



Expert Consultation on Transboundary Water Cooperation and Climate Change in view of the preparation of the Third progress report on SDG indicator 6.5.2 - 2024

29 February 2024 - 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM

Venue: Palais des Nations, room XXVI, Geneva

Background

SDG indicator 6.5.2 measures the progress of transboundary water cooperation worldwide (“Proportion of transboundary basin area with an operational arrangement for water cooperation”). In 2023-2024, the third reporting exercise is ongoing and UNESCO and UNECE as co-custodian agencies have approached 153 countries sharing transboundary waters for updated information. As of 30 January 2024, 129 replies had been received. Data is being submitted to the UN statistical commission in February 2024.

In addition, by Summer 2024, a progress report will be prepared. It was decided that the thematic focus of the third progress report should be climate change, disaster risk reduction and transboundary cooperation. The first draft of the report is due by 1 April 2024.

Main Objectives

- To discuss the content of the third progress report on the SDG indicator 6.5.2 particular with regards to climate change and disasters.
- To gather expert inputs on case studies and experiences in transboundary water cooperation, with a particular emphasis on climate change and extreme events. These inputs will enrich the upcoming Progress Report on SDG 6.5.2, which will have a focus on climate change.
- To contribute to the formulation of climate-related messages based on the analysis of SDG 6.5.2 Progress Report, and extracting key insights from the national reports.
- To explore how the SDG 6.5.2 process can be leveraged to better incorporate climate change and disaster risk reduction considerations into transboundary water cooperation frameworks.

Expected Outcome

- More informed sections on climate change and disaster risk reduction in the upcoming third Progress Report on SDG 6.5.2, reflecting the latest experiences, case studies, and expert analyses from around the world.

Provisional agenda

9:00 AM - 9:15 AM: Welcome and Introduction

- Opening Remarks (objectives and the importance of integrating climate change into transboundary water cooperation, etc.). *Patrice Moix, UNESCO & Sonja Koepfel, UNECE*
- Overview of the agenda. *Patrice Moix, UNESCO & Sonja Koepfel, UNECE*

9:15 AM - 9:25 AM: Introduction to the SDG indicator 6.5.2: rationale, results, and current situation (third reporting exercise 2023) – Tatiana Dmitrieva, UNESCO and Sarah TIEFENAUER-LINARDON or Iulia Trombitcaia, UNECE

9:25 AM - 9:40 AM: IMI-SDG 6, 2023-2024 Data Drive and sectoral mainstreaming in SDG 6 indicator reports – Will Reidhead, UN-Water TAU

9:40 AM - 11:00 AM: Transboundary water cooperation, the 6.5.2 process and climate including 15 min Coffee Break

Overview of transboundary water cooperation and climate – *Jos Timmerman, the Netherlands & Groundwater Expert TBC*

Progress reports on SDG indicator 6.5.2: purpose, impact and content - *Tatiana Dmitrieva, UNESCO and Alistair Rieu-Clarke Northumbria University/UNECE Consultant*

Insights from third reporting exercise and the SDG 6.5.2 Reports focusing on Climate change and extreme events aspects - *Alistair Rieu-Clarke Northumbria University/UNECE Consultant and Aurélien Dumont, UNESCO*

Discussion

11:00 AM - 12:15 PM: Experience from the participants and Case Study Contributions: Open discussion

For this session, please refer to the Table on Key linkages between SDG 6.5.2, transboundary water cooperation and climate change.

12:15 PM - 1:30 PM: Lunch Break

1:30 PM - 2:45 PM: Interactive Session: how the SDG 6.5.2 process can be leveraged to improve transboundary water cooperation and to better incorporate climate change and key messages

Introductory presentation, *Alistair Rieu-Clarke Northumbria University/UNECE Consultant*

- Lessons, gaps, and possible way forward on transboundary water cooperation based on the results of the third reporting mechanism;
- Discussion focusing on integrating climate change and extreme events aspects into transboundary water cooperation, and how to build resilience and preparedness, based on SDG 6.5.2 process;
- Strategies to ensure effective uptake of the report's findings/ messages amongst key beneficiaries.

2:45 PM - 3:00 PM: Concluding Remarks and Next Steps – Patrice Moix, UNESCO & Sonja Koepfel, UNECE