



Side Event (Virtual & In Person) COP26

Sustainable Water and Energy Solutions supporting Climate Change Objectives during the Decade of Action and Beyond

Concept Note

4 November 2021

9:00 – 10:30 (New York Time)

14:00 – 15:30 (Glasgow Time)

BACKGROUND

Ensuring universal access to sustainable energy, water and sanitation services while reducing related environmental impacts lies at the heart of sustainable development and climate change agendas. The energy challenge is characterized by its poverty and environmental dimensions. Today about 760 million people lack access to electricity and about 2.6 billion people rely on unsustainable biomass for cooking. At the same time, energy-related greenhouse gas emissions (GHG) contribute to climate change, accounting for over 75% of GHG emissions in many economies. The water challenge is characterized by about 2.1 billion people lacking access to safely managed drinking water services and 4.5 billion people lacking safely managed sanitation services. Without access to safe drinking water and sanitation, people cannot enjoy good health, food security, dignity and prosperity. The impacts of climate change are aggravating these challenges. Recent years have seen increasing frequency of water related natural disasters, causing significant financial loss and casualties.

The Global Sustainable Water and Energy Solutions Network, founded by UN DESA and Itaipu Binacional in 2018, aims towards a world where there is an equitable and sustainable use and management of water and energy resources for all, in support of human prosperity, ecosystem integrity and climate change objectives, under the umbrella of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The vision calls for an integrated approach and a new form of coordinated international cooperation on water and energy supporting climate change objectives in the pursuit of sustainable development.

The 2021 UN Conference on Climate Change (COP 26) offers a unique platform to discuss the efforts of the members of the Global Sustainable Water and Energy Solutions Network supporting climate change efforts during the Decade of Action. The panelists will have the opportunity to present and discuss their current and future plans for activities, projects and programmes supporting climate change mitigation and adaptation.

OBJECTIVES

The main objectives of this event are:

- To share current and future activities, projects and programmes by participating members of the Sustainable Water and Energy Solutions Network in support of climate change mitigation and adaptation.
- To discuss the potential impacts of these actions at the local, regional and global level and the way forward beyond 2030.

PARTICIPANTS

Participants will include global leaders and representatives from public, private, and non-profit sectors, as well as international organizations, civil society and practitioners involved in the research, development, management and implementation of sustainable energy and water solutions that contribute to global climate change objectives.

TIME and LOCATION

This event will be held on 4 November 2021 as a virtual/In Person event from 9:00 to 10:30 AM, New York Time / 14:00 – 15:30 Glasgow Time