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**Policy Synthesis Report – Status of TWM Governance and
Implementation of SDG Indicator 6.5.2 in the Nile Basin**

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List of Acronyms

Acronym	Meaning
EAC	East African Community
ENCOM	Eastern Nile Council of Ministers
ENSAP	Easter Nile Subsidiary Action Programme
ENTRO	Eastern Nile Technical Regional Office
DSS	Decision Support System
LVBC	Lake Victoria Basin Commission
MoU	Memorandum of Understanding
NBI	Nile Basin Initiative
NELCOM	Nile Equatorial Lakes Council of Ministers
NELSAP	Nile Equatorial Lakes Subsidiary Action Programme
NELSAP-CU	Nile Equatorial Lakes Subsidiary Action Programme Coordination Unit
PJTC	Permanent Joint Technical Commission
REC	Regional Economic Community
SECOM	Sectoral Council of Ministers
TWM	Transboundary Water Management
UN	United Nations
UNECE	United Nations Economic Commission for Europe
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation

1 Introduction, Aims and Objectives

With a view to assisting the NBI Member States to report on SDG Indicator 6.5.2 under various national, regional and international reporting frameworks, this report highlights existing cooperative arrangements amongst Nile Basin States and the role of NBI in facilitating transboundary water cooperation as envisaged under the SDGs, and in particular SDG Indicator 6.5.2.

Having in place operational arrangements for effective transboundary water cooperation is associated with a broad range of benefits in relation to diverse global challenges, many of which are highlighted under other SDGs. These include poverty alleviation (SDG 1), food security (SDG 2), human health and well-being (SDG 3), energy security (SDG 7), climate change (SDG 13), ecosystem protection (SDG 15), and peace and security (SDG 16). This is equally true for transboundary water cooperation in the Nile Basin.

More specifically, this report aims to summarize the findings of the wider project on *Strengthening the Policy Frameworks for Transboundary Water Resources Management in the Nile Basin*, and especially those set out in Output D-3: *Review of Experience and Mapping of Cross-Border Cooperation Arrangements in the Nile Basin*, into a policy and communication report that can serve to assist communication on progress within the Nile Basin regarding transboundary water management (TWM) governance, particularly including practical implementation in the Nile Basin of the commitment agreed in SDG 6.5.2. It shall also be used by NBI for showcasing basin-wide progress on TWM cooperation at key international events on water resources management, e.g. UNECE COP, Water Weeks, etc.

In particular, the report may be used by the Nile Basin riparian States to report on SDG 6.5.2 in the various national, regional and international reporting frameworks. By providing this report NBI will provide a service much demanded by Member States, by helping to make clearer the contribution of NBI and of transboundary cooperation in the Nile to achievement of the SDGs – even if it is limited for purposes of the present report to those aspects of transboundary water cooperation captured under SDG 6.5.2.

Though SDG Indicator 6.5.2 does not expressly measure cooperative activities conducted by countries on transboundary waters at a regional scale, such countries are invited to document these activities within their SDG 6.5.2. national reports. Therefore, this report aims to link the wider findings of this project to the SDG Indicator 6.5.2 criteria, with a view to informing the content of their SDG 6.5.2. national reports. This report aims to take note of the Nile Basin State of Basin reporting on transboundary governance and to contribute to improved reporting.

2 Overview of SDG Indicator 6.5.2

Recognising that effective inter-State cooperation over shared transboundary water resources is critically important, not alone for ensuring water availability and the

sustainable management of water and sanitation for all pursuant to SDG 6, but for achieving key elements of almost all other SDGs, the international community has adopted SGD Target 6.5, calling upon States to implement 'integrated water resources management' (IWRM) at all levels by 2030 including, where appropriate, through transboundary water cooperation. Two indicators have been developed under SGD Target 6.5, including SDG Indicator 6.5.2, which measures the proportion of a transboundary basin area covered by an operational arrangement for water cooperation. SDG Indicator 6.5.2 is truly unique in that it is the first time that practically all State members of the international community have undertaken to report on their cooperation on transboundary waters at a global level. Remarkably, 107 out of the 153 States sharing transboundary waters reported on their cooperative arrangements during the first reporting exercise in 2017, with 129 States reporting during the second reporting exercise in 2020-21. This participation represents 80 percent of States sharing transboundary waters (surface waters or groundwaters) and a 20 percent increase in the second exercise as compared to the first. Therefore, the impact of this commitment can be regarded as transformative in character, and it appears increasingly instrumental in driving inter-State cooperative activity over transboundary waters.

