

2017 World Water Week – Stockholm 27 August 2017

Measuring transboundary water cooperation through the SDG 6.5.2 indicator: process and outcomes of the first reporting exercise

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SDG indicator 6.5.2: Presentation and Rationale

- * **Target 6.5:** By 2030, implement integrated water resources management at all levels, including through transboundary cooperation as appropriate
- * **Justification for a devoted indicator on transboundary cooperation:** Most of the world's water resources are shared. Development and management of water resources has impacts across transboundary basins -> cooperation required.
- * **Rationale:** Specific agreements or other arrangements concluded between co-riparian countries are a key precondition to ensure long-term, sustainable cooperation.



SDG indicator 6.5.2: Presentation and Rationale

- * **Indicator 6.5.2:** Proportion of transboundary basin area with an operational arrangement for water cooperation
- * Indicator 6.5.2 was agreed upon by the UN Statistical Commission in March 2016
- * SDG indicators framework formally adopted by the Statistical Commission and ECOSOC (way to the General Assembly)
- * **Complements indicator 6.5.1** which measures advancement of Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM)
- * **Custodian agencies:** UNECE and UNESCO

SDG indicator 6.5.2: Presentation

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

1. SDG Indicators are calculated at country level:

„Proportion of transboundary basin area (in a country) with an operational arrangement for water cooperation”

2. „basin“ = river basin, lake basin or aquifer

3. Two main elements of calculation in wording of indicator:

- proportion of area
- determining operability of cooperation arrangement

SDG indicator 6.5.2: Calculation

* **Four criteria for operability :**

- 1. existence of a joint body, joint mechanism or commission for transboundary cooperation;**
- 2. regularity (*at least once per year*) of formal communication in form of meetings (either at the political or technical level);**
- 3. existence of joint or coordinated water management plan(s), or of joint objectives;**
- 4. regular exchange of information and data (*at least once per year*)**

* **If **any** of the conditions is not met, the cooperation arrangement cannot be considered operational.**

Process to report under the Water Convention and on SDG indicator 6.5.2

- * *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

- * *Invitations to Parties to the Water Convention to report sent out in January by UNECE*

→ Deadline: 15 May 2017

- * *Invitations to other countries sharing transboundary waters sent out in February/ March by UNESCO and UNECE*

→ Deadline 15 June 2017



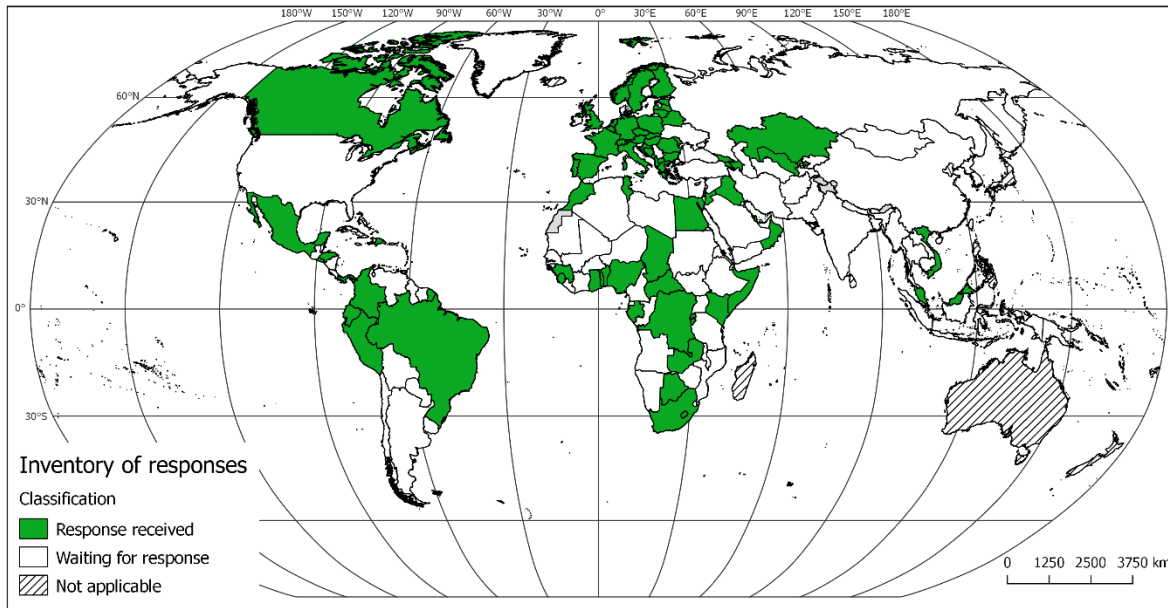
United Nations
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Cultural Organization



UNECE

EVEN IF THE DEADLINES ARE PASSED REPORTS ARE STILL WELCOME!

Reports received: Status



All the 154 Member States that are sharing transboundary waters have been contacted

Number of answers received
(by 23 August):

82 (3 with no report) only
42 reported on
transboundary aquifers

in spite of the fact that UNESCO and UNECE data bases have information on the other countries's TBAquifers

Reports received: Content

The analyses of all the 82 reports is not yet finalized

- * Most of the reports are complete
 - * Several incongruences exist in the reporting that will be corrected in close coordination with the countries during the data validation
- * Supporting materials
 - * Maps (in 21 reports, mainly surface water), copies of legal agreements → often submitted
 - * Shapefiles → rarely submitted

Preliminary observations

- * Most reports are very extensive and rich in information that had never been reported by countries before
- * Some reports have been prepared in consultation
 - * with sub-regional authorities
 - * with basin organizations
 - * with riparians

⇒ Better quality, enhanced impact
- * Many reports are transparent and reflect difficulties; others only focus on basins where cooperation works

