Ha Noi, February 21, 2019
Ref. No: 252HTQT

Mr. Christian Friis Bach
Executive Secretary of UNECE

Ms. Irina Bokova
Director General of UNESCO

Ref: Viet Nam’s national report on indicator 6.5.2 of the SDGs

Dear Mr. Christian Friis Bach and Ms. Irina Bokova,

The Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam would like to present its compliments to UNECE and UNESCO.

First of all, I would like to thank you for your continuing efforts to support Viet Nam’s progress to accede to the important Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes.

In addition, I hereby confirm the following clarifications concerning the SDG6.5.2 indicator report for Viet Nam as follows:

- The areas of the Se San, Srepok and Cuu Long (Mekong Delta) River basins are 11.620 km², 18.265 km² and 39.178 km², accordingly.

- The total area of transboundary river basins in Viet Nam territory is 235.753 km², of which the area of Mekong parts (including: Se San – 11620 km², Srepok - 18265 km², Cuu Long - 39178 km²) with the total of 69.063 km² is covered by operational arrangements - the Mekong Agreement.

- Based on these clarifications, the total SDG6.5.2 calculation for river and lake basins for Viet Nam would be: [A] 69.063 / [B] 235.753 = 29%.

The Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment avails itself of this opportunity to express its wishes in further strengthening the cooperation of Viet Nam with UNECE and UNESCO in the fields of water resources management, natural resources, environment and climate change.

Yours sincerely,

Tran Hong Ha (PhD)
Minister
Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment
Socialist Republic of Viet Nam
Mr. Christian Friis Bach  
Executive Secretary of UNECE

Ms. Irina Bokova  
Director General of UNESCO

Re: Viet Nam’s national report on indicator 6.5.2 of the SDGs

Dear Mr. Christian Friis Bach and Ms. Irina Bokova,

The Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam presents its compliments to UNECE and UNESCO and would like thank you for your continued supports to Viet Nam.

As approximately two third of water in Viet Nam’s rivers is generated from outside of our territory, and in the context of the implementation of Sustainable Development Goals in Viet Nam, I am happy to submit herewith our national report on indicator 6.5.2 of the SDGs. I believe that the report is crucial for us to ensure that the management of water resources is inclusive, transparent and could serve as a crucial component to foster further cooperation between nations and regions to protect water resources globally.

Furthermore, I would like also to take this opportunity to request further technical support and capacity building through a number of activities including, but not limited to, the following:

1. Providing relevant experts to review and to assess the current Viet Nam’s regulation on transboundary water resources for applicable recommendations to improve our policy, legalisation and institutions.

2. Training our government officials at medium and long-terms in the fields of integrated water resources management, international laws and policy in transboundary water resources at advanced Europe’s education institutions.

3. Mobilising financial supports for our officials to attend more events organised not only by UNECE but also by other associated parties on enhance our knowledge and experiences with different aspects of transboundary water resources management.

The Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment avails itself of this opportunity to express its wishes in further strengthening the cooperation of Viet Nam with UNECE and UNESCO in the fields of water resources management, natural resources, environment and climate change.

Yours sincerely,

Trần Hồng Hà  
Minister of Natural Resources and Environment  
Socialist Republic of Viet Nam
A. Background

In 2015, the United Nations General Assembly adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), including SDG 6 to ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all.

To review progress towards the SDGs, United Nations Member States, through the Inter-agency and Expert Group on SDG Indicators (IAEG-SDGs), developed in late 2015 and early 2016, a global indicator framework, which was subsequently adopted by the United Nations Statistical Commission in March 2016.

Target 6.5 calls for countries to implement integrated water resources management at all levels, including through transboundary cooperation, as appropriate. To measure progress on transboundary cooperation in accordance to target 6.5, indicator 6.5.2 was adopted. The indicator is defined as the "percentage of transboundary basin area with an operational arrangement for transboundary cooperation".

For SDG 6, UN-Water has been coordinating the technical input to the IAEG-SDGs on the relevant indicators and the methodologies for their measurement. UNECE and UNESCO have led the development of the step-by-step methodology to calculate indicator 6.5.2. For each indicator, the IAEG-SDGs has proposed custodian agencies at the global level. Given their mandate on transboundary water issues, UNECE and UNESCO have been proposed as custodian agencies for indicator 6.5.2. Recognizing the importance of integration across SDG 6, the relevant custodian agencies for this goal are collaborating under the Integrated Monitoring of Water and Sanitation Related SDG Targets (GEMI), operating under the UN-Water umbrella.

