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# ITEM 11: REPORTING ON SDG INDICATOR 6.5.2 AND UNDER THE CONVENTION INITIAL RESULTS OF THE 2023 DATA DRIVE

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5<sup>th</sup> joint meeting of the Working Group on IWRM and  
Working Group on Monitoring and Assessment







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INTEGRATED MONITORING  
INITIATIVE FOR SDG 6

SDG INDICATOR 6.5.2  
TRANSBOUNDARY WATER COOPERATION

# Overview

**Process and outcomes of the 3<sup>rd</sup> reporting exercise on SDG indicator 6.5.2**

**Global reporting to the UN Statistical Division**

**Proposed future activities**



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# SDG indicator 6.5.2



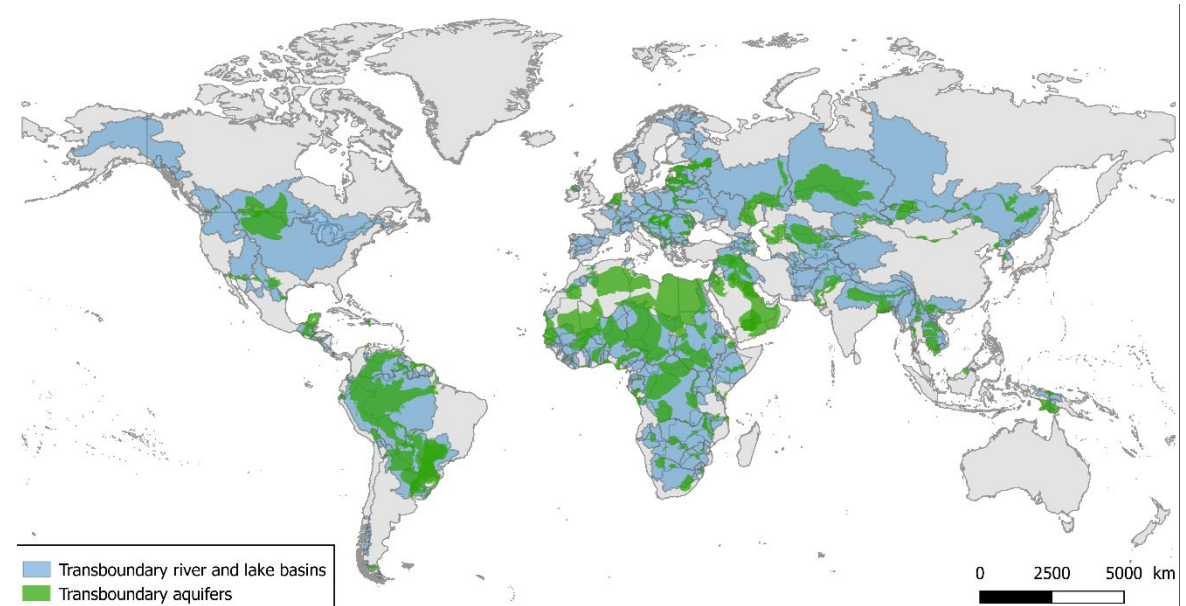
Target 6.5: By 2030, implement integrated water resources management at all levels, including through transboundary cooperation as appropriate.



Indicator 6.5.1 Degree of IWRM



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



Most of the world's water resources are shared => cooperation required

The only SDG indicator on transboundary cooperation => important for other natural resources

