



Virtual Side Event

Sustainable Water and Energy Solutions to achieve Quality Education, Gender Equality, and Ecosystem Health through Strategic Partnerships

Concept Note

12 July 2022

7:30 – 9:00 (New York Time)

BACKGROUND

The COVID-19 pandemic has profoundly impacted people's lives all over the world, affecting the pace of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) implementation and the way they interlink with and depend on each other. To build back better, a broad range of actions related to the water and energy nexus has an important role in the global shared responsibility with the 2030 Agenda advancements, essential to achieve poverty eradication, global prosperity and economic growth. Integrated water and energy solutions represent a transformative pathway that requires attention from world leaders and accelerated action from everyone. Due to its complexity and intensity, and scalability over global, regional, national, and local levels, the interdependency between water and energy has significant implications for the people and the planet, including education, gender, life above and below water and partnerships at all levels.

The Global Sustainable Water and Energy Solutions Network recognizes the need to significantly increase the scale and speed of actions necessary to achieve the SDGs and the important role that the 2022 High Level Political Forum plays in this respect. The Network also recognizes that an integrated approach to energy and water is critical to achieving valuable synergies, to avoiding negative trade-offs and to effectively advancing all SDGs. Building on ongoing efforts by the Global Sustainable Water and Energy Solutions Network, this side event will bring together global leaders to discuss the water and energy sector interlinkages and interdependence, showcase existing initiatives and mobilize action to accelerate the adoption of integrated solutions towards achieving the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda, in particular SDGs that will be reviewed at this year's HLPF: SDG 4 (Quality Education), SDG 5 (Gender Equality), SDG 14 (life below water), SDG 15 (life on land) and SDG 17 (Partnerships), including their interlinkages and synergies with other SDGs.

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 a new integrated approach and a new form of coordinated international cooperation on water and energy.

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 the 2030 agenda implementation, highlighting experiences on SDGs 4, 5, 14, 15 and 17 as well as means of implementation.
- To discuss proposals to enhance synergy between SDGs from the Network perspective.
- To discuss new actions, measures and efforts taken as a result of the COVID 19 Pandemics crisis, and the potential impacts of these actions at the local, regional and global level in light of the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda.
- To discuss ways of boosting access to water and energy through their intrinsic synergy.
- To discuss expected potential impacts of the Global Sustainable Water and Energy Solutions Network on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

PARTICIPANTS

Participants will include representatives from Member States and from public, private, and non-profit organizations, as well as international organizations, civil society and practitioners involved and interested in the research, development, management and implementation of integrated water and energy solutions supporting all the SDGS and the 2030 Agenda for sustainable development.

TIME and LOCATION

This event will be held on 12 July 2022 as a virtual event from 7:30 am to 9:00 AM, New York Time.