Item 9. Reporting on Sustainable Development Goal indicator 6.5.2 and under the Convention

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Monitoring SDG indicator 6.5.2 – Reporting process

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

- **Co-custodian agencies** for SDG 6.5.2: UNECE and UNESCO
- Parties report under the Convention and under the SDG indicator 6.5.2 through one template
- Information on indicator 6.5.2 **collected every 3 years** by UNECE & UNESCO (as for other SDG6 indicators)
  - First data collection 2017 => second exercise in 2020 => third in 2023

- **2020-2021**: Second reporting exercise completed:
  - Countries supported in their reporting efforts (methodological guidance, helpdesk, capacity building, including webinars and bilateral sessions with UNECE and UNESCO): => reports were enhanced and information clarified after extensive UNECE and UNESCO exchanges with countries
  - Submitted data reviewed and analyzed and used as inputs for SDG databases
Results of the 2\textsuperscript{nd} 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: \textbf{129} out of 153 countries submitted reports (all Parties to Water Convention responded)

**Not on track**
⇒ Only \textbf{24 countries} report all transboundary surface waters and groundwaters covered by \textit{operational arrangements}
⇒ Only additional \textbf{22 countries} with more than \textbf{70\%} of their waters covered by operational arrangement
⇒ Progress must be \textbf{accelerated} to ensure that all transboundary basins are covered by operational arrangements by 2030
⇒ Insufficient knowledge on \textit{groundwater} systems

**Positive impact**
⇒ Reporting triggered \textbf{follow-up actions}
Uptake of SDG 6.5.2 data

6.5.2 data critical to ensuring transboundary water cooperation accurately and sufficiently reflected in the SDGs framework

Data already used as an input to:

- SDG6 Synthesis Reports: joint position of UN family on global status of SDG 6
  - Synthesis Reports in 2018 & 2023 (forthcoming)
- UNECE-UNESCO 2nd SDG indicator 6.5.2 report
  - Translated into Arabic, French, Russian, and Spanish
- 2nd report on the Implementation of the Convention; French and Russian translations are being finalized

Since October 2021:

- Results and findings of the 2nd reporting exercise used in several meetings and processes, such as:
  - African Regional Consultations on the Mid-Term Review of the “International Water Decade of Action 2018-2028, hosted by UNECA (13-14 June 2022)
  - Pan-European Regional Preparatory Meeting, hosted by UNECE (12-13 April 2022)
  - Several sessions at the 9th World Water Forum in Dakar (21-26 March 2022)
  - UNESCO Transboundary Aquifers "ISARM" Conference (6-8 December 2021)
- Reporting results also presented in at least 9 regional workshops, webinars, and capacity-building activities in the African, Arab, and LAC regions
Online reporting system - Background and update

• Countries requested to develop an online reporting system (see decision IX/2)
• Included in the workplan of SDG indicator 6.5.2 & in the programme of work of the Water Convention
• The online system should
  ❑ Facilitate the improved reliability of the data reported by countries
  ❑ Facilitate the comparison, synthesis and analysis of the responses
• UNECE and UNESCO consulted with UN-Water & presented a concept note for an online reporting system at MOP9 (29 September – 1 October 2021)
• Currently: Developing TORs to contract a supplier, with UNESCO and UN-Water
• Due to administrative challenges, online reporting system will likely be available as a pilot in 2023 and for all countries for the 2026 exercise
Including gender aspects into the template

- **Decision IX/2** invites UNECE and UNESCO to explore opportunities for mainstreaming a gender perspective in the upcoming reporting exercises;

- **Late 2021-early 2022**: Under UN-Water IMI-SDG 6 "Gender contextualization activities" for all SDG 6 indicators, UNECE and UNESCO participated in discussions of the 6.5.2 Indicator Working Group, which proposed draft approaches for gender contextualization of the SDG indicator 6.5.2;

- **February 2022**: IMI-SDG6 stakeholder and expert consultation workshop reviewed the draft approaches and produced additional (optional) recommendations that were considered by UNECE and UNESCO;

- **Outcomes:**
  - No changes to SDG 6.5.2 indicator methodology
  - Slight adjustments to the template will be introduced to integrate the gender dimension: a few gender-relevant questions, mainly through adding tick boxes/options to existing questions, and footnotes to be included.
Examples of possible adjustments to the template

• **Clarification** - mainly consisting grammar, reorganizing some questions for coherence and simplicity, and for 1 question suggesting using tick boxes instead of text answer

• **Gender mainstreaming** - additional tick boxes on existing questions and footnotes
  - under question 2 (d) on topics of cooperation; new tick box:
    - Promotion of equality and inclusion, e.g. gender equality, indigenous people, minority groups and youth
  - under question 6 (d) on what subjects are information and data exchanged; new tick box:
    - Sex-disaggregated data
Harmonization of reporting among riparian countries

• A main objective of the 3rd reporting is to increase the coordination of SDG indicator 6.5.2 calculation and answers to questions of the template among riparian countries;

• Guidelines and facilitating material will be prepared so that countries can build on common tools and approaches, including compilation of good practices of the 2nd reporting exercise;

• These tools and material can also allow countries to reflect a joint view of cooperation at basin or aquifer scale, in complement to the national perspective provided by the SDG indicator 6.5.2.
Planned activities in view of the third reporting round

- Reinforce coordination with partners, including with UNEP on SDG indicator 6.5.1 and produce a Brief on Target 6.5;
- By end of 2022: refinement of reporting template, based on the feedback from the 2nd monitoring and to accommodate it to gender contextualization & online reporting needs; harmonization guidelines;
- Early 2023: all countries sharing transboundary waters worldwide will be invited to submit their national reports to UNECE and UNESCO by 30 June 2022;
- During the 3rd reporting exercise:
  - SDG indicator 6.5.2 helpdesk to be maintained by UNECE and UNESCO
  - Several regional workshops and tailored workshops to be organized to support countries’ reporting efforts
  - Data collection and validation in 2023, and analysis in late 2023-early 2024
Thank you

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For more information:
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

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