

## Provisional Concept Note

### **Asia Region Online Workshop: Supporting Countries in preparing National Reports for the 3<sup>rd</sup> Reporting exercise of the SDG 6 Indicator 6.5.2 on Transboundary Water Cooperation in Asia Pacific with a focus on Coordination**

**Thursday, 8 June 2023  
Jakarta, Indonesia**

#### **Background**

In 2015, the General Assembly of the United Nations (UNGA) adopted the 2030 Agenda, with 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and 169 targets. The indicator framework for the SDGs was subsequently adopted by the UNGA<sup>1</sup>. Central to the achievement of the entire 2030 Agenda is SDG 6 on clean water and sanitation, with its 8 targets and 11 indicators addressing the whole complexity of water management.

SDG Target 6.5 calls on countries by 2030 to **implement integrated water resources management at all levels, including through transboundary cooperation as appropriate**. To measure the progress of transboundary water cooperation, SDG indicator 6.5.2 was adopted. It is **defined as the percentage of transboundary basin area within a country with an operational arrangement for water cooperation**. The United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) are custodian agencies (responsible agencies) for this indicator, given their experience and mandate on the topic.

The reporting exercises on SDG Indicator 6.5.2 and under the Water Convention are unique mechanisms for assessing the state of transboundary water cooperation worldwide. Countries sharing transboundary waters submit national reports every 3 years.

SDG indicator 6.5.2 monitors the proportion of transboundary basin area covered by an operational arrangement for water cooperation within a country. The calculation of the indicator value is based on two main elements:

- the **spatial coverage of transboundary basin areas** located in a country; “basin areas” includes both “river and lake basins” and “aquifers”
- a determination of the extent to which these areas are covered by **operational arrangements for water cooperation**.

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<sup>1</sup> United Nations, General Assembly, 2017, A/RES/71/313

[In the first reporting exercise held in 2017-2018](#), 107 out of 153 countries sharing transboundary waters responded to the invitation to report, which allowed to establish the baseline for this indicator. This high response rate offered a solid foundation for ensuring that reporting fulfils its potential as an effective means for monitoring transboundary water cooperation and identifying areas where more efforts are needed to achieve progress towards SDG target 6.5.

[During the second reporting exercise held in 2020-2021](#), 129 out of 153 countries sharing transboundary waters responded. This increase in the response rate compared to the first reporting exercise represents an important milestone for further improvements in transboundary water cooperation on a global level. It shows that countries have responded positively to the second monitoring exercise and that reporting is viewed as an important tool for advancing water cooperation and sustainable development. One particular challenge is the data and cooperation related to transboundary groundwater and aquifers.

The results and main outcomes of the monitoring are presented in the second joint UNECE-UNESCO report on the [Progress on Transboundary Water Cooperation: Global status of SDG indicator 6.5.2 and acceleration needs, 2021](#) and in the second report on the [Progress on transboundary water cooperation under the water convention: Second report on implementation of the Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes](#).

In 2023, [the third 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. Countries sharing transboundary waters are invited to submit their national reports by 30 June 2023. 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 objective of this online workshop is to support countries in the Asia Pacific region in preparing national reports. 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; both from an organizational and institutional point of view and for the calculation of the indicator.

- Introduce the guidance documents materials for reporting;
- 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.
- Increase the rate of responses and the quality of reports in the third reporting exercise in 2023.

### **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 online modality. The format will include a mix of presentations, short interventions and Q&A sessions with the audience. The presentations will cover best practices, success stories and challenges 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.

### **Venue**

Registration of online participation:

<https://msteams.link/OFXK>

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



## Provisional Agenda

Time (UTC+7)	Agenda
<b>Thursday, 8 June 2023</b>	
14.00 – 14.05	Welcome and Introductory remarks
14.05 – 14.20	<p><b>Opening Remarks</b></p> <p><b>UNESCO Office Jakarta</b></p> <p><b>UNECE</b></p> <p><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> <p><b>National Organizing Committee of 10<sup>th</sup> World Water Forum</b></p>
14.20 – 14.45	<p>Part 1:</p> <p><b>Experience from past two reporting exercises and acceleration needs</b></p> <p><u>UNECE and UNESCO presentation:</u> Overview of SDG indicator 6.5.2: key components of the indicator and their relevance to progress transboundary cooperation</p> <p><u>Countries intervention:</u> Regional experiences in reporting on SDG indicator 6.5.2: challenges and best practices</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Vietnam*</li> <li>• Mongolia*</li> <li>• Indonesia*</li> </ul>
14.45 – 15.00	Plenary discussion with the audience
15.00 – 15.15	Break
15.15 – 15.40	<p>Part 2:</p> <p><b>Coordination opportunities during the preparation of national reports</b></p> <p><u>UNECE and UNESCO presentation:</u> Benefits of coordination the reporting on Indicator 6.5.2 between riparian countries, at basin, regional and transboundary level</p> <p><u>Partners interventions:</u> Successful coordination efforts at the basin and regional level, including examples of countries and the role of basin organizations and regional organizations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mekong River Commission</li> <li>• Global Water Partnership (GWP) Southeast Asia</li> </ul>
15.40 – 15.50	Plenary discussion with the audience

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	<p>Part 3: Use the information for future planning and improvement of cooperation</p> <p><u>UNECE UNESCO</u> Showcase examples of acceleration of cooperation</p> <p><u>Partners interventions:</u> Perspectives on how to make use of SDG 6.5.2 reports for dialogue at national, basin, regional level to strengthen knowledge and cooperation on overall SDG 6 indicators and other water-relevant indicators on SDG14 and 15.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ESCAP</li> <li>• IUCN*</li> <li>• FAO*</li> </ul>
15.50 – 16.00	Plenary discussion with the audience
16.00 – 16.15	Summary of the workshop, follow-up and assistance during the 3rd reporting
<p>Note: * <i>to be confirmed</i></p>	