# Process and use of data

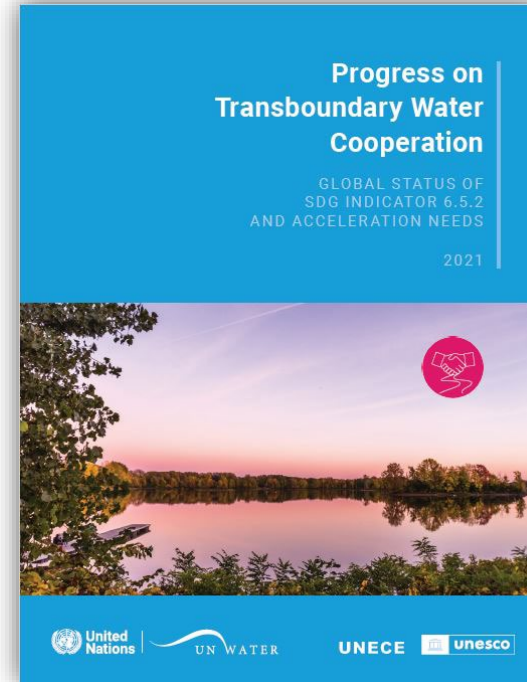


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- Data collected every 3 years by UNECE and UNESCO (as for other SDG6 indicators):  
*2017 => 2020 => 2023 => 2026 => 2029*
- National reports undergo a review process by UNECE and UNESCO
- Reported data are submitted to the UN Statistical Division (<https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/dataportal>) and to UN-Water (<https://www.sdg6data.org/en>)
- Reported data are regularly used in:
  - *Progress reports on transboundary cooperation worldwide (3<sup>rd</sup> Progress report in September 2024)*
  - *Progress reports on cooperation under the Water Convention (3<sup>rd</sup> Progress report in September 2024)*
  - *SDG Progress report*
  - *HLPF on Sustainable Development, UN Summit for the Future and similar high-level events*



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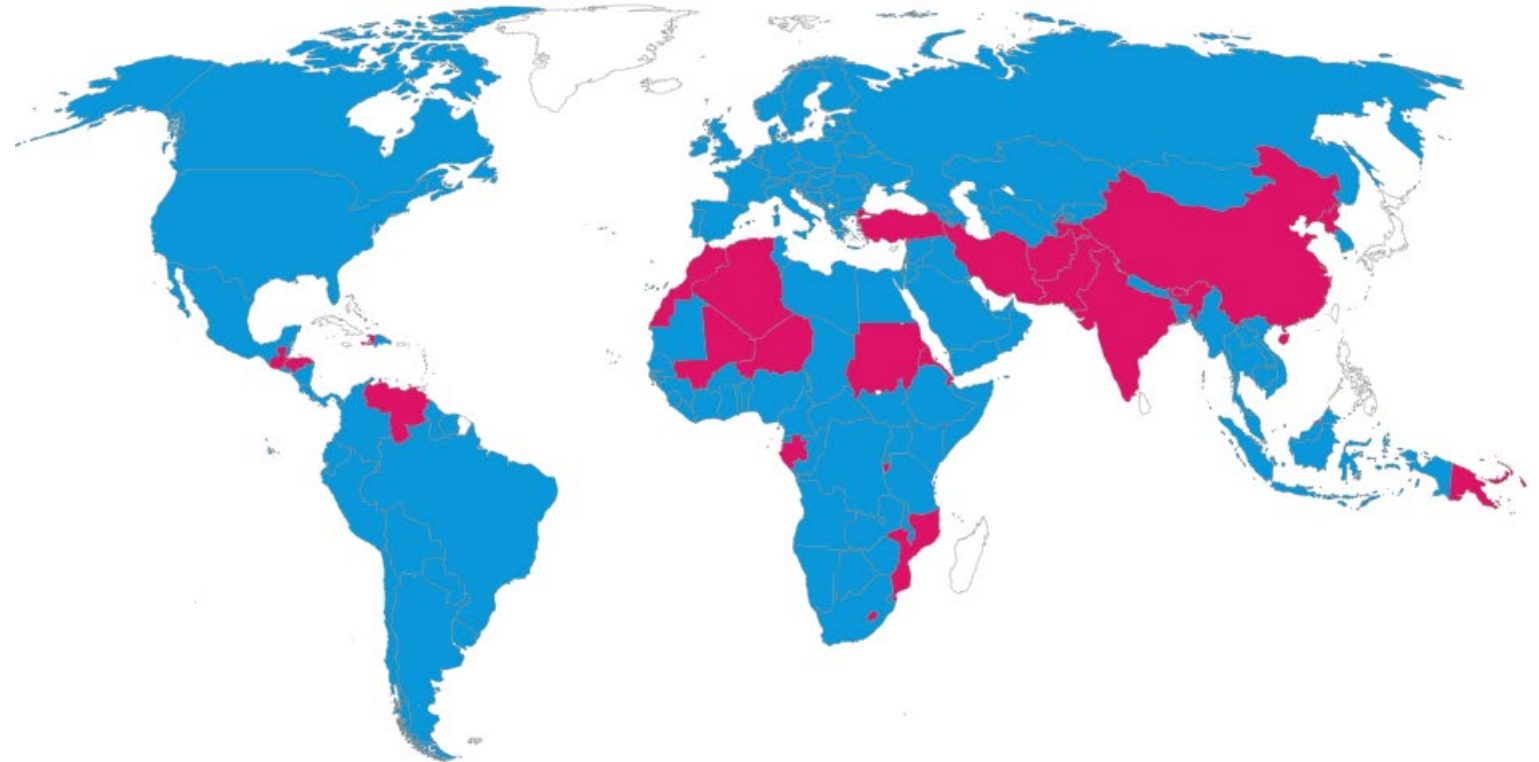
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# 3rd reporting exercise: high level of engagement



