Outcomes of the first SDG indicator 6.5.2 reporting exercise and the role of the Water Convention to promote transboundary water cooperation

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HLPF Side-event: The contribution of transboundary water cooperation to achieving the SDGs

12 July 2018, New York
Measuring transboundary water cooperation

**Target 6.5:** By 2030, implement IWRM at all levels, including through transboundary cooperation as appropriate.

**Indicator 6.5.2** Proportion of transboundary basin area with an operational arrangement for water cooperation

- **Custodian agencies:** UNECE and UNESCO
- **Tier II indicator:** reviewed at 5th IAEG-SDG meeting in 2017
- **Among 153 countries** sharing transboundary waters **107 responded**

- **Catalytic role across multiple SDGs and targets**
- **Most of the world’s water resources are shared.** Development and management of water resources has impacts across transboundary basins
  \[\Rightarrow\text{cooperation required}\]
Initial results of the first reporting on SDG6.5.2 – 1

- 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

- 59% = average of the national percentage of transboundary basins covered by an operational arrangement in the period 2017/2018, (62 out of 153 countries)
- Only 17 countries with all transboundary basins covered by operational arrangements
- Significant effort needed to increase coverage of operational arrangements for transboundary rivers, lakes and aquifers
Initial results of the first reporting on SDG6.5.2 - 2

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 47% for aquifers (based on 61 countries).
The 1992 Water Convention
From a regional to a global instrument

- Negotiated in 1990-1992 through an intergovernmental process under the auspices of UNECE
- 1996 entered into force
- 2003 adoption of the amendments allowing all UN Member States to accede to the Convention

⇒ As of 1st March 2016, all UN Member States can accede to the Convention

- More than 110 countries participate in the Convention’s activities
- Several are working towards accession (Central African Republic, Democratic Republic of Congo, Ghana, Iraq, Ivory Coast, Lebanon, Jordan, Peru, Tunisia, Togo and Vietnam)

- February 2018 Chad acceded as first non-UNECE country. Senegal is very close to finalizing accession

  - Opportunities from the Convention’s global opening
    - Build on the 25 year’s experience of implementation
    - Apply the principles and provisions worldwide
    - Learn from other regions of the world
    - Broaden political support for transboundary cooperation
    - Jointly develop solutions to common challenges
Thank you for your attention!

More information at:
www.unece.org/env/water
water.convention@un.org

Invitation to the 8th Meeting of Parties of the Water Convention

Astana, Kazakhstan, 10-12 October 2018

Unique **UN intergovernmental forum** to discuss progress and next steps regarding **transboundary water cooperation**

- **9 October**
  - High-level Workshop on Financing Transboundary Basin Development

- **10 October**
  - High level segment
    - Cooperating to allocate water in transboundary basins in the context of growing water scarcity

- **10-12 October**
  - Substantial discussions on the **activities** carried out under the Water Convention framework
  - Adoption of various decisions including the new convention’s programme of work 2019-2021

Milestone event in the Water Convention’s globalization

⇒ First Meeting of the Parties held in Asia
⇒ Participation of the first Parties from Africa