

Governance aspects of transboundary water cooperation based on the results of the SDG indicator 6.5.2

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SDG 6: Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all.



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

The first UN-negotiated text since Agenda 21 with a reference to transboundary water cooperation

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

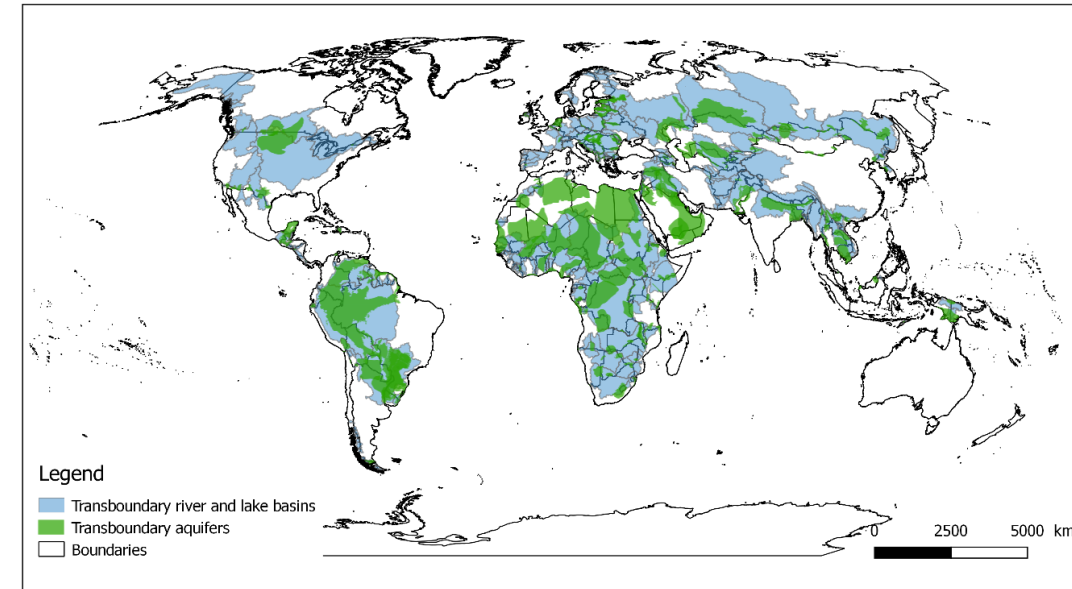


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- **Most of the world's water resources are shared => cooperation required.**
- **The only SDG indicator on transboundary cooperation => important for other natural resources**

Results of the 2nd reporting in 2020 on SDG 6.5.2

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

High level of engagement

⇒ In 2020: **129** out of 153 countries submitted reports
(all Parties to Water Convention responded)

Not on track

⇒ Only **24 countries** report **all** transboundary surface waters and groundwaters covered by **operational arrangements**

⇒ Only additional **22 countries** with more than **70%** of their waters covered by operational arrangement

