



## 2023 Meeting of the Members of the Global Sustainable Water and Energy Solutions Network

### Summary 24 February 2023

1. The 2023 meeting of the members of the Global Sustainable Water and Energy Solutions Network was held in person in Madrid, Spain on 24 February 2023. The meeting was convened by the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA) and hosted by Canal de Isabel II. The objective of the meeting was to discuss the 2022 accomplishments and annual report, the tentative workplan for the 2023-2026 time period, members' recommendations and support, Energy Compact updates and other important Network activities (See Annex I - Agenda). The event included 17 participants representing 10 member organizations (See Annex II – Attendance List).
2. **Welcome and Introductions: Ms. Maria del Carmen Tejera**, General Secretary, Canal de Isabel II, opened the meeting and offered welcoming remarks. The first session of the meeting was moderated by **Mr. Minoru Takada**, Team Leader Sustainable Energy, UN DESA, who provided opening remarks.
3. **2022 Accomplishments: Ms. Nadine Salame**, Associate Sustainable Development Officer, UN DESA, presented the 2022 Accomplishments and the 2022 Annual Report of the Network. A main accomplishment was the “First Global Symposium on Sustainable Water and Energy Solutions” which took place at the Itaipu Hydropower Plant in the border between Brazil and Paraguay on 13-15 June 2022. The Network conducted other capacity development activities including the following events: “Bioenergy for Sustainable Development: Ethanol and Electricity from Sugarcane” in Sao Paulo, Brazil on 13 March 2022; “Towards the First Global Symposium on Water and Energy” at Expo Dubai in the UAE on 29 March 2022; and “The Role of the Private Industry in Support of the SDGs on Water, Energy, Biodiversity and Health” in New York on 10 May 2022. In terms of Knowledge Management and Best Practices, the Knowledge Platform of the Network was expanded and updated with more information and new case studies. Advocacy and Outreach activities included: the meeting of the members of the Network on 9 March 2022; a side event at the High-Level Political Forum on “Sustainable Water and Energy Solutions to Achieve Quality Education, Gender Equality and Ecosystem Health through Strategic Partnerships” on 12 July 2022; and a side event at COP27 on “Sustainable Water and Energy Solutions supporting Climate Change and Biodiversity Objectives through Innovation and Clean Technologies” on 9 November 2022. The Network

membership was expanded in 2022 with three new members: the Hydro Empowerment Network (HPNET), the Union de Azucareros Latinoamericanos (UNALA) and the Stockholm Environment Institute (SEI). Information about all the activities conducted in 2022 by the Network are summarized in its 2022 Annual Report published by UNDESA.

4. **2023-2026 Tentative Workplan: Mr. Ivan Vera**, Senior Advisor, UN DESA, presented the tentative workplan for the 2023-2026 time period. The general objective of the workplan is to continue leading the world effort on promoting sustainable water and energy solutions and to further demonstrate the benefits of an integrated approach to water and energy. A significant enhancement is the expansion of the scope of the Network to incorporate Climate Change (SDG13), Terrestrial Ecosystems and Biodiversity (SDG15), Health and Wellbeing (SDG3) and food security and sustainable agriculture (SDG2). Key Outputs of this Workplan include: 1) Major Global Meetings and World Reports, 2) Capacity Building, Global Outreach and Advocacy activities, 3) Enhancement and Expansion of the Global Knowledge Platform, and 4) New Multi-stakeholder Partnerships and Voluntary Commitments.
  - a. **Global Meetings and World Reports:** a second and third Global Symposia on Sustainable Water and Energy Solutions are being planned for 2024 and 2026. Previous to these major events, Preparatory Workshops are being planned for 2023 and 2025, respectively. The Preparatory Workshop in 2023 will be in Guatemala in October and will be hosted by ASAZGUA. Three world reports will be prepared based on information collected from the three global meetings and from information collected throughout the years. A draft of the first report should be available by the end of 2023.
  - b. **Capacity Building, Global Outreach and Advocacy activities:** capacity-building workshops will be planned at a regional level and on different technical topics and topics interrelated to other SDGs according to the new scope of the Network. The Global Outreach and Advocacy activities will be centered on informing relevant international dialogues including the High-level Political Forums, the UN General Assemblies, and the COP meetings on climate change, among others. In 2023, side events are being planned at the UN 2023 Water Conference, the 2023 HLPF which includes the review of SDG6 and SDG7, the 2023 UN General Assembly which includes the SDG Summit, and COP 28. A Special issue of the UN Sustainable Development Journal the Natural Resources Forum on “Sustainable Water and Energy Solutions” will be published in 2023. The Global Communication Strategy of the Network will be enhanced with state-of-the-art audiovisual tools. A series of Technical Briefs describing water-energy innovative technological systems will be developed if enough support can be secured from members.
  - c. **Knowledge Platform:** the enhancement and expansion of the Knowledge Platform will continue with more case studies, analytical tools, publications and data collection on good practices and experiences.
  - d. **Partnerships and Voluntary Commitments:** The Network membership will be expanded and new multistakeholder partnerships and voluntary commitments will be promoted to support the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.
5. **Comments, recommendations and support from Members:**
  - **Mr. Ariel Scheffer da Silva**, Itaipu, Brazil thanked all participants for their help and support for the Network in previous years. He expressed satisfaction with the accomplishments

during 2022 including the first global Symposium on Sustainable Water and Energy Solutions that took place at the Itaipu Hydropower Plant. He recommended to promote engagement and action with the youth. He stressed the need to continue guiding governmental organizations in the understanding of the water-energy nexus through the Network activities.

- **Ms. Ana Carolina Gossen**, Manager Reservoir Division, Itaipu, Paraguay, recommended to promote the development of technical documents as guides and manuals focused on good practices. She also encouraged members to promote the application of good practices among their organizations and potential new members.
- **Ms. Ligia Soares**, International Relations Assistant, Itaipu, Brazil emphasized the importance of expanding the scope of the network to incorporate other interrelated SDGs. She mentioned that Itaipu is developing a capacity development course on SDG 7 and that network members could help to disseminate these types of capacity-building courses. She recommended to develop tangible solutions such as the design of a template with a case and methodology that could be replicated for effective solutions in local communities.
- **Mr. Samson Tsegaye**, Solar Energy Foundation, praised the work of the Network and the proposed workplan for 2023 and beyond. He recommended to try to disseminate the knowledge, reports and experiences of the Network to governmental organizations, donors and interested audiences to get them more involved in the implementation of water-energy solutions.
- **Mr. Manuel Menéndez**, Special Advisor, Cabinet of the Secretary of State of Environment, Spain and Vice Chair, Intergovernmental Hydrological Programme, UNESCO started by commending the expansion of the scope of the network which incorporates SDGs in the social dimension. He welcomed the organization of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Symposium on Sustainable Water and Energy Solutions in Madrid in 2024 and offered support from his ministry. He also offered his support organizing a special event with the Conference of Ibero-American Water Directors (CODIA). He emphasized the importance of linking the network to the other important conventions of the UN including those related to desertification and biodiversity.
- **Mr. Gustavo Paredes**, International Advisor, ASAZGUA and UNALA, emphasized the importance of building capacity of managers and decision makers of the private sector in order to create awareness about the synergies and efficiencies that can be derived from integrated water and energy solutions. He recommended to continue disseminating the meaning of “sustainable development” around the world since many people still associate this concept with the environmental dimension without considering the social and economic dimensions. He proposed the creation of technical committees that could include recognized experts selected by members of the Network and that could support the development of papers, case studies and the organization of events on selected topics.
- **Mr. Vaysidin Saidov**, Senior Specialist, Executive Committee of the International Fund for Saving the Aral Sea, Tajikistan, indicated that the activities of the network are of great importance to Tajikistan and countries of the Central Asia region. He noted that Tajikistan is committed to continue supporting the activities of the network in the future.
- **Ms. Ivonne Lobos**, Senior Expert, SEI, praised the network for making great progress in solidifying a group of partners that can bring the issues at hand forward. She noted that the network can now make a difference in terms of creating knowledge and also participating in policy dialogues. She recommended to play an active role at the High-Level Political Forum

this year. She also offered the support of SEI with different tools and methods designed by SEI to achieve an integrated implementation of the SDGs including the SDG Synergies analytical tool (<https://www.sdgsynergies.org/.org>).

- **Ms. Dipti Vaghela**, Network Facilitator and Manager, HPNET, informed participants that the Hydro Empowerment Network is a knowledge exchange and advocacy platform advancing small-scale hydropower for climate resilient rural development in Asia Pacific, Latin America, and Sub-Saharan Africa. She explained that community-scale hydropower has a great role to play in the water-energy-food-ecosystem nexus. She described the HPNET's accelerator initiative Social Enterprise for Energy, Ecological and Economic Development (SEED) as a mechanism that provides capacity building and strategic development to local practitioners of community-scale hydropower supporting a just energy transition via energy access solutions that are climate resilient and produce co-benefits.
- **Mr. David Peral**, CSR Analyst, Canal de Isabel II, shared the beneficial experiences and positive impact of the company in its first year of membership with the Network. Canal de Isabel II international position has improved in some meaningful respects such as audience reach, social media presence, and high-level conference participation. In the future Canal aspires to create an exchange program between network professionals to promote good practices and skill sharing related to the water and energy sector.

## 6. Discussion on Special Issues

- The discussion on Special Issues was moderated by **Mr. Ivan Vera** who initiated the discussion on the **Energy Compact Updates**. **Ms. Ana Carolina Gossen**, explained the Itaipu has made advances in its commitments of the Energy Compact in the following areas: (1) over 11,500 transformers have been installed; (2) contracts for the construction of two substations have been signed and three additional substations are in the awarding process; (3) all materials have been acquired for the 220 KW transmission line (Carayao-San Estanislao substation); (4) 15 electric vehicles have been added to the ANDE fleet; and (5) Four power chargers have been installed in recharging stations. **Mr. Gustavo Paredes** summarized the progress made by ASAZGUA since 2021 as follows: (1) the electricity produced by ASAZGUA is equivalent to the electricity consumption of about 1.1 million people in Guatemala; (2) about 220 million liters of ethanol were produced in 2021; (3) ASAZGUA covered about 27% of the national electricity demand between November 2022 and May 2023; (4) 91% of the internal consumption of electricity by the members of ASAZGUA is covered with renewable electricity from sugarcane bagasse; and (5) about \$150,000 were spent in energy efficiency during 2021 and 2022. **Mr. David Peral and Mr. Jorge Sánchez**, CSR Analysts, Canal de Isabel II, provided a presentation on the Energy Compact of Canal with the following updates: (1) About 68% of the electricity requirements for Canal's activities is covered by self-generated renewable electricity; (2) energy efficiency activities have allowed the saving of over 30,000 MWh with respect to base consumption; (3) a progress report was issued summarizing advances related to circular economy; (4) the electricity capacity is being increased by over 127 MW; and (5)

five new partnerships have been created to increase cooperation in research and new technologies.

- In relation to the articles submitted to the **UN NRF Sustainable Development Journal** for the **Special Issue on Sustainable Water and Energy Solutions**, **Mr. Ivan Vera** informed participants that the Special Issue will be published by UNDESA in August 2023. **Ms. Ana Carolina Gossen** described a scientific paper on “Natural wetlands in protected areas as a key to water quality resilience in Paraguay” submitted by the Reservoir Division of Itaipu Paraguay. **Mr. Gustavo Paredes** indicated that ASAZGUA submitted a paper entitled “Towards sustainability: Contributions of the Guatemalan Sugar Agroindustry to the Sustainable Development Goals on water and energy.” **Mr. Samson Tsegaye** mentioned that the Solar Energy Foundation of Ethiopia submitted a paper on “Solar Lighting for Students” and that many comments were received from the journal that need to be addressed for its publication. **Mr. David Peral** provided details about the paper submitted by Canal de Isabel II on “Promoting Sustainable Growth and Self-Production of Energy through the Water Industry, as Key Elements for climate change action.”
  - **Mr. Ivan Vera** informed participants that UNDESA in cooperation with the Network will conduct a side event at the UN 2023 Water Conference in New York in March. The tentative title for this event is “Water and Energy for Sustainable Development: Integrated Solutions supporting Regional Cooperation, Climate Resilience and Biodiversity.”
  - **Mr. Gustavo Paredes** spoke about the 2023 Preparatory Workshop which is tentatively planned to take place in Antigua, Guatemala during the week of 16-20 October. He explained that the topic being considered is sustainable consumption and production of water and energy in the social, economic and environmental dimensions. This hybrid event will be a two-day workshop with plenary sessions the first day and the morning of the second day and a field trip in the afternoon the second day. The expectation is that about 80 to 100 people will attend in person.
7. **Closing: Mr. Minoru Takada** closed the meeting by thanking members for their participation and by encouraging members to continue sending information, data and case studies to expand the Knowledge Platform as well as ideas for relevant activities to be implemented. Members were invited to continue supporting and playing an active role in the Network in the future.

## Group Photos



## Annex I – Meeting Agenda

**24 February 2023**

**Location: Canal de Isabel II Headquarters, Calle de Santa Engracia, 125, 28003 Madrid**

<b>2023 Network Members Meeting</b>	
<i>Moderator: Mr. Minoru Takada</i>	
9:00 - 10:30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Opening</li> <li>• 2022 Annual Report (<i>Ms. Nadine Salame, Associate Sustainable Development Officer, UN DESA</i>)</li> <li>• 2023-2026 Workplan (<i>Mr. Ivan Vera, Senior Advisor, UN DESA</i>)</li> <li>• Support from Members</li> <li>• Discussion on workplan and members support</li> </ul>
10:30- 10:45	<i>Coffee Break</i>
10:45- 11:45	<p><i><u>Discussion on Special Issues</u> (Mr. Ivan Vera, Moderator)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Energy Compacts Updates</i> <i>Canal de Isabel II</i> <i>Itaipu</i> <i>ASAZGUA</i></li> <li>• <i>Articles submitted to the NRF UN Sustainable Development Journal</i> <i>Canal de Isabel II</i> <i>Itaipu</i> <i>ASAZGUA</i> <i>Solar Energy Foundation, Ethiopia</i> <i>Grameen Shakti/SolShare</i></li> <li>• <i>2023 UN Water Conference side event</i></li> <li>• <i>Preparatory Meeting in Guatemala in October 2023</i></li> </ul>
<b>Field Trip</b>	
11:45- 14:00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Canal de Isabel II facility</i></li> </ul>



## **Annex II – List of Participants**

### **2023 Meeting of the Members of the Sustainable Water and Energy Solutions Network**

24 February 2023

1. Ms. Maria del Carmen Tejera, Canal de Isabel II, Madrid, Spain
2. Ms. Paula López, Canal de Isabel II, Spain
3. Ms. Teresa Hernández, Canal de Isabel II, Spain
4. Mr. David Peral Pozo, Canal de Isabel II, Madrid, Spain
5. Mr. Jorge Sánchez, Canal de Isabel II, Spain
6. Mr. Manuel Menéndez, Ministry of Ecological Transition, Spain
7. Mr. Gustavo Paredes, ASAZGUA and UNALA, Guatemala
8. Mr. Vaysidin Saidov, International Fund for saving the Aral Sea, Tajikistan
9. Ms. Ana Carolina Gossen, Itaipu Binacional, Paraguay
10. Mr. Ariel Scheffer da Silva, Itaipu Binacional, Brazil
11. Ms. Ligia Soares, Itaipu Binacional, Brazil
12. Ms. Ivonne Lobos Alva, SEI
13. Mr. Samson Tsegaye, Solar Energy Foundation, Ethiopia
14. Ms. Dipti Vaghela, HPNET
15. Mr. Minoru Takada, UNDESA
16. Ms. Nadine Salame, UNDESA
17. Mr. Ivan Vera, UNDESA