Reporting through the present template will help to gather information on the progress on transboundary cooperation under Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 6, target 6.5 in accordance with global indicator 6.5.2. It will also contribute to the UN-Water SDG 6 Integrated Monitoring initiative GEMI.

B. Content of the template

In order to collect complete information, simplify the task of reporting and streamline the compilation of information received by countries, the template is shaped as a questionnaire to be filled out.

The template is divided into four parts:

- Section I - Calculation of SDG indicator 6.5.2
- Section II - Information on each transboundary basin or group of basins
- Section III - General information on transboundary water management at the national level
- Section IV - Final questions

While Section I of the template has been prepared by UNECE and UNESCO in the framework of the UN-Water’s indicators development activities in support of the Inter-Agency Expert Group on SDGs (IAEG-SDGs), Sections II to IV are based on a questionnaire developed by Member States in the framework of the Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes (Water Convention), serviced by UNECE, to monitor progress on transboundary cooperation and implementation of the Convention.

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1 Transboundary basins are basins of transboundary waters, that is, of any surface waters (notably rivers, lakes) or groundwater/aquifers which mark, cross or are located on boundaries between by two or more States.

2 For more information, see http://www.unwater.org/gemi/en/.

3 The Water Convention aims to protect and ensure the quantity, quality and sustainable use of transboundary water resources by facilitating cooperation. Originally negotiated as a regional instrument for the UNECE region, the Convention turned into a universally available legal framework for transboundary water cooperation, following an amendment procedure. As of 1st March 2016, all United Nations Member States can accede to the Convention (for more information, see http://www.unece.org/env/water/).
Questions can be either “closed”, Yes /No, with appropriate boxes to tick; “open”, requiring further information to be supplied, indicated by the words in square brackets [fill in]; or a combination of both.

Depending on the country situation, it will not always be necessary to fill in extra information where space is provided for this. Please answer open questions very briefly, and in less than 200 words, using bullet points as appropriate. The reporting country can make reference to the reporting under other multilateral environmental agreements to which the country is a Party.

C. Who should report and how?

All countries having transboundary basins in their territory are invited to report.

All reporting countries are kindly invited, when possible, to fill all sections of the template, as they allow outlining a complete picture of the situation concerning transboundary water cooperation. The overall template can be useful to track progress more closely beyond the indicator value and better describe the current baseline. This is valuable also because inevitably the indicator is based on a number of criteria defining minimum thresholds and the information in Sections II to IV can allow tracking progress towards the different criteria.

Section II will need to be completed for each transboundary basin, (i.e. basin of rivers and lakes or aquifers which mark, cross or are located on boundaries between by two or more States) (please just copy the template for these questions and fill out again for each additional transboundary basin). Countries may coordinate responses with other States with which they share transboundary basins or even prepare a joint report for shared basins.

D. Use of the reported information

Reporting has primarily a national importance and usefulness to inform decision-making at the national and transboundary level.

At the global level, data collected through this reporting will be elaborated to define the global baseline for the status of transboundary cooperation in accordance to indicator 6.5.2. Results, including synthesis reports, will be submitted to the High Level Political Forum in July 2018 which will focus, among others, on the in depth review of SDG 6.

A discussion on the advancement of transboundary cooperation worldwide considering the results of the reporting exercise will also take place in the framework of the eight session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Water Convention, to be held at the end of 2018.

E. Deadline for reporting

Countries are invited to submit their filled in template by 15 June 2017 to the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO).

Countries are invited to submit, to the two addresses below, an original signed copy by post and an electronic copy by e-mail. Electronic copies should be made available in both pdf format (for the signed copy) and word-processing software. Any graphic elements should be provided in separate files.

Addresses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Palais des Nations</td>
<td>7 Place de Fontenoy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1211 Geneva 10</td>
<td>75015 Paris</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Switzerland</td>
<td>France</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E-mail: <a href="mailto:transboundary_water_cooperation_reporting@unece.org">transboundary_water_cooperation_reporting@unece.org</a></td>
<td>E-mail: <a href="mailto:transboundary_water_cooperation_reporting@unesco.org">transboundary_water_cooperation_reporting@unesco.org</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Reporting on the global SDG indicator 6.5.2

TEMPLATE

Country name: SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM

Section I. Calculation of SDG indicator 6.5.2

a. Methodology

This section allows for the calculation of the Sustainable Development Goal global indicator 6.5.2, which is defined as the proportion of transboundary basins' area with an operational arrangement for water cooperation. The information gathered in Section II, will help in completing this section. The Step-by-step monitoring methodology for SDG indicator 6.5.2\(^4\), developed by UNECE and UNESCO in the framework of UN Water, can be referred to for details on the necessary data, the definitions and the calculation.

