



WATER  
CONVENTION



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# Common objectives of UfM Water Agenda and the Water Convention

Ms. Chantal Demilecamps, Water Convention Secretariat, UNECE

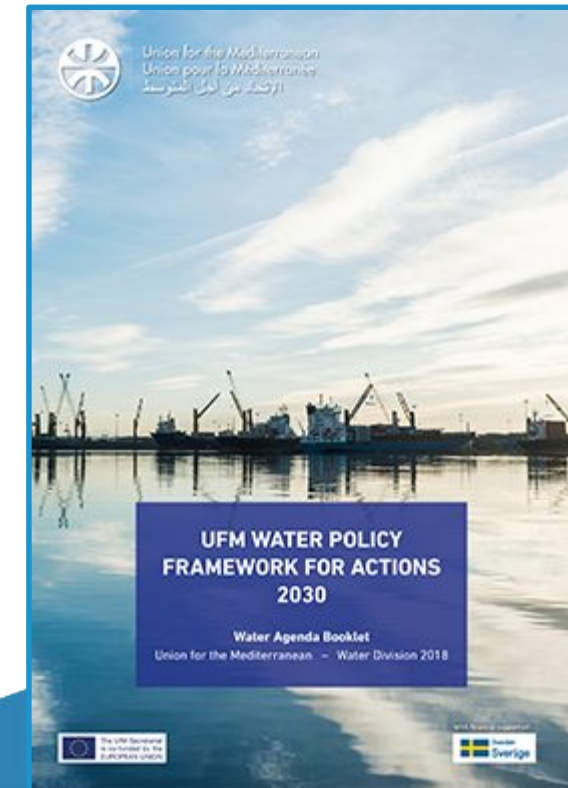
Mr. Almotaz Abadi, Union for the Mediterranean Secretariat

“Promoting an integrated and inter-sectoral approach to water management in the Mediterranean region”  
Geneva, 24 October 2019



# Nexus in the UfM Water Agenda

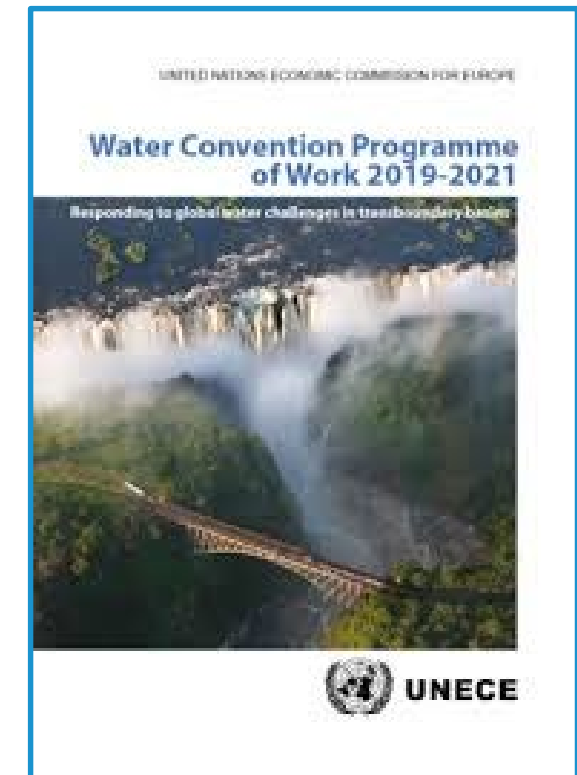
- Developed under the leadership of Jordan and the European Commission, in consultation with UfM member states and partners (incl. UNECE Water Convention)
- WEFE Nexus one of the four regional priorities of action
  1. Water Energy Food Ecosystem NEXUS
  2. Water Employment Migration NEXUS
  3. Water and Sanitation Hygiene
  4. Water and Climate Change Action
- UfM to assist countries to leverage investments in these areas





# Nexus in the 2019-2021 programme of work of the Water Convention

- Strong capacity building, promoting practical addressing of transboundary nexus issues, notably through the global WFEE Nexus Task Force (5 meetings so far)
- Consolidated methodology (2018) and 6 basin assessments (including in the Mediterranean region: Drin, Drina River Basins, North-Western Sahara Aquifer System Basin)
- Current/future areas of focus:
  - Sustainable Renewable Energy with a nexus approach
  - “nexus solutions” and “nexus investments”



