

Guide to reporting under the Water Convention and as a contribution to SDG indicator 6.5.2



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United Nations

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Cover photos:

Top left: Zambezi River and Victoria Falls at the border between Zambia and Zimbabwe

Middle left: Hoover Dam, Colorado River shared by Mexico and the USA

Bottom left: ICPDR Secretariat, Vienna International Centre, Danube River, Austria

Right: Ban Gioc–Detian Falls, Quây Sơn River, at the border between China and Vietnam



Flooded Evros/Maritsa/Meriç River at the border between Greece and Turkey



Río de la Plata between Argentina and Uruguay

FOREWORD

The majority of the world's transboundary rivers, lakes and aquifers are shared between two or more riparian states. The status of transboundary water cooperation can vary greatly between shared watercourses and aquifers. The introduction of a reporting mechanism under the Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes (Water Convention) and the Sustainable Development Goals framework (specifically SDG indicator 6.5.2) therefore marks an important step in the support of transboundary water cooperation. The aim is to assist countries to improve cooperation with their neighbours on shared water resources.



While the first reporting exercise in 2017/18 can be considered a great success, it also became evident that a guide to completing the reporting template would be useful for providing advice on the process of preparation of the national reports, filling out the different sections of the questionnaire, clarifying key terminologies, and giving specific guidance on completing the various questions. Ultimately, the aim of the Guide is to enhance the quality of national reports, which in turn will ensure that evidence-based reporting strengthens transboundary water cooperation across national, regional and global agendas.

The development of this guide has been the result of a dedicated inter-governmental drafting group composed of about 40 States worldwide. The Guide is specifically designed for experts responsible for coordinating the reporting process and completing the reporting template on SDG indicator 6.5.2 and under the Water Convention. Users of the Guide should find it useful for identifying some good practices in the completion of the reporting template.

Finland and Uganda both have a long experience of cooperation over shared water resources with their neighbours and reporting on that experience. It has therefore been a pleasure to co-chair the Drafting Group on the Guide to reporting. The fruitful discussions held during the drafting group meetings, and the end product will undoubtedly support all countries sharing water resources to review and enhance the status of their transboundary water cooperation.

We therefore hope that the Guide will foster the implementation of the Water Convention and provide valuable contributions to the monitoring of SDG indicator 6.5.2. We encourage all countries sharing transboundary waters to use this Guide to enhance their reporting on transboundary water cooperation.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Seppo' followed by a stylized surname.

Seppo Rekolainen

Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, Finland

Co-chair of the Drafting Group of the Guide to reporting under the Water Convention and as a contribution to SDG indicator 6.5.2

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Callist' followed by a stylized surname.

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Co-chair of the Drafting Group of the Guide to reporting under the Water Convention and as a contribution to SDG indicator 6.5.2



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The Drafting Group meetings were chaired by Mr. Seppo Rekolainen (Finland) and Mr. Callist Tindimugaya (Uganda) and were composed of experts from the following countries and organizations: Algeria (Mr. Said Meziane and Mr. Abdelouahab Smati), Austria (Mr. Ernst Ueberreiter), Belarus (Ms. Cheravach Alena and Ms. Sniazhana Dubianok), Bosnia and Herzegovina (Ms. Gorana Basevic and Mr. Bosko Kenjic), Botswana (Mr. Gilbert Gwati and Mr. David Rax Molefha), Brazil (Ms. Luciana Andrade, Mr. Irani Ramos, Mr. Julio Thadeu Silva Kettelhut and Mr. Henrique Veiga), Cameroon (Mr. Daniel Claude Wang Sonne), Chad (Mr. Younane Nelngar), China (Ms. Liya Gu and Mr. Changchun Zhang), Côte d'Ivoire (Mr. Martin Kouassi Kouadio), Egypt (Mr. Ayman Tharwat Amin Abdel Aziz and Ms. Jasmine Moussa), Georgia (Ms. Nino Janelidze), Ghana (Mr. Ben Yaw Ampomah and Ms. Dorcas Adwoa Paintsil), Guatemala (Ms. Elisa Colom De Morán), Hungary (Mr. Peter Kovacs), Jordan (Ms. Mona Dahabiyeh), Mexico (Ms. Rocio Salinas Prado), Mongolia (Mrs. Erdenetsetseg Sugar), Netherlands (Mr. Jos Timmerman), Panama (Ms. Emet Herrera), Peru (Mr. Juan Carlos Pomareda and Mr. Fernando Reategui), Republic of Moldova (Mr. Adrian Delinschi and Mr. Cyrille Vallet), Russian Federation (Ms. Oxana Kozlova), Senegal (Mr. Moussa Berthe), Slovenia (Mr. Aleš Bizjak), Somalia (Mr. Abdiwahid Ibrahim Ahmed and Mr. Ahmed Mohamed Hassan), South Africa (Mr. Kennedy Mandaza), Turkey (Mr. Akif Mehmet Kirecci, Ms. Simla Yasemin Ozkaya and Ms. Şule Ürün), United Republic of Tanzania (Mr. Sylvester Matemtu), United States of America (Mr. Roger Pulwarty), Viet Nam (Ms. Thi Viet Hoa Le and Ms. Thu Hang Ngo), Implementation Committee of the Water Convention (Ms. Dinara Ziganshina), Global Water Partnership (Ms. Yumiko Yasuda), the Inter-Agency Network for SDGs (Mr. François Di Salvo), the United Nations Environment Programme (Mr. Gareth Lloyd) and the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (Mr. Ziad Khayat).

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