



**SECOND MEETING OF THE DRAFTING GROUP ON THE GUIDE
TO REPORTING UNDER THE WATER CONVENTION
AND AS A CONTRIBUTION TO SDG INDICATOR 6.5.2**

Geneva, Switzerland, 3-4 September 2019

To be held at the Palais des Nations, room XXVII, starting at 10 a.m.

Concept note

Background and objectives

In the course of 2017, the first reporting exercise on Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) indicator 6.5.2 on transboundary water cooperation, for which UNECE and UNESCO act as co-custodians, and under the Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes (Water Convention), serviced by UNECE, took place. In the first reporting cycle under the Convention and on SDG indicator 6.5.2, 38 out of 40 Parties reported under the Convention and 107 out of 153 countries sharing transboundary waters reported on SDG indicator 6.5.2.

Lessons and experiences from the first reporting exercise and during meetings organized by UNECE, UNESCO and partners highlighted the need to provide further guidance for the completion of the reporting template. Among other guidance elements, the Meeting of the Parties to the Water Convention at its eighth session (Nur-Sultan, Kazakhstan, 2018) decided to develop a guide to reporting under the Convention and as a contribution to SDG indicator 6.5.2. In addition, the co-custodian agencies will update the step-by-step monitoring methodology for the calculation of indicator 6.5.2 in light of comments received by reporting countries.

The Guide to reporting under the Water Convention will provide guidance on how to organize the reporting process together with clarifications on how to fill in the template, including the definition of terms and the scope of the questions, in order to facilitate the completion of the template and enhance the quality of the national reports submitted in the next reporting cycle. The Guide will also include examples providing practical illustrations on how to fill in the template.

The second drafting group meeting builds on the discussions and recommendations of the first meeting of the drafting group on the Guide to reporting under the Water Convention and on SDG indicator 6.5.2 (Geneva, Switzerland, 9-10 May 2019). The first meeting of the drafting group meeting agreed on the scope and objectives of the Guide to reporting and further elaborated the outline and contents of the Guide.

The second meeting will consider the first draft of the Guide to reporting prepared based on the deliberations of the first drafting group, the specific inputs received from countries and partners, and any additional comments on the first draft. The main objectives of the second meeting of the drafting group are to:

- Discuss and further elaborate the first draft of the Guide to reporting, prepared for the drafting group meeting, together with the comments received by countries before the meeting;
- Examine examples chosen to illustrate the concepts and meaning of questions in the template;
- Discuss if the draft Guide sufficiently clarifies questions and the terminology used, addresses common challenges and prevents possible misinterpretations;
- Examine relationship of the Guide with other relevant guidance material for reporting on SDG indicator 6.5.2, in particular the step-by-step methodology for the calculation of the indicator and guidance being developed for SDG indicator 6.5.1.

A broader and final discussion on the Guide to reporting is subsequently foreseen during the fourteenth meeting of the Working Group on Integrated Water Resources Management under the Water Convention, to be held in Geneva from 22 to 24 October 2019. The Guide is to be finalized by end 2019 to be available for use in the next reporting exercise.

Participants

The drafting group is targeted to experts responsible for completing the reporting template or coordinating the reporting process on SDG indicator 6.5.2 and under the Water Convention. In order to enable an interactive and effective meeting, a limited number of country representatives from across all SDG regions are being invited. Invitees include both Parties and non-Parties to the Water Convention, and both countries which reported and countries which did not submit a report but might do so in future reporting exercises. A continuity with participants attending the first meeting of the drafting group on the Guide to reporting under the Water Convention and on SDG indicator 6.5.2 (Geneva, Switzerland, 9-10 May 2019), is also aimed at. Furthermore, invitees include countries from different transboundary water contexts¹. Participants will also include representatives from partners engaged in supporting the second reporting exercise from different regions and who provide different disciplinary/sectoral background (law, science and policy). The following countries are being invited:

Algeria	China	Jordan	Panama	Tanzania
Austria	Cote D'Ivoire	Kazakhstan	Peru	Turkey
Bangladesh	Egypt	Lebanon	Republic of Moldova	Uganda

¹ Upstream / midstream/ downstream; Arid/ semi-arid / water rich; Different primary water uses (agriculture, hydropower, domestic, industrial); Sharing multiple transboundary basins under different arrangement with multiple countries; Operational arrangements in place for all transboundary basins to no basins/ few basin covered by arrangements; Sharing primarily surface water, both surface water and groundwater, primarily groundwater.

Belarus	Finland	Luxembourg	Russian Federation	United States of America
Bosnia and Herzegovina	Georgia	Malaysia	Senegal	Uruguay
Botswana	Germany	Mexico	Slovenia	Vietnam
Brazil	Ghana	Mongolia	Somalia	
Cambodia	Guatemala	Mozambique	South Africa	
Cameroon	Hungary	Netherlands	Spain	
Chad	Iraq	Pakistan	Tajikistan	

Practical information

The meeting will be held on 3-4 September 2019 in Geneva, Switzerland. It will start at 10.00 a.m. on Tuesday, 3 September 2019 and end at 5.30 p.m. on Wednesday, 4 September 2019. It will be held at the Palais des Nations in Room XXVII.

The working languages will be English, French, Russian and Spanish.

For countries eligible for financial support, UNECE is in the position to finance the participation of one representative per country, including a return ticket to Geneva and an allowance to cover the cost of the stay. To request financial support, please return the financial support form duly completed and signed to the UNECE secretariat (alexandra.boonekamp@un.org), as soon as possible and in any case **not later than 23 July 2019**.

Participants requiring entry visas to Switzerland should inform the Water Convention secretariat (alexandra.boonekamp@un.org) as soon as possible. Since Switzerland is part of the Schengen Zone, obtaining a visa might take up to 5 weeks. Participants needing a visa are therefore requested to submit their application as soon as possible and initiate visa procedures at least five weeks before the meeting.

All participants are requested to register on line at <https://uncdb.unece.org/app/ext/meeting-registration?id=FZWaCN> by **20 August 2019**. In case you need practical assistance with registration, please contact the UNECE secretariat by e-mail (alexandra.boonekamp@un.org).

Further information and relevant material will be made available on the following webpage in due course: <https://www.unece.org/index.php?id=51710>.

For any substantial question on the meeting, please do not hesitate to contact UNECE at transboundary_water_cooperation_reporting@un.org.