

Concept Note – IHA event at SDG Pavilion COP30

Title: A resilient future with hydropower

Date: Sat 15 November 2025

Time: 10:45-11:15

Thematic Day: Energy, Industry, Finance, Carbon Markets

Organisers: International Hydropower Association (IHA)

Location: SDG Pavilion

Format: Fireside chat – 30 minutes

Contact Point: Debbie Gray, IHA

One line Description: Why sustainable hydropower is required for the energy transition

Description

The climate will become increasingly volatile with more droughts and floods. Hydropower has a dual relationship with water: it depends on water as its “fuel” and it provides the infrastructure to manage water flows. On one hand, people question whether hydropower will always be viable in the face of water scarcity. On the other hand, society benefits from the storage capacity and flood control hydropower provides. The answer is that going forward, we will need more water infrastructure, not less. Stored water can be stored energy. Policies must focus on ensuring that these facilities are well-managed, climate resilient, and, where possible, powered. This session will explore hydropower’s role in the energy transition, as well as the best policies and tools to make it resilient. The recently-launched Hydropower Climate Resilience Guide will be cited as an industry best practice. The session will touch on SDGs 6 (Clean Water), 7 (Affordable and clean energy), 8 (Decent Work and economic growth), 11 (Sustainable cities and communities) and 13 (Climate action).

Speakers

Moderator: Eddie Rich, CEO, IHA

Panellist: Ramón Méndez Galain, President of REN21

Running order

10:45 – 10:50	Welcome remarks and intros	Eddie Rich, IHA
10:50 – 11:05	Fireside chat with following questions: - Hydropower has been called the Forgotten Giant of the renewables – why is that? - Why should we care about hydropower? - In what ways can hydropower provide resilience to communities? - In what ways can hydropower provide resilience to grids? - How does hydropower serve a dual purpose of electricity generation and water management?	
11:05-11:10	Q&A with audience	
11:10-11:15	Conclusions	Eddie Rich, IHA