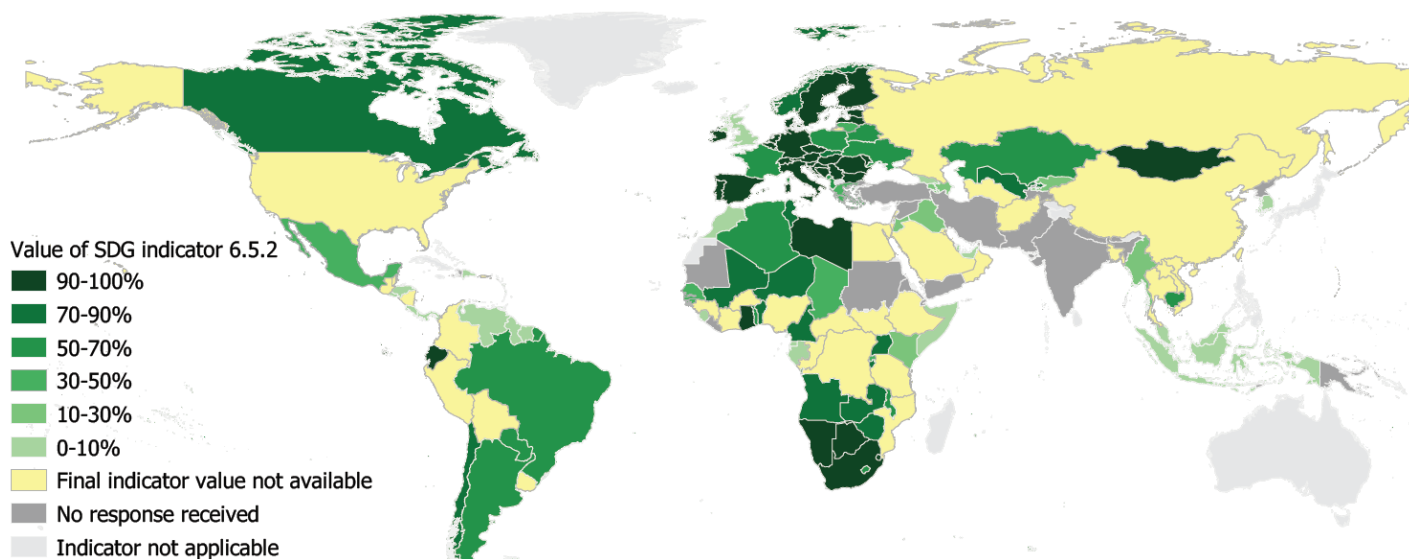
⇒ Progress must be **accelerated** to ensure that all transboundary basins are covered by operational arrangements by 2030

⇒ Insufficient knowledge on **groundwater** systems

Positive impact

⇒ Reporting triggered **follow-up actions**

SDG Indicator 6.5.2 values and responses received during the 2nd exercise

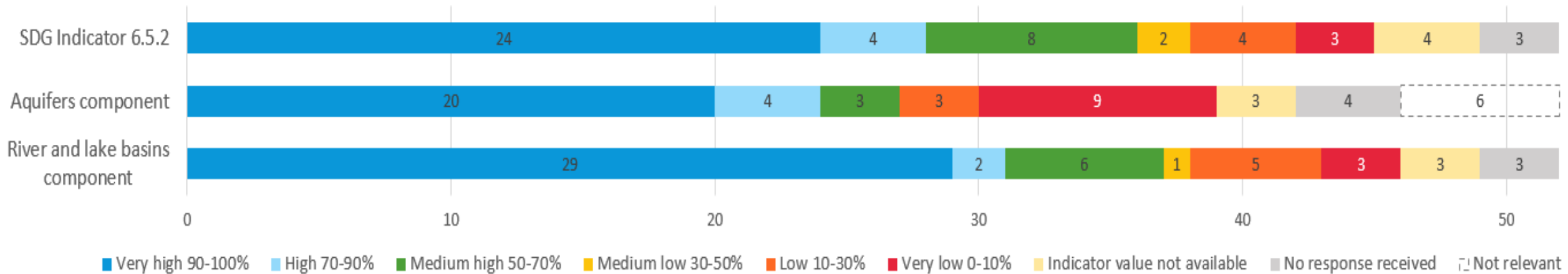


Results of the 2nd reporting in 2020 on SDG6.5.2

UNECE region

- **49 out of 52** countries sharing water resources responded
 - Region with the **highest responses rates** in 2017 and 2020
 - 4 additional countries, that did not respond in 2017, responded in 2020
- **20 countries** with **all** transboundary waters covered by operational arrangements, vs 14 countries in 2017
 - Increased responses rate & Increased quality of the responses – more information provided on aquifers
 - Some countries improved their cooperation

