
**Global Webinars on SDG indicator 6.5.2 Transboundary Water Cooperation
Supporting countries in preparing national reports for the 3rd reporting exercise
With a focus on Coordination**

17 April 2023, 10:00–12:00 (Geneva, Paris time)

in English with interpretation into Russian

18 April 2023, 16:00–18:00 (Geneva, Paris time)

in French with interpretation into English and Spanish

Link to register on Zoom:

https://unesco-org.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_u4GWoKWvTB-XenVg51rBgA

Concept note

Context and Background

The 3rd reporting exercise of SDG indicator 6.5.2, measuring progress on transboundary water cooperation, is taking place in 2023. 153 countries sharing rivers, lakes and aquifers have been invited to submit their national reports by 30 June 2023. The reporting is conducted in the framework of the UN-Water Integrated Monitoring Initiative for SDG6.

In support to the countries' efforts, the co-custodian agencies for indicator 6.5.2, the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), organize a series of webinars on SDG 6 indicator 6.5.2.

After the first and second reporting exercises, conducted in 2017 and 2020, the engagement of Member States did not stop growing, with the response rate increasing from 108 to 129. However, many challenges remain including the number of reports submitted, the quality of information provided and the need to accelerate progress. Only 24 countries worldwide report having all their transboundary waters covered by operational arrangements so far. One particular challenge is the data and cooperation related to transboundary groundwater and aquifers.

The 3rd reporting round gives an opportunity to evaluate the progress and gaps in transboundary water cooperation worldwide, to inform different policy processes, further engage with riparian countries, River Basin Organizations (RBOs), partners and other relevant institutions and stakeholders to put the SDG indicator 6.5.2 on track and achieve it by 2030.

The reporting exercise takes place in an important year for water. The UN 2023 Water Conference (New York, 22-24 March) included the Interactive Dialogue focused on "Water for Cooperation" and resulted in many commitments made on water cooperation. Furthermore, the United Nations High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (New York, 10–19 July 2023) will provide an in-depth review of Goal 6 on clean water and sanitation. The outcomes of the 3rd reporting exercise are also expected to inform the preparatory process and discussions at the 2023 SDG Summit (New York, 19-20 September 2023) and the Summit of the Future (New York, 22–23 September 2024).

Objectives

The key purpose of the webinars is to support countries in preparing national reports on SDG indicator 6.5.2. In the context of the third reporting exercise, the focus is on building on the previous reporting experiences to highlight acceleration need and promoting coordination between countries sharing the same transboundary river(s), lake(s) or aquifer(s) and showcase the multiple benefits it generates for the quality of reporting and strengthening cooperation (see referenced document). However, the basics of the indicator calculation will be still introduced.

More specific objectives are to:

- Highlight good practices and discuss challenges in completing the 6.5.2 questionnaire;
- Introduce newly developed materials focusing on coordination for reporting on SDG indicator 6.5.2 (available in: [EN](#), [FR](#), [RU](#) and [SP](#)) and remind the [existing reporting guidance](#);
- Present examples of coordination by countries;
- Encourage coordination with partners, RBOs and regional organizations;
- Highlight synergies with SDG indicator 6.5.1 reporting;
- Discuss how to benefit from and use the reporting process.

Target audience

The webinars are targeted to experts responsible for completing the reporting template, coordinating the reporting process on SDG indicator 6.5.2 or overall SDG 6 reporting.

Other target audience includes:

- Government officials and policy makers involved in transboundary water management and SDGs implementation.
- Representatives of international organizations, NGOs, and academia working on water governance and sustainable development.

Format

The webinars will be conducted in two sessions: 1) English session, with simultaneous translation into Russian, and 2) French session, with simultaneous translation into English and Spanish. The format will include a mix of presentations, short interventions and Q&A sessions with the audience. The presentations will cover best practices and success stories in SDG indicator 6.5.2 reporting and accelerating transboundary cooperation for SDG Indicator 6.5.2, and the importance and benefits of coordination efforts at the regional or basin level. This will be followed by short interventions from countries.

For more information about the webinars please visit [UNECE](#) and [UNESCO](#) dedicated webpages.



Provisional Agenda

Introduction / opening	
15 min	<p>Welcome and introduction to the webinar</p> <p><u>Opening remarks</u> <i>Challenges and value of SDG indicator 6.5.2 reporting in promoting transboundary water cooperation, its place in SDGs and in the global water agenda</i></p>
Part 1: Experience from past two reporting exercises and acceleration needs	
30 min	<p><u>UNECE and UNESCO presentation:</u> <i>Overview of SDG indicator 6.5.2: key components of the indicator and their relevance to progress transboundary cooperation</i></p> <p><u>Countries intervention:</u> <i>Challenges and best practices in reporting on SDG indicator 6.5.2; success stories in accelerating transboundary cooperation</i></p>
20 min	Q&A Session with the audience
Part 2: Coordination opportunities during the preparation of national reports	
30 min	<p><u>UNECE and UNESCO presentation:</u> <i>Benefits of coordination the reporting on Indicator 6.5.2 between riparian countries, at basin, regional and transboundary level</i></p> <p><u>Countries and Partners interventions:</u> <i>Successful coordination efforts at the basin and regional level, including examples of countries and the role of basin organizations and regional organizations</i></p>
20 min	Q&A Session with the audience
Part 3: Closing Remarks	
5 min	Summary of the webinar, follow-up and assistance during the 3 rd reporting