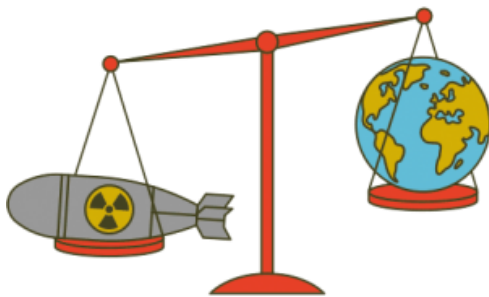


Water, Environment and Nuclear Weapons



The 1970 nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty is an important mechanism for halting the production of nuclear weapons and their resulting environmental impacts. The NPT, by constraining the continued development of nuclear weapons, can act as a means to prevent further radioactive contamination to the environment.



The production of nuclear weapons has created not only the threat of nuclear destruction on an immediate level through nuclear war, but also on a continual and protracted level through the creation of nuclear waste. The dumping of nuclear wastes into bodies of water as well as the burial of radioactive materials is particularly troubling.

The environmental damage resulting from nuclear technology is not limited to nuclear weapons states. All nuclear weapons have caused some level of environmental contamination, both in their own countries and abroad - such as, nuclear testing in the South Pacific, Nevada, Kazakhstan, China, India and Pakistan; water and airborne discharges from reprocessing plants in the UK and France; and uranium mining in Namibia, Canada, former East Germany and Australia.

Moreover, the ongoing production of both nuclear weapons and nuclear power continues to create nuclear waste. Any long-term approach to 'clean-up' must be tied to a halt in the production of nuclear weapons, weapons usable materials and nuclear power.

Water and the environment are essential for life, while nuclear weapons represent one of humanity's greatest threats. The detonation of nuclear weapons causes massive destruction, but their environmental impact extends far beyond the blast. Radiation contaminates water sources, soil, and air, leading to long-term health and ecological damage.

Protecting water and the environment requires global disarmament efforts and strong international cooperation to prevent the use and proliferation of nuclear weapons. **Peace is essential not just for security, but for sustaining life on Earth**



Dursun Yıldız

Director

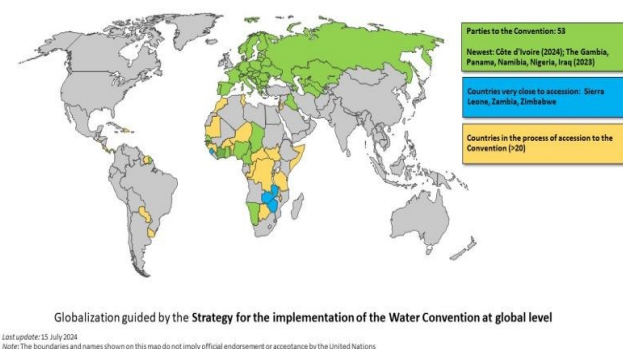
UN Water Convention supports national, transboundary and continental water cooperation towards a climate resilient and water secure future for Africa

04 June 2025

According to the 3rd global cycle of national reporting on SDG Indicator 6.5.2 (2024) measuring transboundary water cooperation, for which UNECE and UNESCO are co-custodians, 64 transboundary rivers, lakes and aquifers are situated across Africa. This makes transboundary water cooperation a must across the continent to adapt to climate change, prevent conflict and ensure the protection of shared water resources.

In the last 2 weeks, the UN Water Convention, with funding support from Germany, has been actively supporting transboundary water cooperation at the national, transboundary and continental scales within Africa.

Global momentum builds for UN Water Convention



With the UN Water Convention counting 55 Parties, 12 of the 14 accessions since its global opening in 2016 being African countries and with more than 20 countries in accession processes, many in Africa, there is significant momentum across the continent for transboundary water cooperation under the framework of the Convention.

More and more countries see the Convention's practical added value for enhancing national and transboundary water management of surface and groundwater resources in driving sustainable development, regional integration, peace and prosperity.



Progress on Transboundary Water Cooperation

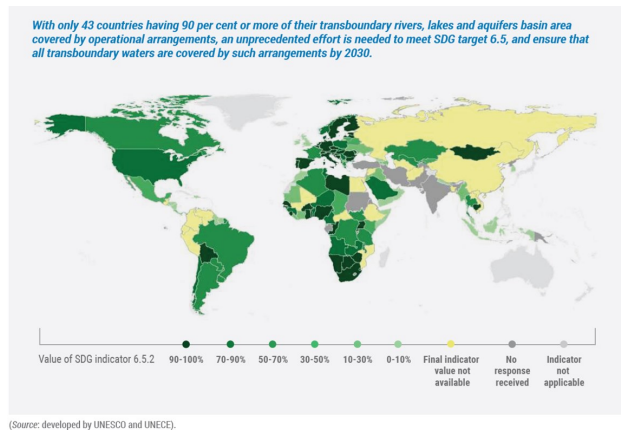
Mid-term status of SDG Indicator 6.5.2, with a special focus on Climate Change

Transboundary water cooperation holds huge potential in supporting progress on sustainable development at multiple levels and advancing coordinated and joint responses to climate change amongst countries. However, while some countries have demonstrated the significant benefits that transboundary water cooperation helps deliver there is an urgent need to learn from experience and enhance cooperation in rivers, lakes and aquifers where co-operative arrangements are lacking or not operational.



An unprecedented effort is needed to meet SDG target 6.5 by 2030, and ensure that all transboundary rivers, lakes and aquifers worldwide are covered by operational arrangements for cooperation. Currently, only 43 out of 153 UN Member States sharing transboundary rivers, lakes and aquifers have operational arrangements in place for 90 per cent or more of their transboundary basin area, and only 26 countries have all their transboundary waters covered by operational arrangements.

Unfortunately, the current rate of progress is severely behind where it needs to be. Only eight countries have increased their indicator value from 2020 to 2023 by improving cooperation, and in two countries, as a result of reduced cooperation, the indicator value has even decreased. At such a rate of progress, barely more than a third of countries sharing transboundary rivers, lakes and aquifers would have 90 per cent or more of their basin area covered by operational arrangements by 2030.



There are significant regional variations in transboundary water cooperation. Europe, North America and sub-Saharan Africa show the highest levels of cooperation (39 out of 84 countries have more than 90 per cent of their transboundary basin area covered by operational arrangements). There have been notable developments in Sub-Saharan Africa, where 16 countries were able to report having 90 per cent or more of their transboundary basin area covered by operational arrangements in 2023 compared to five countries in 2020. However, across Asia, Latin America and North Africa transboundary water cooperation is low: only four out of 68 countries sharing transboundary waters have 90 per cent or more of their transboundary basin area covered by operational arrangements.



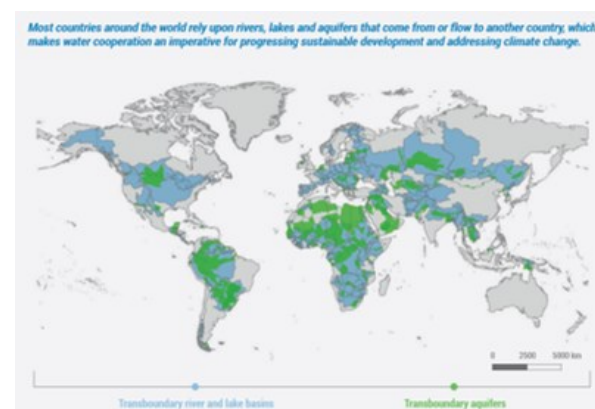
Transboundary water cooperation is indispensable to addressing transboundary risks associated with climate change and to supporting climate-informed transboundary basin management. While transboundary waters are often vulnerable to the impact of climate change, cooperation over these waters helps enhance resilience and address climate change impacts in a coordinated and effective way.

It is often not appreciated enough that transboundary water cooperation offers great potential in helping countries to collaboratively and coherently accelerate the global transition towards adaptation and mitigation.

Operational arrangements and joint bodies, such as river basin organizations or bilateral commissions, offer a solid foundation upon which countries can exchange data, deepen their collective knowledge of climate change scenarios, develop joint or coordinated adaptation plans and strategies, establish early warning systems, and leverage finance, including for their national adaptation needs.

SDG indicator 6.5.2 data shows that countries have made important efforts to tackle climate change and reduce disaster risk at the basin level, but more work is needed.

SDG indicator 6.5.2 is having a positive im-



pact on transboundary water cooperation. The 2017, 2020 and 2023 SDG indicator 6.5.2 monitoring exercises have helped address data gaps, especially in relation to transboundary aquifers.

Despite the politically sensitive nature of transboundary waters, over 84 per cent of countries sharing transboundary waters have engaged with the exercise. SDG indicator 6.5.2 monitoring has inspired countries, such as those sharing the Senegalo-Mauritanian aquifer system, to work together to accelerate progress on the adoption of arrangements and joint bodies for transboundary water cooperation or make existing arrangements operational. While SDG indicator 6.5.2 has therefore positively influenced transboundary water cooperation, there is a need for countries to accelerate progress, and also to ensure that the 36 countries where data was unavailable in 2023 provide data in the 2026 monitoring exercise.

Bulgaria has agreed to provide water to Greece for the next 5 years



The water from the Arda River is critically important for agriculture in Northern Greece.

Krassen Nikolov [EURACTIV.bg](https://euractiv.com) May 6, 2025

In the next 5 years, Bulgaria will provide Greece with water from the Arda River, which is critically important for agriculture in Northern Greece. This follows from a joint declaration signed at the end of last week by the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the two countries - Georg Georgiev and Georgios Gerapetritis.

The Arda's waters are of great importance for the aquatic ecosystem of this part of Greece, where agriculture is impossible without the river's water resources.



"The Joint Declaration guarantees the provision by Bulgaria of a sufficient amount of water for a period of five years, thus ensuring the smooth and continuous functioning of the irrigation system and agricultural production in the Evros border region, after the expiry of the relevant 60-year bilateral agreement between Greece and Bulgaria," the Greek Ministry of Foreign Affairs said in a statement. At its last meeting, the Bulgarian Council of Ministers approved the draft of the joint declaration.

At the beginning of July 2024, the agreement between the two countries on Bulgaria's commitment to supply regulated water from the Arda River expired. .

It was signed back in 1964 and provided that Greece directly irrigates over 817,000 hectares in northern Evros and indirectly irrigates 400,000 hectares. In the summer of 2024, Greece requested and received 80 million cubic metres of water to compensate for reduced water reserves in the Greek parts of the Arda and Mesta rivers.

The Greek government has declared its intention to begin within a reasonable time the modernization of the existing dam or construction



of a new one, thus ensuring the irrigation needs of Greek territory, the Bulgarian government press release says.

Bulgaria declares to provide the service of "accumulation, storage and regulated supply of water volumes" from the Arda River through the Arda cascade system for irrigation of lands on Greek territory until the construction of the dam for 5 years from the signing of the joint declaration. After this period, the two countries will review the declaration.

On the Bulgarian side, three dams have been built on the Arda River, the only system of large dams on a single river in Bulgaria. The total volume of the dams exceeds 1.2 billion cubic metres, making it the largest dam cascade in the country.

The cabinet press release also states that Greece will reimburse the relevant costs for the service of "accumulation, storage and regulated supply of water volumes" from the Arda River provided by the Bulgarian side, but does not specify the amount.

Arda is 272 km long, of which 241 km are on Bulgarian territory. It holds the third place in terms of full-flow in Bulgaria.

On Greek territory, the river flows through vast arable lands, which makes it key for agriculture and biodiversity in the region.

Source: <https://www.euractiv.com/section/politics/news/bulgaria-has-agreed-to-provide-water-to-greece-for-the-next-5-years/>



India-Pakistan Conflict. A Water War?

Dursun Yıldız

Hydropolitics Academy Director

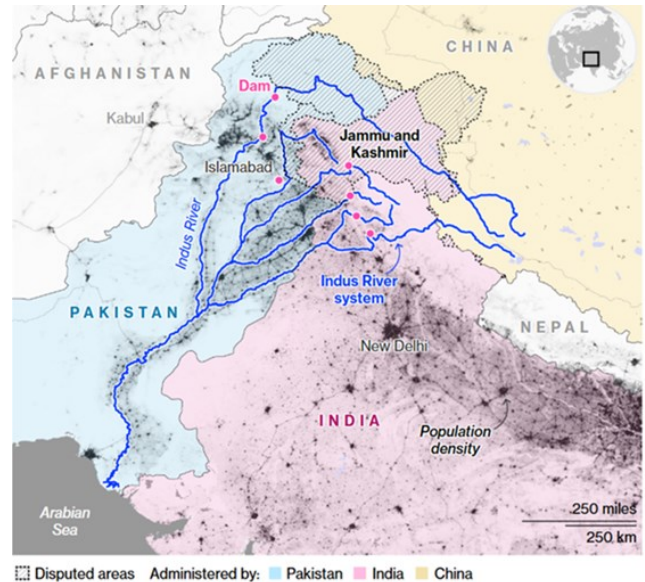
29 May 2025

If we were to define this situation at the beginning, we could say that this latest crisis escalating in Kashmir is not a water crisis that will lead to a water war. The picture we face today is the beginning of a water strategy crisis carried out over the historical Kashmir issue and the threat of climate change. However, the possibility of this issue evolving into a real water war in the medium term is not low

What Happened in the Basin in Terms of Hydropolitics?

India has carefully undermined the water sharing cooperation that it has kept away from political and military tensions until now. In other words, a tradition has been broken regarding a long-standing and exemplary transboundary water agreement. While India was putting its water card on the table, it used very careful language in written explanations, abeyanced the treaty, announced that it had cut off the water flowing through the dams for sediment cleaning and then opened the floodgates.

As a result, India has partially considered international water law and created a new hydrogeopolitical position in the Jammu and Kashmir region using limited military force. With this strategy, it has radically announced its new position on water sharing. India has also made a radical move in the field to review and renew the 1960 Indus Waters Treaty. For this purpose,



Sources: Indus River system from Natural Earth, Dams from Center for Strategic and International Studies

it used the attack in which 26 tourists lost their lives as a starting point and rejected the proposal to investigate the terrorist attack and reduce tensions.

Pakistan has occasionally accused India of waging a "fifth-generation war" by releasing water from a dam on the border without notice that could cause flooding, a charge India denies.

Why Did It Happen Now?

Starting from 1986, India has built many dams and small river type hydroenergy plants ranging from 40 m to 143 m height on the waters flowing to Pakistan. Even the highest Pakal Dul dam, which it has recently designed, is under construction, with a height of 167 m. Despite Pakistan's objections that it is not in compliance with the agreement, these large dams, which were built, have strengthened India's administrative dominance in the Jammu and Kashmir region and have also begun to provide it with the opportunity to control water. Although these dams have not yet reached the storage capacity to fully control the rivers waters, the fact that these dams have become silent strategic maneuvering tools for India has increased Pakistan's concerns.

In fact, the construction of these large storage dams since 1989 has de facto undermined the Indus Waters Treaty. In line with these developments, India has attempted to create a new treaty by putting forward climate change, population growth and clean energy production policies. In this context, in recent years, it has increased its demands for the renewal of the Indus Waters Treaty.



For this reason, in recent years, India has begun to move away from the policy of keeping the Kashmir tension away from water sharing. After an attack in 2016, it made an official statement that “blood and water do not flow together” and increased its threats to use the water card. Following the latest terrorist attack in Kashmir, India made clear its message that it will continue its policy of establishing hydrogeopolitical control in Kashmir by using limited military force and making statements that it has paused the Indus Waters Treaty.

On May 22, 2025, the Indian Prime Minister Modi said that Pakistan will not get water over which India has rights. This shows that India is decisive in continuing with the strategy it has created on this issue.

What Happens Next?

Water wars do not have long-term peaceful outcomes, so there will be no absolute and complete winner. In addition, military conflicts over water usually occur in regions where there is a historical dispute between riparian countries. Therefore, the risk of war over water sharing in the Indus Basin is not completely eliminated. However, for now, it can be said that a "full-scale water war" is a low possibility for some reasons.

In addition, Pakistan's absolute dependence on waters originating from the Indian-controlled Jammu and Kashmir region in the Indus Basin makes the region very fragile in terms of water sharing. In other words, the region has a very critical security balance based on water. In the Indus Basin, increasing conflicts between India and Pakistan regarding water will depend on;

- India's Kashmir policy over water,
- The decrease in water resources due to the effects of climate change,
- The increasing water needs of economies largely based on agriculture in the region,
- Strategies that countries outside the region can implement over water.

In the Indus River basin, it is seen that instead of a water war in the short term and today, tense diplomacy, mutual threats and international mediations will be at the forefront

If the basin countries do not develop their hydro diplomatic relations in the medium and long term, if a new agreement acceptable to both parties cannot be made and if adaptation to climate change cannot be achieved, and if factors such as inefficient water management and extreme nationalism are not brought under control, the possibility of a water sharing war over the Kashmir dispute in the region will increase.

The historical Kashmir issue between India and Pakistan, which has come to affect water cooperation today, will have regional and global implications in terms of the securitization of transboundary waters. This emerging conflict is also important for Türkiye, which consists of approximately one-third of its waters that originate from transboundary and border-forming water basins, and should be followed carefully. The political uncertainties in the Middle East, where the majority of its waters originate from Turkey, and under the effect of the increasing impact of climate change, will challenge the sustainable management of transboundary water resources in the



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We need to build a future,
Where people live in harmony with nature

HPA

Think Forward .Lead Forward