



Item 7. Reporting under the Convention and on Sustainable Development Goal indicator 6.5.2

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on Monitoring and Assessment

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Background on reporting under the Water Convention

- Decision VII/2 to introduce reporting at last Meeting of Parties (Budapest, 2015)
- Template developed for reporting addressing
 - National law and policy framework relating to transboundary basins (rivers, lakes and aquifers)
 - Transboundary basin arrangements and their implementation
 - Challenges and achievements in transboundary water cooperation
- 2017 first pilot reporting exercise cycle
- 2017-18 Revision of the template through a process involving Parties and non-Parties
 - Feedback received from countries, custodian agencies and experts
 - Technical meeting on the template for reporting (Budapest, 16-17 January 2018)



Background on SDG indicator 6.5.2

- **Indicator 6.5.2:** Proportion of transboundary basin area with an operational arrangement for water cooperation.
- **Tier II** indicator: reviewed at 5th IAEG-SDG meeting in 2017
- **Complements indicator 6.5.1** which measures advancement of Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM)
- **Operational arrangement**
 - Treaty, convention, agreement or other formal arrangement
 - Joint body for transboundary water cooperation
 - Annual meetings
 - Annual exchange of data and information
 - Adoption of joint/co-ordinated water management plan, or joint objectives
- **Custodian agencies:** UNECE and UNESCO

Linkages between reporting under the Water Convention and on SDG 6.5.2



SDG 6.5.2	Water Convention
Seeks to monitor transboundary water cooperation	A framework instrument designed to foster transboundary water cooperation
Determines proportion of transboundary basin area with an operational arrangement	Requires Parties to establish cooperative agreements or arrangements for their transboundary waters (Art. 9)
Part of UN global SDG process	Water Convention now open to all UN Member States; 38 out of 40 Parties reported
Enhance efficiencies, e.g. one request to report and build on synergies of the two process, including support and follow up	
Draw on combined expertise of UNESCO and UNECE	
Provide a fuller picture of transboundary water cooperation beyond the indicator value and support self-assessment	

Non Parties are not asked to report under the Water Convention

When non-Parties submit a report on 6.5.2 they are not reporting under the Convention

Reporting process under the Water Convention and on SDG indicator 6.5.2 (1)



- Early 2017: UNECE and UNESCO initiated data and information collection
 - Questionnaire addressed to Ministers responsible for transboundary waters
 - To all UN Member States sharing transboundary waters (Parties and non-Parties)
 - Deadline for reporting initially 5/6 months later
- Parties, were invited to report both under the Convention and on indicator 6.5.2
- Non Parties, in addition to the calculation of indicator 6.5.2, countries were invited to provide more detailed information on the basis of the template for reporting under the Water Convention
 - Benefits: more complete picture, track better progress, help validate indicator value

Reporting process under the Water Convention and on SDG indicator 6.5.2 (2)

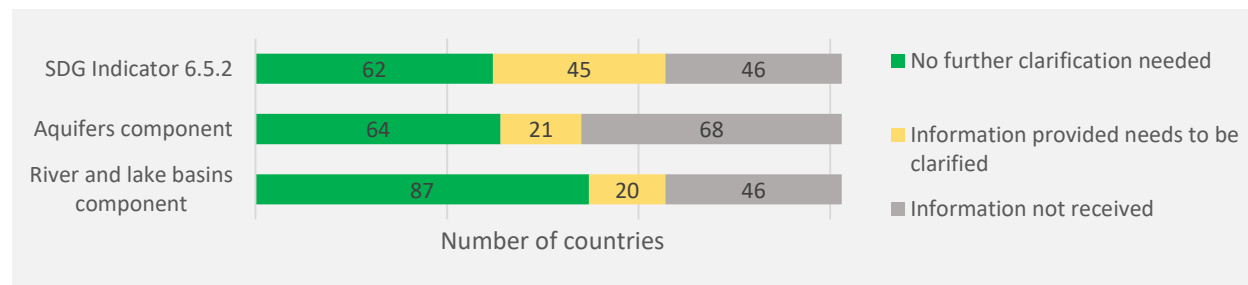
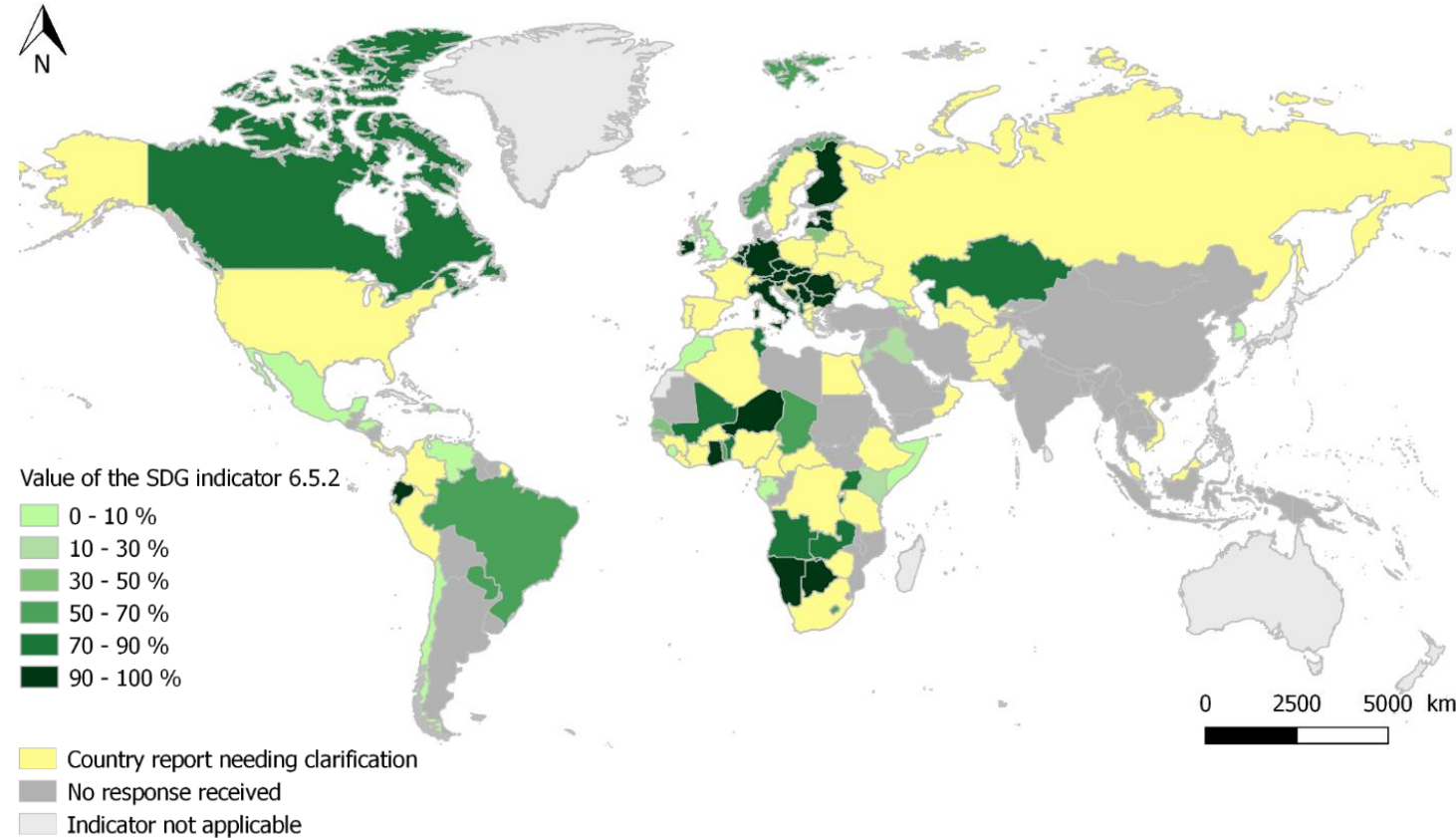