The value of the indicator at the national level is derived by adding up the surface area in a country of those transboundary surface water catchments and transboundary aquifers (i.e., ‘transboundary basins’) that are covered by an operational arrangement and dividing the obtained area by the aggregate total area in a country of all transboundary basins (both catchments and aquifers).

Transboundary basins are basins of transboundary waters, that is, of any surface waters (notably rivers, lakes) or groundwaters which mark, cross or are located on boundaries between by two or more States. For the purpose of the calculation of this indicator, for a transboundary river or lake, the basin area is determined by the extent of its catchment. For groundwater, the area to be considered is the extent of the aquifer.

An “arrangement for water cooperation” is a bilateral or multilateral treaty, convention, agreement or other formal arrangement among riparian countries that provides a framework for cooperation on transboundary water management.

For an arrangement to be considered “operational” all the following criteria needs to be fulfilled:

- There is a joint body, joint mechanism or commission (e.g., a river basin organization) for transboundary cooperation,
- There are regular (at least once per year) formal communications between riparian countries in form of meetings (either at the political or technical level);
- There is a joint or coordinated water management plan(s), or joint objectives have been set, and
- There is a regular (at least once per year) exchange of data and information.

b. Calculation of indicator 6.5.2

Please list in the tables below the transboundary basins (rivers and lakes and aquifers) in your country’s territory and provide the following information for each of them:

- the country/ies with which the basin is shared;
- the surface area of these basins (the catchment of rivers or lakes and the aquifer in the case of groundwater) within the territory of your country (in km\(^2\));
- the surface area of these basins within the territory of your country which is covered by a cooperation arrangement that is operational according to the above criteria (please consider the replies to the questions in Section II, in particular questions 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6).

In case an operational arrangement is in place only for a sub-basin or portion of a basin, please list this sub-basin just after the transboundary basin it is part of. In case there is an operational arrangement for the whole basin, do not list sub-basins in the table below.

**Transboundary basin (river or lake) [please add rows as needed]**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name of the transboundary basin / sub-basin</th>
<th>Countries shared with</th>
<th>Surface area of the basin / sub-basin (in km²) within the territory of the country</th>
<th>Surface area of the basin / sub-basin (in km²) covered by an operational arrangement within the territory of the country</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Red River</td>
<td>China, Lao PDR</td>
<td>86.660 km²</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bang Giang - Ky Cung River</td>
<td>China</td>
<td>11.280 km²</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ma River</td>
<td>Lao PDR</td>
<td>17.720 km²</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ca River</td>
<td>Lao PDR</td>
<td>17.730 km²</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Se San River</td>
<td>Cambodia</td>
<td>11.620 km²</td>
<td>11.620 km²</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Srepok River</td>
<td>Cambodia</td>
<td>18.265 km²</td>
<td>18.265 km²</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dong Nai River</td>
<td>Cambodia</td>
<td>33.300 km²</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cuu Long River</td>
<td>Cambodia</td>
<td>39.000 km²</td>
<td>39.000 km²</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mekong River</td>
<td>Cambodia, Lao PDR, Thailand</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Total surface area of transboundary basins / sub-basins of rivers and lakes covered by operational arrangements within the territory of the country (in km²) [A]**

(do not double count sub-basins)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mekong Delta</th>
<th>39.178 km²</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sesan and Srepok basin</td>
<td>30.100 km²</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Total surface area of transboundary basins of rivers and lakes within the territory of the country (in km²) [B]**

(do not double count sub-basins)

| 235.935 km² |
### Transboundary aquifers [please add rows as needed]

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name of the transboundary aquifer</th>
<th>Countries shared with</th>
<th>Surface area (in km²) within the territory of the country</th>
<th>Surface area (in km²) covered by an operational arrangement within the territory of the country</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Total surface area of transboundary aquifers covered by operational arrangements within the territory of the country (in km²)** [C]

**Total surface area of transboundary aquifers within the territory of the country (in km²)** [D]

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**Indicator value for the country**

\[
((A + C) / (B + D)) \times 100\% = 
\]

**Additional information**

If the respondent has comments that clarify assumptions or interpretations made for the calculation, or the level of certainty of the spatial information, please write them here:

There is no available information about the transboundary aquifers yet.