- ✓ **129** responses received in 2023/24 out of 153 UN Member States with transboundary waters
- ✓ **7** first ever responses in 2023
- ✓ **117** countries with indicator 6.5.2 value available (2020-2024)
- ✓ Process of reporting now well established in many countries

■ No response   ■ Response received   □ Indicator not relevant



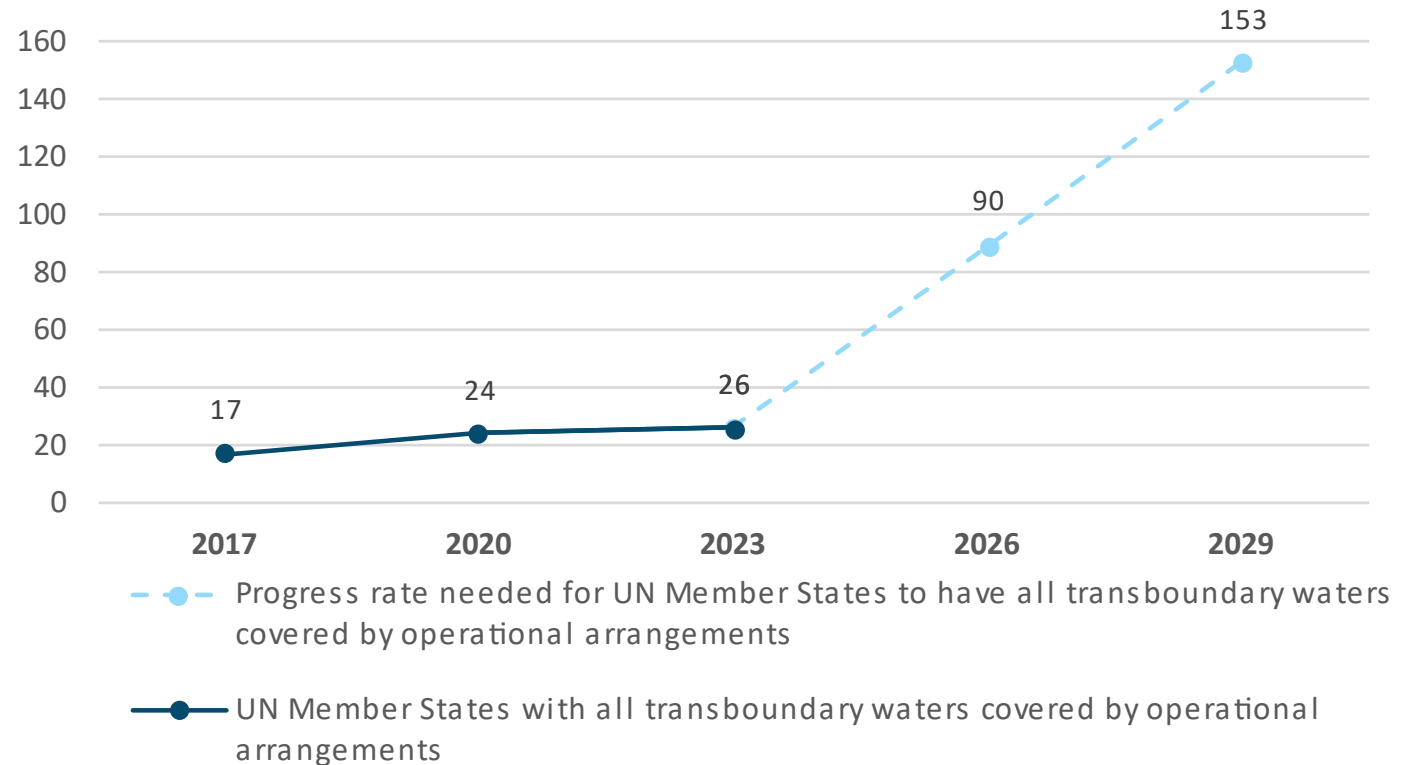


# 3<sup>rd</sup> reporting exercise: not on track



- Only 43 out of 153 countries have operational arrangements in place for 90% or more of their shared transboundary waters (rivers, lakes and aquifers)
- More than 20 countries have no operational arrangements in place for any of their transboundary waters
- Progress must be **accelerated** to ensure that all transboundary basins are covered by operational arrangements by 2030

Number of UN Member States with **all** transboundary waters covered by operational arrangements under SDG indicator 6.5.2: current levels and progress needed



Global average of SDG indicator 6.5.2: 59%



# 3<sup>rd</sup> reporting exercise: overall 6.5.2 values

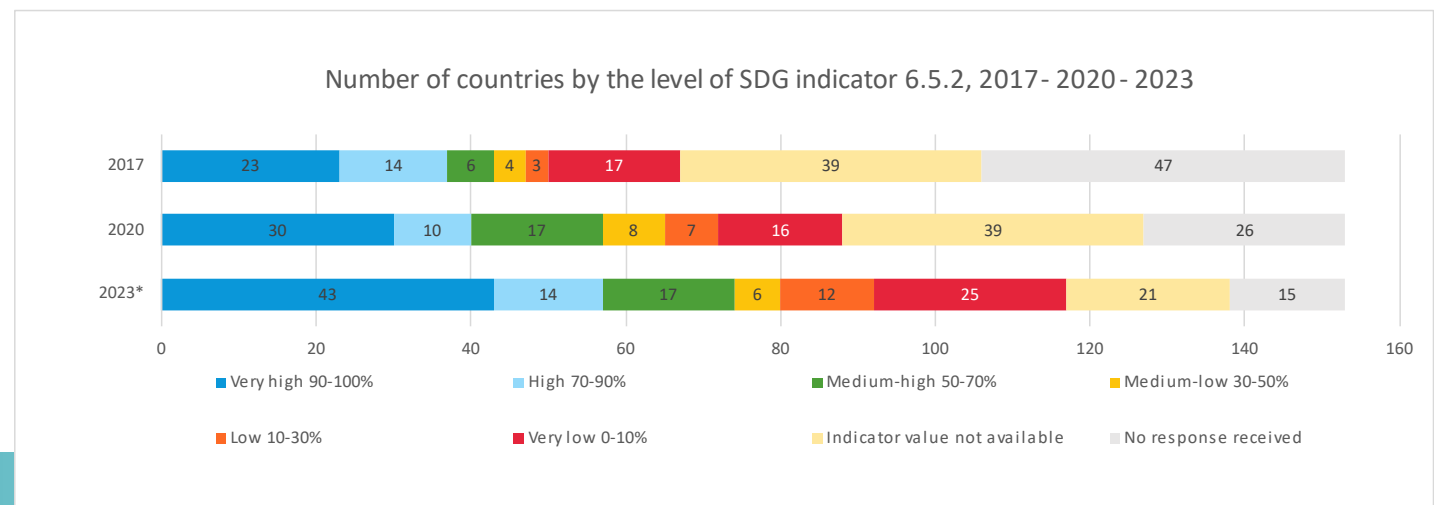
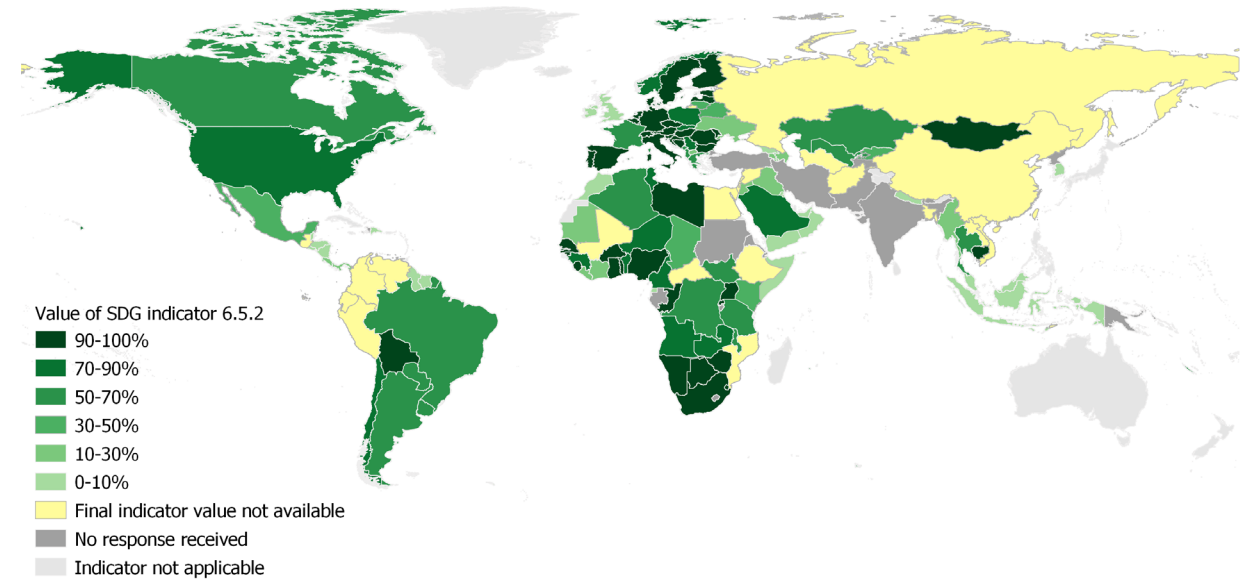
- Europe, North America and Sub-Saharan Africa show greatest levels of cooperation
- In Latin America and Asia, much more progress is needed for water cooperation

