

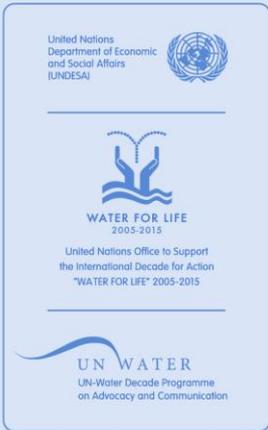
In preparation for World Water Day 2014, UN representatives, key professionals and global industry experts convene in Zaragoza, Spain, to discuss the future of Energy and Water through partnership

13 January 2014. Zaragoza, Spain – United Nations experts, case study representatives, industry delegates and key professionals from around the World meet in Zaragoza, Spain, from **13 to 16 January** in preparation for World Water Day 2014.

Held annually by UN-Water on March 22, this year focus is drawn towards the nexus of water and energy. The inter-linkages and interdependencies of these two vital areas will be discussed in terms of challenges faced by a growing population and increased demand by over 100 specialists from a variety of United Nations organisations and programmes such as the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the World Bank, the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE), the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), Non-Governmental Organizations such as Greenpeace International, private companies such as Abengoa, EDF Électricité, BP and Government bodies such as the US department of State, and the European Union.

The conference will emphasise the importance of collaboration through partnerships in meeting these challenges. All contributions will be considered in preparation for World Water Day 2014, which will be introduced by Zafar Adeel, from the United Nations University (UNU). UNU, together with UNIDO, are leading this year's World Water Day.

Water and energy face enormous challenges that affect supply and demand of both water and energy. With an expected population growth from 7 billion today to 9 billion by 2050, economic growth, increased standards of living in developing and emerging countries and the pressures of climate change, the burden on water and energy independently are enormous. The World needs to provide adequate electricity to the more than **1.4 billion people** who are without it and supply sustainable water to the **768 million people** who do not have access. However, the conference aims to emphasise the vital relationship between the two. The production of energy requires vast amounts of water. In 2010 energy production was responsible for 15 percent of the World's total



freshwater withdrawals. On the other side, energy is needed to provide access to water and sanitation.

In recognizing the interlinkages and trade offs in water and energy the conference recognizes the solution as working 'together.' With a focus on the advantages and disadvantages of partnerships as well as definition of responsibilities and liabilities, benefit sharing, symmetries, long-term sustainability, negotiation and the flexibility required. Through partnership, the conference intends to deal with the disconnection between some water and energy utilities, create opportunities for industries to operate efficiently, profitably and sustainably and allow governments and regulators opportunities to consider policies that enable and integrate both sectors.

The International Annual UN-Water Conference 2014 focuses on the philosophy "Water and Energy work together, so do we". It will demonstrate, through case studies, to decision makers in the energy sector and the water domain that integrated approaches and solutions to water-energy issues are possible and they can achieve greater economic and social impacts. It will serve to facilitate and enable new partnerships among energy and water actors.

The Conference will achieve these objectives by analyzing and evaluating the existing partnership experience; providing a platform for exchange of experiences of effective partnerships; drawing conclusions on lessons from existing experience and deciding the way forward for effective partnerships to achieve water/energy access. This will allow a better response to the challenges of improved access to water and energy, as well as improving efficiency throughout the life cycle of resources and contributing towards a more sustainable future.

Follow the conference:

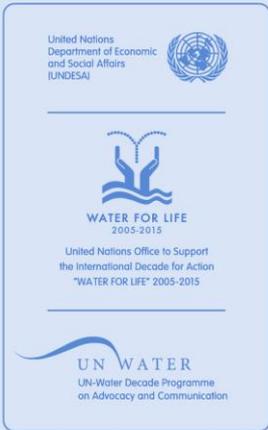
The conference will be webcasted and can be followed online on real time at the following address:

http://www.un.org/waterforlifedecade/water_and_energy_2014/index.shtml

Please use the hashtag **#waterenergy2014** to follow the conference on Twitter

The Conference is organized by the United Nations Office to support the International Decade for Action 'Water for Life' 2005-2015/UN-Water Decade Programme on Advocacy and Communication (UNW-DPAC).

The Water for Life Decade 2005-2015. *The primary goal of the 'Water for Life' Decade is to promote efforts to fulfill international commitments on water-related issues by 2015. These commitments include the Millennium Development Goal to reduce by half the proportion of people without access to safe drinking water and sanitation by 2015,*



and to stop unsustainable exploitation of water resources.

www.un.org/waterforlifedecade

The United Nations Office to support the International Decade for Action 'Water for Life' 2005-2015 based in Zaragoza, Spain, implements the UN-Water Decade Programme on Advocacy and Communication (UNW-DPAC). UNW-DPAC facilitates and implements communication, information and awareness-raising activities in the framework of the 'Water for Life' Decade. The United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA) hosts and leads the Office www.un.org/waterforlifedecade/unwdpac.shtml

United Nations Office
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Decade for Action
"Water for Life" 2005-2015

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