



Presentation on SDG6.5 indicator baseline monitoring results and recommendations

SDG6.5 on IWRM: From Global Status Reports to Accelerated Implementation”

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SDG target 6.5

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

6.5.1 Degree of integrated water resources management implementation (0–100)



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





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
- **Custodian agencies:** UNECE and UNESCO

Methodology SDG indicator 6.5.2



- **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

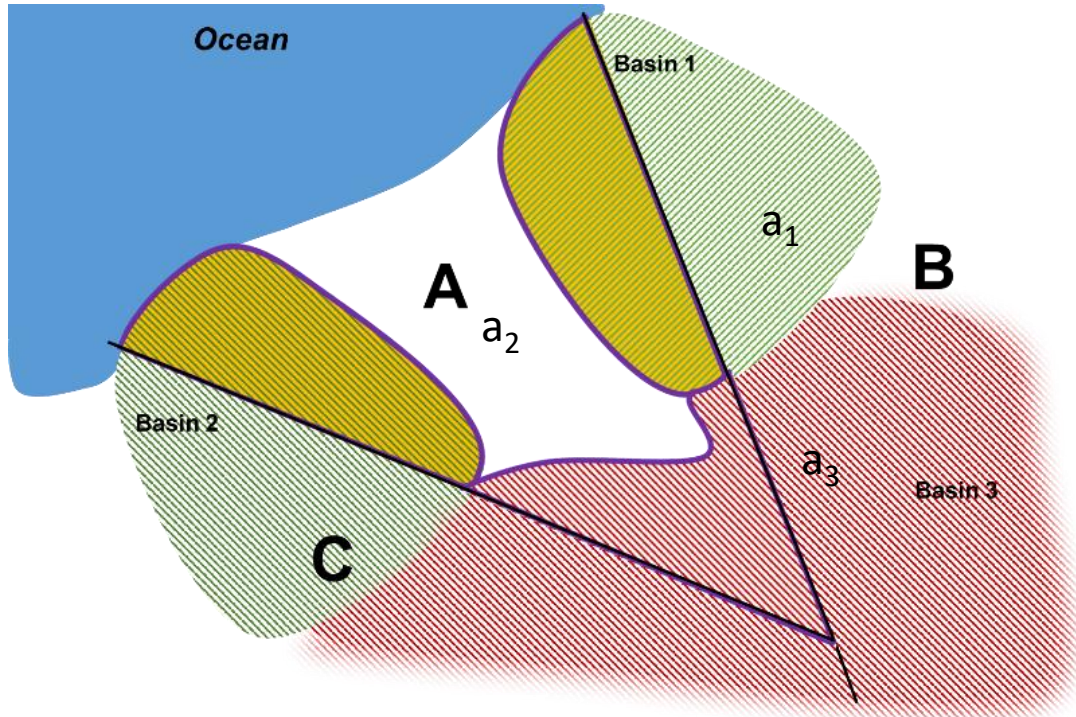
3. Two main elements of calculation in wording of indicator:

- proportion of area
- determining operability of cooperation arrangement



Methodology SDG indicator 6.5.2

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



Value of the indicator in the country A

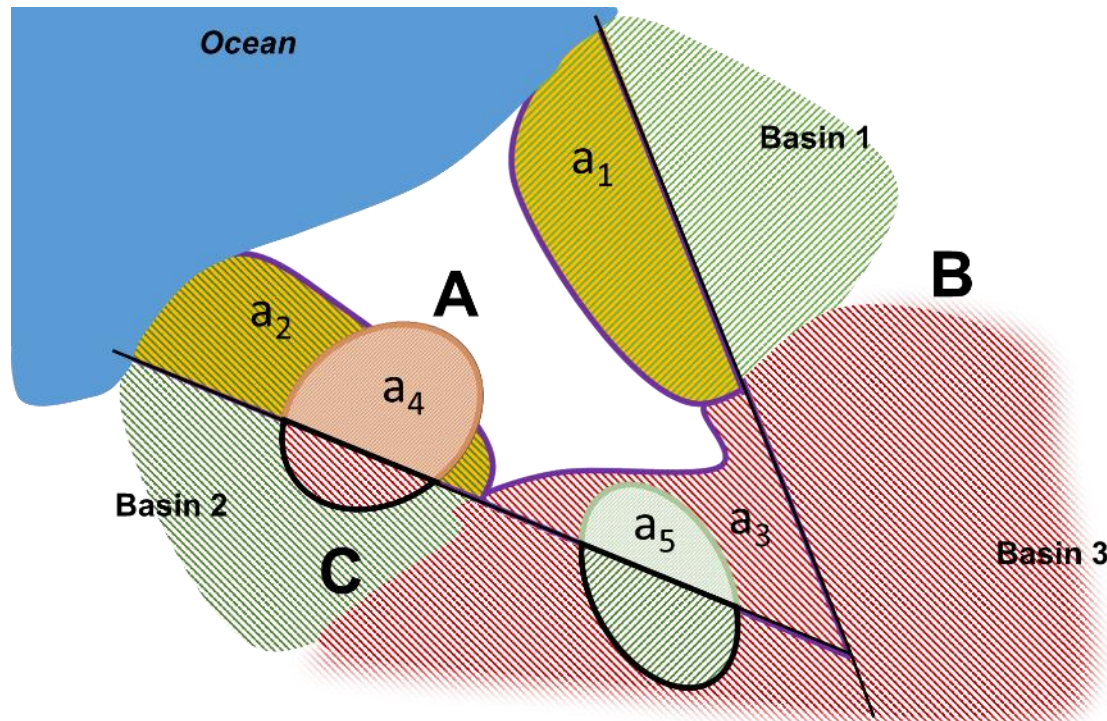
$$= \frac{a_1 + a_2}{a_1 + a_2 + a_3}$$

- Operational Arrangement
- No operational Arrangement
- Total transboundary basin area - Country A
- Area with an operational arrangement - Country A

Methodology SDG indicator 6.5.2





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



Value of the indicator
in the country A

$$= \frac{a_1 + a_2 + a_5}{a_1 + a_2 + a_3 + a_4 + a_5}$$

-  Operational Arrangement
-  No operational Arrangement

Methodology SDG indicator 6.5.2



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

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

- 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
- Countries were invited to report through a template
 - Parties to Water Convention also asked to report on its implementation
 - Other countries, 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



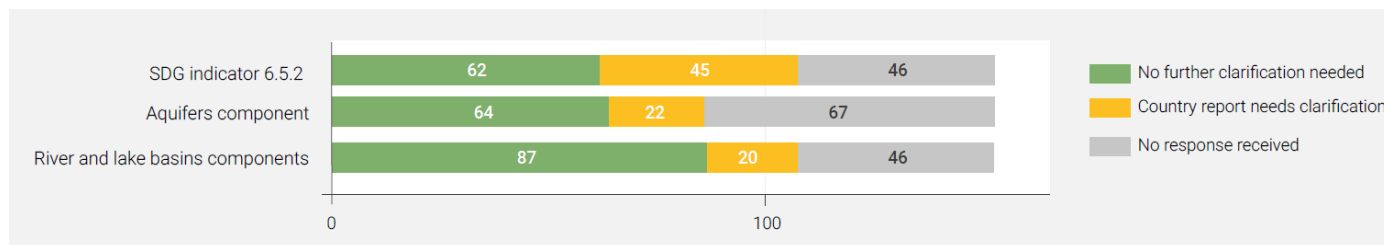
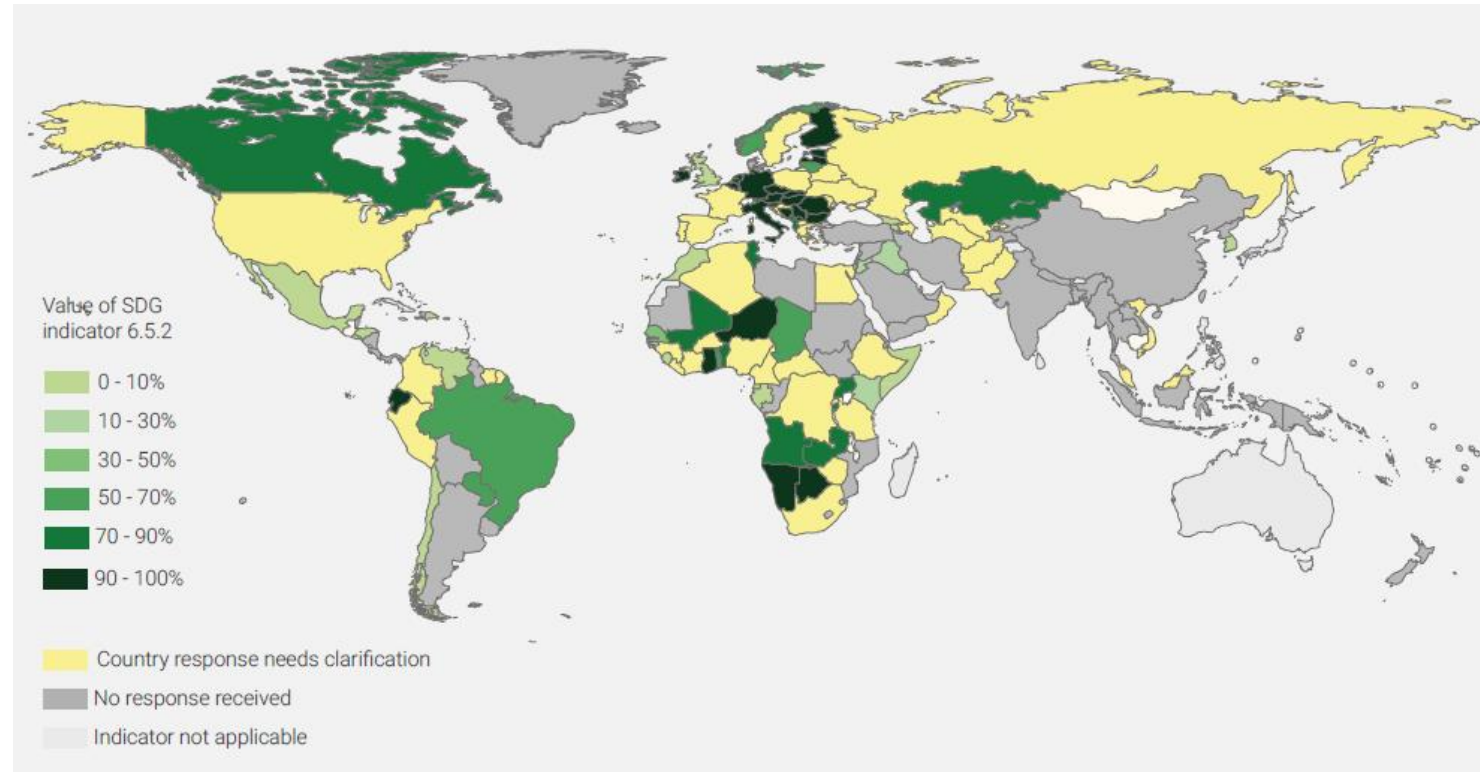
Reporting process

- 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

Initial results of the first reporting on SDG6.5.2



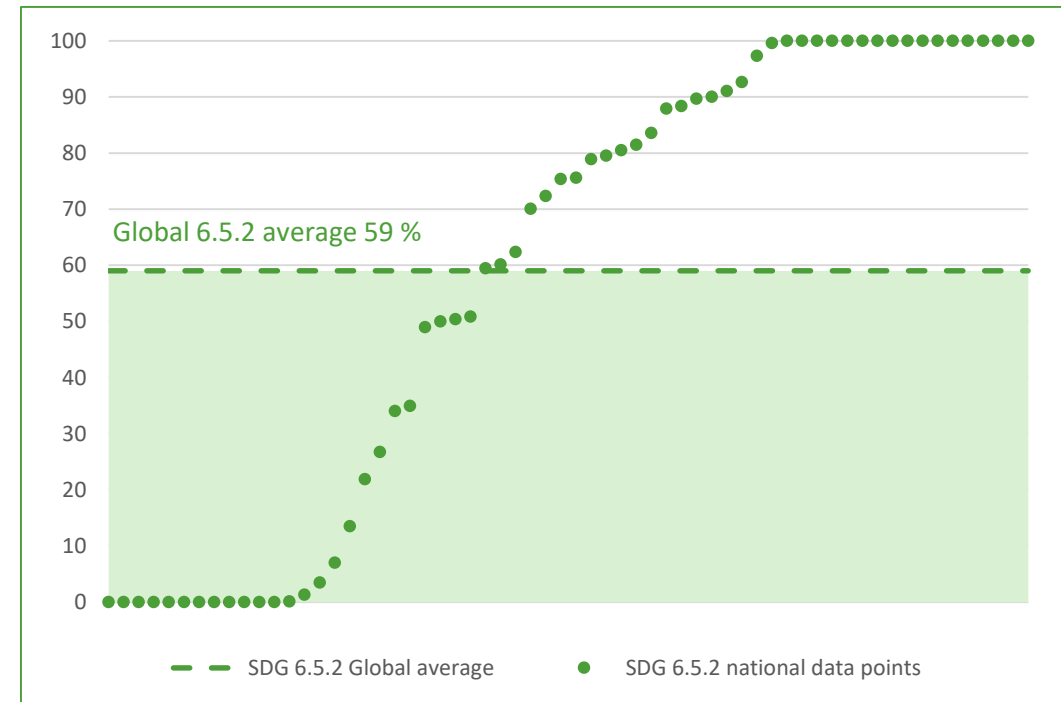
- **107 country responses** by March 2018 (out of 153 countries sharing transboundary waters)
 - Indicator 6.5.2 available for 62 countries (transboundary river & lake basins and aquifers)
 - 87 countries provided accurate data for transboundary river & lake basins, and
 - 64 countries for transboundary 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)



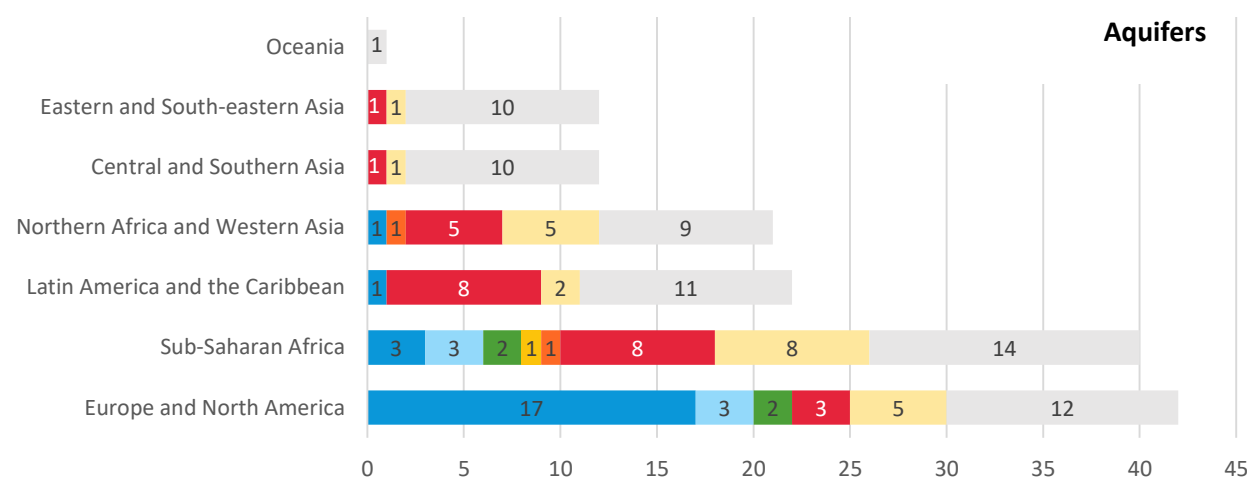
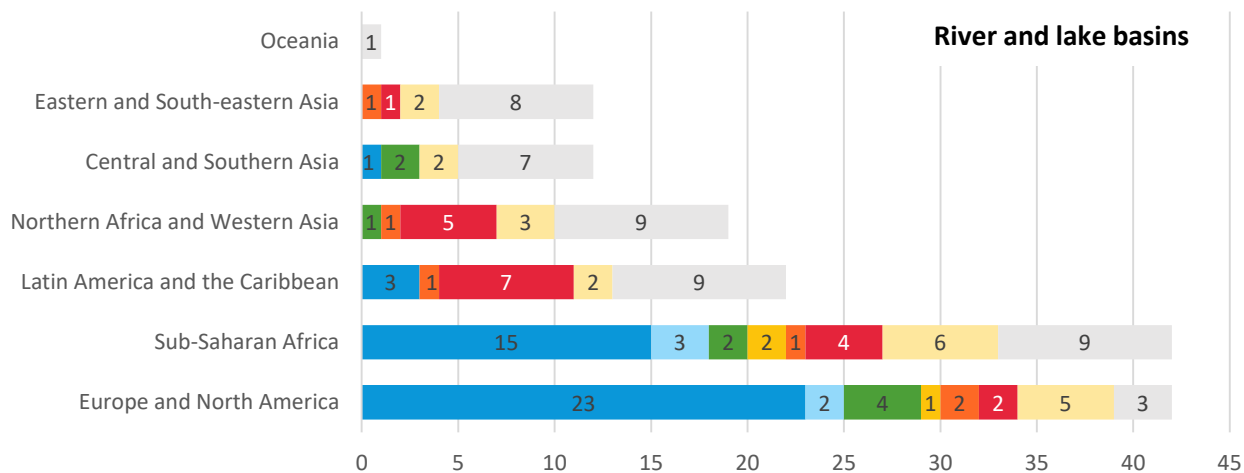
- 59% = average of the national percentage of transboundary basins covered by an operational arrangement is 59 per cent in the period 2017/2018, (62 out of 153 countries)
- Only 17 countries with all transboundary basins covered by operational arrangements



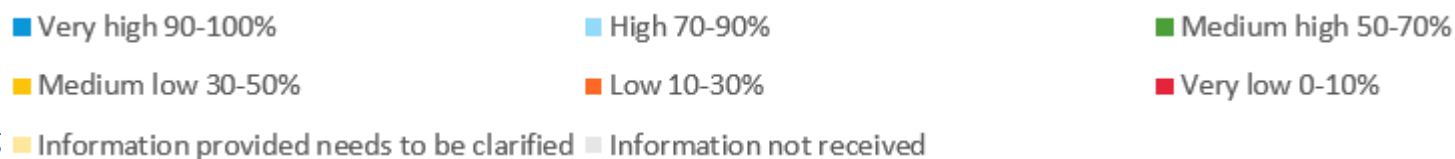
Initial results of the first reporting on SDG6.5.2 (3)



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).



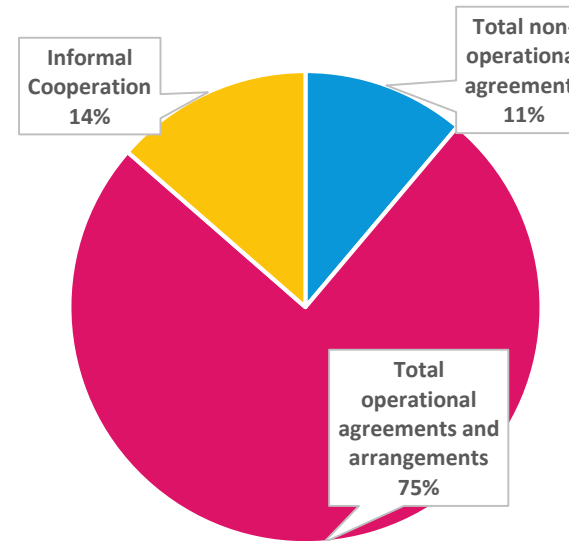
Initial results of the first reporting on SDG6.5.2 (4)