- Countries supported by a set of measures
 - Step-by-step-methodology in all UN languages
 - Inception webinars on GEMI
 - Webinars on 6.5.2 in ENG, FRE, SPA
 - Presentations on indicator 6.5.2 in several global, regional and national events
 - Replies to countries' queries by UNECE and UNESCO
 - Face-to-face sessions in UNECE and UNESCO events
 - After the submission of the Reports UNECE and UNESCO reviewed and analysed the reports and supported countries to improve the quality of the reports so to ensure the accuracy of calculation of the indicator and comparability of data
- ⇒ extensive exchanges with Member States
- Feb 2018: National 6.5.2 data points submitted to United Nations Statistics Division

Initial results of the first reporting on SDG6.5.2 (1)



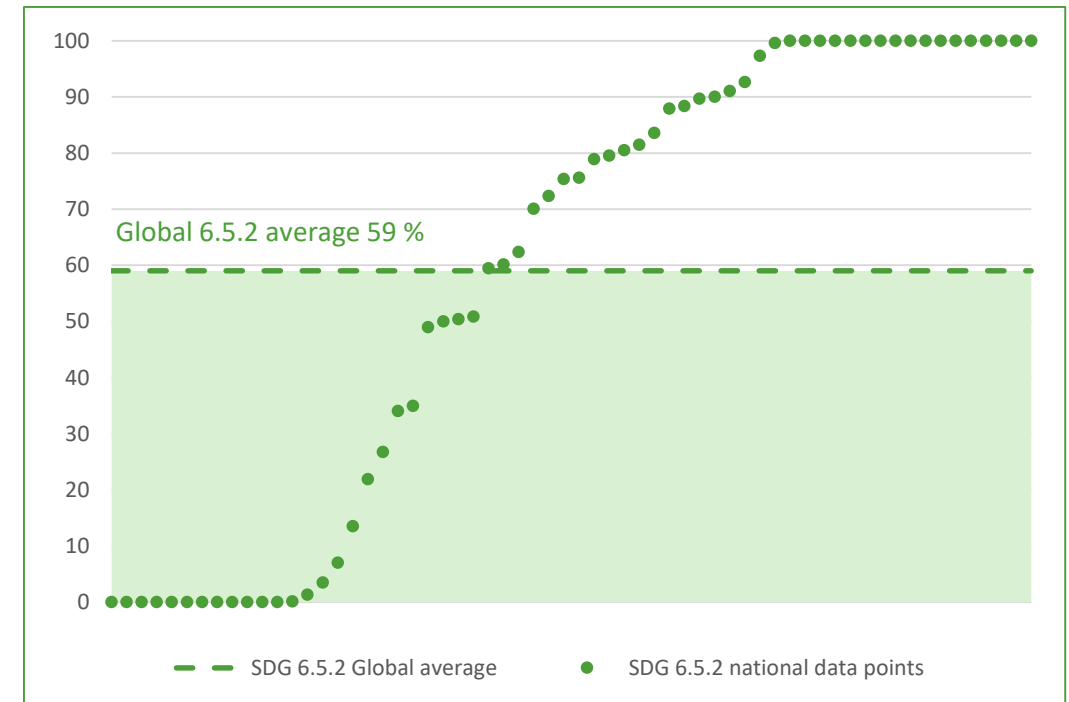
- **107 country responses** by March 2018 (out of 153 countries sharing transboundary waters)
 - Indicator 6.5.2 available for 62 countries (transboundary river & lake basins and aquifers)
 - 87 countries provided accurate data for transboundary river & lake basins, and
 - 64 countries for transboundary aquifers
 - 38 out of 40 Parties under the Water Convention
- Significant effort needed to ensure that operational arrangements cover all transboundary waters, especially aquifers



Initial results of the first reporting on SDG6.5.2 (2)



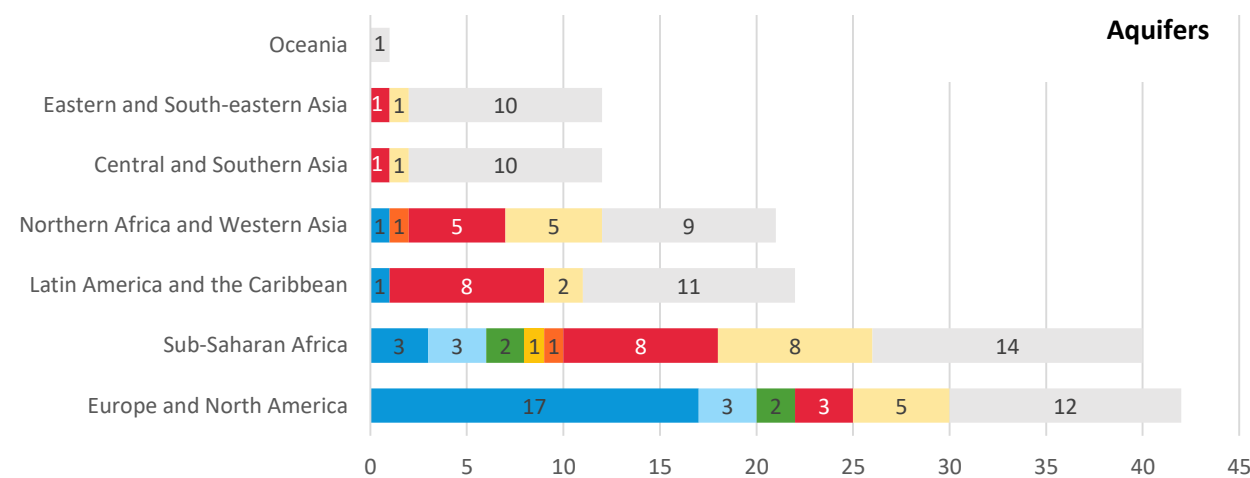
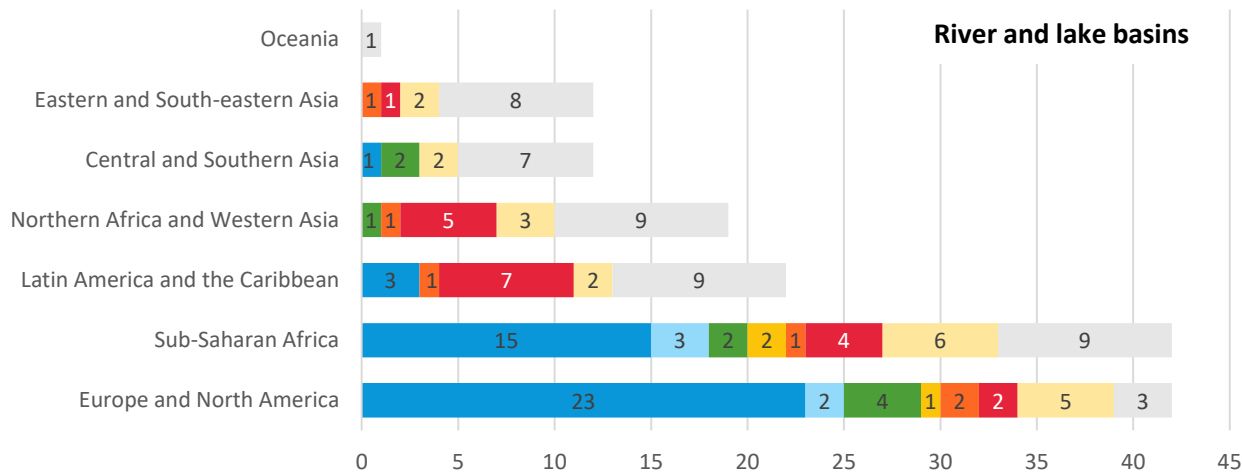
- 59% = average of the national percentage of transboundary basins covered by an operational arrangement is 59 per cent in the period 2017/2018, (62 out of 153 countries)
- Only 17 countries with all transboundary basins covered by operational arrangements