**Spatial information**

If a map (or maps) of the transboundary surface water catchments and transboundary aquifers (i.e. ‘transboundary basins’) is available, please attach them. Ideally, shapefiles of the basin and aquifer delineations that can be viewed in Geographical Information Systems should be sent.

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5 For a transboundary aquifer, the extent is derived from the aquifer system delineation which is commonly done relying on information of the subsurface (notably the extent of geological formations). As a general rule, the delineation of aquifer systems is based on the delineation of the extent of the hydraulically connected water-bearing geological formations. Aquifer systems are three-dimensional objects and the aquifer area taken into account is the projection on the land surface of the system. Ideally, when different aquifer systems not hydraulically connected are vertically superposed, the different relevant projected areas are to be considered separately, unless the different aquifer systems are managed conjunctively.
The Mekong River Basin

Characteristics:

Area: 795,000 km² (21)
Length of mainstream: 4,400 km (12)
Average discharge: 15,000 m³/s (8)
Section II. Information on each transboundary basin or group of basins

Please complete this second section for each transboundary basin (river, lake or aquifer) or for group of basins covered by the same agreement or arrangement and where conditions are similar. It might also be convenient to group basins or sub-basins for which your country’s share is very small. In some instances, you may provide information on both a basin and one or more of its sub-basins, for example, where you have agreements on both the basin and its sub-basin. You may coordinate your responses with other States with which your country shares the basin or aquifer or even prepare a joint report for shared basins. General information on transboundary water management at the national level should be provided in Section III and not repeated here.

Please reproduce the whole Section II with its questions for each transboundary basin, river, lake or aquifer, or group of basins for which you will provide a reply.

Name of the transboundary basin, river, lake or aquifer, or group thereof, list of the riparian States, and country’s share of the basin: [Cuu Long River and Mekong River]

1. Is there one or more transboundary (bilateral or multilateral) agreement(s) or arrangement(s) on this basin?
   One or more agreements or arrangements exist and are in force ☑
   Agreement or arrangement developed but not in force ☐
   Agreement or arrangement developed, but not in force for all riparians ☐
   Please insert the name of the agreement or agreements or arrangements: [Agreement on the Cooperation for the sustainable development of the Mekong River Basin 1995]
   Agreement or arrangement is under development ☐
   No agreement ☐
   If there is no agreement or arrangement or it is not in force, please explain briefly why not and provide information on any plans to address the situation: [fill in]

   If there is no agreement or arrangement and no joint body for the transboundary basin, river, lake or aquifer then jump to question 4; if there is no agreement, but a joint body then go to question 3.

Questions 2 and 3 to be completed for each bilateral or multilateral agreement or arrangement in force in the transboundary basin (river, lake or aquifer) or group of basins or sub-basins

2. (a) Does this agreement or arrangement specify the basin area subject to cooperation?
   Yes ☑/No ☐
   If yes, does it cover the entire basin, or group of basins, and all riparian States?
   Yes ☑/No ☐
   If not, what does it cover? [fill in]

---

6 In principle, Section II should be submitted for every transboundary basin, river, lake or aquifer, in the country, but States may decide to group basins in which their share is small or leave out basins in which their share is very minor, e.g., below 1 per cent.
7 In Section II, “agreement” covers all kinds of treaties, conventions and agreements ensuring cooperation in the field of transboundary waters. Section II can also be completed for other types of arrangements, such as memorandums of understanding.
Or, if the agreement or arrangement relates to a sub-basin, does it cover the entire sub-basin?

Yes ☑/No ☐

Which States (including your own) are bound by the agreement or arrangement? (Please list): [There are five states have agreed to the Agreement including: Cambodia, Laos, Thailand and Viet Nam]

(b) Are aquifers (or groundwater bodies) covered by the agreement/arrangement?

Yes ☐/No ☑

(c) What is the sectoral scope of the agreement or arrangement?

☐ All water uses
☐ A single water use or sector
☒ Several water uses or sectors

*If one or several water uses or sectors, please list (check as appropriate):*

**Water uses or sectors**

Industry ☑

Agriculture ☑

Transport (e.g., navigation) ☑

Households ☑

Energy: hydropower and other energy types ☑

Tourism ☑

Nature protection ☑

Other (please list): [irrigation, flood control, fisheries, timber boating, recreation]

(d) What topics or subjects of cooperation are included in the agreement or arrangement?

**Procedural and institutional issues**

Dispute and conflict prevention and resolution ☑

Institutional cooperation (joint bodies) ☑

Consultation on planned measures ☑

Mutual assistance ☑

**Topics of cooperation**

Joint vision and management objectives ☑

Joint significant water management issues ☑

Navigation ☑

Environmental protection (ecosystem) ☑

Water quality ☑

Water quantity or allocation ☑

Cooperation in addressing floods ☑

Cooperation in addressing droughts ☑

Climate change adaptation ☑
Monitoring and exchange

Joint assessments
Data collection and exchange
Joint monitoring
Maintenance of joint pollution inventories
Elaboration of joint water quality objectives
Common early warning and alarm procedures
Exchange of experience between riparian States
Exchange of information on planned measures

Joint planning and management

Development of joint regulations on specific topics
Development of international or joint river, lake or aquifer basin management or action plans
Management of shared infrastructure
Development of shared infrastructure

Other (please list): [Protection of the Environment and Ecological Balance; Sovereign Equality and Territorial Integrity; Reasonable and Equitable Utilization; Maintenance of Flows on the Mainstream; Prevention and Cessation of Harmful Effects; State Responsibility for Damages; Freedom of Navigation]

(e) What are the main difficulties and challenges that your country faces with the agreement or arrangement and its implementation, if any (please describe, if applicable):

[There are 6 states in the Mekong River Basin including China, Myanmar, Thailand, Laos, Cambodia and Viet Nam. However, at the present time, China and Myanmar have not yet joined the agreement. Their roles are only observers. So that, it is quite difficult for the states which joined the agreement to implement the regulations of the agreement.]

(f) What are the main achievements in implementing the agreement or arrangement and what were the keys to achieving such success? [The successfullness of the 1995 Mekong Agreement is undoubtable and recognized by the international communities. It is considered as a model for a joint cooperation body of a transboundary river basin]

(g) Please attach a copy of the agreement or arrangement or provide the web address of the document (please attach document or insert web address, if applicable):
[www.mrcmekong.org/assets/Publications/policies/agreement-Apr95.pdf]

3. Is your country a member of an operational joint body or joint bodies for this agreement/arrangement?

Yes ☒/No ☐

If no, why not? (please explain): [fill in]

Where there is a joint body (or bodies)

(a) If there is a joint body, which kind of joint body (please tick one)?

Plenipotentiaries ☐
Bilateral commission ☐
Basin or similar commission ☒
Other (please describe): [Secretariat of the Mekong River Commission and the Council of the Mekong River Commission]

(b) Does the joint body cover the entire transboundary basin or sub-basin, river, lake or aquifer, or group of basins, and all riparian States?

Yes ☑/No ☐

c) Which States (including your own) are member of the joint body? (Please list) [Cambodia, Lao PDR, Thailand, Vietnam]

d) Does the joint body have any of the following features (please tick the ones applicable)?

- A secretariat ☑
  
  *If the secretariat is a permanent one, is it a joint secretariat or does each country host its own secretariat? (Please describe): [fill in]*

- A subsidiary body or bodies ☑

- *Please list (e.g., working groups on specific topics): [fill in]*

- Other features (please list): [fill in]

e) What are the tasks and activities of this joint body?*

- Identification of pollution sources ☑
- Data collection and exchange ☑
- Joint monitoring ☑
- Maintenance of joint pollution inventories ☑
- Setting emission limits ☑
- Elaboration of joint water quality objectives ☑
- Management and prevention of flood or drought risks ☑
- Preparedness for extreme events, e.g., common early warning and alarm procedures ☑
- Water allocation and/or flow regulation ☑
- Policy development ☑
- Control of implementation ☑
- Exchange of experience between riparian States ☑
- Exchange of information on existing and planned uses of water and related installations ☑
- Settling of differences and conflicts ☑
- Consultations on planned measures ☑
- Exchange of information on best available technology ☑
- Participation in transboundary EIA ☑
- Development of river, lake or aquifer basin management or action plans ☑
- Management of shared infrastructure ☑
- Addressing hydromorphological alterations ☑

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*This may include tasks according to the agreement or tasks added by the joint body, or its subsidiaries. Both tasks which joint bodies coordinate and tasks which they implement should be included.
Climate change adaptation
Joint communication strategy
Basin-wide or joint public participation and consultation of, for example, basin management plans
Joint resources to support transboundary cooperation
Capacity-building
Any other tasks (please list): [fill in]

(i) What are the main difficulties and challenges that your country faces with the operation of the joint body, if any?

