



Draft 25 June 2025

**Side Event
2025 HLPF**

**Promoting Sustainable Economic Growth and Productive Employment
Through Integrated Water and Energy Solutions**

**211 East 46th St.
New York**

**18 July 2025
13:15 – 14:45, New York time**

Draft Concept Note

Background

Integrated water and energy solutions are essential for advancing sustainable economic growth and promoting productive employment, particularly in the face of rising resource demands, climate change, and socio-economic disparities. By recognizing and managing the interdependence between water and energy systems, countries can create more resilient infrastructures, reduce operational inefficiencies and unlock new opportunities for economic diversification and inclusive job creation. By designing integrated systems, governments and businesses can reduce operational costs and improve service reliability. This not only makes public spending more effective but also creates opportunities for private sector engagement and innovation in green technologies. Access to reliable water and energy is crucial for productive sectors such as agriculture, manufacturing, construction, and services. Integrated solutions can enhance productivity while lowering costs and environmental impacts. In addition to improving access to basic services, these systems enable the development of value chains in rural and underserved areas, supporting livelihoods and local economies. Integrated water and energy solutions are key enablers of sustainable development that provide a foundation for inclusive economic growth and productive employment that leaves no one behind.

The Division for Sustainable Development Goals of UN DESA is conducting a number of initiatives and events designed to support the integrated implementation of water and 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 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.

This capacity development side event of the 2025 High-level Political Forum (HLPF) is organized by UN DESA in collaboration with members of the Network. The 2025 HLPF provides an excellent platform to discuss the potential of integrated water and energy solutions in promoting sustainable economic growth and productive employment (SDG8).

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 promoting sustainable economic growth and productive employment. 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 in different world regions.

Participants

The event will include expert panelists from countries and organizations 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 sustainable water and energy solutions supporting economic growth and productive employment.

Location and Time

This event will be held **in person** at 211 East 46th Street (between 2nd and 3rd Avenue), New York City on 18 July 2025 from 13:15 – 14:45 (New York Time).