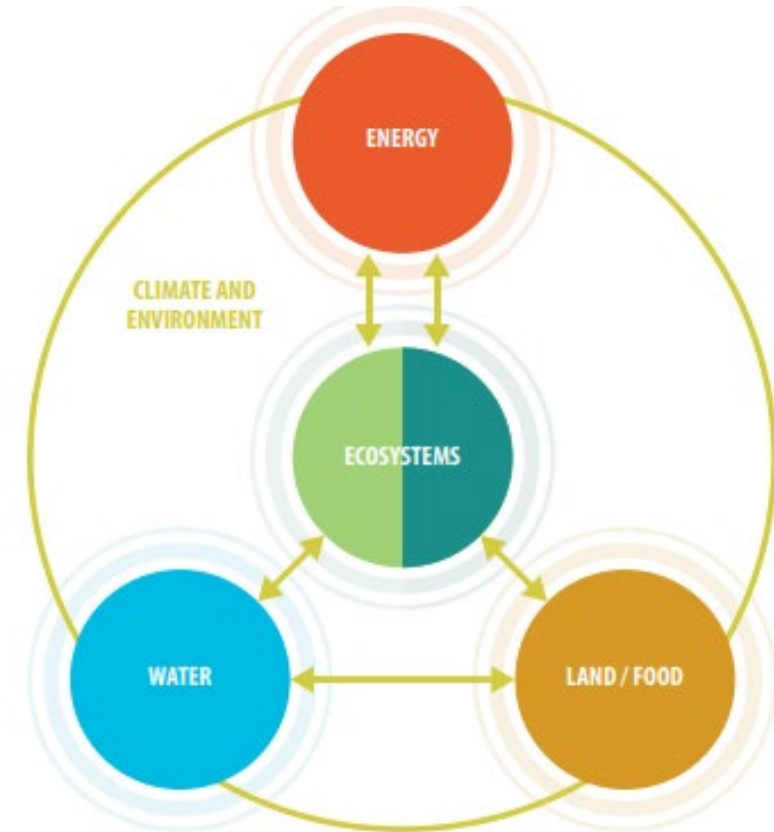


# Common priorities of actions



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- Same framework and understanding of Water-Food-Energy-Ecosystems Nexus
- Sustainable water resource management principles to be implemented at different levels (local, national, regional)
- Regional and transboundary cooperation (crucial for the implementation of the regional priorities of UfM Water Agenda - biannual Work Plan 2019-2020).



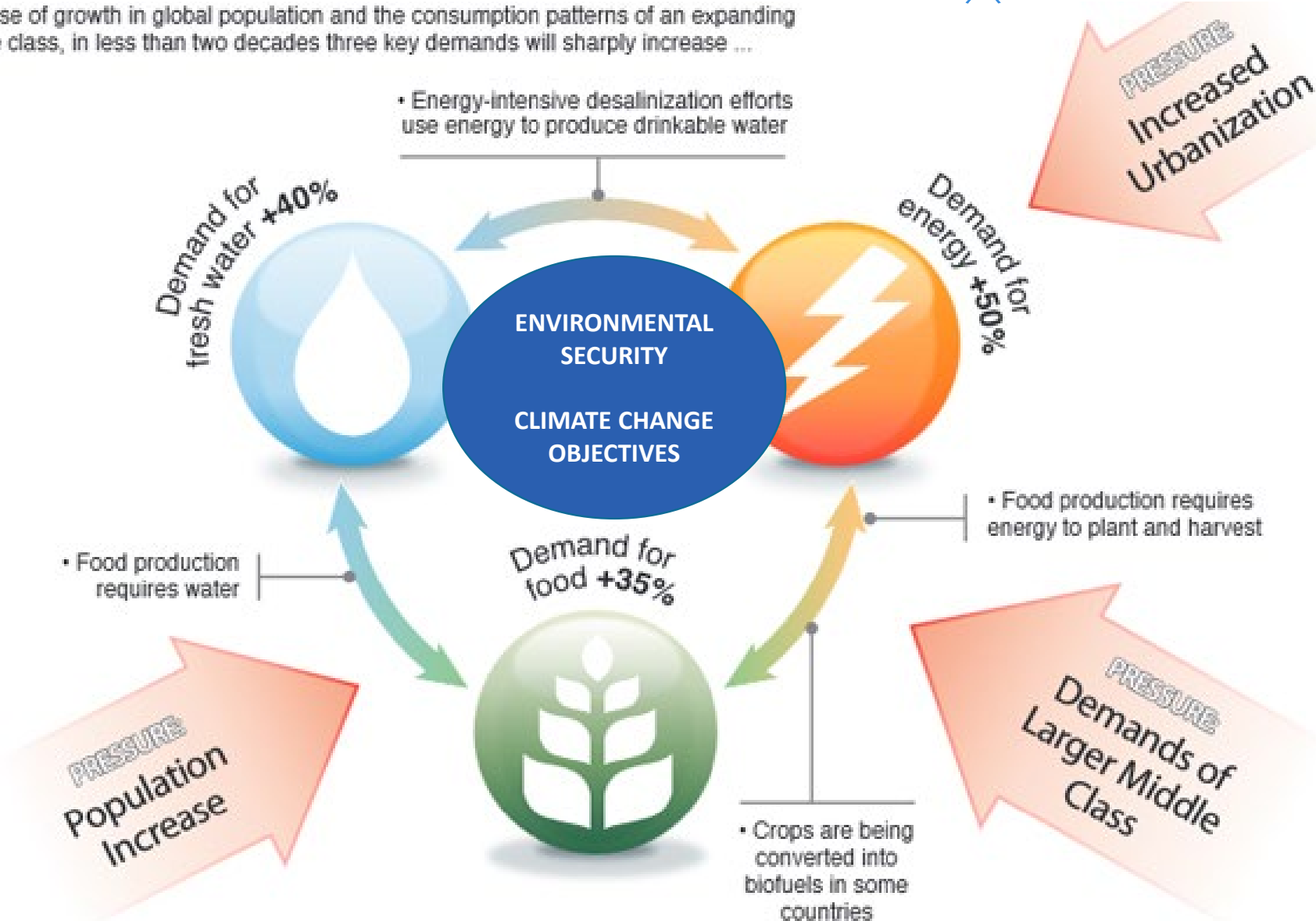
# UfM Work Program on Nexus- Synergic approach with UNECE