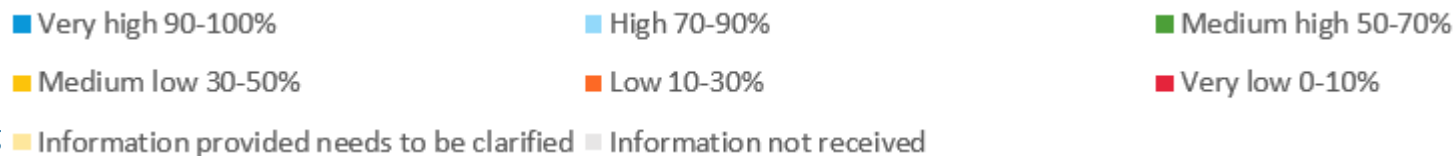
Initial results of the first reporting on SDG6.5.2 (3)



Regional breakdown of the number of countries sharing basins and level of transboundary water cooperation (based on SDG6.5.2 indicator)



The average of the national percentage of transboundary rivers and lake basins covered by an operational arrangement is 64% (based on 84 countries) and it is 48% for aquifers (based on 61 countries).



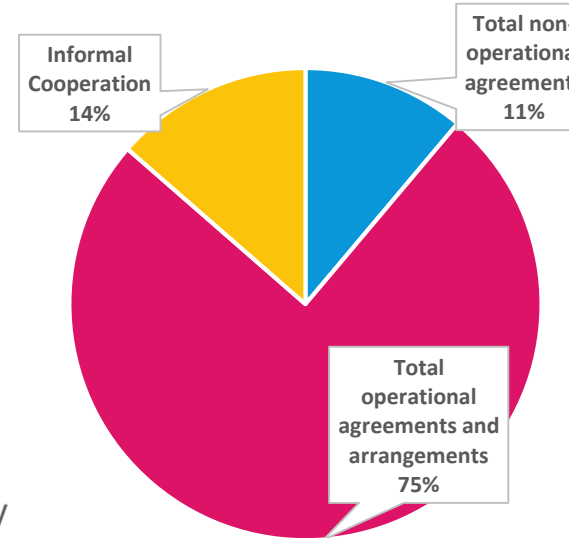
Initial results of the first reporting on SDG6.5.2 (4)

– based on the questionnaire

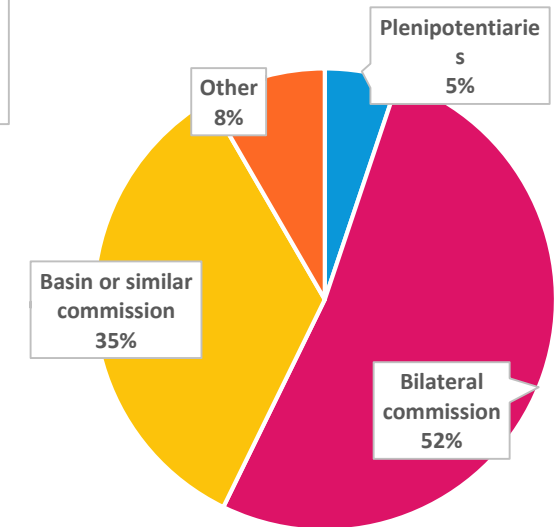


- An assessment of SDG indicator 6.5.2 across the 4 operability criteria demonstrates considerable diversity in
 - the types of cooperation,
 - the sectoral scope and topics of transboundary water arrangements, and
 - the joint bodies established
 => no universal solution

