 2)
• Proposed revisions to template for reporting under the Water Convention (information document 3) => to the WGIWWRM and then MOP
• Proposals for the decision on reporting under the Water Convention
• Suggestions to improve the next reporting process
• Suggestions on how to make use of the reports to strengthen transboundary water cooperation and how to prepare for the next reporting cycle
Thanks for listening!