Because of growth in global population and the consumption patterns of an expanding middle class, in less than two decades three key demands will sharply increase ...

**Aim:** to enhance integrated natural resources management as means for sustainable development in the UfM region.

**Objective:** to introduce and/or promote the Water-Energy-Food-Ecosystems Nexus approach, and to catalyse action for its mainstreaming, financing and implementation in UfM Member States, at the national and sub-basin levels as well as in the UfM region.





## Both Institutions had the same call, same approach



### **Nexus is in international debate and contents' is in evolution status**

- Advance common understanding and prioritization in the focus of the first period
- Active operational partners should get together and align according to MS's needs
- Tangible action should emerge early; this is doable

### **Nexus is, by definition, an out-of-the-Water-box agenda**

- Reach out/engagement of Energy, Agriculture, Environment actors is a must
- It is a field that can attract private sector engagement

### **Funding opportunities exist**

- Nexus budget lines are already available, including for TA, CB, demos, research
- UfM, through and for its MS, should assist shaping Nexus investments through innovative approach



# Synergies and complementarity of activities

## UfM Water Agenda (UfM Water Policy Framework for Actions to 2030)

- Benefits for UfM countries to take part to activities of Convention activities (also as non-Parties):
  - WEFE Nexus Task Force - a global platform for knowledge and experience exchange on transboundary nexus issues and possible solutions
  - Technical support in other areas of work of the Convention (climate adaptation, financing, etc.)

### 3. Outputs and possible types of interventions

AIMED OUTPUTS	MAIN TYPES OF INTERVENTIONS Suggested and non-binding examples of such interventions (short, medium, longer term)
Nexus-related challenges and solutions identified and prioritized, at different geographical scales, through multi-stakeholder consultation based Nexus analysis and assessments	<b>Build background for policy interventions and investment identification and prioritization</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Nexus policy, economic and technical assessments elaborated, at different levels</li> <li>• Nexus multi-stakeholder policy dialogues facilitated, at different levels</li> <li>• Nexus dialogues with targeted groups (e.g. decision makers, users, private sector actors, etc.) facilitated on selected issues</li> </ul>
Nexus governance settings strengthened, at difference geographical scales	<b>Provide tools for introducing and operationalizing Nexus approach in governance systems</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Guidelines for designing and implementing multi-sector Nexus policy dialogues elaborated</li> <li>• Guidelines for mainstreaming gender considerations in the national Nexus agenda</li> <li>• Guidelines for introduction and utilization of Nexus analytical / assessment tools elaborated</li> <li>• Guidelines for developing national information systems for supporting Nexus analysis and decision making elaborated</li> <li>• Nexus strategies and action plans for the integration of sectoral policy making and planning elaborated</li> </ul>
Planning and implementation of Nexus solutions enabled, at different geographical scales.	<b>Coordinate, leverage and facilitate financing for Nexus interventions</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Nexus infrastructure development coordinated through strategic planning, aligned with national development plans</li> <li>• Nexus investments preparation and financing facilitated</li> <li>• Market instruments for promoting Nexus-related entrepreneurship, including start-ups with emphasis on women and youth, assessed and promoted</li> </ul>
Knowledge shared and capacity built on Nexus methodologies, policies and technologies	<b>Generate and disseminate Nexus knowledge</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Knowledge on Nexus analytical methods shared</li> <li>• Knowledge on technical innovations shared</li> <li>• Knowledge on market based instruments (such as PPPs) for Nexus applications shared</li> <li>• Capacity building for sectoral decision makers, and key stakeholders (river basin authorities, irrigator cooperatives, energy sector planners, environmental managers, civil society) facilitated</li> <li>• Vocational training toolbox on Nexus-related jobs elaborated</li> </ul>
Demonstration applications implemented as means for knowledge sharing	<b>Design and implement pilot interventions with replication potential at local level</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• State-of-art local Nexus pilot applications facilitated through a regional knowledge sharing approach, as means for demonstrating technology transfer options e.g. for water pumping and irrigation with renewable energy sources, desalination with sustainable energy options, multi-purpose dams, etc.</li> </ul>



