

Training workshop “From practitioner to practitioner:  
how to use the two global Water Conventions to promote cooperation on the ground”

# Global processes, transboundary cooperation and the global Water Conventions

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# SDG 6.5.2 indicator monitoring process & reporting under the Convention

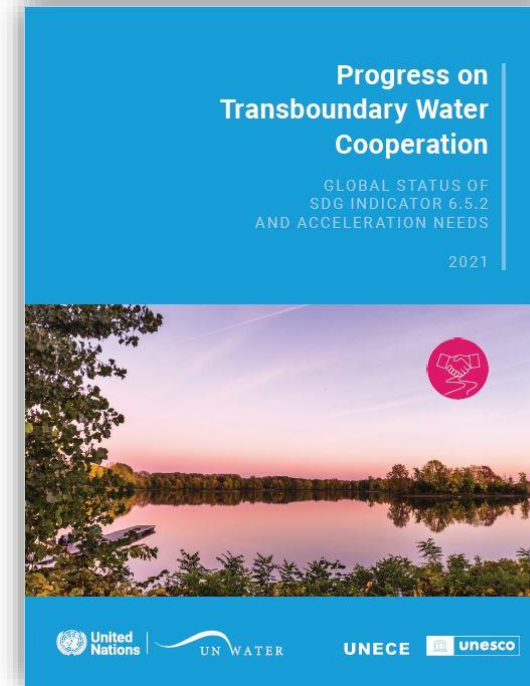


**Indicator 6.5.2:** Proportion of *transboundary basin area* [within a country] with an *operational arrangement* for water cooperation

- ❑ Data on indicator 6.5.2 collected **every 3 years** by UNECE and UNESCO (as for other SDG6 indicators):

❑ 2017 => 2020 => 2023 => 2026 => 2029

- ❑ Submitted data is analyzed to produce:
  - *Progress on transboundary cooperation worldwide report*
  - *Progress on cooperation under the Water Convention report*



# Results of the 2nd reporting 2020/21



- **High level of engagement:**

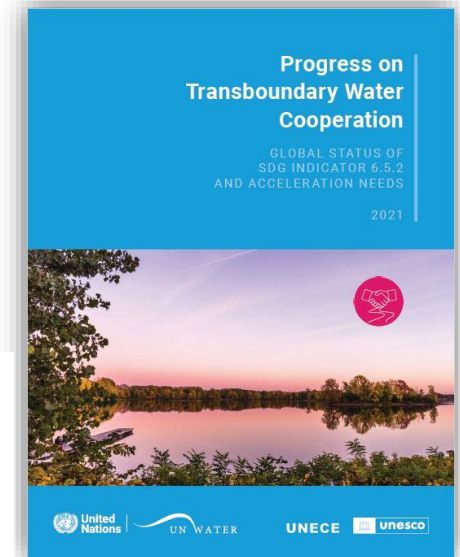
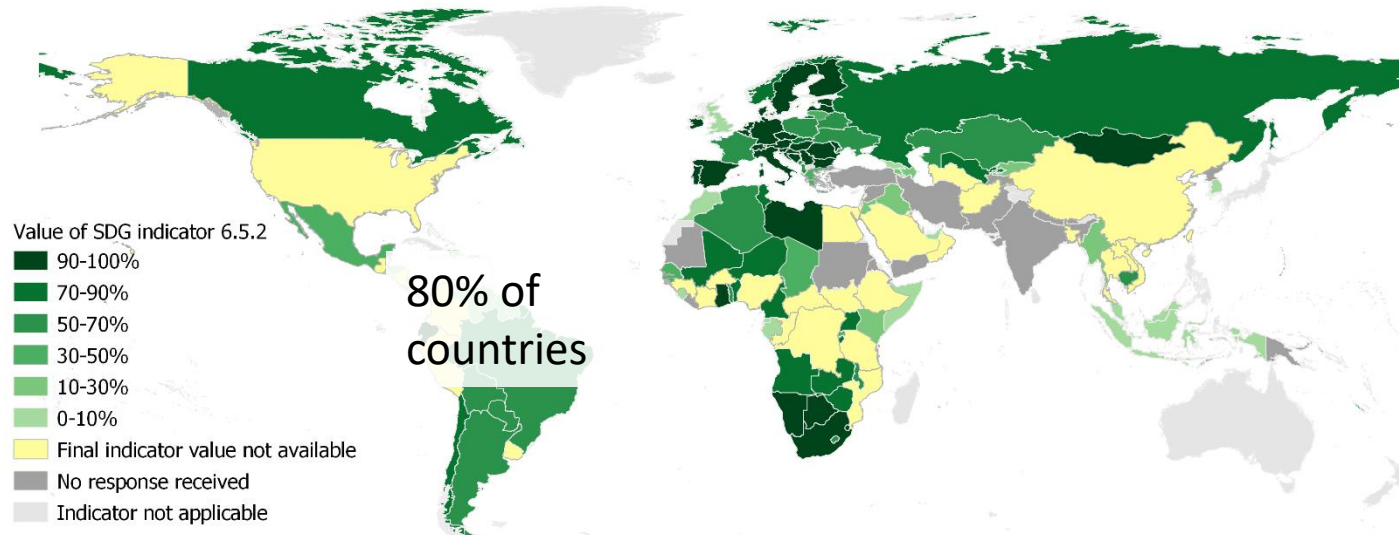
129 out of 153 countries submitted reports in 2020 (108 in 2017) during the 2nd exercise