Governance issues

Please describe, if any: [fill in]

Unexpected planning delays

Please describe, if any: [fill in]

Lack of resources

Please describe, if true: [data monitoring system, human and finance resources]

Lack of mechanism for implementing measures

Please describe, if true: [fill in]

Lack of effective measures

Please describe, if true: [fill in]

Unexpected extreme events

Please describe, if any: [fill in]

Lack of information and reliable forecasts

Please describe, if any: [fill in]

Others (please list and describe, as appropriate): [fill in]

(g) If not all riparian States are members of the joint body how does the body cooperate with them?

No cooperation

They have observer status

Other (please describe): [fill in]

(h) Does the joint body or its subsidiary bodies meet regularly?

Yes □/No □

If yes, how frequently does it meet? [The Joint Committee shall convene at least two regular sessions every year and may convene special sessions whenever it considers it necessary or upon the request of a member State. It may invite observers to its sessions as it deems appropriate.]

(i) What are the main achievements with regards to the joint body? [The Joint Committee helps formulate a basin development plan, regularly obtain, update and exchange information and data necessary to implement this Agreement; conduct appropriate studies and assessments for the protection of the environment and maintenance of the ecological balance of the Mekong River Basin and other important tasks which are assigned by the Council]
(j) Are representatives of international organizations invited to the meetings of the joint body (or bodies) as observers?
Yes ☒/No ☐

(k) Did the joint body ever invite a coastal State to cooperate?
Yes ☒/No ☐

If yes, please give details. If no, why not? [fill in]

4. Is there a joint or coordinated management plan (such as an action plan or a common strategy) or have joint objectives been set specifically on the transboundary waters subject to cooperation?
Yes ☒/No ☐

If yes, please provide further details: [The joint committee formulate basin development plan and submit to the Council for approval]

5. How is the transboundary basin, river, lake or aquifer protected, including the protection of ecosystems, in the context of sustainable and rational water use?

Afforestation ☐
Restoration of ecosystems ☒
Environmental flow norms ☒
Groundwater measures (e.g., protection zones) ☒

Other measures (please list): [The Joint Committee shall prepare and propose for approval The Rules for Water Utilization and Inter-Basin Diversions, including but not limited to: 1) establishing the time frame for the wet and dry seasons; 2) establishing the location of hydrological stations, and determining and maintaining the flow level requirements at each station; 3) setting out criteria for determining surplus quantities of water during the dry season on the mainstream; 4) improving upon the mechanism to monitor intra-basin use; and, 5) setting up a mechanism to monitor inter-basin diversions from the mainstream.]

6. (a) Does your country exchange information and data with other riparian States in the basin?
Yes ☒/No ☐

(b) If yes, on what subjects are information and data exchanged?

Environmental conditions ☒
Research activities and application of best available techniques ☒
Emission monitoring data ☐
Planned measures taken to prevent, control or reduce transboundary impacts ☒
Point source pollution sources ☐
Diffuse pollution sources ☐
Existing hydromorphological alterations (dams, etc.) ☒
Discharges ☒
Water abstractions ☒
Future planned measures with transboundary impacts, such as infrastructure development ☒
Other subjects (please list): [fill in]

(c) Is there a shared database or information platform?
Yes ☒/No ☐

(d) Is the database publicly available?
Yes ☒/No ☐

*If yes, please provide the web address: [http://portal.mrcmekong.org/index]*

(e) What are the main difficulties and challenges to data exchange, if applicable? (please describe): [data are not scattered and not enough for whole basin]

(f) What are the main benefits of data exchange on the transboundary waters subject to cooperation? (please describe): [sharing information]

7. Do the riparian States carry out joint monitoring in the transboundary basin, river, lake or aquifer?
Yes ☒/No ☐

(a) If yes, what does the joint monitoring cover?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Covered?</th>
<th>Hydrological</th>
<th>Ecological</th>
<th>Chemical</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Border surface waters</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Surface waters in the entire basin</td>
<td>☒</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Surface waters on the main watercourse</td>
<td>☒</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Connected aquifers (or groundwaters)</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unconnected aquifers (or groundwaters)</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(b) If joint monitoring is carried out, how is this done?