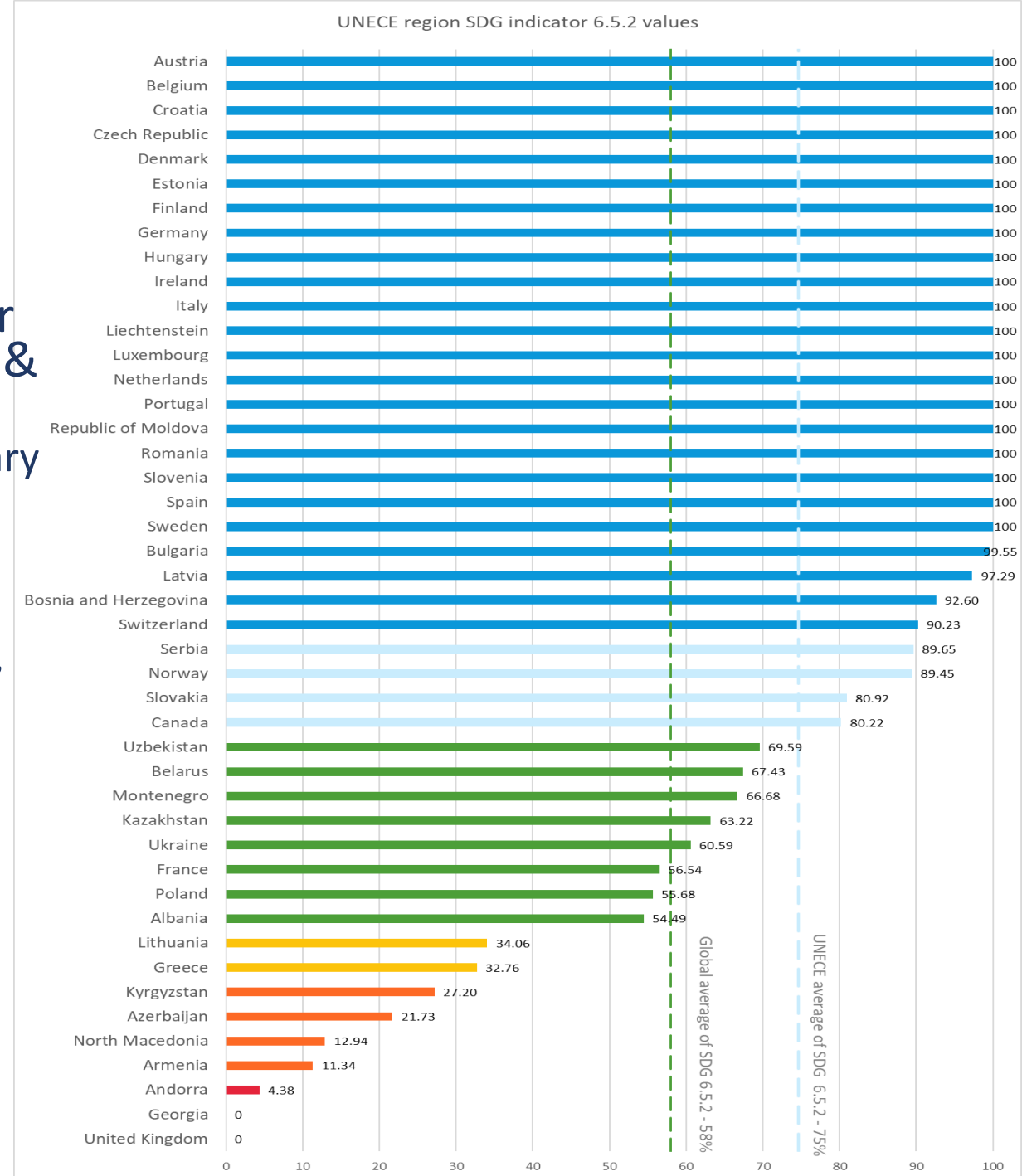
Breakdown of the 52 UNECE countries sharing waters SDG indicator 6.5.2 values