Specific challenges in filling the form (1)

- * Questions for each transboundary basin, river, lake or aquifer:
 - * Sometimes only filled for agreements that are in place
 - * Grouping together answers for different basins/agreements instead of copying questionnaire and providing separate answers make the reports less understandable
 - * Positive that even if not required, some countries reported on sub-basin, which is particularly useful in the case of large sub-basins
 - * Limited answers to the open questions => a missed opportunity to highlight achievements and difficulties



Specific challenges in filling the form (2)

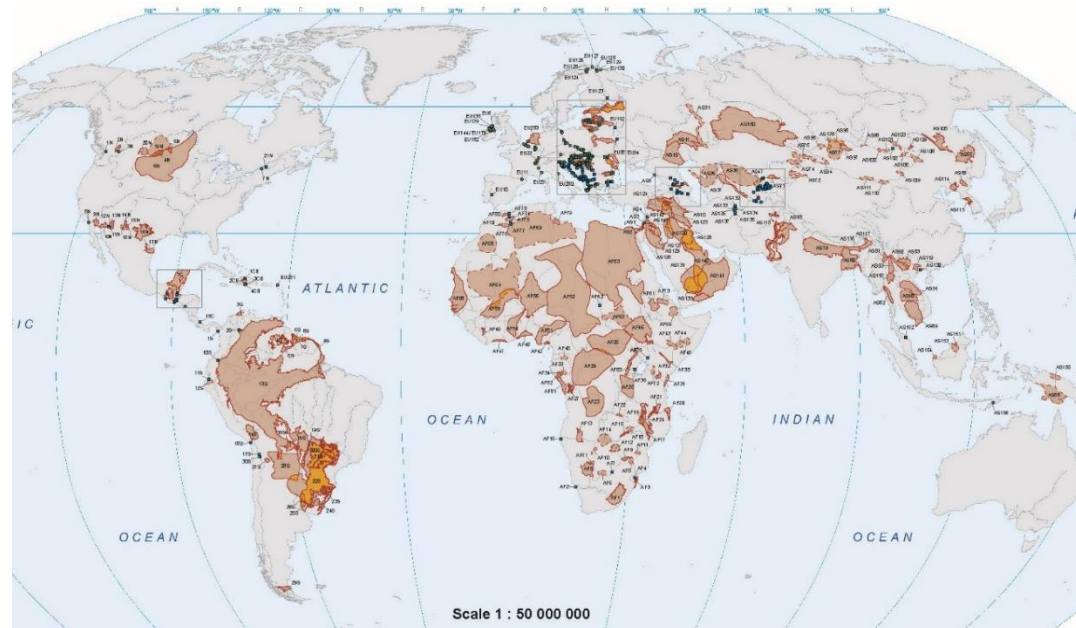
- * **SDG indicator calculation**
 - * Area of the basin to be used in the calculation
 - * **Non consideration** that all criteria of operationality have to be fulfilled (inconsistency of information under this section and the section on each transboundary basin)
 - * Lack of data, especially on TBA-groundwater
 - * Calculation of indicator without considering groundwater
 - * Sometimes no calculation of indicator

Data sources that could be used by Member States to fill in the report

Examples of INTERNATIONAL AVAILABLE DATA BASES

1. Transboundary River Basins (GEF Transboundary Waters Assessment Programme)
2. International Freshwater Treaties Database , maintained by Oregon State University (OSU)
3. Transboundary Aquifers (UNESCO - IGRAC database)

Result of the joint work with Member States official representatives (International Shared Aquifer Resources Management (ISARM) Programme)



Initial feedback on reporting process from countries

- * Reporting requires remarkable work, but helpful to review current status and progress made
- * Countries appreciated to provide in depth-information beyond the requirement for the calculation of the indicator value.
- * To have an online solution for reporting
- * Need for capacity building on SDG indicator
- * Useful to raise visibility of transboundary cooperation domestically

Next steps: Data validation and analysis of results

- * **Conduct data analysis and validation:** UNESCO and UNECE will share the work for 6.5.2, with UNESCO focusing on groundwaters and UNECE focusing on surface waters and procedural and substantial aspects of cooperation
- * **Presentation of results**
 - * High level political forum in New York Summer 2018 (report on 6.5.2)
 - * Meeting of the Parties October 2018 (Reporting under the Convention and general discussion on transboundary cooperation worldwide)

Summary of next steps

- * July-December 2017: Validation and analysis of the reports received. Countries might be approached with specific questions.
- * Sept-Dec 2017: Preparation of the input to the UN-Water synthesis report.
- * October 2017-April 2018: Preparation of the first global report on indicator 6.5.2 and other inputs, if any, for the high-level political forum.
- * Oct 2017-September 2018: Preparation of report on the implementation of the UNECE WATER CONVENTION
- * July 2018: HLPF: in depth review of SDG 6, including presentation of SDG 6 synthesis report and, if possible of the global report on indicator 6.5.2
- * August 2018: World Water Week: promotion of the findings of reporting
- * 10-12 October 2018: UNECE Water Convention MOP8 : First report on implementation of the Convention; discussion on progress of transboundary water cooperation; adoption of the decision on reporting and the revised reporting template.



Reporting as a trigger for change

Target 6.5: “By 2030, implement integrated water resources management at all levels, including through transboundary cooperation as appropriate”

- * A process until 2030! This is the first step.
- * Reporting process as an opportunity for countries to identify good practices and improve coordination nationally and cooperation with riparians.
- * Constant interactions with Member States, helping them in identifying data (gaps), improving knowledge (especially on aquifers) and supporting cooperation.
- * Challenge of transboundary aquifers inclusion.



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THANK YOU!

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