



SDG 6. Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all

Targets relevant to the *UNECE Environment subprogramme*:

- 6.1 By 2030, achieve universal and equitable access to safe and affordable drinking water for all
- 6.2 By 2030, achieve access to adequate and equitable sanitation and hygiene for all and end open defecation, paying special attention to the needs of women and girls and those in vulnerable situations
- 6.3 By 2030, improve water quality by reducing pollution, eliminating dumping and minimizing release of hazardous chemicals and materials, halving the proportion of untreated wastewater and substantially increasing recycling and safe reuse globally
- 6.4 By 2030, substantially increase water-use efficiency across all sectors and ensure sustainable withdrawals and supply of freshwater to address water scarcity and substantially reduce the number of people suffering from water scarcity
- 6.5 By 2030, implement integrated water resources management at all levels, including through transboundary cooperation as appropriate
- 6.6 By 2020, protect and restore water-related ecosystems, including mountains, forests, wetlands, rivers, aquifers and lakes
- 6.a By 2030, expand international cooperation and capacity-building support to developing countries in water- and sanitation-related activities and programmes, including water harvesting, desalination, water efficiency, wastewater treatment, recycling and reuse technologies
- 6.b Support and strengthen the participation of local communities in improving water and sanitation management



Target	Measures	Resources (hyperlinks)	Results	Partners
All SDG6 targets	Implement the UNECE Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes (Water Convention) and the UNECE-WHO/Europe Protocol on Water and Health to ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation	<p>Guide to implementing the Water Convention</p> <p>Guidelines on the setting of targets, evaluation of progress and reporting under the Protocol on Water and Health</p> <p>EU Water Initiative National Policy Dialogues on IWRM</p>	<p>Improved governance framework for integrated water resources management at the level of the basin</p>	<p>UNECE Environment with</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UN-Water, in particular • WHO/Europe for the Protocol on Water and Health • European Commission and OECD for the NPDs
6.1 6.2	<p>Set targets in accordance with the Protocol to achieve access to safe water and sanitation</p> <p>Apply the Equitable Access Score-card to identify and address problems of equity of access to water and sanitation</p> <p>Increase access in rural areas by strengthening the management of small scale water supplies and sanitation</p>	<p>The Equitable Access Score-card: Supporting policy processes to achieve the human right to water and sanitation</p>	<p>Solid strategic framework in place providing a roadmap to universal access</p> <p>Analysis of gaps to ensure equitable access and achieve the human right to water and sanitation</p> <p>Strengthened capacity of small scale water and sanitation suppliers</p> <p>Social and economic benefits from improved access to water and sanitation</p>	<p>UNECE Environment with</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WHO/Europe • OHCHR • European Environment and Health Youth Coalition • NGOs such as WaterAid, Women in Europe for a Common Future, Solidarité Eau, International Water Association

Target	Measures	Resources (hyperlinks)	Results	Partners
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Improve access to water, sanitation and hygiene in schools for better health and education outcome, especially for girls

Report in accordance to the Protocol to track progress towards universal access to water and sanitation



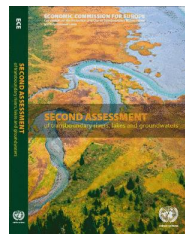
6.3

Assess the quality of water resources in accordance with the Water Convention

Improve the safety and efficiency of waste water treatment plants by applying best available technology and increasing their resilience to extreme weather events

Exchange experience on waste-water and sanitation management in the framework of the Protocol

Regular assessments of transboundary rivers, lakes and groundwaters in the framework of the Water Convention



Guidance on Water Supply and Sanitation in Extreme Weather Events



Solid evidence base for policies for pollution reduction

Better environment and healthier people as a result of cleaner rivers and lakes

- UNECE Environment with
- WHO/Europe
 - EEA and SEIS
 - Ramsar Convention
 - UNEP

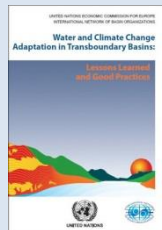
6.4

Fight water scarcity by cooperating in transboundary basins

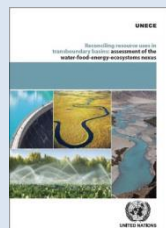
Reconcile the use of water, energy, land and ecosystem resources in transboundary basins through a nexus approach

Guidance on Water and Adaptation to Climate Change

Lessons Learned and Good Practices in Water and Climate Change Adaptation in Transboundary Basins



