

## **Capacity Development Workshop on Sustainable Water and Energy Solutions supporting Circular Economies**

**Canal De Isabel II, Madrid, Spain, 23-24 February 2023**

### **Concept Note**

#### **BACKGROUND**

Energy, water and sanitation services are essential to achieve poverty eradication, global prosperity and economic growth. Sustained, reliable and affordable access to these critical factors represent major challenges faced by many countries in their efforts to achieve sustainable development. The interdependency between water and energy has significant implications at global, regional, national, and local levels. The proper integrated management of these resources is crucial to anticipating future stress points, formulating and implementing rational policies, managing risks, realizing valuable synergies, preventing conflicts and for supporting circular economies. Also, water and energy are crucial factors affecting refugees and displaced human settlements all over the world as pointed out by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).

The Global Sustainable Water and Energy Solutions 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. 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. Regional cooperation among nations is also essential to achieve these objectives.

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. World efforts are underway to move towards circular economies where resources, products and waste materials are reused and recycled in a more efficient manner with significant economic and environmental benefits. A key aspect of the circular economy is to decouple economic growth from resource use and associated environmental impacts. Important efforts supporting circular economies include circular wastewater plants, using waste products to generate energy and the recovering of nutrients, among others.

Building on ongoing efforts by the Global Sustainable Water and Energy Solutions Network, UN DESA is convening this event to be hosted by Canal de Isabel II with some support from the UNHCR office in Madrid. This event will bring together global experts to discuss the water and energy sector interlinkages and interdependence, showcase existing initiatives and mobilize action to accelerate the world efforts towards circular economies.

## **OBJECTIVES**

The main objectives of this event are:

- To share knowledge and showcase experiences and innovative systems on integrated water and energy solutions in support of circular economies and sustainable development.
- To discuss the social, economic and environmental benefits that can be derived from sustainable water and energy solutions that facilitate the development of circular economies and that contribute to the implementation of the sustainable development goals.

## **PARTICIPANTS**

Participants may include 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 water and energy solutions that may contribute to circular economies.

## **TIME and LOCATION**

The event will be held on 23 February 2023 from 9:00 to 12:30 Madrid Time at Canal de Isabel II headquarters in Madrid, Spain.