Positive impact of SDG 6.5.2 monitoring since 2017

⇒ Reporting triggers follow-up actions in countries to improve cooperation

Insufficient knowledge on groundwater, BUT *an unprecedented opportunity for countries to consider their transboundary aquifers*

SDG Indicator 6.5.2 values and responses received in 2023/2024\*



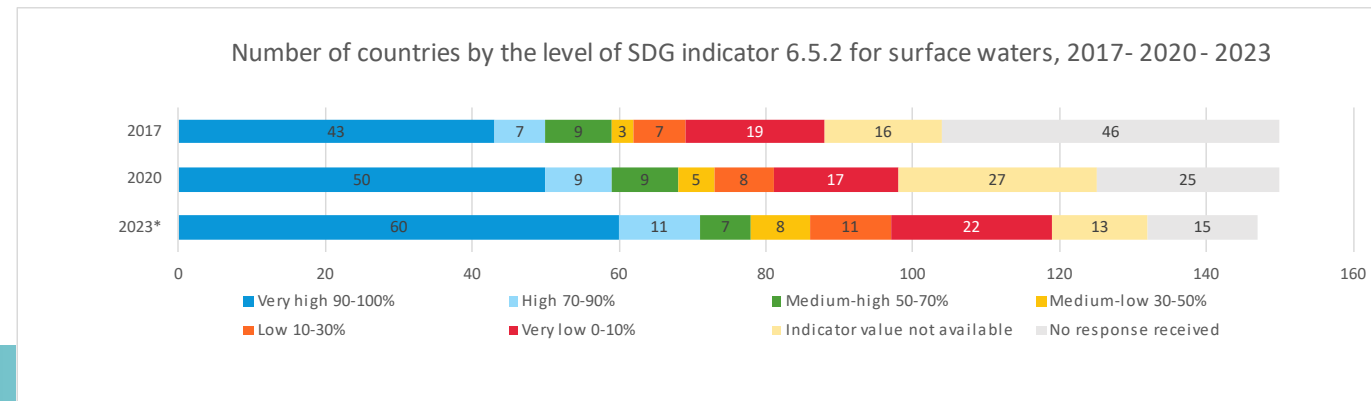
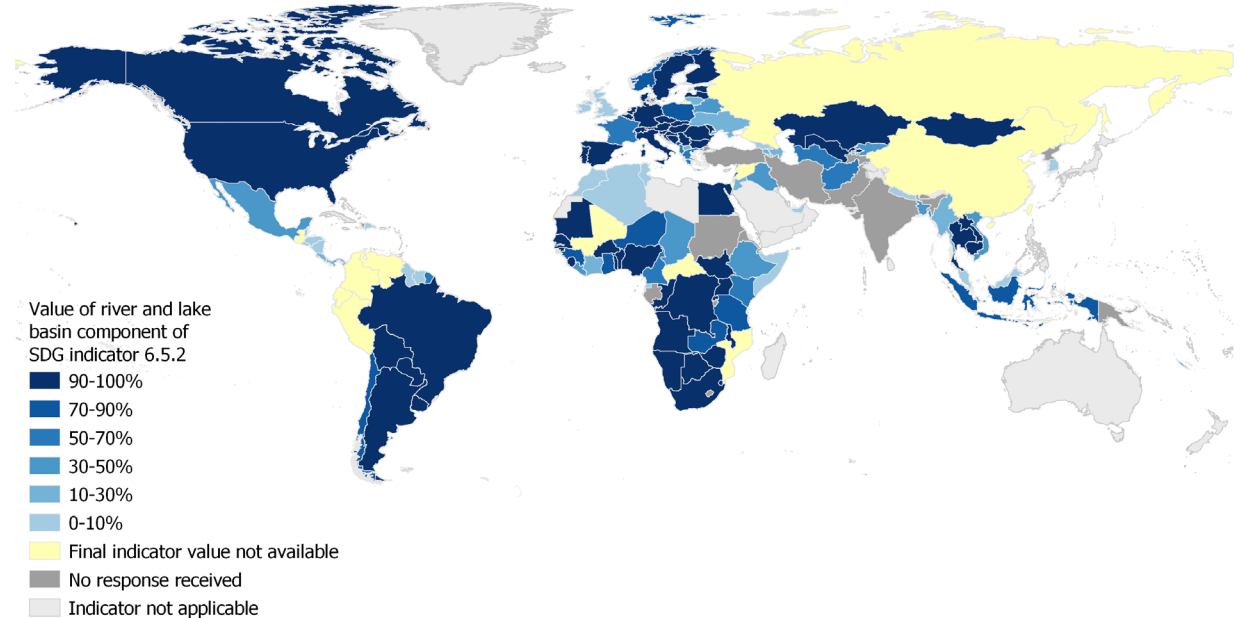
\* Includes 2020 data from 15 countries, where 2023/2024 data are not available

