



9<sup>TH</sup> WORLD WATER  
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## The state of transboundary water cooperation in light of the results of monitoring exercise under SDG indicator 6.5.2

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# SDG indicator 6.5.2 definition and calculation

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

- SDG indicator framework adopted by the General Assembly in 2017
- Co-custodian agencies for SDG 6.5.2: **UNECE and UNESCO**
- First data collection 2017 => second exercise in 2020 => third in 2023

## What is an ‘operational’ arrangement?

- Treaty, convention, agreement or other formal arrangement
  - Joint body for transboundary water cooperation
  - Annual meetings
  - Annual exchange of data and information
  - Adoption of joint/co-ordinated water management plan, or joint objectives
- Two components necessary for indicator value
  - Aquifer component:
    - Directly (= a dedicated arrangement about the aquifer)
    - Groundwater / Aquifers included in river basin/ upper level (binational) arrangement
- Transboundary river and lake basins
- Transboundary aquifers

# Results of the 2<sup>nd</sup> reporting in 2020 on SDG 6.5.2 - 1

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

## High level of engagement

⇒ In 2020: **129** out of 153 countries submitted response

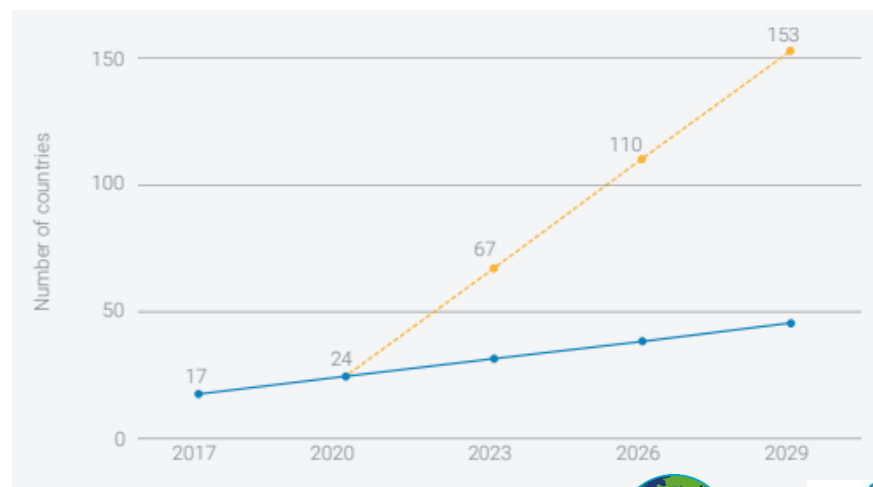
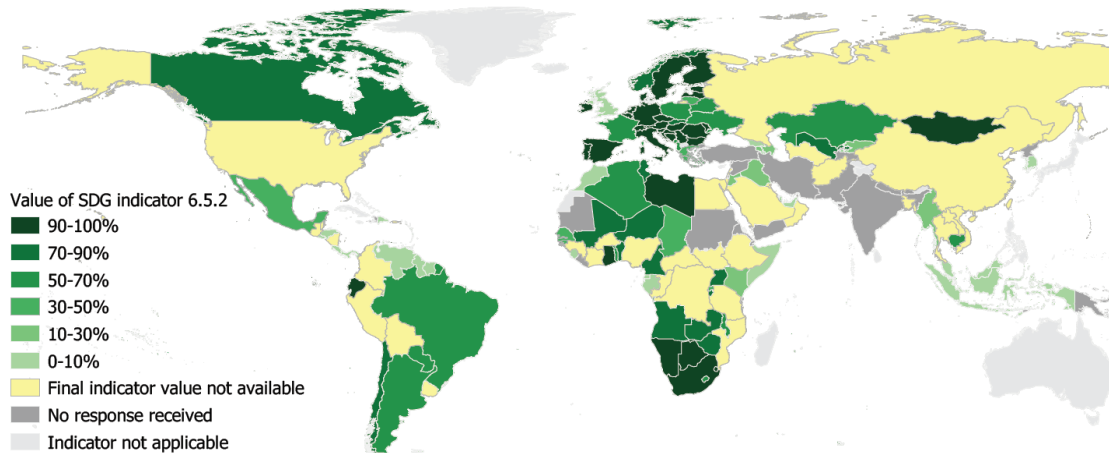
## Not on track