Reconciling resource uses in transboundary basins: assessment of the water-food-energy-ecosystems nexus



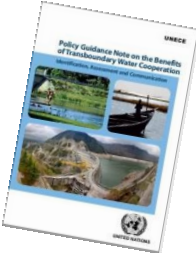

Reduced economic, social and environmental risks from water scarcity as well as conflicts over water resources from unilateral interventions

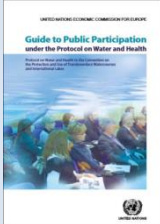

Increased resilience of societies

Increased understanding of the linkages between water-energy-food and ecosystems

Increased efficiency of water and other resource use, reduced trade-offs

- UNECE Environment with
- WMO
 - FAO
 - INBO
 - OSCE
 - IUCN
 - UNESCO and many others

Target	Measures	Resources (hyperlinks)	Results	Partners
6.5	<p>Use the Water Convention, its intergovernmental framework and the guidance developed under it to establish and strengthen transboundary water cooperation</p> <p>Identify and assess the benefits of transboundary water cooperation</p> <p>Develop policy packages under the National Policy Dialogues to better implement integrated water resources management through improved intersectoral cooperation</p>	<p>Guide to implementing the Water Convention and other Convention's soft law tools</p> <p>The global opening of the 1992 UNECE Water Convention</p>  <p>Policy Guidance Note on the Benefits of Transboundary Water Cooperation: Identification, Assessment and Communication</p> <p>The European Union Water Initiative National Policy Dialogues: Achievements and lessons learned</p> 	<p>Prevention of conflicts, increased peace and security and political and economic integration</p> <p>Accelerated economic growth, improved human well-being and enhanced environmental sustainability from better water management</p>	<p>UNECE Environment with</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UNESCO • Other regional commissions • GEF • European Commission • OECD • OSCE • IUCN • INBO • GWP
6.6	<p>Value the services provided by ecosystems to promote their protection and restoration</p> <p>Take into account ecosystem needs while deciding on water allocations by factoring ecosystems in a nexus approach</p>	<p>Recommendations on Payments for Ecosystem Services in Integrated Water Resources Management</p>  <p>Reconciling resource uses in transboundary basins: assessment of the water-food-energy-ecosystems nexus</p>	<p>Increased ecosystem integrity and deriving social and economic benefits</p>	<p>UNECE Environment with</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IUCN • The Ramsar Convention • FAO • UNEP • NGOs such as Rivers without Boundaries Coalition
6.a	<p>Use the framework of the Protocol on Water and Health for increased cooperation on water and sanitation related activities</p>	<p>The Protocol's intergovernmental bodies and its programme of work</p>	<p>Increased capacity and exchanges on water and sanitation issues</p>	<p>UNECE Environment with</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WHO/Europe • IFIs • OECD • National development cooperation

Target	Measures	Resources (hyperlinks)	Results	Partners
6.b	<p>Ensure public participation in accordance with the Aarhus Convention on water and sanitation decisions</p> <p>Ensure public participation in the process setting targets and in preparing national summary reports in accordance with the Protocol on Water and Health</p>	<p>Guide to Public Participation under the Protocol on Water and Health</p> <p>Public participation for transparent and fair decisions</p>  	Better decision-making on water and sanitation issues, taking into account the needs of local communities and vulnerable groups	<p>UNECE Environment with</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WHO/Europe • Aarhus Centers • RECs, • NGOs

Cross-cutting measures

Implement the [UNECE Aarhus Convention](#) (Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters) and its [Protocol on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers](#) to strengthen capacities of authorities to promote effective access to environmental information and to engage effectively NGOs, local communities and other stakeholders in developing and implementing different water management and sanitation plans, programmes and projects. [Make use of tools and materials developed by the Aarhus Convention and its Protocol.](#)

Implementation of the [UNECE Protocol on Strategic Environmental Assessment](#) enables consideration of environmental and health concerns, as well as climate change mitigation and adaptation measures, in plans and strategies for water management and sanitation, so as to ensure that ecosystems and human health are preserved. The work under the Protocol promotes strategic environmental assessment, together with cumulative assessment procedures, as a central tool in the sector of sustainable water management.



Other UNECE subprogrammes

The Sustainable Energy subprogramme supports the assessment of the water-food-energy-ecosystems nexus carried out under the Environment subprogramme. The Trade subprogramme also cooperate in this undertaking. The Environment and Housing and Land Management subprogrammes cooperate on the resilience of cities to floods and droughts.