National monitoring stations connected through a network or common stations ☒
Joint and agreed methodologies ☒
Joint sampling ☐
Common monitoring network ☒
Common agreed parameters ☒

(c) Please describe the main achievements regarding joint monitoring, if any: [sharing information]

(d) Please describe any difficulties experienced with joint monitoring: [shortage of budget]

8. Do the riparian States carry out joint assessment of the transboundary basin, river, lake or aquifer?
Yes ☒/No ☐

*If yes, please provide the date of the last or only assessment, the frequency and scope (e.g., surface waters or groundwaters only, pollution sources, etc.) of the assessment: [It is included in the Annual Basin report of MRC]*
9. Have the riparian States agreed to use joint water quality standards?
   Yes ☒/No ☐
   
   If yes, is the basis an international or regional standard (please specify which) or has it been adapted from the national standards of the riparian States?
   [adapted from the national standard of riparian states]

10. What are the measures implemented to prevent or limit the transboundary impact of accidental pollution?
    Notification and communication ☐
    Coordinated or joint alarm system for accidental water pollution ☒
    Other (please list): [fill in]
    No measures ☐
    
    If not, why not? What difficulties does your country face in putting in place such measures?: [fill in]

11. What are the measures implemented to prevent or limit the transboundary impact of extreme weather events?
    Notification and communication ☒
    Coordinated or joint alarm system for floods ☒
    Coordinated or joint alarm system for droughts ☒
    Joint climate change adaptation strategy ☒
    Joint disaster risk reduction strategy ☒
    Other (please list): [fill in]
    No measures ☐
    
    If not, why not? What difficulties does your country face in putting in place such measures?: [fill in]

12. Are procedures in place for mutual assistance in case of a critical situation?
    Yes ☒/No ☐
    
    If yes, please provide a brief summary: [fill in]

13. Are the public or relevant stakeholders involved in transboundary water management in the basin, river, lake or aquifer?
    Yes ☒/No ☐
    
    If yes, how? (please tick all applicable) (Please note: If your country is a Party to the Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters (Aarhus Convention), you may refer to your country's report under that Convention):
    
    Stakeholders have observer status in a joint body ☒
    
    If yes, please specify the stakeholders for each joint body: [fill in]
    Availability of information to the public ☒
    Consultation on planned measures or river basin management plans ☒

---
9 Or, where applicable, aquifer management plans.
Public involvement

Other (*please specify*): [fill in]

Please remember to complete Section II for each of the transboundary basins (rivers, lakes or aquifers). Please also remember to attach copies of agreements, if any.
III. General information on transboundary water management at the national level

In this section, you are requested to provide general information on transboundary water management at the national level. Information on specific transboundary basins (rivers, lakes or aquifers) and agreements should be presented in Section II and not repeated here.

1. (a) Does your country’s national legislation refer to measures to prevent, control and reduce any transboundary impact?
   Yes ☒/No ☐

   *If yes, list the main national legislation: [The Law on Water Resources]*

   (b) Do your country’s national policies, action plans and strategies refer to measures to prevent, control and reduce any transboundary impact?
   Yes ☒/No ☐

   *If yes, list the main national policies, action plans and strategies: [National Action Plan on improving the effectiveness of integrated management, protection and use of water resources]*

   (c) Does your country’s legislation provide for the following principles?

   - Precautionary principle ☒/No ☐
   - Polluter pays principle ☒/No ☐
   - Sustainable development ☒/No ☐

   (d) Does your country have a national licensing or permitting system for wastewater discharges and other point source pollution (e.g., in industry, mining, energy, municipal, wastewater management or other sectors)?
   Yes ☒/No ☐

   *If yes, for which sectors? (please list): [all sectors]*

   *If not, please explain why not (giving the most important reasons) or provide information if there are plans to introduce a licensing or permitting system: [fill in]*

   *If your country has a licensing system, does the system provide for setting emission limits based on best available technology?*
   Yes ☒/No ☐

   (e) Are the authorized discharges monitored and controlled?
   Yes ☒/No ☐

   *If yes, how? (Please tick the ones applicable):*

   - Monitoring of discharges ☒
   - Monitoring of physical and chemical impacts on water ☒
   - Monitoring of ecological impacts on water ☒
   - Conditions on permits ☒
   - Inspectorate ☒
   - Other means (please list): [fill in]

