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Reporting under the
Convention
and on
Sustainable Development
Goal Indicator 6.5.2

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Background on reporting under the Water Convention

- * Reporting template developed in 2014-2015 through a participatory process (Parties and Non-Parties)
- * Decision VII/2 at MOP7 in November 2015 → regular reporting under the Water Convention
- * Decision VII/2 recalls importance of reporting, including for monitoring progress on SDG 6, invites all Parties and non-Parties to report, requests the secretariat to prepare a report on the implementation of the Convention for MOP8
- * Reporting template revised in October 2016 to include questions related to the calculation of SDG indicator 6.5.2

Background on SDG indicators

- * September 2015: adoption of the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda and its SDGs, including SDG6 on water and sanitation
- * Target 6.5 calls upon all countries to implement integrated water resources management at all levels, including through transboundary cooperation
- * Late 2015-2016: IAEG-SDGs developed global indicator framework for the SDGs which was subsequently adopted by the UN Statistical Commission in March 2017 and by ECOSOC in June 2017

Indicator 6.5.2

- * **Indicator 6.5.2:** Proportion of transboundary basin area with an operational arrangement for water cooperation
- * **Custodian agencies:** UNECE and UNESCO
- * **Calculated at country level:**
- * “Basin” = river basin, lake basin or aquifer
- * Two main elements of calculation in wording of indicator:
 - 1) proportion of area;
 - 2) determining operationality of cooperation arrangement

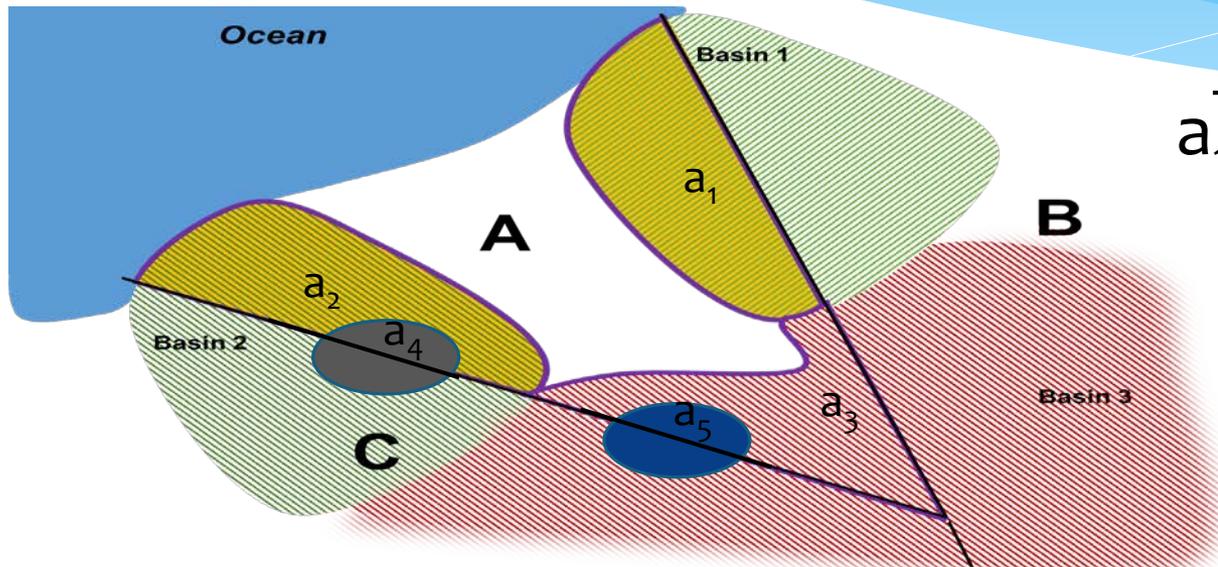
Criteria determining operationality of an arrangement

- * The criteria determining whether the cooperation arrangement is operational are the following:
 - * existence of a joint body, joint mechanism or commission for transboundary cooperation;
 - * regularity (at least once per year) of formal communication in form of meetings (either at the political or technical level);
 - * existence of joint or coordinated water management plan(s), or of joint objectives;
 - * 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.

CALCULATE THE INDICATOR VALUE

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



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

- | | | | |
|---|-----------------------------------|---|--|
|  | Operational Arrangement |  | Total transboundary basin area - Country A |
|  | No operational Arrangement |  | Area with an operational arrangement - Country A |
|  | Operational arrangement (aquifer) |  | No operational arrangement (aquifer) |

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

- * *Invitations to Parties 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
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*

Templates for reporting under the Water Convention and on indicator

6.5.2

Reporting under the Convention

Transboundary water management at the national level

Questions for each transboundary basin, river, lake or aquifer

Calculation of SDG indicator 6.5.2

Final questions

Reporting on SDG indicator 6.5.2

Calculation of SDG indicator 6.5.2

Questions for each transboundary basin, river, lake or aquifer

Transboundary water management at the national level

Final questions

Support provided for reporting on 6.5.2

- * Step-by-step-methodology in all UN languages
- * Inception webinars on GEMI
- * Webinars on 6.5.2 in ENG, FRE, SPA (recorded)
- * Presentations on indicator 6.5.2 in several global, regional and national events
- * Replies to countries' queries by UNECE and UNESCO

Reports received

- * As of 3 July had submitted a report:
 - * 33 Parties (out of 40)
 - * 33 (+2) other countries (out of 114 countries)
- * Almost all countries completed all parts of the template
 - * Exceptions:
 - * Bulgaria: no information on SDG indicator 6.5.2
 - * Canada (only SDG indicator)
 - * Morocco, Qatar (letter explaining that the extend and importance of transboundary waters is very limited and does not justify reporting)
- * For procedural reasons
 - * Signature/official submission required → not always submitted
- * For practical reasons
 - * Word version required → not always submitted
- * Supplementary materials
 - * Maps, copies of legal agreements → often submitted
 - * Shapefiles → rarely submitted

Parties having reported under the Convention and on indicator 6.5.2

* Austria, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria*, Croatia, Czech Republic, Estonia, Finland, France , Germany, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Kazakhstan, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Republic of Moldova, Montenegro, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Uzbekistan

* Report missing the calculation of 6.5.2

Other countries having reported on indicator 6.5.2

* Andorra, Armenia, Benin, Botswana, Brazil, Burundi, Chad, Central African Republic, Canada*, Colombia, Côte d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of Congo, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Georgia, Ghana, Guinea, Iraq, Jordan, Kenya, Lesotho, Malaysia, Mexico, Morocco**, Namibia, Nigeria, Panama, Peru, Qatar**, Rwanda, Sierra Leone, Somalia, South Africa, Togo, United Kingdom

* Report only including the calculation of 6.5.2 with no information provided under the other sections.

** Not a full report but a short letter

Preliminary observations

- * Most reports are very extensive and rich in information that had never been reported by countries before
- * Countries have done commendable efforts to report
- * 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
 - * Lack of awareness 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 groundwater
 - * Calculation of indicator w/o considering groundwater
 - * Sometimes no calculation of indicator

Initial feedback on reporting process from countries

- * Reporting requires remarkable work, but helpful to review current status and progress made
- * Section on different transboundary basins appreciated to provide in depth-information beyond the indicator value.
- * Requests:
 - * for not too many changes to the questionnaire to facilitate updating in the future
 - * to have an online solution for reporting
- * Problems with differences in translated versions (e.g in Russian «plenipotentiaries» and «governance issues»)=> potential for misunderstandings)
- * Need for capacity building on SDG indicator
- * Useful to raise visibility of transboundary cooperation domestically

Questions for discussion (1)

- * What is your country experience with the reporting exercise?
- * Which challenges and difficulties did you face?
- * How was it useful?
- * Do you have specific suggestions for improving the process in the future?

Use of the reported information

- * Main use: at the national and transboundary level => communicate and discuss results widely to strengthen cooperation and support to it
- * Under the Convention: reports inform individual and collective responses, including future programme of work + discussions at the next MOP
- * At the global level: global baseline for indicator 6.5.2
- * Reports (once validated) will be available on the UNECE and UNESCO websites
- * Values of indicator 6.5.2 in the UN Statistical Commission database, on UN Water portal and on UNECE and UNESCO websites

Next steps: Data validation and analysis of results

- * Confirm receipt and provide initial feedback on reports received, reply to outstanding questions
- * Reminder to report to countries which haven't done so at the latest by 31 July 2017
- * 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
 - * May revert to senders for additional feedback clarification
- * 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)



Report on indicator 6.5.2 for the HLPF in 2018 (together with UNESCO)

- * Input to the SDG 6 Synthesis Report on Water and Sanitation and to the 2018 Report of the Secretary-General on progress towards the SDGs
- * Global report on SDG indicator 6.5.2. Preliminary ideas on the content:
 - * Description of the reporting process
 - * Analysis at the global and regional levels
 - * General information and trends
 - * Analysis of the reports according to the different criteria defining operability
 - * Conclusions on general achievements and challenges, together with recommendations.
 - * Examples of good practices?
 - * Graphs and maps.
- * Main challenge: resources for preparation

Report on implementation of the Convention for MOP in 2018 (UNECE only)

- * Only focusing on Parties
- * No information on SDG indicator 6.5.2, but more in depth on Convention's implementation and part II:
 - * Description of the reporting process
 - * Analysis at the regional and sub-regional levels of the achievements and difficulties in implementing the Convention.
 - * Review of national measures implemented by Parties to support transboundary water management
 - * Measures implemented at the level of the transboundary basin, in accordance with the template for reporting.
 - * Conclusions and recommendations, including, if possible on the future directions of work under the Convention.
 - * It will also feature graphs and maps.

Revision of the reporting templates under the Convention and on indicator 6.5.2

- * Template for reporting under the Convention received many comments , pilot reporting pointed to shortcomings that could be addressed
- * Importance to maintain coherence between the reporting under the Convention and on indicator 6.5.2
- ⇒ Creation of a core group of Parties and non-Parties to revise templates, supported by UNECE and UNESCO
- ⇒ Comments to be sent on the template by 30 September 2017
- * Preparation of a decision on future reporting under the Convention for adoption at MOP in 2018

Questions for discussion (2)

- * Do you have any comment or suggestion in relation to the global report on SDG indicator 6.5.2 and the report on the implementation of the Convention?
- * Do you have specific comments or suggestions on the templates? Do you have comments on the proposed process of revision of the template? How should members of the core group be identified to be representative?

Future reporting

- * Online reporting would be more user friendly for countries and facilitate data elaboration and dissemination
- * Needs of reporting under the Convention and on SDG 6.5.2 indicator might differ
- * Resources needed for preparation and establishment of systems
- * Future reporting should take into account:
 - * Review of the SDG indicator framework under IAEG-SDGs
 - * Implications of reporting at different levels (in particular regional level)
 - * Integration of SDG 6 indicators under GEMI /UN-Water

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.
- * Late 2017/ early 2018: revision of the reporting templates
- * October 2017-April 2018: Preparation of the 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 Convention
- * March 2018: Promotion of the preliminary findings of the reporting
- * 29-30 May 2018, 13th meeting of the WGIWRM: Discussion on the revised reporting template and decision on reporting.
- * 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: 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.