⇒ Only **24 countries** report **all** transboundary surface waters and groundwaters covered by **operational arrangements**

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

⇒ At least **128 reported SW basins lack agreements**

**Current and required rate** for all UN Member States to have **all transboundary waters covered** by operational arrangements

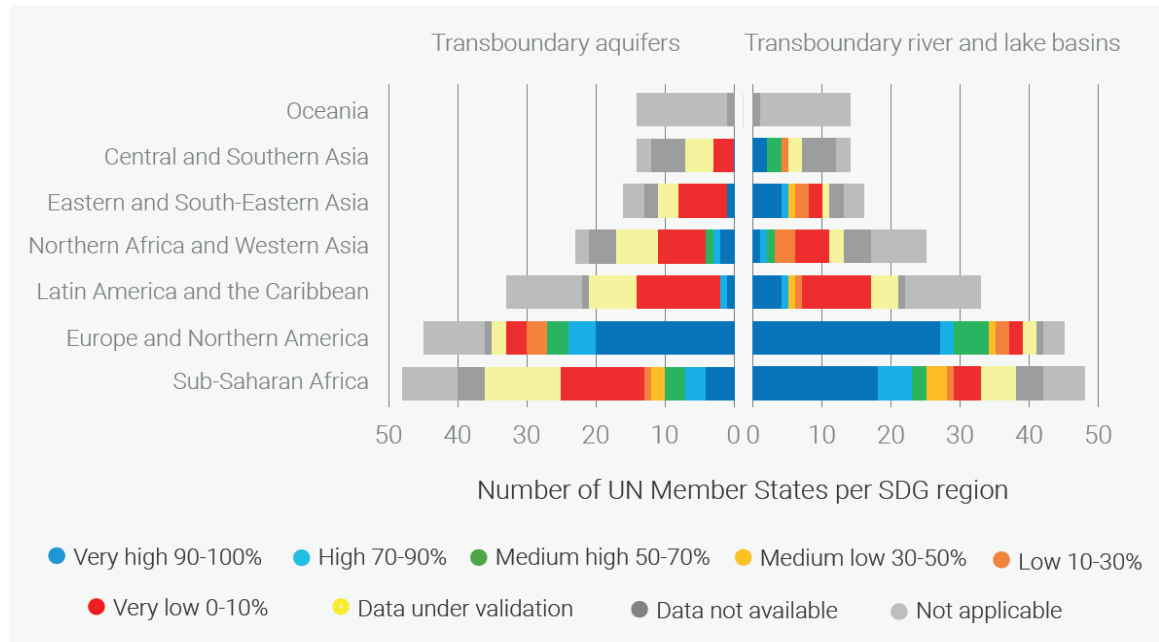


# Results of the 2<sup>nd</sup> reporting in 2020 on SDG 6.5.2 – 2

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

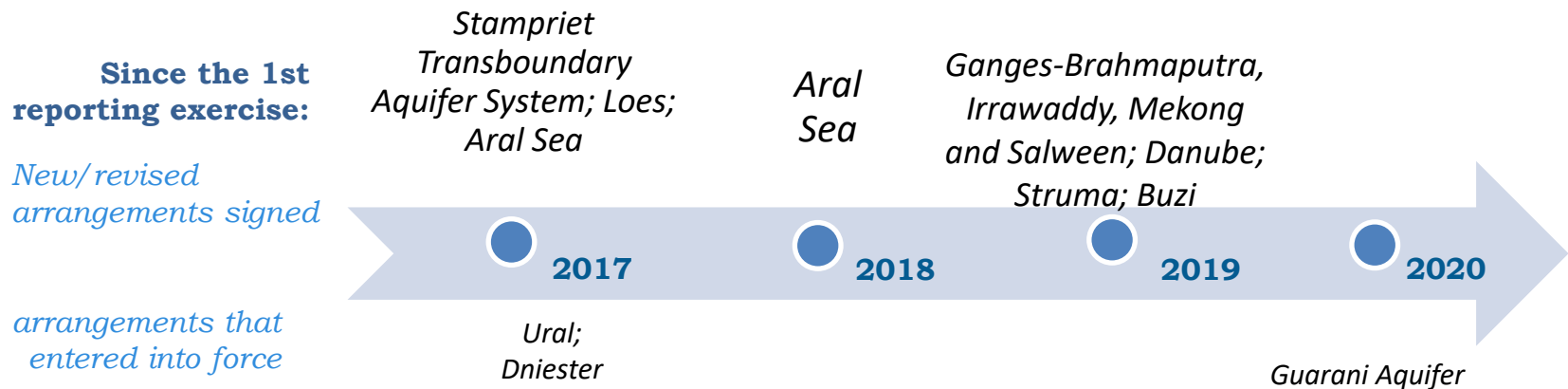
## Positive impact

⇒ Reporting triggered **follow-up actions** in countries to **improve cooperation**



# Recent developments in the negotiation of arrangements for transboundary water cooperation (2017–2020)

- Countries are continuing to negotiate, adopt and develop arrangements for transboundary water cooperation
- Countries noted that they were in the process of negotiating or updating agreements