# Synergies and complementarity of activities



## Programme of work (PoW) of the Water Convention (2019-2021)

The UfM offers a regional platform for discussing regional cooperation in the med UfM Countries can contribute to the PoW with: examples of “nexus solutions” and “nexus investments” from the Mediterranean region; commenting/testing/applying the tool for Policy Makers on Sustainable Renewable Energy Deployment UfM can help leveraging investments for implementing nexus solutions



Programme Area 3

Promoting an integrated and intersectoral approach to water management at all levels

Overall Cost \$3,801,000

Integrated water resources management is a universally recognized best practice and involves coordination among different uses and users of water that ensures that economic and social benefits can be maximized without causing damage to the sustainability of ecosystems. Sustainable water management lies at the core of the Convention and contributes greatly to the achievement of several Sustainable Development Goals, in particular SDG6 and the target 6.5, which highlights the importance of balancing different water sector needs and environmental requirements. By considering intersectoral impacts from policies and other sectoral developments beyond water management and by building on an improved understanding about the water-food-energy-ecosystem nexus in transboundary basins, more sustainable and collaborative ways of development can be found.

In 2019-2021, the following activities are being carried out under the Water Convention:

- Organize thematic sessions on different aspects of integrated water resources management to highlight relevant topics, such as the development of transboundary basin management plans, jointly managing transboundary aquifers or the creation of basin councils to promote integrated water resources management in transboundary basins.
- Complete nexus basin assessments in the North-West Sahara Aquifer System and in two transboundary basins in the Western Balkans, namely the Drin and Drina, and provide advice to the nexus dialogue in the Niger basin.
- Develop a synthesis document to summarize nexus-related solutions and good practices to support intersectoral dialogue and assessments through the application of the water-food-energy-ecosystem nexus approach. Results of nexus assessments will be shared and experience of application of the nexus methodology will be disseminated.
- Prepare a resource document to encourage the consideration of water and environment related trade-offs and synergies in developing renewable energy.
- Develop a handbook on transboundary water allocation that will serve as a tool and source of information on equitable and sustainable allocation of water in a transboundary context, detailing technical and legal approaches, relevant considerations, and benefits of allocation agreements.
- Organize two regional workshops on water allocation.
- Continue the National Policy Dialogues on Integrated Water Resources Management in Central Asia, Caucasus and Eastern Europe to assist countries in legal, regulatory and institutional reforms in water management and in achieving the water-related Sustainable Development Goals and in setting of targets for sustainable water management, safe drinking water, and adequate sanitation.
- Organize exchanges between Eastern Europe, the Caucasus, and Central Asia through Policy Dialogues on Integrated Water Resources Management.

The Water-food-energy-ecosystems nexus assessments carried out under the Water Convention in 7 basins strengthened the capacity in the administrations of 20 countries in addressing intersectoral issues, such as reconciling the differing objectives of energy, water management and environment protection, and to identify concrete mutually beneficial actions to make resources management more sustainable.

Since 2006, the National Policy Dialogues on IWRM under the European Union Water Initiative, co-led by UNECE, have driven water sector reforms to enhance transboundary cooperation, modernize legal and institutional frameworks and improve water quality for the benefit of millions of citizens in 10 countries of Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia.