



**Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary
Watercourses and International Lakes**

Working Group on Integrated Water Resources Management

Sixteenth meeting

Working Group on Monitoring and Assessment

Sixteenth meeting

Geneva, 26-28 April 2021

Item 9 of the provisional agenda

**Reporting on Sustainable Development Goal
indicator 6.5.2 and under the Convention**

**Draft second report on progress on transboundary
water cooperation under the Water Convention:
basic content and key messages**

Note by the secretariat

Summary

The programme of work for 2019–2021 includes support for reporting on Sustainable Development Goal indicator 6.5.2 and under the Water Convention (programme area 6). In 2020–2021, as part of the second reporting exercise on Sustainable Development Goal indicator 6.5.2 and under the Water Convention, all Parties to the Convention have submitted their national reports.

In line with Decision VIII/1 on Reporting under the Convention (paragraph 15), the secretariat is preparing a report on the implementation of the Convention to be submitted to the ninth session of the Meeting of the Parties (29 September – 1 October 2021). This will be the second progress report on the implementation of the Convention. The first progress report (ECE/MP.WAT/51¹) was prepared in 2018.

This document includes the basic content and key messages of the draft report which is still under development. Data derived from responses to questions in section II of the template are based on all replies received and include multiple answers concerning the same transboundary waters because the reports provide information on transboundary basins at national level. The efforts to produce consolidated analysis of information by basins are ongoing and such information is not presented in this document. For the same reasons, information about basins that lack agreements or arrangements and/or joint bodies is not included.

The full draft will be made available for comments in May 2021. Parties will then be invited to provide comments to the full draft by 15 June 2021 to enable the secretariat to finalize the report based on comments received and publish it by the ninth session of the Meeting of the Parties.

¹ Available at <https://unece.org/environment-policy/publications/progress-transboundary-water-cooperation-under-water-convention>

A. OVERVIEW OF THE SECOND REPORTING EXERCISE

All 42 Parties² to the Convention have submitted their reports in the second reporting exercise. For the first time, Chad and Senegal – Parties to the Convention from outside the Pan-European region – have participated in the reporting process under the Convention.

The response rate of 100 per cent in the second reporting exercise represents an improvement from the pilot reporting exercise in 2017–2018 (95 per cent, or 38 out of 40 Parties) and demonstrates a unanimous support for the reporting mechanism among Parties. Such an improvement is even more impressive against the context of the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020–2021 which has undoubtedly impacted on the mode of operation in many national administrations, complicating the internal and transboundary consultations in the process to prepare national reports.

There has been a considerable improvement in the timeliness of submission of reports by Parties in the second reporting exercise compared to the pilot reporting exercise. In 2017, only 39 per cent of reports were submitted by the deadline, whereas in 2020, 55 per cent of reports were submitted by the deadline of 30 June 2020. Nevertheless, the fact that a significant number of reports were submitted after the prescribed deadline posed a challenge as a complete analysis of the reports could not commence until all finalized and signed reports had been submitted. This has made it difficult to use the results of reporting in the development of the programme of work under the Water Convention for the following triennium period.

There has been some progress in clarifying the data on transboundary aquifers, as many more transboundary aquifers were reported by the Parties in the second reporting exercise. For example, the Republic of Moldova provided information on two transboundary aquifers in the pilot reporting exercise, while in the second reporting exercise the country was able to provide information on seven transboundary aquifers.

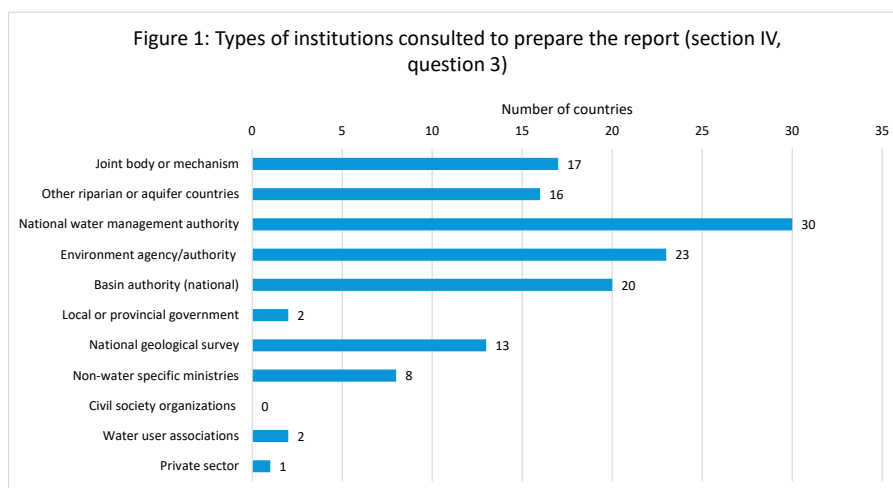
In the second reporting exercise, countries were strongly encouraged to coordinate their responses on transboundary waters they share. **Many Parties have consequently engaged in consultations on the content of their reports with other riparian countries and/or within joint bodies.** 16 Parties³ (compared to 7 in the first reporting round) have reported to have consulted other riparian countries during the completion of their reports. 17 Parties⁴ (compared to 3 Parties in the first reporting round) have reported to have consulted a relevant joint body or mechanism during the completion of their questionnaires. 13 Parties report to have consulted both other riparian countries and a relevant joint body. **Coordination of responses improved to a greater extent for transboundary rivers and lakes than for transboundary aquifers.**

Even though the COVID-19 pandemic has impacted on the process of consultations in the preparation of national reports, many Parties used the opportunity to consult a wide range of stakeholders on transboundary water issues, in addition to consulting other riparian countries or joint bodies. An overview of responses related to the types of institutions consulted during the second reporting exercise is provided in figure 1.

² With Ghana's accession on 22 June 2020, there are now 44 Parties to the Water Convention (43 countries and the European Union). Since the Convention has entered into force for Ghana on 20 September 2020, i.e. after the deadline for submission of reports by Parties, Ghana's report is not covered by this synthesis report. The EU is a Party to the Convention but was not invited to report.

³ Austria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Czech Republic, Finland, Germany, Hungary, Liechtenstein, North Macedonia, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Sweden, Ukraine.

⁴ Austria, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Estonia, Finland, Hungary, Kazakhstan, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Senegal, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Sweden.



In the second reporting round, Parties made stronger effort to consult other institutions beyond the national water management authorities, in preparation of their reports. Some Parties mention to have organized dedicated meetings or established working groups to prepare or advise on the national report. However, very few Parties mention to have consulted non-state actors when preparing their second reports.

In the second reporting exercise, Parties mention to have benefitted from using the Step-by-step Monitoring Methodology for SDG Indicator 6.5.2 (version 2020)⁵ and the Guide to reporting under the Water Convention and as a contribution to SDG indicator 6.5.2⁶ issued in January 2020. 37 Parties to the Convention have participated in at least one of the five *webinars on SDG indicator 6.5.2: Supporting countries in preparing national reports for the 2nd reporting exercise* organized by UNECE and UNESCO in May-June 2021.⁷

No major difficulties were reported by the Parties in the use of the revised reporting template or guidance materials. Several Parties indicated that the reporting exercise was time-consuming and a transfer to an electronic reporting format could save time and resources. These Parties would appreciate if the following reporting rounds would require only effort to update existing data and information and coordinate responses with other riparian Parties, rather than the effort to input data and information once again into the template. Many Parties informed that they relied on their first report when filling in the template for the second reporting exercise.

B. TRANSBOUNDARY WATER MANAGEMENT AT THE NATIONAL LEVEL

Nearly all reporting Parties⁸ stated that their country's national legislation refers to measures to prevent, control and reduce transboundary impact (section III, question 1(a) of the template). In

⁵ Available at <https://www.unwater.org/publications/step-step-methodology-monitoring-transboundary-cooperation-6-5-2/>

⁶ Available at <https://unece.org/environment-policy/publications/guide-reporting-under-water-convention-and-contribution-sdg>

⁷ Based on data about registered participants.

⁸ The reference to “reporting Parties” in section B of this document refers to all Parties to the Convention except the Russian Federation that has submitted its national report but has not replied to questions in sections III and IV of the reporting template.

most countries, their national water law or environmental law is the primary body of legislation referring to the prevention, control and reduction of transboundary impact.

All reporting Parties confirmed that their country's legislation provides for the polluter-pays principle, and nearly all reporting Parties confirmed that their country's legislation provides for the sustainable development principle, precautionary principle and user pays principle (section III, question 1(b)). Parties inform to have incorporated these principles in the national legislation and implement them through permitting and licensing procedures, use of environmental impact assessment (EIA) mechanisms, tariffs, taxes and fees, as well as control and monitoring mechanisms. Some reporting Parties indicate that enforcement of measures to implement these principles represents a challenge.

All reporting Parties confirmed that they have licensing or permitting systems in place for wastewater discharges and other point sources of pollution (section III, question 1(c)). There is a trend to ensure that all major sectors are regulated by such systems.

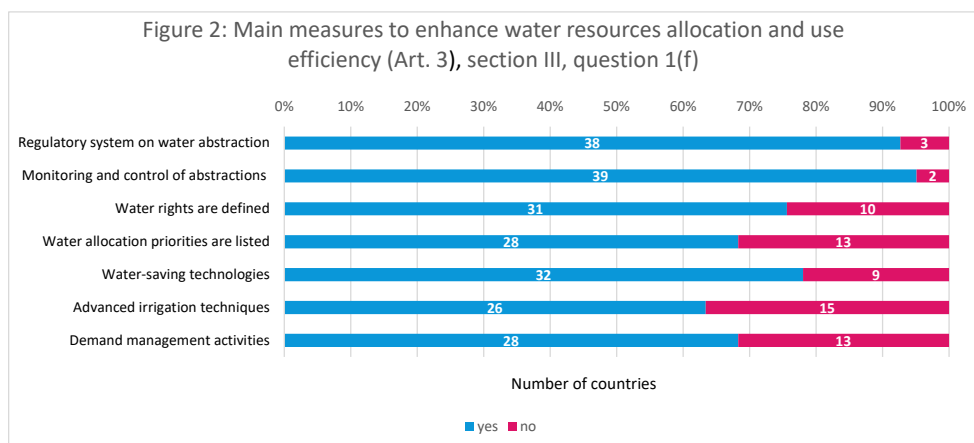
It was also evident that in the majority of reporting Parties, their licensing or permitting systems provide for setting emission limits based on best available technology (BAT). Still, many Parties have not indicated whether the licensing or permitting system provides for setting emission limits based on BAT (section III, question 1(c)), suggesting potential difficulties in the application of BAT.

All reporting Parties confirmed that any authorized discharges are monitored and controlled (section III, question 1(d)). Nearly all reporting Parties report to be using permits and to perform monitoring of discharges. The vast majority of reporting Parties inform to have inspections in place. Significant number of reporting Parties inform to monitor physical and chemical impacts on water, but a lower number monitor ecological impacts on water.

All reporting Parties inform to have measures in place to reduce diffuse sources of pollution on transboundary waters. Legislative measures appear to be the most common option, while economic and financial measures, and in particular the use of environmental taxes and agricultural extension services appear not to be widely used.

Nearly all reporting Parties confirm that their national laws require transboundary environmental impact assessment. There is an increasing use of strategic environmental assessment (SEA) tool by the Parties.

All reporting Parties have put in place specific measures to enhance water resources allocation and use efficiency (section III, question 1(f)). As illustrated in figure 2, most common measures to enhance water use efficiency include monitoring and control of water abstractions, regulatory system regarding water abstraction, water-saving technologies and definition of water rights. There is a room for improvement in the use of measures to enhance water use efficiency among Parties when it comes to demand management activities.



C. TRANSBOUNDARY AGREEMENTS AND ARRANGEMENTS

Parties report to take serious efforts to implement the obligation to enter into agreements or arrangements. In response to the question on the existence of one or more agreements or arrangements covering respective transboundary river basin, sub-basin, lake or aquifer (section II, question 1), the majority of responses (984 or 96 per cent) out of a total 1,026 responses to this question, confirmed that an agreement exists and is in force.

In order to better understand the geographic scope of agreements and arrangements, Parties were also asked whether an agreement or arrangement covers the entire basin or group of basins and all riparian States concerned (section II, question 2(a)). Out of a total 883 responses to this question, **only 546 (or 62 per cent) indicated that the agreement or arrangement in question covers the entire basin or group of basins and all riparian States.**

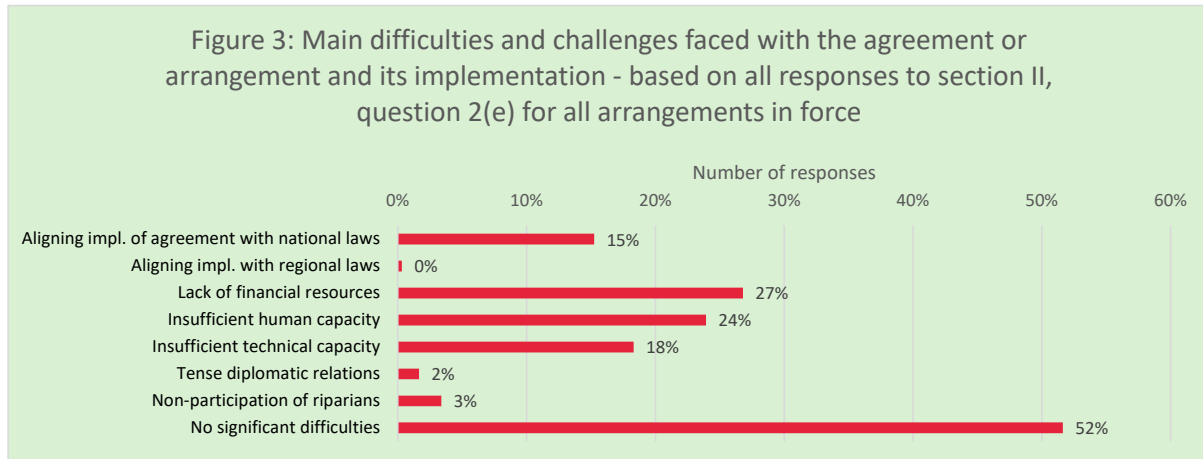
The conclusion of agreements dedicated to transboundary aquifers appears to be extremely rare. Parties report as little as four aquifer/groundwater-specific agreements. The vast majority of reported transboundary aquifers with agreements or arrangements in place are covered by arrangements not specific to an aquifer.

The large majority of responses concerning the sectoral scope of agreements and arrangements indicates that agreements and arrangements cover all water uses. Among agreements and arrangements that cover one or several water uses or sectors, Parties indicate a rather broad coverage of sectors, with household use and tourism sector being slightly less represented than energy, fisheries, industry, nature protection, agriculture, industry and transport sectors. Several Parties explicitly indicate water management as an additional sector.

The responses also show that a diverse range of topics or subjects of cooperation are reflected in agreements and arrangements. Key procedural and institutional issues, matters related to water quality and quantity, and monitoring and exchange of data and information are well reflected in existing agreements and arrangements.

However, certain provisions of the Water Convention, such as the maintenance of joint pollution inventories, the elaboration of joint water quality objectives and criteria, development of early warning and alarm systems and the provision of mutual assistance are not widely provided for within the text of agreements or arrangements. Provisions on health and on climate change adaptation also appear to be limited.

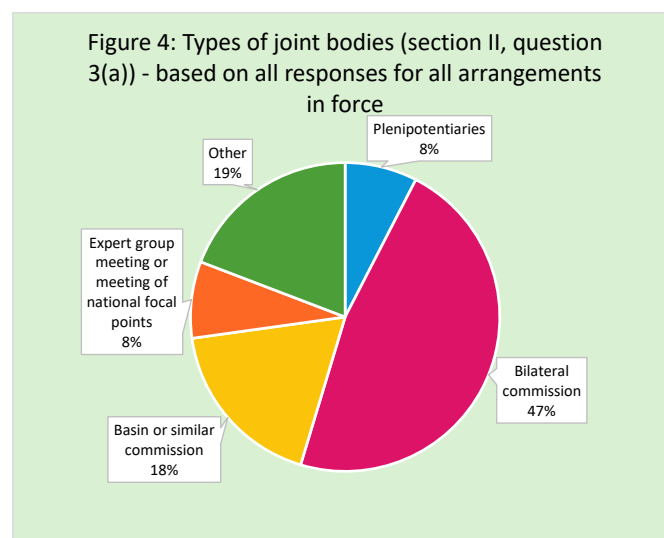
In the majority of cases, Parties report to have experienced no significant difficulties in pursuing cooperation through agreements or arrangements. Nevertheless, lack of financial resources and insufficient human capacity are reported as challenges for cooperation in the case of 27 per cent and 24 per cent of responses, respectively, closely followed by insufficient technical capacity (18 per cent) (figure 3).



D. JOINT BODIES FOR TRANSBOUNDARY WATER COOPERATION

Where agreements and arrangements for transboundary waters are in place, in nearly all cases participating countries take part in a joint body established to facilitate implementation of an agreement or arrangement. Out of a total of 984 responses to the question whether the country is a member of a joint body or bodies for the relevant agreement or arrangement (section II, question 3), in 859 responses (or 87 per cent) Parties confirmed that they were a member of a joint body. Where participation in a joint body was not the case, this was explained by the existence of a joint body between the same countries under a different agreement, or by the ongoing or planned efforts to establish a joint body, or by the fact that a country reported on an agreement that provided for a joint body but that country was not part of the joint body concerned due to its small share in a basin.

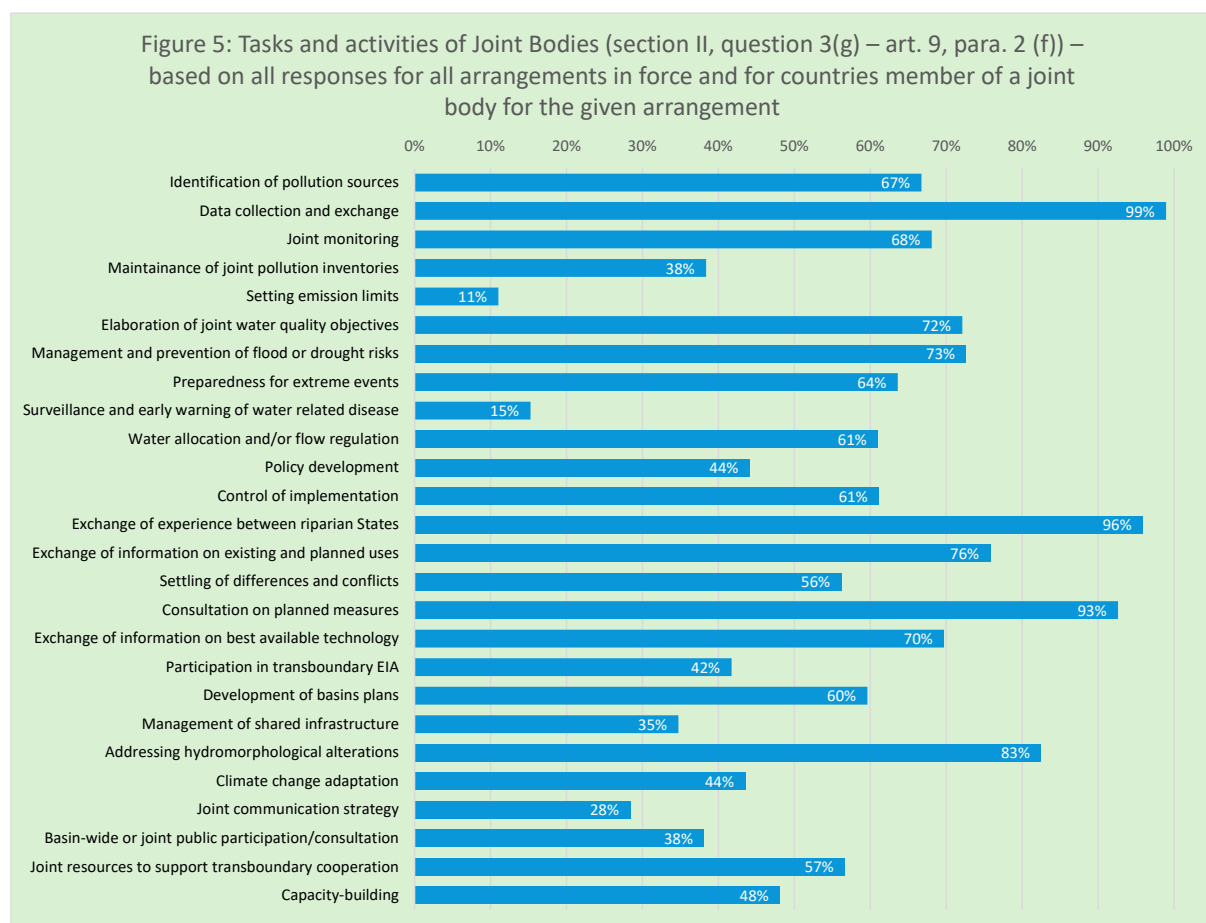
The most common type of joint bodies with participation of Parties to the Convention is a bilateral commission. Basin commissions are less spread (figure 4).



There are several instances where Parties reported that a joint body exists despite there being no current agreement in force. For example, in the case of the Oiapoque/Oyupock/Oyapock River Basin (shared by Brazil and France) and Maroni river basin (shared by France and Suriname), France reported the absence of agreement on the relevant basins but the existence of cooperation in the framework of joint bodies that are not specialized on water issues.

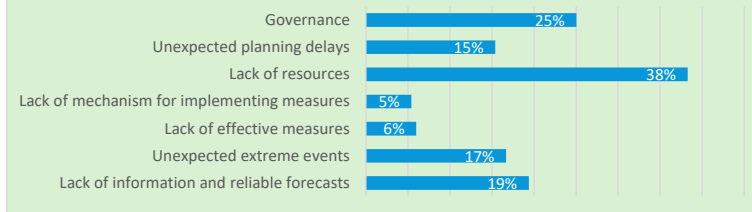
Many of the tasks and activities set out in Article 9(2) of the Water Convention are reflected in the tasks and activities of joint bodies. However, some tasks and activities, such as the setting of emission limits, maintenance of pollution inventories, and participation in transboundary EIA, appear to be less well represented (figure 5).

Furthermore, few joint bodies have tasks related to surveillance and early warning of water related diseases and less than half are entrusted with basin-wide or joint public participation and consultation and climate change adaptation.



The lack of resources, including the lack of financial and human resources and technical capacity, stands out as the key challenge for activities of joint bodies (figure 6). Even some countries with high level of economic development mention the lack of resources among the constraints. Other significant challenges faced by joint bodies include governance issues and lack of information and reliable forecasts.

Figure 6: Main challenges and difficulties faced by joint bodies (section II, question 3(h)) – based on responses for all arrangements in force and for countries member of a joint body for the given arrangement



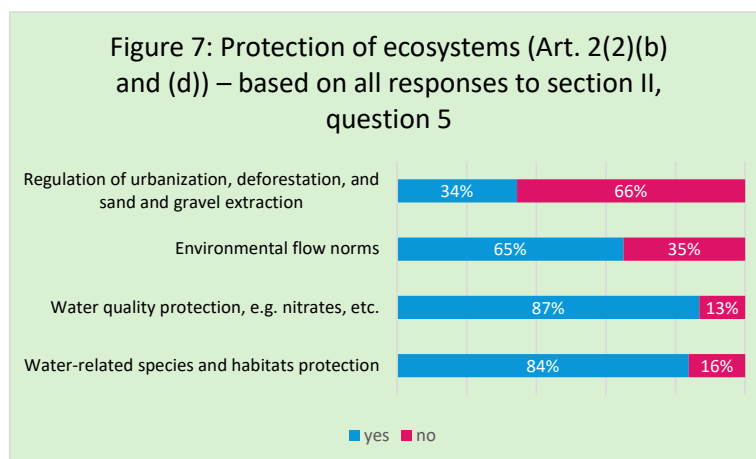
E. ACTIVITIES RELATED TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF TRANSBOUNDARY WATER COOPERATION

There is a widespread practice of adopting joint objectives, strategies and plans to support the implementation of agreements and arrangements. Out of a total of 983 responses to the question about the existence of joint objectives, a common strategy, a joint or coordinated management plan or action plan for a given basin, sub-basin, part of a basin or group of basins, 942 responses (96 per cent) confirmed that such joint objectives and/or plan were in place.

At the same time, some Parties did not provide details on the agreed joint objectives, strategies and plans. A particular difficulty has been for the Parties to report on joint objectives, strategies and plans in bilateral cooperation.

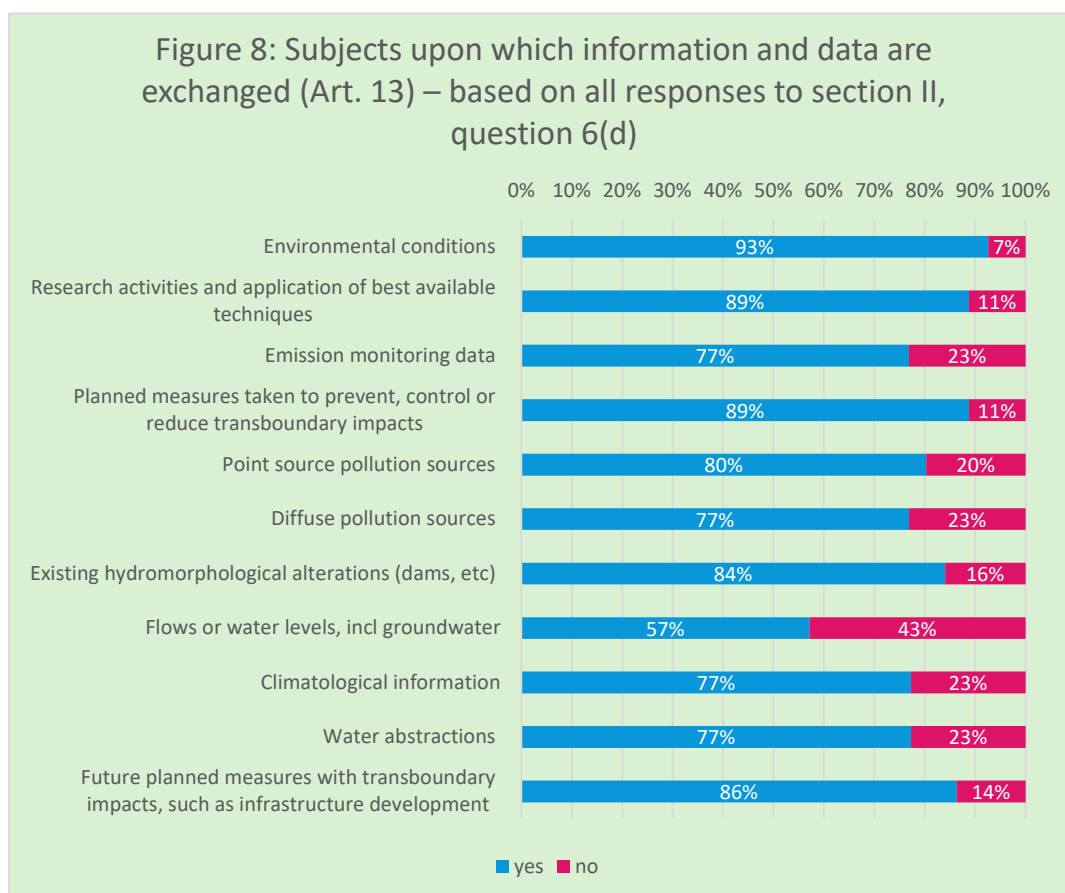
The replies by the EU Member States and the candidate countries to the EU show extensive efforts to develop river basin management plans pursuant to the Directive 2000/60/ EC of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing a framework for Community action in the field of water policy (Water Framework Directive) **and flood risk management plans** pursuant to the Directive 2007/60/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council on the assessment and management of flood risks.

Protection of water quality and protection of water species and habitats clearly appear to be most common measures reported by the Parties to protect transboundary waters and their ecosystems in the context of sustainable and rational water use (question 5) (figure 7). Additional measures to protect ecosystems include pollution prevention, liming to counter the effects of acidification, activities related to the implementation of the Water Framework Directive, the protection of coastal zones, restoration of shores, improving river connectivity, removing obstacles to fish migration, reintroduction and protection of fish populations, monitoring, and protected areas legislation.

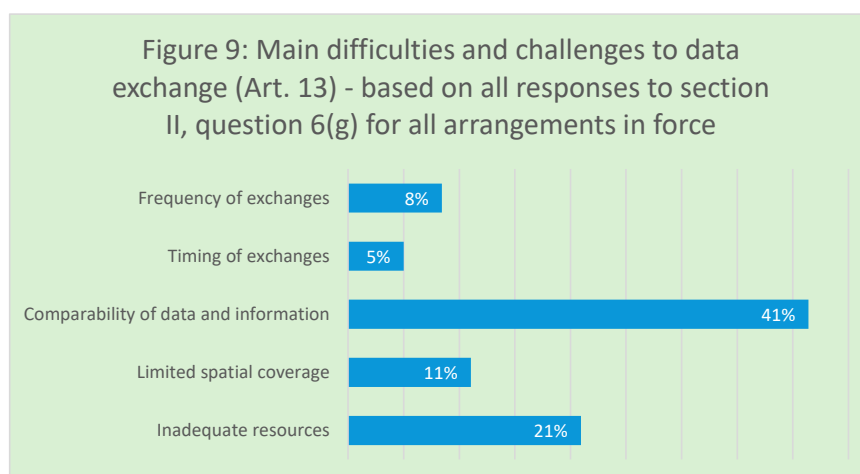


There is a widespread practice of data and information exchange between the Parties. In terms of the subjects of data and information exchanged, the responses suggest that exchanges take place across a wide range of subjects, the most common of which was data and information on environmental conditions (93% of responses) (figure 8).

In 86 per cent of responses, Parties report to exchange information on future planned measures with transboundary impacts. This suggests that grounds for implementation of consultations on planned measures, in line with Article 14 of the Convention, are in place.



The main difficulties in relation to data and information exchange identified by the Parties are related to the **comparability of data and information and inadequate resources** (figure 9).



The responses of Parties suggest that the availability of information to the public and participation of the public and other stakeholders in consultations on planned measures in transboundary water management are relatively widely practiced. At the same time the involvement of the public and other stakeholders in the activities of joint bodies for transboundary water cooperation through an observer status or an advisory role is limited. The general public is less likely to be involved in activities of the joint body or mechanism than such entities as non-governmental organizations, water user associations, academic or research institutions, private sector organisations or intergovernmental organisations.

F. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE WATER CONVENTION IN 2017-2020

At least 10 new agreements or arrangements were concluded by Parties to the Convention in the period 2017–2020 and another 5 agreements entered into force in this period (table 1). These numbers demonstrate the rapidly developing and dynamic cooperation on the basis of the Convention. Some of these developments may also have been triggered by the Convention and the pilot reporting exercise.

Agreement/arrangement	Countries	Date of signature
Agreement between the Ministry of Agriculture and Water Resources of the Republic of Uzbekistan and the Ministry of Agriculture and Water Resources of Turkmenistan on Cooperation on Water Management	Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan	6 March 2017
Agreement on cooperation 2018-2020 between the Swedish Agency for Marine and Water Management (Sweden) and the Environment Directorate (Norway) on water management in accordance with the EU Water Framework Directive	Norway, Sweden	19 March 2018
Agreement between Ministry of Environment and Physical Planning of Republic of North Macedonia and Ministry of Environment and Waters of Republic of Bulgaria in field of Environment and Waters, with focus on transboundary water cooperation in the Strumica River Basin	Bulgaria, North Macedonia	11 April 2019
Agreement between the Government of Romania and the Government of the Republic of Serbia on cooperation in the field of sustainable management of transboundary waters	Romania, Serbia	5 June 2019
Framework Agreement between the Government of Montenegro and the Council of Ministers of the Republic of	Albania, Montenegro	3 July 2018

Albania on Mutual Relations in the Field of Management of Transboundary Waters		
Agreement between the Government of Hungary and the Government of the Republic of Serbia on cooperation in the field of sustainable water management in transboundary waters and river basins of common interest	Hungary, Serbia	15 April 2019, entry into force: 24 April 2020
Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Poland and the Government of the Republic of Belarus on cooperation in the field of protection and rational use of transboundary waters	Belarus, Poland	7 February 2020
Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation Concerning Regular Functioning and Maintenance of the Flood Forecasting and Warning System in the Sava River Basin	Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, Serbia, Slovenia	1 July 2020
Third updated Memorandum of Understanding for the implementation of the Updated Integrated Management Plan of the Tisza River Basin, which supports the sustainable development of the region	Hungary, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia, Ukraine	26 September 2019
Memorandum of Understanding on the development and monitoring of fisheries and related research cooperation in Finnish-Russian transboundary waters	Finland, Russian Federation	24 April 2018
Earlier agreements/arrangements that entered into force in the period 2017–2020		
Agreement/arrangement	Countries	Date of entry into force
Agreement on the Protection and Sustainable Development of the Prespa Park Area (signed on 2 February 2010)	Albania, Greece, North Macedonia, European Union	29 May 2019
Treaty between the Government of the Republic of Moldova and the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine on Cooperation in the Field of Protection and Sustainable Development of the Dniester River Basin (signed 29 November 2012)	Republic of Moldova, Ukraine	26 June 2017
Convention for the exchange of data and flood forecasting within the IHD Meuse (signed in 2016)		19 July 2017
Agreement between Finland and Norway on the Fisheries of the Tana Watercourse (signed 30 September 2016)	Finland, Norway	20 May 2017
Agreement between the Government of the Russian Federation and the Government of the Republic of Kazakhstan on the Conservation of the Ecosystem of the Ural Transboundary River Basin (signed 4 October 2016)	Kazakhstan, Russian Federation	3 August 2017

Many new strategies, programmes or action plans were adopted by Parties to the Convention in the period 2017–2020 at basin, sub-basin and bilateral level. This also demonstrates the dynamic character of cooperation and commitment to continuous and effective cooperation.

Examples of multilateral strategies, programmes or action plans approved in 2017–2020 include:

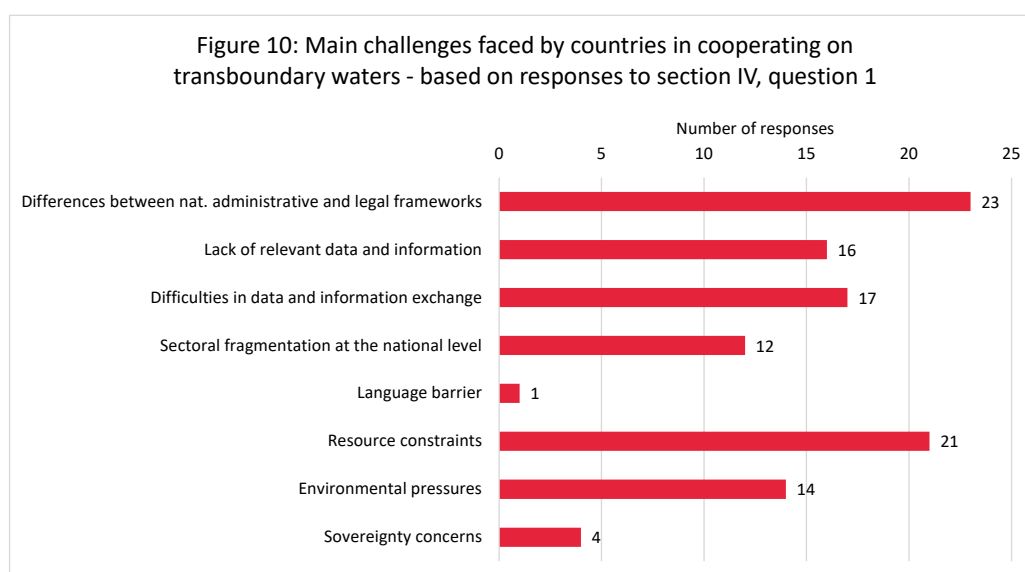
- “Rhine 2040” programme (The Rhine and its Catchment: Sustainably Managed and Climate-resilient) adopted by the ministers in charge of water protection in the Rhine catchment area and the representative of the European Union on 13 February 2020 at the 16th Conference of Rhine Ministers;
- Action Plan of the International Commission for the Protection of Italian-Swiss Waters (CIPAIS) for the period 2019-2027;

- Strategic Action Programme (SAP) for the Sustainable Management of the Extended Drin Basin (Albania, Greece, Kosovo⁹, Montenegro and North Macedonia);
- Fourth Aral Sea Basin Programme (ASBP-4) approved by the decision of the IFAS Board on 23 August 2018;
- Regional Environmental Protection Plan for Sustainable Development adopted by the Interstate Commission for Sustainable Development (under IFAS) on 25 October 2019.

Examples of bilateral strategies, programmes or action plans approved in 2017–2020 include:

- Joint Programme of Monitoring of Transboundary Water Bodies in the Narva River Basin, including Lake Peipsi/Chudskoye, for the period 2019-2022 (Estonia and Russian Federation);
- Programme of Monitoring of Transboundary Water Bodies in the Irtysh, Ishim and Tobol River Basins for the period 2017-2020 (Kazakhstan and Russian Federation);
- Several updated technical regulations (on protection against floods produced by watercourses and inland waters; on meteorological and hydrological data exchange; on border waters quality assessment; on procedure to be followed in case of unavoidable hazardous accidental pollution on border watercourses) approved in 2019 by Plenipotentiaries of Romania and Ukraine;
- Fertő/Neusidler lake development program 2018 (Austria and Hungary).

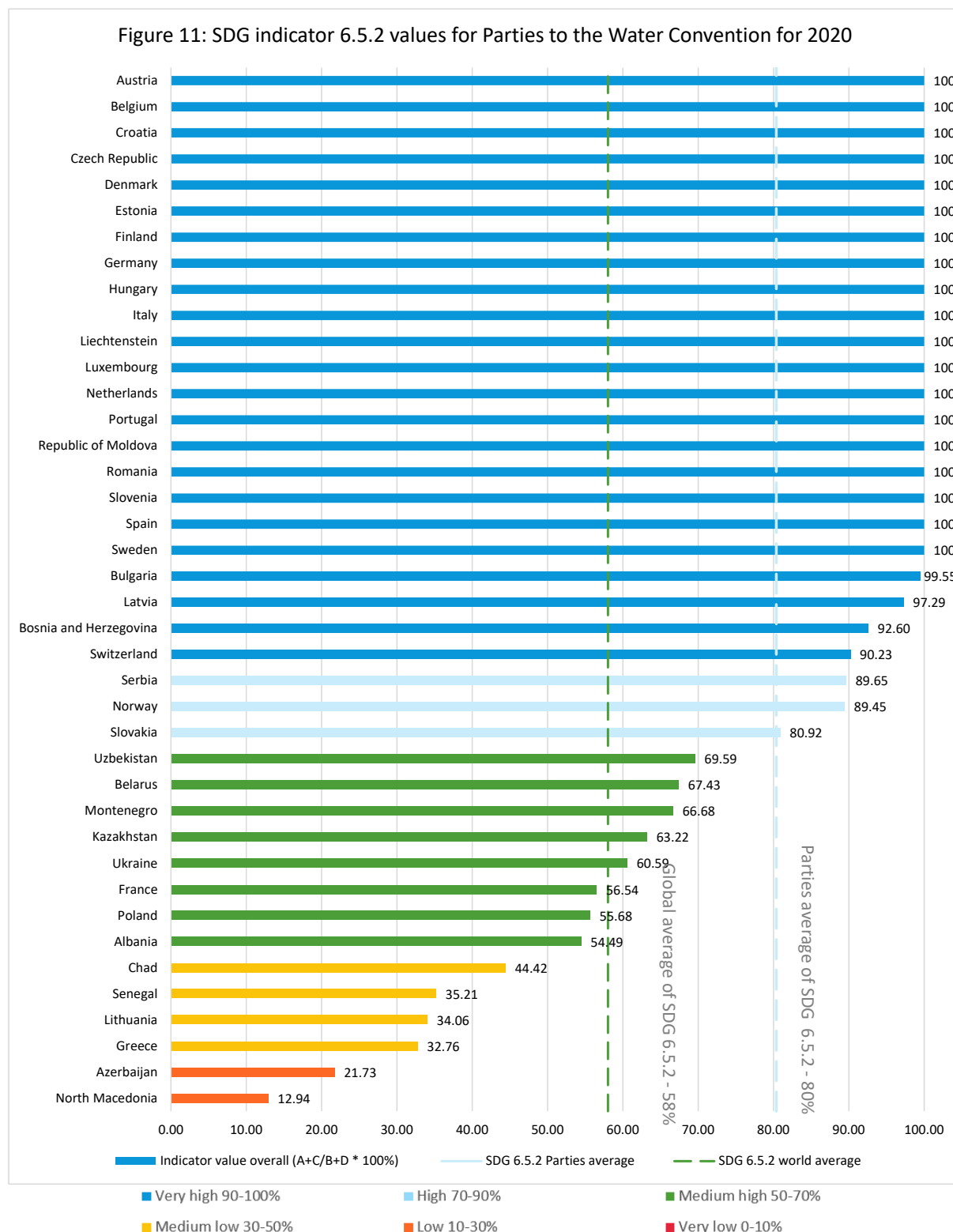
However, Parties still face significant challenges in transboundary water cooperation. Main challenges in cooperation on transboundary waters as reported by Parties include **differences between national administrative and legal frameworks** and **resource constraints**, closely followed by the **difficulties in data and information exchange** and **lack of relevant data and information** (figure 10).



The results demonstrated by the Parties in the second round of reporting on the Sustainable Development Goal indicator 6.5.2, which was combined with the Convention reporting for Parties, prove the existence of the many benefits in cooperation in the framework of the Convention. The average value of the SDG indicator 6.5.2 for Parties to the Water Convention is 80.38 per cent (84.60 per cent for the river and lake basins component, 70.95 per cent for the aquifer component), which is higher than the global SDG indicator 6.5.2 average of 58.01 per cent (64.86 per cent for river and lake basins component, 41.80 per cent for aquifer) (figure 11). Of the 24 countries from all

⁹ References to Kosovo shall be understood to be in the context of Security Council resolution 1244 (1999).

over the world who reported that all their transboundary river, lake and aquifer basins are covered by cooperation arrangements, 19 are Parties to the Water Convention.



In the second reporting exercise, the value of the SDG indicator 6.5.2 is available for 40 out of 42 Parties, with the river and lake component available for 41 Parties and the aquifer component available for 40 Parties (table 2).

Table 2: SDG indicator 6.5.2 values for Parties to the Water Convention for 2020

<i>Country Name</i>	River and lake basins component in %	Aquifer component in %	SDG indicator 6.5.2 value in %
Albania	56,01	51,67	54,49
Austria	100,00	100,00	100,00
Azerbaijan	27,75	3,86	21,73
Belarus	67,43	67,43	67,43
Belgium	100,00	100,00	100,00
Bosnia and Herzegovina	96,14	73,32	92,60
Bulgaria	100,00	97,59	99,55
Chad	35,85	53,18	44,42
Croatia	100,00	100,00	100,00
Czech Republic	100,00	100,00	100,00
Denmark	100,00	N	100,00
Estonia	100,00	100,00	100,00
Finland	100,00	N	100,00
France	56,54	N	56,54
Germany	100,00	100,00	100,00
Greece	58,14	1,03	32,76
Hungary	100,00	100,00	100,00
Italy	100,00	100,00	100,00
Kazakhstan	100,00	0,00	63,22
Latvia	100,00	94,52	97,29
Liechtenstein	100,00	100,00	100,00
Lithuania	25,69	50,17	34,06
Luxembourg	100,00	100,00	100,00
Montenegro	84,80	20,19	66,68
Netherlands	100,00	100,00	100,00
North Macedonia	13,24	12,22	12,94
Norway	89,46	88,31	89,45
Poland	48,08	100,00	55,68
Portugal	100,00	N	100,00
Republic of Moldova	100,00	100,00	100,00
Romania	100,00	100,00	100,00
Russian Federation	NA	NA	NA
Senegal	100,00	0,00	35,21
Serbia	92,51	73,73	89,65
Slovakia	100,00	21,94	80,92
Slovenia	100,00	100,00	100,00
Spain	100,00	N	100,00
Sweden	100,00	100,00	100,00
Switzerland	93,50	74,11	90,23

Turkmenistan	66,02	NA	NA
Ukraine	57,41	100,00	60,59
Uzbekistan	100,00	0,00	69,59

Note:

N: Non-relevant: indicates that the figure is not available because the indicator – as defined for the global monitoring – does not apply to the circumstances of the specific country, and therefore is not reported.

NA: Not-available: indicates that the figure is not available because the country response needs clarification or additional information.

There have been a few cases of increase and decrease in the SDG indicator 6.5.2 values in the Parties to the Convention. Only in some instances the different indicator value is explained by the conclusion of new agreements and arrangements. In other cases, the value changed due to improved data and knowledge on the surface area of the basin within the territory of the country or due to reporting of additional transboundary basins. The increased inclusion of transboundary aquifers has also influenced the value of the indicator. In one case, a Party has differently interpreted the provisions on the geographic scope of the same agreement in this reporting round.