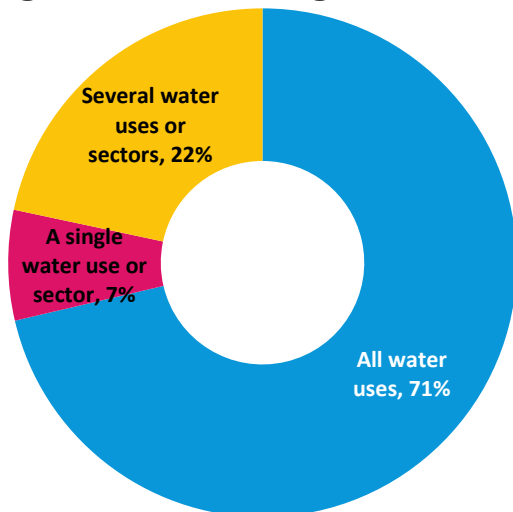
Forms of cooperation



Types of joint bodies



Sectoral scope of agreements/arrangements



Sectors covered by agreements/arrangements



UNECE



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization

Lessons learned on the process of reporting - 1



- **Identifying appropriate national focal point for transboundary water issues and mobilizing networks at national level**
 - Able to build upon existing knowledge and relationships
 - Water Convention and IHP national focal points
 - Dynamic nature requires periodic review
 - **Some reports were prepared through extensive coordination**
 - Different approaches to gather, collect and report information
 - Countries created national committee, organized national workshops, designated experts responsible for the coordination of the process
 - Opportunity to strengthen national coordination, cooperation and data-sharing between national institutions but statistical offices were rarely involved
 - At national or transboundary level (with neighbours or within joint bodies)
 - **Some difficulties in completing the reporting template and analysing the reports**
 - Inaccuracies in the calculation of the indicator
 - Lack of data on aquifers
 - Supporting measures assisted, but more could be done to promote and utilise tools available
 - Extensive work with countries through clarification process was needed
 - UNECE: river and lake basins
 - UNESCO: aquifers
- ⇒ Reporting template will be clarified for the next cycle (indicator 6.5.2 and Convention sections)
- ⇒ In February 2017, the 56th Bureau of UNESCO IHP requested the organization of regional and thematic meetings.

Lessons learned on the process of reporting - 2



- **Timeliness of report submission**

- Reports submitted well after deadline after several reminders
- limits the time available to review and analyse the reports

- **Feedback from countries**

- Reporting is demanding but useful to identify good practices, improve coordination nationally and cooperation with riparians
- Reporting increased visibility and awareness of the problems at national and transboundary levels
- Important to discuss outcome of reporting and needed responses => important framework offered by the Water Convention

- **1st reporting cycle confirmed the soundness of the indicator**

- High level of responses: 70% of countries sharing transboundary waters responded
- High quality of reports: indicator 6.5.2 calculation available for 60% of the responses

- **Pilot reporting under the Convention**

- 95 % of the Parties submitted a report



How data will be exploited and next steps

- July 2018: **HLPF**
 - **UN-Water Synthesis report on SDG 6**
 - Side-event on the progress of transboundary cooperation organized by Finland, Senegal, UNECE and UNESCO
- August 2018: World Water Week
 - **UNECE-UNESCO Global report on indicator 6.5.2**
- 10-12 October 2018: UNECE Water Convention 8th Session of the Meeting of the Parties
 - Discussion on progress of transboundary water cooperation
 - **Report on the implementation on the Water Convention**
 - Decision on reporting and revised template under the Convention
- 2018-2019
 - Revision of the step-by-step methodology on 6.5.2 and elaboration of a reporting guide for reporting under the Convention
 - Capacity-building activities
 - Use of the reporting results in all activities under the Water Convention
- 30th June 2020: Second reporting cycle => data to be available in early 2021



Thanks for listening!

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www.unece.org/index.php?id=47948

www.unece.org/env/water

<https://en.unesco.org/themes/water-security/hydrology>