- **Not on track**

Only 24 countries report **all** transboundary surface waters and groundwaters covered by **operational arrangements**. And 32 have 90 % or more of their transboundary waters covered.

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

## SDG indicator 6.5.2 values and responses received during the 2<sup>nd</sup> exercise



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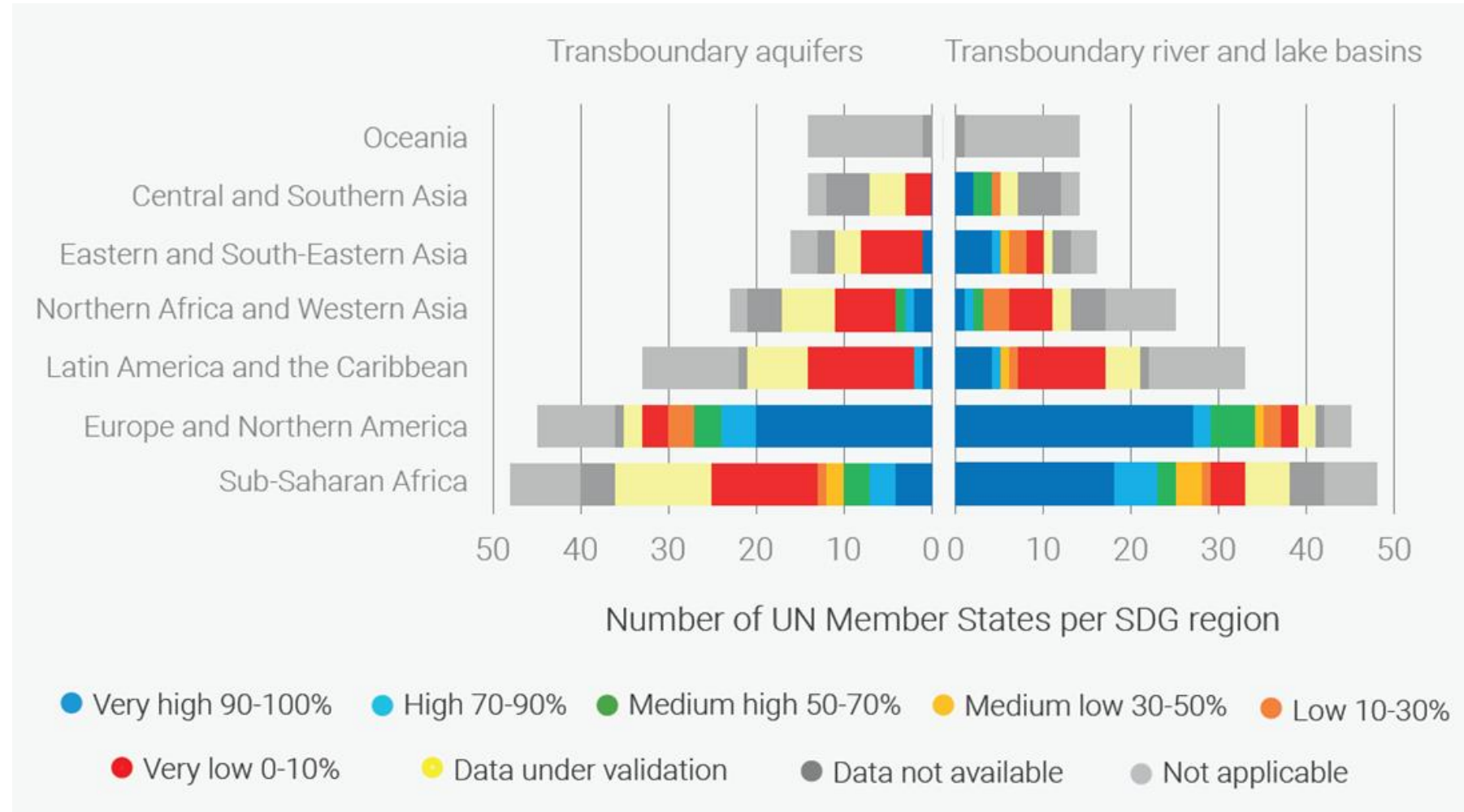


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# Results of the 2nd reporting 2020/21 by region



- Europe, North America and Sub-Saharan Africa show **greatest** levels of cooperation
- Acceleration of progress is most needed in **Latin America and the Caribbean and Asia**
- **Asia** showed the highest increase in response rate, but it remains low compared to other regions
- At least **128 basins reported lack agreements**
- Data on groundwater systems needs to be improved



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# Third reporting round 2023

## Progress to date & use of data



- Request to report for the 3<sup>rd</sup> exercise sent to countries in March 2023
- As of 3 July 2023:
  - ✓ 55 responses
  - ✓ Communication with 70+ countries
- Deadline to submit national reports was on 30 June 2023
- Late submissions will be accepted up to end of July
- Data collection and validation in 2023, and analysis in late 2023-early 2024
- Reported data to be used to prepare new reports on the *progress on transboundary cooperation worldwide*, as well as on *progress among Convention parties*
- Submitted data to be eventually integrated in an online reporting system and portal

**March 2023**

**February 2024**

Data requests sent to countries

Support to countries

Receive country data

Data validation

Submission of data to the UN Statistical Commission / global reports

# Coordination of the replies

## Discussing responses with riparian countries



We recommend, where possible, coordinating responses at the level of basins and arrangements. Countries can:

- Look at opportunities to share draft national reports with neighbors
- Use existing joint bodies or mechanisms, or regular meetings at bilateral, basin or regional level for co-ordination

Sometimes alignment might not be possible due to differing perspective

! For more information, see:

*Document on the opportunities to coordinate with neighbouring countries when completing SDG 6.5.2 national report*



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# Key areas to accelerate progress

## 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

## SDG INDICATOR 6.5.2 TRANSBOUNDARY WATER COOPERATION

### Leveraging and mobilizing expertise

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



### Upscale capacity development

Capacity building is important for negotiating and implementing operational arrangements

