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

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5th joint meeting of the Working Group on IWRM and Working Group on Monitoring and Assessment
Overview

Process and outcomes of the 3rd reporting exercise on SDG indicator 6.5.2

Global reporting to the UN Statistical Division

Proposed future activities
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

- 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 (3rd Progress report in September 2024)
  - Progress reports on cooperation under the Water Convention (3rd Progress report in September 2024)
  - SDG Progress report
  - HLPF on Sustainable Development, UN Summit for the Future and similar high-level events
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
3rd 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%
3rd 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*

Number of countries by the level of SDG indicator 6.5.2, 2017-2020-2023

* Includes 2020 data from 15 countries, where 2023/2024 data are not available.
Results of the 3rd 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*

Number of countries by the level of SDG indicator 6.5.2 for surface waters, 2017-2020-2023

* Includes 2020 data from 15 countries, where 2023/2024 data are not available
Results of the 3rd 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% vs 42% in 2020
- 37 countries with more than 90% of their GW covered by operational arrangement vs 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
3\textsuperscript{rd} 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
3rd 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 3rd Progress Report
  o Encourage use of the data from reporting

• Cooperation with partners
  o 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
  o Preparation of related training materials, organization of trainings

• 4th reporting exercise in 2026-2027
  o Strengthening capacity of countries to report
Upcoming events

- 26th UNESCO-IHP Council in Paris (3-7 June 2024)
- WWW 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!

6.5.2 Helpdesk

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Further information on Indicator 6.5.2

UNECE

UNESCO

UN-Water SDG 6 Monitoring

SDG 6 Data Portal

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