



**FIRST MEETING OF THE DRAFTING GROUP ON THE GUIDE  
TO REPORTING UNDER THE WATER CONVENTION  
AND AS A CONTRIBUTION TO SDG INDICATOR 6.5.2**

Geneva, Switzerland, 9-10 May 2019

To be held at the Palais des Nations, room VIII, starting at 10 a.m.

**Concept note**

**Background and objectives**

In the course of 2017, the first reporting exercise on Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) indicator 6.5.2 and under the Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Rivers and International Lakes (Water Convention) took place. A similar reporting template was sent to all countries, both Parties and non-Parties to the Water Convention. The template for reporting under the Convention was included as part of the template for reporting on SDG indicator 6.5.2. More specifically, the Convention's reporting template constitutes Sections II to IV of the template, complementing and substantiating Section I which is dedicated to the calculation of the SDG indicator 6.5.2 value. For Parties to the Water Convention this allowed maximizing synergies and efficiencies, by carrying out the two reporting processes together. For non-Parties, this allowed complementing and substantiating the calculation of the SDG indicator 6.5.2 in Section I. For both Parties and non-Parties, filling the full template allowed providing a more detailed picture of the advancement of cooperation, beyond the SDG 6.5.2 indicator value.

In the first reporting cycle under the Convention and on SDG indicator 6.5.2, 38 out of 40 Parties reported under the Convention and 107 out of 153 countries sharing transboundary waters reported on SDG indicator 6.5.2.

Lessons and experience from the first reporting exercise, in particular discussions at the "Technical meeting on the template for reporting on Sustainable Development Goal indicator 6.5.2 and under the Water Convention" (Budapest, 16–17 January 2018) and during other forums for discussion organized by UNECE, UNESCO and partners, such as the sub-regional workshops for Central francophone Africa (Douala, 4-6 July 2018) and for South-America (Montevideo, 22-23 November 2018), highlighted the need to provide further guidance for the completion of the reporting template in order to clarify the questions and the terminology, address common challenges, prevent possible misinterpretations, and thereby facilitate the completion of the template and enhance the quality of the national reports submitted.

Therefore, the Meeting of the Parties to the Water Convention at its eighth session (Astana, 10-12 October 2018) decided to develop a guide for reporting under the Convention. The Meeting of the

Parties also adopted a revised version of the template for reporting under the Convention. To continue building on the synergies between the two reporting processes, the Meeting of the Parties also decided that the next round of reporting under the Convention would be due by June 2020, as for SDG indicator 6.5.2. Therefore, to be available for use in the next reporting exercise, the guide is to be finalized by end of 2019.

This technical document should provide guidance on how to organize the reporting process together with clarifications on how to fill in the template, including definition of terms and the scope of the questions. The guide will also include examples providing practical illustrations on how to fill in the template.

To support the development of the guide to reporting under the Convention, and on SDG indicator 6.5.2, focusing on sections II to IV of the template, a meeting of countries' representatives – both Parties and non-Parties to the Convention – and international experts will be held on 9 and 10 May 2019 in Geneva.

The main objectives of the first meeting of the drafting group are to:

- Draw lessons from the first reporting exercise, in particular discuss issues in the reporting template highlighted in the reports submitted by the countries, together with specific comments received and lessons drawn from the analysis of the reports by UNECE and UNESCO, which require development of guidance and clarifications, focusing on the template for reporting under the Convention (sections II to IV of the template on SDG indicator 6.5.2);
- Discuss and agree on the scope and objectives of the guide, including its relationship with other relevant guidance material for reporting on SDG indicator 6.5.2, in particular the step-by-step methodology for the calculation of the indicator;
- Discuss and further elaborate a first draft of the guide to reporting, prepared for the drafting group meeting, and provide suggestion to its further development;
- Compile examples of transboundary cooperation illustrating the concepts and meaning of several questions in the template, as reported in the national reports and based on the experience of the participating experts.

Other workshops and forums will be organized in the year 2019 to prepare the second cycle of reporting.

## **Participants**

The drafting group meeting is targeted to experts responsible for completing the reporting template or coordinating the reporting process on SDG indicator 6.5.2 and under the Water Convention. In order to enable an interactive and effective meeting, a limited number of country representatives from across all SDG regions are being invited. Invitees include both Parties and non-Parties to the Water Convention, and both countries which reported and countries which did not submit a report

but might do so in future reporting exercises. A continuity with participants attending the Technical meeting on the template for reporting on SDG Indicator 6.5.2 and under the Water Convention in Budapest, January 2018, is also aimed at. Furthermore, invitees include countries from different transboundary water contexts<sup>1</sup>. Participants will also include representatives from partners engaged in supporting the second reporting exercise from different regions and who provide different disciplinary/sectoral background (law, science and policy). The following countries are being invited:

Algeria	Chad	Iraq	Netherlands	South Africa
Austria	China	Jordan	Pakistan	Spain
Bangladesh	Cote D'Ivoire	Kazakhstan	Panama	Tajikistan
Belarus	Egypt	Lebanon	Peru	Tanzania
Bosnia and Herzegovina	Finland	Luxembourg	Republic of Moldova	Turkey
Botswana	Georgia	Malaysia	Russian Federation	Uganda
Brazil	Ghana	Mexico	Senegal	United States of America
Cambodia	Guatemala	Mongolia	Slovenia	Uruguay
Cameroon	Hungary	Mozambique	Somalia	Vietnam

### **Practical information**

The meeting will be held on 9-10 May 2019 in Geneva, Switzerland. It will start at 10.00 a.m. on Thursday, 9 May 2019 and end at 5.30 p.m. on Friday, 10 May 2019. It will be held at the Palais des Nations in Room VIII.

The working languages will be English, French, Russian and Spanish.

For countries eligible for financial support, UNECE is in the position to finance the participation of one representative per country, including a return ticket to Geneva and an allowance to cover the cost of the stay. To request financial support, please return the attached financial support form duly completed and signed to Ms. Alexandra Boonekamp in the UNECE secretariat

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<sup>1</sup> Upstream / midstream/ downstream; Arid/ semi-arid / water rich; Different primary water uses (agriculture, hydropower, domestic, industrial); Sharing multiple transboundary basins under different arrangement with multiple countries; Operational arrangements in place for all transboundary basins to no basins/ few basin covered by arrangements; Sharing primarily surface water, both surface water and groundwater, primarily groundwater.

([alexandra.boonekamp@un.org](mailto:alexandra.boonekamp@un.org)), as soon as possible and in any case **not later than 1 April 2019**.

Participants requiring entry visas to Switzerland should inform the UNECE secretariat ([alexandra.boonekamp@un.org](mailto:alexandra.boonekamp@un.org)) as soon as possible. Since Switzerland is part of the Schengen Zone, obtaining a visa might take up to 5 weeks. Participants needing a visa are therefore requested to submit their application as soon as possible and initiate visa procedures at least five weeks before the meeting.

All participants are requested to register on line at <https://uncdb.unece.org/app/ext/meeting-registration?id=drckQ> by **25 April 2019**. In case you need practical assistance with registration, please contact the UNECE secretariat by e-mail ([alexandra.boonekamp@un.org](mailto:alexandra.boonekamp@un.org)).

Further information, relevant material and a practical information notice will be made available on the following website in due course: <https://www.unece.org/index.php?id=51403>.

For any substantial question on the meeting, please do not hesitate to contact UNECE, at [transboundary\\_water\\_cooperation\\_reporting@un.org](mailto:transboundary_water_cooperation_reporting@un.org)