

DRAFT SUMMARY RECORD OF THE CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOP ON WATER-RELATED SDGS INTEGRATION AND IMPLEMENTATION IN EASTERN PARTNERSHIP (EAP) COUNTRIES AND BEYOND

23-24 NOVEMBER 2020, VIRTUALLY

General Overview

1. The Capacity Development Workshop on *Water-related SDGs Integration and Implementation in Eastern Partnership (EaP) Countries and beyond* aimed to develop capacity of the EaP countries in this domain through sharing good practices and lessons learned from the EU and OECD countries and from within the Eastern Partnership and wider Eurasia region. It was structured around six Agenda items (see [Annex A](#)). The meeting was attended by the Eastern Partnership countries (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Republic of Moldova and Ukraine), the wider Eurasia region, OECD member countries and partners including representatives from four Development Banks, the UN family and Global Water Partnership (see Annex B for [List of Participants](#)).
2. The workshop was organised by the OECD GREEN Action Task Force with support from the Government of Norway. The workshop also supported delivery of the regional work programme under the European Union Water Initiative Plus (EUWI+) project.

Key Messages

3. Key messages from the workshop were:
 - a. While all Eastern Partnership countries have made progress with establishing the national framework for monitoring water-related SDGs and integrating them into national policy frameworks, opportunities exist to identify and include indicators that are still missing, improve proxy indicators presently used, and strengthen linkages with policy documents and budgetary frameworks. It was noted that this would draw technical, financial and political attention to this domain of both domestic and international actors.
 - b. It is widely accepted that all countries are likely to miss their 2030 commitments, however the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic offers an opportunity to “reboot” national policies and promote action in this area. Having clear links in national frameworks to SDGs and the development agenda can facilitate investment and prioritisation of human and financial resources.
 - c. It was accepted that many institutions are involved in SDG monitoring, implementation and reporting. As such, national administrations would benefit from assigning clearer roles and responsibilities or better delineating them. A common “language” and definitions should be developed and adopted by all actors working in this area.

- d. Water-related SDGs clearly link to other SDG focus areas including health, food and energy security, climate action and gender. Opportunities exist to streamline efforts across SDGs and sectors of the economy, in line with the nexus approach.
- e. Opportunities also exist to align indicators and reporting activities for SDGs, Green Growth indicators and other related schemes. Drawing synergies can give operational efficiencies, minimise reporting and monitoring burden and focus efforts.
- f. The Association Agreements with the European Union, as signed by Georgia, Republic of Moldova and Ukraine, present a focus for driving action in this area.
- g. Financing is key to driving progress in this area with all countries participating in the workshop recognising that the present level of financing is far from being sufficient to achieve water related SDGs by 2030. It was noted that traditional sector revenue streams can often only fund operation and maintenance (O&M) costs. With a significant and increasing capital requirement, blended-finance, public-private partnerships and mobilisation of contributions of end-users offer a promising opportunity to mobilise finance to the water sector including by “crowding in” the private sector.
- h. Improving the cost-effectiveness of interventions in the water sector is a key success criteria for EaP countries facing the situation of oversized water systems in many urban areas, while lacking centralised water supply and sanitation in rural areas. Outdated design and construction standards were identified as increasing the demand for capital and financing and providing opportunities for efficiency gains to be made.
- i. Implementation will be the main challenge over the upcoming decade of 2021-30 and EaP countries expressed clear need for and interest to get support from development partners in implementing water-related SDGs.

Agenda Item 1: Opening and Welcoming Remarks

4. Participants took note of welcoming remarks from Ms. Kumi Kitamori, Head of the Green Growth and Global Relations Division, OECD Environment Directorate, who welcomed participants as chair of the meeting.
5. Mr. Matthew Griffiths, Senior Programme Manager, OECD Environment Directorate, shared an overview of the workshop agenda and intent. The objectives of the workshop were to exchange experience regarding water-related Sustainable Development Goals and the progress made with their integration within the wider policy framework and implementation on the ground.
6. The draft meeting agenda was adopted without amendment ([Annex A - Agenda](#))

Agenda Item 2: Scene-setting

7. Mr. Federico Properzi, Chief Technical Advisor, UN-Water presented an update on the SDG 6 Global Acceleration framework. Five key accelerators were highlighted for SDG 6: financing, data information, capacity development, innovation and sound governance.

8. Mr. Colin Herron, Global Coordinator of Water Solutions for SDGs, Global Water Partnership, presented a global and regional view of the key role of integrated water resource management (IWRM). The Global Baseline for SDG 6 indicator 6.5.1. shows a general low scoring of Latin America and the Caribbean and Central and Southern Asia. In the EaP region, Azerbaijan scored higher than other Eastern Partnership countries based on 2017 data, the most recently available data. The indicator was analysed based on self-reporting from nominated water sector officials in each country to UNEP and GWP. The questionnaire includes 33 main aspects of IWRM (For more information: [SDG 6 monitoring methodologies](#)). The presentation can be found at the following hyperlink ([Global Water Partnership presentation](#)).

Agenda Item 3: Nationalising water-related SDGs

9. Mr. Peter Van de Ven, Head of National Accounts Division, OECD Statistics and Data Directorate and moderator for this session, invited Belarus, Ukraine, Russian Federation and Armenia to share country experiences in the implementation of SDG 6. The full presentations can be found here: [Belarus](#), [Ukraine](#), [Russian Federation](#) and [Armenia](#).
10. Ms. Snizhana Dubianok, Deputy Director for Research, Central Research Institute for Complex Use of Water Resources (CRICUWR) shared experience in the implementation of the SDG 6 indicator monitoring methodology “Ensure access to water and sanitation for all” in the Republic of Belarus. Following the decree of the President of the Republic of Belarus No. 181 “On the National Coordinator for Achieving SDGs” issued in 2017, Belarus developed the national platform for reporting SDGs in 2018, held a national forum of regional SDG coordinators in 2018 and a first national forum on sustainable development in 2019. Recently, with support from the EU and OECD and UNESCO, Belarus elaborated and officially approved methodologies for calculating and monitoring SDG 6.1-6.5 indicators and established a fully operational monitoring and reporting framework.
11. Ms Anna Tsvetkova, Environment Academy and NWP of Ukraine, gave an overview of how Ukraine nationalises SDGs and the associated challenges. Following the Presidential decree No. 722 “About the CSR of Ukraine for the period until 2030” including SDG 6, Ukraine revised the government programme for 2019-2020 to include SDGs. The monitoring report “SDGs: Ukraine” and voluntary national review of progress towards the SDGs were prepared. Even though Ukraine tries to integrate SDGs into the national level framework, there are some challenges relevant to concrete strategy and action plan for SDGs, terminology of national language, consistency of the nationally adapted definitions of indicators with the international ones, methodology for monitoring SDG6, etc.
12. Ms. Natalia Shashlova, Head, Department of Agriculture and Environment Protection Statistics, Federal State Statistics Service (ROSSTAT) presented water related SDGs indicators in the Russian Federation. National indicators for water resources were approved by the decree of the President of the Russian Federation in 2018. The national indicators are used on 11 federal projects, of which 4 are related to water: i) Clean Water, ii) Preservation of Unique Water Bodies, iii) Conservation of Lake Baikal, and iv) Improvement of the Volga. The Russian Federation also published a statistical book “Sustainable Development Goals in the Russian Federation”. Remaining challenges include adopting methodology for SDG 6.5.1 indicator and implementing SDGs on the ground.
13. Ms. Alisa Savadyan, GWP Armenia, presented the establishment of an integrated monitoring system for SDG 6 in Armenia. In 2017, Armenia established an inter-ministerial SDGs council, SDGs innovation lab, and an inter-sectorial monitoring team for SDG-6. The process of reestablishment of the SDGs National Council was completed in September 2020. Although there is attention for SDGs,

Armenia does not yet have a strategy for SDG 6 implementation. In order to reduce real gaps on the way to achieving SDG 6 targets, a stable platform of cooperation between the state institutions was established in 2020 to support the Armenian government.

14. Participants took note of key challenges for implementing SDG 6 indicators and interventions by participants from Kazakhstan and UNECE. The presentations can be found at the following hyperlinks ([Kazakhstan Presentation](#), [UNECE Presentation](#)) and key discussion points were as follows.
- a. Belarus, Ukraine and the Russian Federation pointed out the misunderstanding of some SDGs due to differences in terminology used by the countries and the UN Statistics Commission, and a general lack of political attention for water sector development.
 - b. Kazakhstan reviewed water-related SDG and Green Growth indicators against the needs and priorities of Kazakhstan in the field of water security and proposed a set of harmonised national water security indicators.
 - c. UNECE has supported strengthening capacity of EECCA countries to report on SDG 6.5.2. Indicator under the EUWI National Policy Dialogues. It resulted in country engagement, higher quality of reports and coordination with neighbouring countries.
 - d. The importance of well-organised processes at the national level with clearly established roles and responsibilities and a focus on challenges concerning terminology were highlighted as persistent issues requiring attention.

Agenda Item 4: Integrating water-related SDGs into national policy documents

15. Mr. Alexandre Martusevich, Project Manager, OECD Environment Directorate, highlighted the importance of integrating water-related SDGs into national policy documents, being crucial to facilitate allocation of the public budget to projects that progress water-related SDG objectives.
16. Ms. Tronza Serafima, Principle Consultant, Ministry of Agriculture, Regional Development and Environment of the Republic of Moldova, presented the contents of the national WSS strategy of Moldova and the Programme of Measures on implementing the Protocol on Water & Health as key instruments for implementing SDG 6.1-6.2. The presentation can be found here: [Republic of Moldova](#). Ms. Nataliya Nikiforova, Environmental Affairs Officer, UNECE, commented on the background and development of the National Programme of Measures on implementing the Protocol on Water & Health. In Moldova, there were positive developments regarding promotion of hygiene, health care facilities, small-scale water supply and wastewater treatment despite of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. The national Programme of Measures needs to be aligned with the 2030 agenda objectives, with particular focus on vulnerable groups. In addition, the Programme of Measures should be linked to wider SDGs including health, climate and communities.
17. Ms. Zsuzsa Steindl, GWP Hungary Foundation, shared the experience of integrating water related SDGs into Hungarian policy documents. The national programme of SDGs is implemented by relevant ministries. There is no need for a new special regulation or policy on SDGs. However, a coordination mechanism and additional measures are necessary for strengthening policy coherence. Insufficient financing was reported as a barrier to progress. The presentation can be found here: [Hungary](#).

Agenda Item 5: Mobilising and effectively using finance for water-related SDGs

18. Mr Paul Horrocks, Team Leader, OECD Development Cooperation Directorate and moderator of this session, invited NDB and EBRD to exchange experience in mobilising and effectively using finance for water related SDGs. The full presentations can be found at the following hyperlink ([NDB](#), [EBRD](#)).
19. Ms. Juliana Ramos, Operations Policy and Project Support of the NDB, presented an overview of NDB's mandate and its key areas of operations, as well as the Bank's Environment and Social Framework (ESF) used for project appraisal. The presentation also included case studies of water-related infrastructure projects in the Bank's member countries, such as NDB implementation of a Water Supply project in India, Water Rehabilitation project in China, and Wastewater Treatment Upgrade project in Russia.
20. Ms. Claudia Neuschulz, Sustainable Resource Investments, Energy Efficiency and Climate Change, shared EBRD experience in mobilising finance for SDG 6. The EBRD has six transition qualities to access projects: competitive, well-governed, inclusive, integrated, resilient and green. The EBRD's report on Green Economy Transition 2021-2025 was recently released. [hyperlink [here](#)]
21. Ms. Gvanta Sivsivadze, Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture, Georgia, shared experience of Georgia with mobilising and effectively using finance for water related SDGs. Georgia's Association Agreement with the EU was cited as an important instrument for maintaining focus in this domain.
22. Participants discussed importance and priorities of finance mobilisation, opportunities for nature-based solutions, innovative ways to get household contributions as part of mobilising public funding, as well as monitoring indicators and measuring cost effectiveness of interventions in the water sector from the public budget and by development banks leading to the discussion under the next agenda item.

Agenda Item 6: SDGs as a tool for measuring the development impact of water-sector investment

1. Mr. Luiz Loures, Strategy and Partnership Division, NDB, presented NDB's SDG mapping method and highlighted the alignment of the Bank's operations with water-related SDGs. NDB maps the alignment of its projects with the SDGs based on the quantifiable development results that they aim to achieve, using SDG-linked indicators to measure project-level outputs and outcomes. The mapping method helps NDB to assess, document and report on its contributions to its member countries efforts to achieve the SDGs (See presentations: [NDB](#)).
23. Ms. Anna Lvova, Head of International Relations and Communications Department, IIB, shared how the IIB promoted *balanced and inclusive growth* of its members, presented the Bank's Environmental and Social Policy framework and highlighted that 80% of the Bank's loan and documentary portfolio were related to SDGs, including water or nexus related (SDGs 2, 7, 11). It was stressed that in the future, the Bank's funding strategy would accommodate an establishment of a sustainability bond framework. Finally, details were presented on the Technical Assistance Fund run by the IIB and its grant policy and provided examples of specific projects supported by the fund (See presentation: [IIB](#))
24. Participants noted DFIs' views of a country embedding SDG indicators into their strategy framework. It is important for the banks to understand where individual projects fit into the larger strategic picture and helps to prioritise development aid.

25. Ms. Snizhana Dubianok shared experience of using SDG 6 indicators as performance indicators or targets in national programmes and strategies. A campaign to promote the benefits of harmonisation of SDG indicators and national indicators has been successful, optimising reporting and monitoring efforts and standardising terminology and focus.
26. The OECD summarised key messages and findings of the discussion at the workshop, thanked participants for their active participation, invited them to fill out and send back Workshop evaluation form, and closed the capacity development workshop.

ANNEXES

- Annex A: Annotated Agenda (via hyperlink [Agenda](#))
- Annex B: List of participants (via hyperlink [List of Participants](#))
- Annex C: Note on the context and key issues (*under revision, forthcoming*)
- Annex D: Results of Workshop Evaluation by Participants (via hyperlink [Workshop Evaluation](#))