– based on the questionnaire

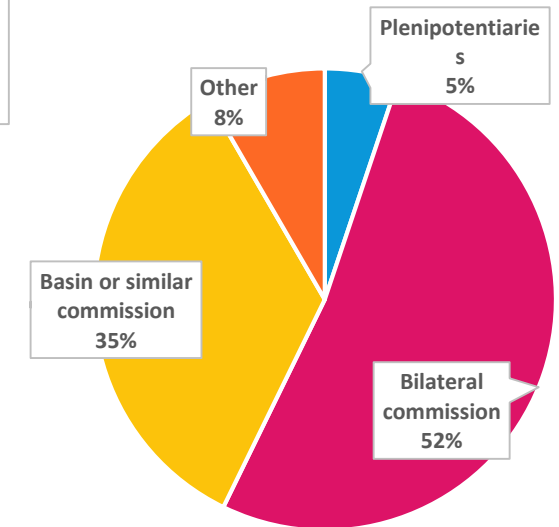


- An assessment of SDG indicator 6.5.2 across the 4 operability criteria demonstrates considerable diversity in
 - the types of cooperation,
 - the sectoral scope and topics of transboundary water arrangements, and
 - the joint bodies established
 => no universal solution

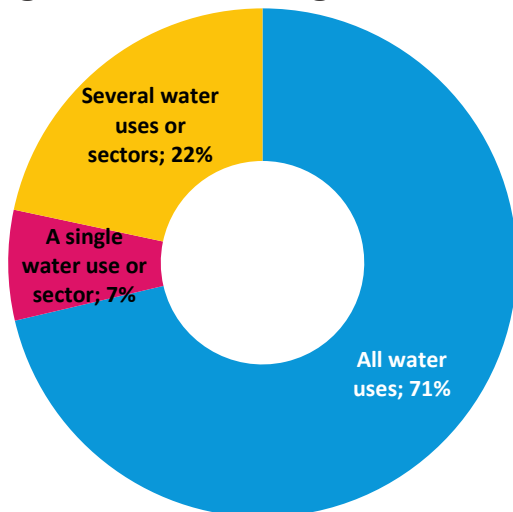
Forms of cooperation



Types of joint bodies



Sectoral scope of agreements/arrangements



UNECE



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization

Key messages



- **Transboundary water cooperation critical to ensuring sustainable management of water resources and achieving SDGs**
 - **153 countries sharing transboundary waters**
- **Transboundary water cooperation a precondition for sustainable development, peace and stability**
 - **Transboundary waters create social, economic, environmental and political dependencies**
- **As only target in 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development explicitly referring to transboundary cooperation, target 6.5. can play a catalytic role across multiple SDGs and targets.**

Key messages



- **Cooperation is shaped by the particular historical, legal and political context and existing arrangements vary considerably in terms of scope and intensity of cooperation**
- **In some regions and basins, significant progress has been made to further transboundary water cooperation through operational arrangements**
 - **Europe, Northern America and sub-Saharan Africa show greatest levels of progress**
- **Operational arrangements also absent in many transboundary basins**
 - **Out of 62 countries considered only 59% of basin area covered by operational arrangements**
 - **Only 17 countries have all transboundary basins covered by operational arrangements**



Key messages

- **We are not on track to achieve target 6.5 - progress must be accelerated to ensure that all transboundary basins are covered by operational arrangements**
- **Cooperation on transboundary aquifers represents a particular challenge**
 - Need more progress on delineating transboundary aquifers and realizing commitments to co-ord or joint management
- **Need to capitalize on experience and outputs of the first SDG6.5.2 reporting exercise**
 - Set national and basin targets
 - Enhance future reporting through, e.g, harmonization and improved response rate
 - Draw upon global Water Conventions and ILC Draft Articles on Transboundary aquifers to develop/ revise arrangements
 - Sharing knowledge and experience through ‘common currency’ of SDG6.5.2 indicator methodology and template
 - Improve financing for transboundary water cooperation and capacity building with ‘win-win’ opportunities for linking to other SDGs (Climate, Food, Health, Ecosystems, Peace and Justice)



Thanks for listening!

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www.unece.org/env/water

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