Results of the 2nd reporting in 2020 on SDG 6.5.2

UNECE region (continued)

- 2nd reporting – Indicator 6.5.2 value available for **45 countries** of the region (transboundary river & lake basins and aquifers),
 - **46 countries** provided accurate data for transboundary river & lake basins, and
 - **45 countries** for transboundary aquifers
- Reporting enhanced through
 - Stronger interaction with custodian agencies (advice, questions, draft reports)
 - High quality of reports
 - Coordination with riparians
 - Inclusion of aquifers: challenging but promising
- Significant impact of Water Convention in the region
 - Average value of the SDG indicator 6.5.2 for Parties: 80% (global average: 58%)
 - 19 of 24 countries with 100% value: Parties



Benefits of transboundary water cooperation

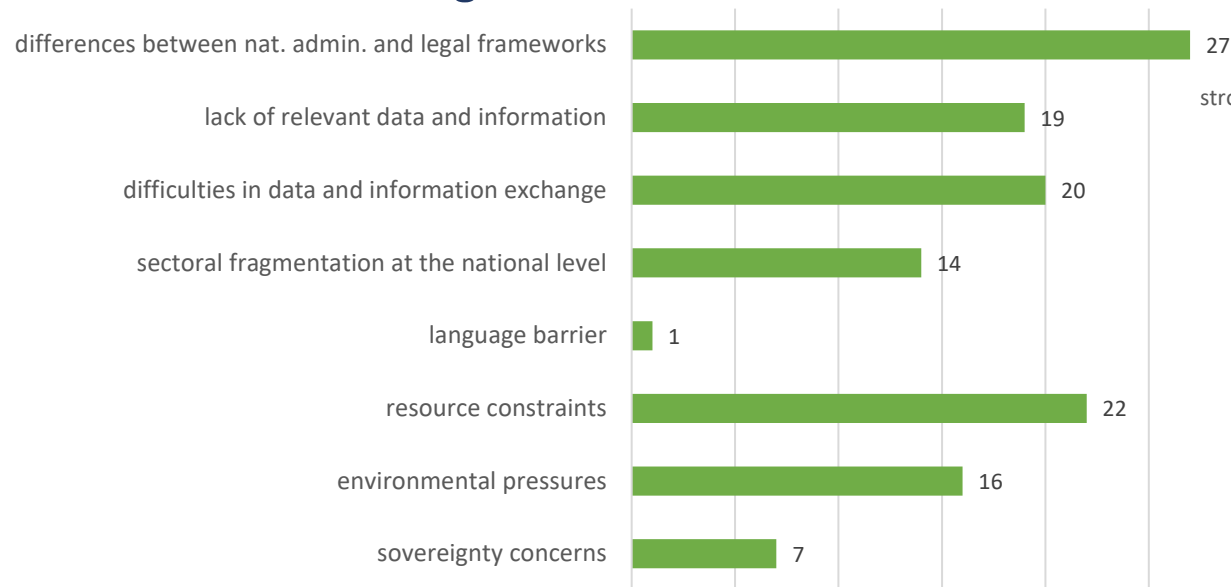
Multiple benefits of cooperation

include peace, regional integration, sustainable development and environmental protection



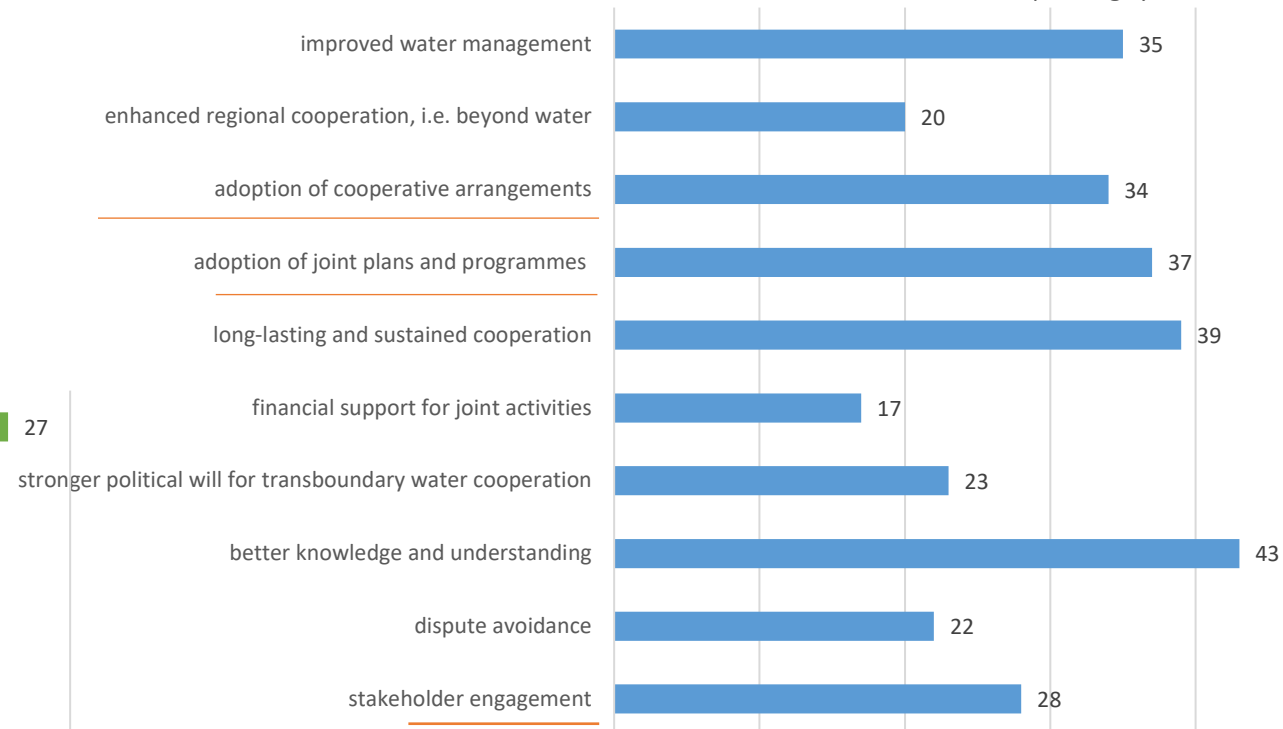
Main challenges in cooperating on transboundary waters – UNECE region

Number of countries responding "yes"



Main achievements in cooperating on transboundary waters – UNECE region

Number of countries responding "yes"



Key areas to accelerate progress

Building political will

addressing **structural barriers** and finding **innovative financing mechanisms** is needed to address current financing shortfalls



Upscale capacity development

Capacity building is important for negotiating and implementing operational arrangements

Leveraging and mobilizing expertise

There is a need to **upscale and coordinate** the activities of international organizations to **provide targeted support** to countries



Strengthen legal frameworks

The water conventions and the draft articles on transboundary aquifers **offer a solid basis** upon which to **revise or negotiate** new arrangements



Address Data Gaps



There has been **strong country engagement** in the monitoring exercise, but data remains a challenge, particularly for transboundary **aquifers** and **countries with no SDG indicator value**

Many positive examples in UNECE region:

- Negotiating new arrangements
- Making existing non-operational arrangements operational
- Improving the transboundary knowledge base
- Extending cooperation to groundwater

Thank you

UNECE:

www.unece.org/water/transboundary_water_cooperation_reporting.html

UNESCO: <https://en.unesco.org/themes/water-security/hydrology>

UN-WATER SDG6 monitoring:

www.sdg6monitoring.org/indicator-652

UN-WATER SDG6 data portal:

www.sdg6data.org/indicator/6.5.2

