



Side Event UN 2023 Water Conference

Water and Energy for Sustainable Development: Integrated solutions supporting regional cooperation, climate resilience and biodiversity

**United Nations Headquarters - Conference Room 5
New York
23 March 2023
12:30 – 13:45, New York time**

Concept Note

Background

With continuing population growth, further expansion of industrialized and developing economies, and plans for accelerated provision of access to water and sanitation for the urban and rural poor, global needs for water are projected to continue to grow rapidly. Energy is a major requirement for the provision, transport, treatment and distribution of fresh water from surface water and groundwater, for desalination and for the treatment of wastewater. Modern systems that provide water for households, industries, and agriculture depend on energy. Much more energy will be needed to enable water access everywhere and for everyone. The increasing use of renewable energy is a necessary condition to ensure the sustainability of the water supply and wastewater treatment systems of the future.

Ensuring universal access to modern and sustainable energy, water and sanitation services, by addressing the three dimensions of sustainable development – the economic, social and environmental – in a balanced and integrated manner, lies at the heart of sustainable development. The Division for Sustainable Development Goals of UN DESA is conducting a number of initiatives and events designed to support the integrated implementation of SDG 6 (water) and SDG 7 (energy). One of these initiatives is the Global Sustainable Water and Energy Solutions Network created in 2018 (<https://www.un.org/en/waterenergynetwork>). The Network promotes regional and transboundary cooperation on water and energy resources and related infrastructures while advancing global climate and biodiversity objectives. Another main objective of the Network is the promotion of innovative integrated water-energy systems that would support sustainable urban and rural development in different world regions.

This capacity development event, organized by UN DESA in cooperation with members of this Network, will bring together multi-stakeholders to discuss and showcase existing initiatives and disseminate information on integrated solutions supporting regional cooperation, sustainable urban and rural development, climate resilience and biodiversity.

Objective

The objective of this event is to provide an opportunity for the exchange and dissemination of knowledge and experiences on integrated water and energy solutions supporting regional cooperation, sustainable urban and rural development, climate resilience and biodiversity. The event supports the objectives of the Global Network on Sustainable Water and Energy Solutions and will bring together multi-stakeholders to discuss and showcase existing initiatives on effective solutions addressing the water-energy nexus.

Participants

The event will include expert panelists from countries covering major world regions. Participants will include representatives from Member States and from public, private, and non-profit organizations, as well as international organizations and practitioners involved and interested in the research, development, management and implementation of integrated water and energy solutions supporting regional cooperation, sustainable development, climate resilience and biodiversity.

Time and Location

This event will be held **in person** at the UN Headquarters Conference Room 5 in New York on 23 March 2023 from 12:30 – 13:45 (New York Time).