### Many positive examples worldwide

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

### 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**

### Building political will

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



**SDG 6 Global Acceleration Framework**



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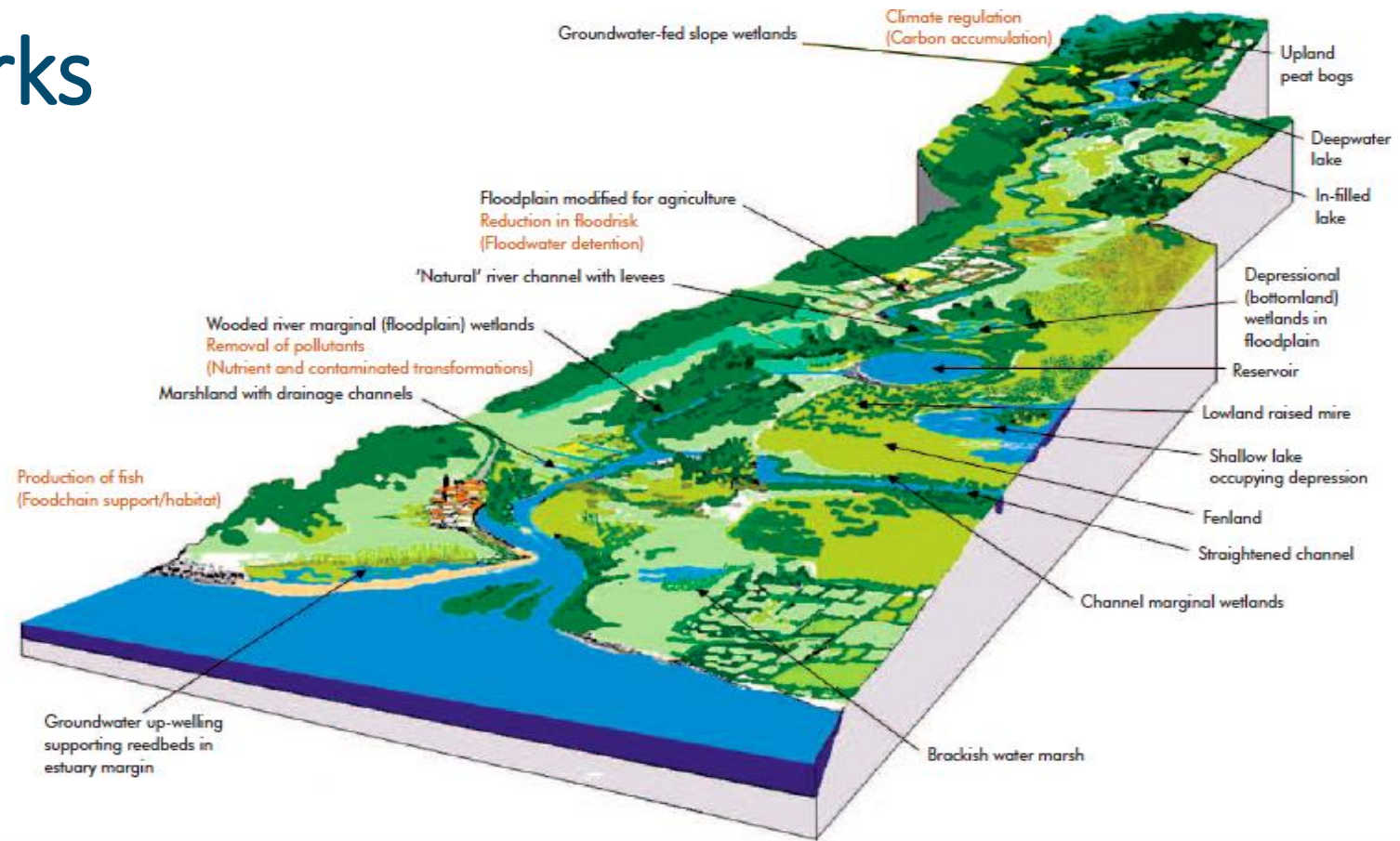


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# Global legal frameworks

- 1992 Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes (Water Convention)
  - Model Provisions on Transboundary Groundwaters
  - Practical guide for the development of agreements for transboundary water cooperation
- 1997 Convention on the Law of the Non-navigational Uses of International Watercourses (Watercourses Convention)
- 2008 Draft Articles on the Law of Transboundary Aquifers



⇒ Practical support and an important basis to negotiate new arrangements or revise existing ones  
⇒ Need to make the best use of these instruments and interpret them in a harmonized manner so to foster transboundary water governance



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# Main outcomes of the UN 2023 Water Conference



- ✓ Water Action Agenda with around **800 voluntary commitments** – *note: it is possible to submit commitments until end of April 2023!*
- ✓ Proposals for **follow-up by the UN Secretary General** (e.g. strengthening of UN-Water, appointment of a UN Special Envoy on Water)
- ✓ A summary of **outcomes by the President of the General Assembly**, building on the interventions at the conference and the summaries



# Main achievements related to transboundary water cooperation and the Water Convention resulting from the **UN Water Conference**

- **2 new countries** acceded to the Water Convention during the UN Water Conference: **Nigeria** and **Iraq**
- **10 other countries** expressed their willingness to accede, e.g. at a dedicated side event on the Convention with 11 ministers
- **UN Secretary-General urged countries to accede to the Water Convention**, the President of UN General Assembly and the UN-Water Chair also referred to the Convention
- High **visibility for transboundary water cooperation** (more than 70 countries mentioned it in plenary statements) and the importance of the Water Convention (nearly 20 mentions)
- Several commitments on transboundary cooperation submitted to Water Action Agenda





# Main achievements related to transboundary water cooperation and the Water Convention resulting from the UN Water Conference

- The Water Convention secretariat supported the **interactive dialogue 4 "Water for Cooperation"** (by drafting, with UNESCO, the concept note); the UNECE Executive Secretary spoke at the dialogue as panellist
- Side event **"Speeding-up transboundary water cooperation: the value of the Water Convention"** (lead organizer: Estonia) with participation of 11 Ministers and a treaty ceremony for Nigeria
- Side event **"Regional Dialogue on Accelerating Implementation of the Water Agenda"** (lead organizer: ESCWA) with a treaty ceremony for Iraq
- Side event **"Water and adaptation to the effects of climate change in a transboundary context"** (lead organizer: Luxembourg)
- The Water Convention contributed to many other side events





# Main achievements related to transboundary water cooperation and the Water Convention resulting from the UN Water Conference

- More than **40 commitments on transboundary cooperation** submitted to the Water Action Agenda
- 9 commitments referred to support to or accession to the Water Convention
- Commitment submitted by chair, vice chairs, lead Parties and secretariat on: *Accelerating transboundary water cooperation through increased accession to and strengthened implementation of the Water Convention*
- Joint statement by the **transboundary water cooperation coalition**, read out by the President of Slovenia

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# Plans of the Water Convention Secretariat during the **High-level Political Forum** (10-19 July 2023)

- ✓ **SDGs in focus: SDG 6 and interlinkages with other SDGs – Clean water and sanitation** (11 July, 10:00 – 13:00)
- ✓ **SDG 6 & Water Action Agenda Special Event** (17 July 2023, 10:00 – 18:00)
  - Potential treaty ceremony for new Parties
- ✓ **Official side events on transboundary water cooperation:**
  - Fostering Transboundary Water Cooperation: Unlocking Multifaceted Benefits for Sustainable Development and Peace, lead organizer: **Switzerland** (12 July, 13:15 – 14:30)
  - Water-Food-Energy Nexus amid Climate Change in the UNECE Region, submitter: **UNECE** (13 July, 13:15 – 14:30)
  - The Paradox of Climate Change: Spoiler or Driver of Transboundary Water Cooperation?, lead organizer: **Slovenia** (18 July, 8:00 – 9:30)

# Plans of the Water Convention Secretariat during the 2023 SDG Summit (19-20 September 2023, New York)

- Aim for **2023 SDG Summit: reference to transboundary water cooperation in the political declaration** (to be adopted at SDG Summit), mentioning of the topic and the Conventions in statements and commitments
- **Possibility for** acceding countries so submit their instrument of accession at **a Treaty ceremony during the treaty days** (*tbc*)





# Thank you!



## WEB

[unece.org/env/water](https://unece.org/env/water)

[https://unece.org/environmental-policy/water/transboundary\\_water\\_cooperation\\_reporting](https://unece.org/environmental-policy/water/transboundary_water_cooperation_reporting)

<https://unece.org/environmental-policy/events/un-2023-water-conference>

<https://sdgs.un.org/conferences/water2023/documentation>



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