Having regard to the global application of the SDGs, SDG Indicator 6.5.2 is intended to comprise a relatively simple and factual indicator with a methodology capable of global application across a diverse range of contexts. In order to assess the state of transboundary water cooperation, SDG Indicator 6.5.2 monitors the 'proportion of transboundary basin area [within a country] with an operational arrangement for water cooperation'. Firstly, therefore, States are to report on the extent of their territory situated within a basin of a transboundary river, lake or aquifer. While extensive data on the identification and delineation of transboundary rivers, lakes and aquifers is already available at a global level, it is acknowledged that accurate scientific understanding of aquifers remains weak in many parts of the world. Secondly, in order for a transboundary water cooperation arrangement to be considered "operational", such an arrangement must meet the following four criteria:

- There is a joint (institutional) body or mechanism in place;
- There are formal meetings (political or technical) held between the participating riparian States at least annually;
- A joint or coordinated water management plan or joint objectives have been set; and
- Exchanges of data and information take place at least annually.

These criteria are understood to describe the essential foundations upon which more advanced cooperative activities in support of IWRM can take place at a transboundary level by means of complementary operational arrangements. It is important to note that SDG Indicator 6.5.2 takes an 'all or nothing' approach, requiring that all four of these operability criteria must be met in order for an operation arrangement to be counted. Therefore, cooperative activities in the absence of formal, institutionalised arrangements are excluded, including preliminary inter-State exchanges, pre-cooperation, non-formalised arrangements, informal talks, or NGO / civil society initiatives or activities. Indeed, even formalised institutional arrangements that have

not as yet adopted a joint or coordinated management plan or set of joint objectives could not be included. This demanding threshold reflects the ambition of SDG Indicator 6.5.2 in terms of recording progress on, and thus promoting, deeper and more meaningful inter-State water cooperation.

However, the revised reporting template does allow States to report both on the existence of an arrangement, and on each criterion individually, thereby allowing States to assess which particular aspects of operationality might be lacking. These criteria can therefore provide a framework upon which States can identify clear action-oriented pathways to improve the operationality of their arrangements and, in certain instances, reinvigorate dormant or underused cooperative arrangements.

Nor does SDG Indicator 6.5.2. measure cooperative activities conducted by States on transboundary waters at a regional or global scale, such as those undertaken under the auspices of AMCOW or SADC. However, States may opt to document these activities within their SDG 6.5.2 national reports, which therefore can provide a wealth of information on the current progress of transboundary water cooperation globally.

Of course, the strong emphasis on the need for States to enter into cooperative institutional arrangements also reflects the key elements of the duty to cooperate incorporated into the UN global water conventions and included in most basin agreements and, thus, applying to all international watercourse States under the rules of customary international law. More generally, the importance of permanent institutional arrangements for ensuring the equitable and reasonable management of shared water resources has long been recognised.

Despite some concerns being articulated during its elaboration to the effect that it falls somewhat short in the measurement of the true quality of cooperation, the widespread acceptance by States of SDG Indicator 6.5.2 and the extent of State engagement in the relevant period reporting mean that it can now be regarded as the embodiment of internationally agreed minimum standard of practice for meaningful inter-State cooperation, regardless of the great diversity amongst transboundary basins in terms of their characteristics, conditions and uses. Though the indicator does not purport to measure actual outcomes of transboundary water cooperation, such as improvements in water quality or quantity in transboundary basins, it is recognised that any attempt to embed qualitative aspects within the indicator would be fraught with complexity and would inevitably limit the essential clarity, measurability and comparability of the data gathered.

Notwithstanding this emphasis on simplicity in SDG Indicator 6.5.2, certain issues do arise, especially regarding the use of basin area as the primary unit of measurement and problems in determining what an arrangement actually covers. The reporting methodology seeks to allow flexibility, in order to accommodate a range of different scenarios. For example, watercourse States have the flexibility to stipulate whether the entire basin, sub-basin or only part of the basin is covered by an operational arrangement, and to calculate the indicator value / score accordingly. Similarly, where two relevant operational arrangements exist – one for the entire basin and one for a sub-basin thereof – the reporting methodology tries to address the issue of potential ‘double-counting’ of the basin and sub-basin arrangements. As a general rule, States are expected to report operational arrangements at the highest possible level, *i.e.* if

there is an operation arrangement at the basin level, then the sub-basin arrangement should be ignored in the indicator calculation. Conversely, if there is no basin arrangement in place, an operational sub-basin arrangement can be used to determine that at least some of the basin area is covered by an operational arrangement. Further, where not all basin States are covered by a basin arrangement, those States that are party to an arrangement may indicate that the area of the basin within their territory is covered by an operational arrangement despite not all basin States being party to that arrangement.

In general terms, it is important to bear in mind that an indicator such as SDG Indicator 6.5.2 can only provide a 'snapshot' of a situation at a particular point in time and cannot hope to describe the complexity or contextual nuance of such a situation in any detail. It is designed merely to communicate a trend in a complex system and presents evidence which should be considered alongside other SDG indicators and/or supplementary data in order to provide a more complete picture of whether States are making progress towards a particular goal or target.

3 Overview of Current Regional / Basin Level Progress in Transboundary Water Cooperation

For the purposes of output D-3 of this project, TWM cooperation arrangements are defined as institutionalized cooperation mechanisms in the specific area of international watercourses that have been set up by two or more national governments and are controlled by bi-lateral, tri-lateral or multi-lateral mechanisms through the collective efforts of Member States governments. This definition implies some degree of bindingness, robustness, and permanence of the cooperation arrangements, specifically that:

1. Member States have signed and committed to a legally binding agreement of some sort;
2. A robust commitment to cooperation, with a willingness to engage in institutionalized cooperation for a longer period of time;
3. The existence of international organizational bodies (separate from national government entities)

Not included in this definition, and hence the analysis, are project steering committees for support projects financed by development partners as these do not constitute long-term cooperative arrangements for cross-border cooperation between countries.

Therefore, while output D-3 does not specifically address the operationality criteria set down under SDG Indicator 6.5.2, especially those regarding annual meetings, joint management plans and annual exchanges of data, much of the information required may be gleaned from the founding documents for each of these cooperative initiatives and from the more detailed description of each arrangement provided in Annex 1 to the D-3 Report.

In total 26 cross-border cooperation arrangements were mapped ~~in D-3~~ across the different categories (see Table 1 below), comprising

- a) One (1) continental structure and seven (7) RECs;
- a) ~~Six (6) Regional Economic Commissions (RECs);~~
- b) ~~Seven-Six (67)~~ Basin-Wide or Sub-Basin Commissions or Initiatives;
- c) Ten (10) Bilateral General Cooperation Commissions / Committees; and
- d) ~~Three-Two (32)~~ Project-Specific Cooperation Arrangements.

However, the continental structure and RECs, though they may be active in transboundary water management, operate at a higher legal and policy level, rather than at the basin level, and so would not be measured under SDG Indicator 6.5.2. Similarly, Project-Specific Cooperation Arrangements, which are usually concerned with specific infrastructure development, cannot easily be regarded as covering a portion of a shared basin. Therefore, this analysis focuses on the following cooperation arrangements:

1. River and Lake Basin Commissions and or initiatives with permanent secretariats; and
2. Cooperation Committees (bi-lateral, tri-lateral or multilateral in scope) established for general cooperation.

Table 1: Overview of Nile cross-border arrangements by country membership

Name of cross-border cooperation arrangement	Membership									
	B	D	Eg	Et	K	R	S	SS	T	U
Multi-lateral (REC)										
AMCOW										
East African Community (EAC)										
Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD)										
Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA)										
Southern African Development Community (SADC)										
Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS)										
Economic Community of the Great Lakes Countries (ECGLC)										
Basin- and sub-basin wide										
Nile Basin Initiative (NBI)										
Nile Equatorial Lakes Subsidiary Action Programme (NELSAP)/ Nile Equatorial Lakes Subsidiary Action Programme Coordination Unit (NELSAP-CU)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Easter Nile Subsidiary Action Programme (ENSAP)/ Eastern Nile Technical Regional Office (ENTRO)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Lake Victoria Basin Commission (LVBC)										
Lake Victoria Fisheries Organisation (LVFO)										
Organization for the Management and Development of the Kagera River Basin (KBO) (dissolved)										
Lake Edward and Albert River Basin Organisation (emerging)										
Bilateral										
Permanent Joint Technical Commission for Nile Waters (PJTC)										
Ethiopia-Sudan Technical Advisory Committee (ESTAC)										
Ethiopia-South Sudan Technical Advisory Committee (ESSTAC)										
Ethiopia - Egypt Technical Advisory Committee (EETAC)										
Ethiopia - Uganda										
DRC - Uganda										
Sio-Siteko										
Sio-Malaba-Malakisi										
Mara PJTC										
Mara Regional Basin Office										
Kagera Regional Basin Office										
Chale and Jipe Lake and Umba River	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ethiopia - Kenya Joint Ministerial Commission										
Project-specific										
Angololo Water Resources Development Project - Regional Project Steering Committee										
Rusumo Power Company Limited										

Nile Basin Initiative (NBI)

The NBI clearly meets all of the operationality criteria of SDG 6.5.2, covering the entire wider Nile Basin and including all 10 Nile riparian States, whilst having a sophisticated institutional structure, which conducts regular meetings, both at the basin-wide and sub-basin levels. NBI also boasts a permanent Secretariat, based in Entebbe, Uganda. The supreme policy-making organ, the NBI Council of Ministers (Nile-CoM), meets annually. NBI also meets the requirement for a joint water management plan or objectives, having adopted a 10-year NBI Strategy, which runs from 2017-2027 and includes six strategic priorities, thereby providing a tool for implementing the Shared Vision Objective of the NBI Member States. The NBI Strategy was developed taking account of a range of relevant regional and global policy documents, such as the Africa Water Vision 2025, the African Union's Agenda 2063 and the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). In addition, the NBI is centrally engaged in extensive data generation and exchange of data and information, including the hosting of key knowledge platforms, such as the Decision-Support System, the e-Learning Platform and the Nile Information System – a web-based tool that supports the systematic storage, organisation, retrieval and dissemination of relevant NBI-generated technical reports, policies, strategies and guidelines.

The NBI organisational structure includes two subordinate units focused on key sub-basins, *i.e.* the Nile Equatorial Lakes Subsidiary Action Programme (NEL-SAP) and the Eastern Nile Subsidiary Action Programme (ENSAP). All NBI Member States are members of NEL-SAP and its supreme policy-making organ is the NEL-CoM, which meets annually. NEL-SAP works to implement a five-year action plan / strategic plan, adopted under the NBI's 10-year basin-wide strategy. It also boasts a permanent Coordination Unit, hosted in Kigali, Rwanda, which acts as its executive and technical arm. NEL-Sap is principally engaged in jointly facilitating major regional development projects, which inevitably involves regular and intense information exchange.

ENSAP, on the other hand, is focused on the Eastern Nile Basin and its membership only includes the four NBI Member States located in the Eastern Nile (Egypt, Ethiopia, South Sudan and Sudan). Its supreme policy-making organ is the EN-CoM which meets annually, though it boasts a sophisticated institutional structure, including the permanent Eastern Nile Technical Regional Office (ENTRO), located in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia with a complement of 30+ staff. It is principally engaged in the development and dissemination of technical joint studies. Like NEL-SAP, ENSAP works to implement a five-year action plan / strategic plan, adopted under the NBI's 10-year basin-wide strategy.

It appears, therefore, that the cooperative arrangements embodied under the overarching NBI framework permit each of the Member States to report complete coverage of the Nile Basin within their respective territories for the purposes of SDG Indicator 6.5.2.

Lake Victoria Basin Commission (LVBC)

The LVBC is firmly established within the framework of the East African Community (EAC) and enjoys a formal legal basis under the 2003 Protocol for the Sustainable Development of the Lake Victoria Basin and will soon enjoy independent legal

personality under the 2020 Lake Victoria Basin Commission Act, the enactment of which is expected in the near future. It has an elaborate institutional structure, including its supreme policy-making organ, the Sectoral Council of Ministers on Lake Victoria (SECOM) which meets annually, as well as a permanent Secretariat based in Kisumu, Kenya, with a nominal complement of c. 65 staff. The LVBC has formally adopted a Strategic Plan running from 2021-2026, which prioritizes both strategic and programmatic interventions with a view to reducing critical development challenges in the Lake Victoria Basin including environmental degradation and climate change. LVBC generally functions to coordinate sustainable development and management of the Lake Victoria Basin in the five LVBC Partner States (Burundi, Kenya, Rwanda, Tanzania and Uganda) and covers the entire sub-basin extending to 183,000 km² (with lake surface of covering c. 68,800 km²). LVBC has adopted a Vision and Mission and has developed the Lake Victoria Basin Integrated Water Resources Management Programme (LVB IWRMP), which it is currently working to implement in the five Partner States. It implements a range of other programmes, including the Population, Health and Environment (PHE) Programme, the Environmental Management Programme (EMP), and the Lake Victoria Water Supply and Sanitation (LVWATSAN) Programme. These activities inevitably involve routine and intense exchange of data and information. Moreover, the development of a basin-wide IWRM plan under the auspices of the LVBC is currently ongoing and expected to be concluded in early 2023.

Therefore, the cooperative arrangements embodied under the auspices of the LVBC would permit the Partner States to report complete coverage in respect of the Lake Victoria Basin for the purposes of SDG Indicator 6.5.2.

Other TWM Cooperative Arrangements

While the Nile Basin Initiative (NBI) and the Lake Victoria Basin Commission (LVBC) are clearly the most significant inter-State cooperative arrangements currently within the Nile Basin, there exist a range of functioning bilateral arrangements. Some address specific issues arising between the parties concerned, such as the Ethiopia-Sudan Technical Advisory Committee (ESTAC), Ethiopia South Sudan Technical Advisory Committee (ESSTAC), the Permanent Joint Commission DRC-Uganda, or the Ethiopia-Kenya Joint Ministerial Commission. Other bilateral arrangements concern specific sub-basins shared among two NBI Member States, including the Mara Permanent Joint Technical Committee (Kenya-Tanzania) ~~and the Chale and Jipe Lake and Uмба River MOU (Kenya-Tanzania)~~. Further cooperative arrangements continue to be negotiated with a view to covering specific sub-basins, such as that concerning the putative Lake Edward and Albert River Basin Organisation.

In the context of national reporting on SDG Indicator 6.5.2, each of these arrangements should be assessed over time by the States involved to determine both the extent of their geographical scope of application and the degree to which they meet the four operationality criteria set down in respect of this indicator.

4 Overview of Options for Accelerating Progress on Transboundary Water Cooperation

NBI might lead efforts to improve reporting on SDG Indicator 6.5.2 as regards the quality of the information submitted. It could do this by developing a structured programme to develop capacity on monitoring SDG 6.5.2, and to raise awareness of the indicator's potential (and limitations) for promoting effective TWM cooperation.

UNECE and UNESCO, as the custodian agencies for SDG Indicator 6.5.2, actively support States to report against the indicator for the first time, or to improve the quality of their previous submission(s), presenting an opportunity for NBI to liaise with these agencies with a view to mobilising assistance in improving and coordinating reporting among the NBI Member States. Such coordination might ensure uniformity and consistency in NBI Member State reporting, thereby maximising the mutual accessibility and utility of the data gathered. It might also facilitate identification of opportunities to submit additional information of use to NBI and all Member States.

In the light of the two SDG 6.5.2 reporting exercises conducted to date, and ongoing criticism of the indicator as it is currently elaborated, the custodian agencies concede that 'there is no guarantee of continuity between monitoring exercises', thus allowing for and anticipating their ongoing evolution. This presents an opportunity for the Nile Basin States, acting together under the auspices and guidance of NBI, to influence this ongoing evolution with a view to ensuring that the SDG 6.5.2 reporting process better reflects arrangements, conditions and concerns arising with regard to inter-State cooperation in the Nile.

While only SDG Target 6.5 expressly refers to the need for transboundary cooperation over shared waters, and only SDG Indicator 6.5.2 attempts to measure such cooperation, it is clear that many other targets under SDG 6 and other goals, including those related to food security, energy security, livelihoods and health, are at least partly contingent upon effective water governance at the transboundary level. This truism should be highlighted among NBI Member States to promote efforts to deepen and further develop cooperative arrangements at all levels throughout the Nile Basin.

5 Conclusions and Next Steps

Generally, the SDG 6 Global Acceleration Framework (GAF) warns that 'gaps in institutional capacity ... slows implementation of SDG 6' and, thus, that capacity development functions as a key 'accelerator'. This is particularly true as regards TWM cooperation in respect of which the GAF expressly emphasises the importance of data availability, generation, validation, standardisation and information exchange, as a means by which to build trust amongst national decision-makers. NBI might embark on a concerted programme of activities to address this key challenge in a harmonised manner across the Nile Basin.

The SDG Indicator 6.5.2 reporting process serves to highlight the importance of formal institutional arrangements for effective transboundary water cooperation and, by so

doing, encourages the completion and deepening of such arrangements, and the negotiation of new arrangements, where appropriate, or the reinvigoration of dormant arrangements to make these operational. Thus, NBI might usefully consult with the Member States to identify lacunae, where new TWM arrangements would assist cooperative efforts to address outstanding issues or problems. NBI might also serve as a conduit for sharing practical experience among Member States in this regard.

The Second Progress Report on SDG Indicator 6.5.2 calls upon States and other actors to ‘mobilize political will by coupling efforts to enhance transboundary water cooperation with other critical issues related to sustainability, climate change, poverty alleviation, and peace’ and, in so doing, to capitalise on the forthcoming 2023 United Nations Water Conference. Thus, NBI might explore effective ways of highlighting the multiple benefits of TWM cooperation going beyond water, such as regional integration, peace, sustainable development, environmental protection, and energy and food security.

NBI might also encourage and assist Member States to mainstream transboundary cooperation into national water management legal and policy frameworks and other sectoral actions. Embedding transboundary cooperation into national laws, strategies and plans provides a firm foundation for bilateral and multilateral negotiations and strengthens the implementation of existing cooperative arrangements.

The indicator also incentivises the establishment of joint or coordinated water management plans at basin or sub-basin level or the setting of joint objectives, a key test of operationality for SDG 6.5.2 as it demonstrates that States have moved beyond the mere adoption of an arrangement to the actual planning and implementation of the commitments made thereunder. NBI might develop templates and/or guidance on the development of such plans or objectives and might once again serve as a conduit for sharing practical experience among Member States in this regard. International best practice models include the river basin management plans (RBMPs) required under the EU Water Framework Directive or the Strategic Action Plan (SAP) approach advocated by the Global Environmental Facility (GEF) International Waters Programme.

NBI might explore ways to highlight the importance of operational TWM arrangements for securing finance for large-scale transboundary (infrastructure) projects resulting in developmental benefits for multiple basin States.

NBI might also explore options for innovative financing mechanisms for cooperative development of transboundary (infrastructure) projects, such as Green / Climate Bonds or Social Impact Bonds, as an aspect of the development of joint basin investment plans.

Ensuring greater coordination among overlapping TWM cooperation arrangements in their core activities (e.g. in the areas of monitoring and information exchange) can result in greater synergy and improved efficiency, thereby reducing the operational costs of joint bodies and improving their sustainability. NBI might assist Member States in ensuring such communication and coordination.

In line with the SDG 6 Global Acceleration Framework (GAF), NBI might liaise closely with the UN custodian agencies for SDG Indicator 6.5.2, and with development partners, in order coherently to align available technical expertise, resources and assistance to State, sub-basin and regional needs within the Nile Basin. This might involve leveraging and scaling up innovative practices and technologies to provide support to key States and other actors and stakeholders, including in fragile and conflict-affected settings.

While the reporting template for SDG Indicator 6.5.2 captures a remarkable amount of official data on a wide range of aspects of transboundary water cooperation, only some of this data is analysed in the Global Baseline for this indicator, with other data being picked up in other reports produced by the custodian agencies and by UN-Water. Therefore, the SDG 6.5.2 reporting exercise represents an opportunity for NBI to gather additional data and conduct additional analyses on different aspects of transboundary water cooperation. For example, it might gather further data, during the course of the SDG 6.5.2. reporting exercise, on various technical aspects of cooperation or more detailed data on cooperation in specific sub-basins. In other words, with a little guidance and encouragement by NBI, more use might be made of the national reports submitted by NBI Member States for the purposes of NBI strategic planning and programming of activities. Never before has so much official data been (potentially) available on transboundary water issues at the wider basin level. Such efforts could go a long way towards enhancing NBI's knowledge and understanding of the current status and gaps in progress on transboundary water cooperation.

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