   *If your country does not have a discharge monitoring system, please explain why not or provide information if there are plans to introduce a discharge monitoring system: [fill in]*
(f) What are the main measures which your country takes to reduce diffuse sources of water pollution on transboundary waters (e.g., from agriculture, transport, forestry or aquaculture)? The measures listed below relate to agriculture, but other sectors may be more significant. Please be sure to include these under “others”:

**Legislative measures**
- Norm for uses of fertilizers
- Norms for uses of manure
- Bans on or norms for use of pesticides
- Others (please list): [Regulated in The Law on Water Resources]

**Economic and financial measures**
- Monetary incentives
- Environmental taxes (such as fertilizer taxes)
- Others (please list): [fill in]

**Agricultural extension services**

**Technical measures**

*Source control measures*
- Crop rotation
- Tillage control
- Winter cover crops
- Others (please list): [fill in]

*Other measures*
- Buffer/filter strips
- Wetland reconstruction
- Sedimentation traps
- Chemical measures
- Others (please list): [fill in]

**Other types of measures**

*If yes, please list: [fill in]*

(g) What are the main measures which your country takes to enhance water efficiency? (Regulated in The Law on Water Resources)

*Please tick as appropriate (not all might be relevant)*
- A regulatory system regarding water abstraction
- Monitoring and control of abstractions
- Water rights are clearly defined
- Water allocation priorities are listed
- Water-saving technologies
- Advanced irrigation techniques
- Demand management activities
- Other means (please list)
(h) Does your country apply the ecosystems?
   Yes ☑/No ☐

   If yes, please describe how: [fill in]

   (i) Does your country take specific measures to prevent the pollution of groundwaters?
      Yes ☑/No ☐

      If yes, please list the most important measures: [Regulated in The Law on Water Resources]

2. Does your country require transboundary environmental impact assessment (EIA)?
   Yes ☑/No ☐

   Does your country have procedures for transboundary EIA?
   Yes ☐/No ☑

   If yes, please make reference to the legislative basis (please insert the name and section of the relevant laws): [fill in]

3. Does your country have transboundary agreements or arrangements for the protection and/or management of transboundary waters (i.e., surface waters or aquifers), whether bilateral, multilateral and/or at the basin level?
   Yes ☑/No ☐

   If yes, list the bilateral, multilateral and basin agreements (listing for each of the countries concerned): [1995 Mekong Agreement]

Section IV. Final questions

1. What are the main challenges your country faces in cooperating on transboundary waters?
   (i) About two-thirds of water of Viet Nam's river systems is generated outside the country and Viet Nam is in the downstream of several large transboundary river.

   (ii) Climate change makes the transboundary water changes unpredictable and complicated.

   (iii) The water resources tend to be degraded and exhaused including transboundary water resources in the context of industrialization and urbanization, which has been occurring in many parts of the world;

   (iv) Ineffective and inadequate coordination policy framework, mechanism for international agreement on transboundary water resources.

2. What have been the main achievements in cooperating on transboundary waters? What were the keys to achieving that success? (Please describe concrete examples):
   (i) The Mekong Agreement 1995 provides certain mechanism for the cooperation among member countries with regard to transboundary water resources management.

   (ii) Recognising the inadequate effectiveness of the Mekong Agreement in having not involved other countries in the Mekong Basin, namely Myanmar and China, member countries and the Mecong River Secretariat are encouraging these countries to join. So far a cooperation initiative Mekong - Lancang has been established to encourage cooperation between lower Mekong countries and China.
3. Please include any additional information on the process of preparing the report (e.g., whether there was an exchange or consultation within the joint body or with riparian countries), in particular which institutions have been consulted (please describe): [fill in]

4. If you have any other comments please add them here (insert comments):

(i) Viet Nam has acceded to the Convention on the Law of Non-Navigational Uses of International Watercourses and is looking at the Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes, in order to identify useful and effective international mechanism and tools for the management of transboundary watercourses. We would highly appreciate if the UNECE and UNESCO could provide us with capacity building assistance so as to enable our human resources in understanding and implementing these mechanism and tools. We also commit to take the initiative in encouraging the participation of other Mekong countries so as to mutually benefit from these useful instruments.

5. Name and contact details of the person(s) who filled out the questionnaire (please insert):

Mr. Pham Phu Binh  
Director General  
International Cooperation Department  
Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment of Vietnam  
Email address: ppbinh@monre.gov.vn

Date: 13/07/2017

Signature: