



DRAFT (17 June 2021)

Virtual Side Event

Sustainable Water and Energy Solutions Addressing Climate Change During the Decade of Action

Concept Note

**12 July 2021
(7:30 – 9:00 AM) New York Time**

BACKGROUND

Energy, water and sanitation services are some of the most cross-cutting and deeply embedded factors affecting the daily lives of people all over the world. Sustained, reliable and affordable access to these critical factors represent main challenges faced by many countries in their efforts to achieve sustainable development. They are essential to achieve poverty eradication, global prosperity and economic growth. The importance of these factors and their strong interlinkages and interdependence have become more evident during the COVID-19 world crisis. Integrated water and energy solutions represent a transformative pathway that requires attention from world leaders and accelerated action from everyone. The interdependency between water and energy has significant implications for climate change mitigation and adaptation. Understanding the interlinkages among water, energy and climate at global, regional, national, and local levels is crucial to anticipating future stress points, formulating and implementing rational policies, selecting appropriate technologies, managing risks, realizing valuable synergies and preventing conflicts.

The 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 way of thinking and a new form of coordinated international cooperation on water and energy. It calls for the implementation of a new global business model in which governments, businesses, investors and civil society come together to spearhead action towards sustainable water and energy for all. Policies, programmes and partnerships should be designed to work together, to achieve synergies resulting from integrated approaches to water and energy and to reduce possible negative trade-offs. Over the coming

decades, the global demand for water and energy will continue to increase significantly, posing profound challenges that will need to be addressed in an integrated manner and taking into consideration climate change impacts.

The High-level Political Forum offers a unique platform to assess the potential for this transformative pathway on water and energy and for scaled-up action supporting climate change objectives. Building on ongoing efforts by the Global Sustainable Water and Energy Solutions Network, this virtual 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 water and energy solutions towards achieving the 2030 Agenda.

OBJECTIVES

The main objectives of this event are:

- To launch a synthesis report on Sustainable Water and Energy Solutions addressing Climate Change prepared by the Network Secretariat.
- To share knowledge and showcase experiences and innovative systems on integrated water and energy solutions in support of climate change and sustainable development objectives.
- To discuss effective actions in support of an accelerated pathway to the satisfaction of the Sustainable Development Goals on water (SDG 6), energy (SDG 7) and climate change (SDG 13).

PARTICIPANTS

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

TIME and LOCATION

This event will be held on 12 July 2020 as a virtual meeting or Webinar from 7:30 to 9:00 AM, New York Time.