# Results of the 3<sup>rd</sup> reporting: Surface Waters component

- Increased response rate and high quality of reports
- SW component available for 119 countries  
vs 115 in 2020
- SW average value 65.8%  
vs 65% in 2020
- 60 countries with more than 90% of their SW covered by operational arrangement  
vs 56 in 2020
- Europe, North America and Sub-Saharan Africa highest coverage
- New agreements reported and overall improved cooperation



Surface Waters Component: values and responses received in 2023/2024\*

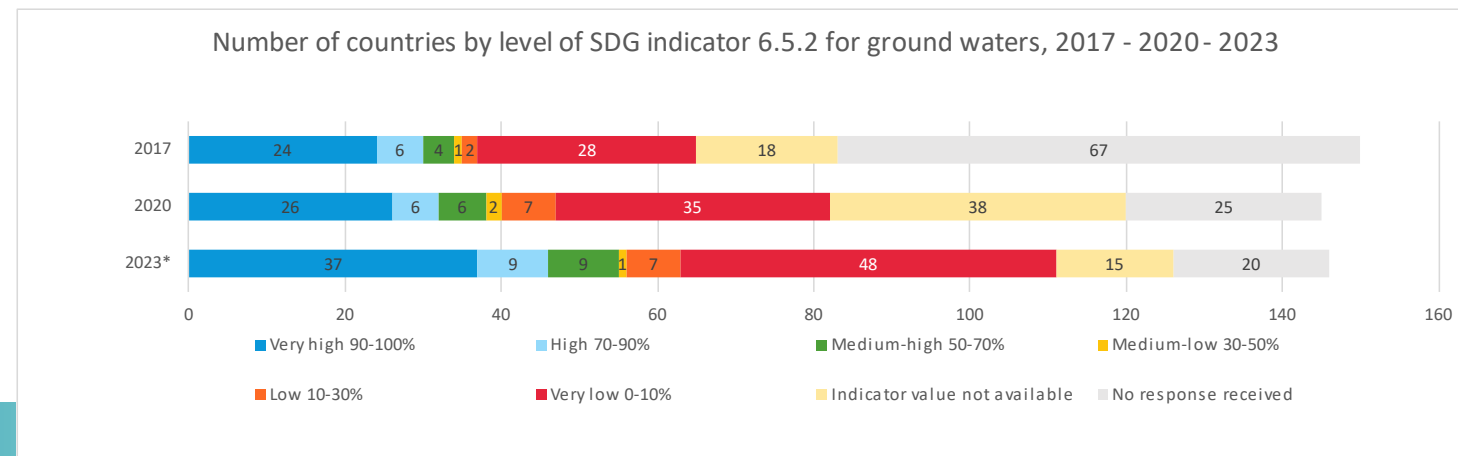
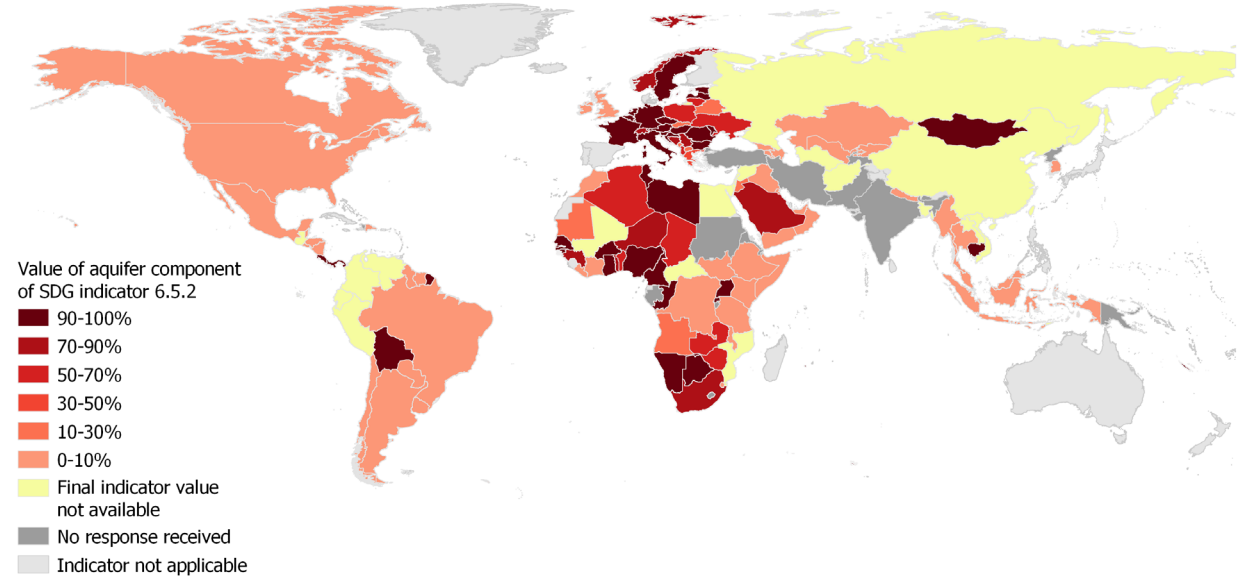




# Results of the 3<sup>rd</sup> reporting: Aquifers component

- Higher inclusion of aquifers in the reports
- GW component available for 111 countries vs 94 in 2020
- GW average value 45,9%  
42% in 2020
- 37 countries with more than 90% of their GW covered by operational arrangement  
28 in 2020
- 26 countries report having a total of 14 aquifer-specific arrangements in place;
  - New operational aquifer-specific agreement on SMAB
  - 5 out of 14 aquifer-specific arrangements are not operational
- Most aquifers covered through surface water agreements

Aquifers component: values and responses in 2023/2024\*



\* Includes 2020 data from 15 countries, where 2023/2024 data are not available

# 3<sup>rd</sup> Progress Report with a focus on climate change and disaster risk reduction

- Analysis of basins with:
  - ✓ Joint alarm systems for floods, droughts
  - ✓ Joint climate change adaptation strategy or disaster risk reduction strategy
  - ✓ Climate change adaptation among tasks of joint body
- Examples:
  - ✓ New and updated arrangements that consider climate change
  - ✓ Activities of joint bodies on climate change

Transboundary water cooperation allows to:

- ✓ Address climate change impacts and risks in transboundary basins
- ✓ Support climate-informed transboundary management at basin level





# 3<sup>rd</sup> Progress Report: Gender in transboundary cooperation

- Only 40 out of 291 basins where at least one country provided figures on the composition of joint body in terms of gender
  - Examples of targeted actions (e.g. LIMCOM Gender Equity and Social Inclusion Strategy for 2021–2025)
  - Challenge of process of nomination at national level
  - Broader frameworks which request gender inclusion (e.g. Constitutions, national laws and action plans)
- 19% of basins where the promotion of equality is considered as a topic of cooperation;
- 15% of basins where gender-related aspects of water management are included in the tasks of joint body;
- In joint bodies, women organizations or groups have:
  - Advisory role – 30 basins
  - Observer status – 24 basins
  - Decision making role – 9 basins
- Gender analysis of experts who filled and signed the SDG indicator 6.5.2 reports:
  - 58 reports where women participated;
  - 40 reports signed by of women

*Note: The basin related data is based on a total number of 291 river and lake basins listed in the national reports submitted. Percentages are based on at least one country within a basin responding positively to the relevant question in Section II of their SDG indicator 6.5.2 national report, e.g., ticking the relevant box.*



# Future activities

- **Dissemination of results: Launching the 3<sup>rd</sup> Progress Report**
  - Encourage use of the data from reporting
- **Cooperation with partners**
  - Assist countries and basins in committing to concrete actions to foster cooperation (design roadmaps, action plans to foster cooperation based on indicator 6.5.2 results)
- **Development of an online reporting system**
  - Preparation of related training materials, organization of trainings
- **4th reporting exercise in 2026-2027**
  - Strengthening capacity of countries to report





# Upcoming events

- ❖ 26<sup>th</sup> UNESCO-IHP Council in Paris (3-7 June 2024)
- ❖ W W W in Stockholm (25-29 August 2024)
- ❖ Summit of the Future in NY (22-23 September 2024)
- ❖ One Water Summit in NY (September 2024)
- ❖ COP29 in Azerbaijan (11-24 November 2024)



# Thanks for listening!



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## 6.5.2 Helpdesk



UNECE:

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[transboundary\\_water\\_cooperation\\_reporting@unesco.org](mailto:transboundary_water_cooperation_reporting@unesco.org)

## Further information on Indicator 6.5.2

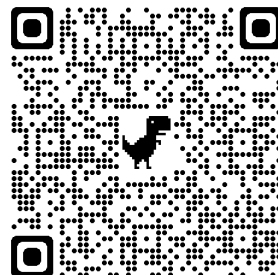
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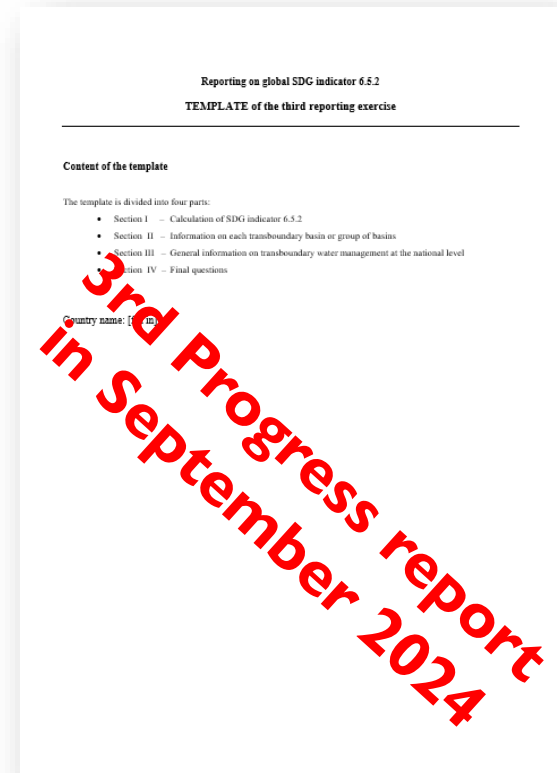
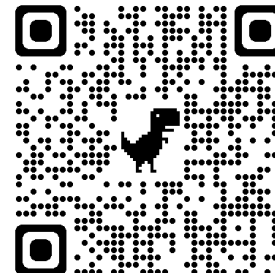
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