# Key areas to accelerate progress



## Upscale capacity development

Capacity building is important for negotiating and implementing operational arrangements

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

## 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**

## SDG 6 Global Acceleration Framework

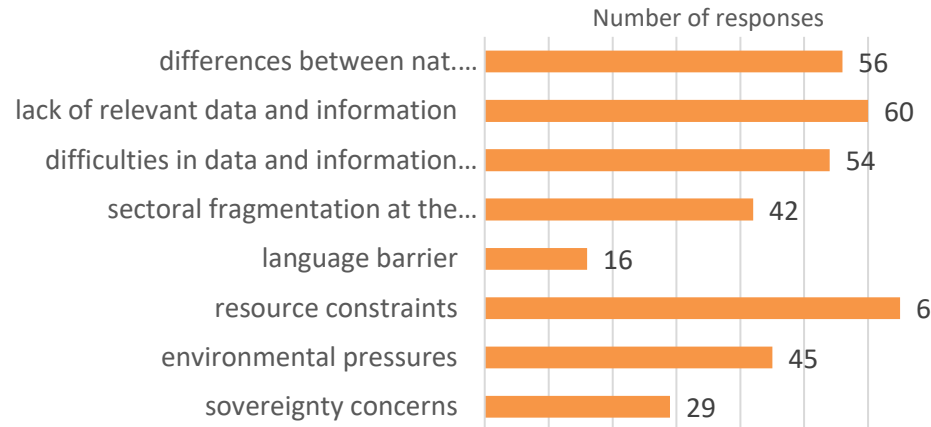
### Leveraging and mobilizing expertise

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

### 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

## Main challenges faced by countries in cooperating on transboundary waters – Sect. IV, Q°1, all reporting countries





# Thank you for your attention !

**UNECE:**  
[www.unece.org/water/transboundary\\_water\\_cooperation\\_reporting.html](http://www.unece.org/water/transboundary_water_cooperation_reporting.html)

**UNESCO:**  
<https://en.unesco.org/themes/water-security/hydrology>

**UN-WATER SDG6 monitoring:**  
[www.sdg6monitoring.org/indicator-652](http://www.sdg6monitoring.org/indicator-652)

**UN-WATER SDG6 data portal:**  
[www.sdg6data.org/indicator/6.5.2](http://www.sdg6data.org/indicator/6.5.2)

