



**Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes**  
**Task Force on the Water-Food-Energy-Ecosystems Nexus**  
**Sixth Meeting**

**Geneva and virtually, Switzerland, 22-23 October 2020**

**ANNOTATED PROVISIONAL AGENDA FOR THE SIXTH MEETING**

To be held at the Palais de Nations, Geneva, and with remote participation via the online platform Interprefy in four sessions (22 October 10.00 a.m. -12.00 p.m. CEST; 2.00 p.m. – 4.00 p.m. CEST and 23 October 10.00 a.m. – 12.00 p.m. CEST; 2.00 p.m. – 4.00 p.m. CEST)

**1. PROVISIONAL AGENDA**

1. Opening and adoption of the agenda
2. From nexus assessments to nexus solutions
3. Synthesis document on nexus solutions and investments
4. Regional experiences of designing and implementing nexus solutions
5. Types of nexus investments and mapping financing opportunities
6. Nexus approach to improve natural resource management and to foster cross-sectoral action
7. Future activities on water-food-energy-ecosystems nexus and on water allocation
8. Other business
9. Closing

**2. BACKGROUND AND PRACTICAL INFORMATION**

The Water-Food-Energy-Ecosystems Nexus Task Force under the Water Convention consists of government representatives (mainly water, energy, agriculture and environment protection authorities), notably from countries that have experience in nexus or integrated assessments; river basin organizations; specialized agencies; international, regional and non-governmental organizations as well as experts/academia. Participation to the Task force is open to the Parties and non-Parties, as well as to participants from the above mentioned groups and the private sector.

The concept note of the meeting as well as other documents (document ECE/MP.WAT/WG.1/2020/INF.12) are available in the meeting's webpage<sup>1</sup>.

The 6<sup>th</sup> Nexus Task Force meeting will focus on an on-going stocktaking exercise of nexus solutions and investments of transboundary relevance from around the world, in response to a request from the eighth session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Water Convention (Nur-Sultan, 10-12 October 2018). The main aim of the stocktaking exercise is to provide clarity on the benefits and added value of implementing nexus solutions to solve the most typical problems affecting transboundary basins and to support cooperation, and how such solutions could be financed.

An information document (ECE/MP.WAT/WG.1/2020/INF.4-TFWFEEN/2020/3) on this exercise - describing the scope, the approach, and the analytical framework used is also available on the meeting's webpage.

The meeting will enable discussion on experiences of applying and operationalizing the nexus approach in different regions of the world, including through regional dialogues and cooperation programs, with a view to draw some lessons learned. Ideas for future activities on the water-food-energy-ecosystems nexus under the Water Convention will also be discussed in the light of emerging findings and opportunities from the stock-

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<https://www.unece.org/environmental-policy/conventions/water/meetings-and-events/water/task-force-on-the-water-energy-food-ecosystems-nexus-water-convention/2020/task-force-on-the-water-food-energy-nexus/doc.html>.

taking, regional experiences and expressions of interest from countries and partners. Possible future activities on water allocation will also be a part of the discussion.

The meeting is organised in a hybrid format and virtual participation in all sessions will be possible. Interpretation to English, French, Russian and Spanish will be provided.

Due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, severe travel restrictions are in place worldwide. Nationals from [most countries outside the Schengen area](#) are not allowed to enter the Swiss Confederation territory and in addition, even for countries from the Schengen area, different restrictions and [quarantine rules](#) are in place and change rapidly. The secretariat therefore strongly recommends all delegates not based in Geneva to participate virtually and declines any responsibility for costs or risks related to travel.

In addition to virtual attendance to the meeting, all countries are encouraged to mobilize participation of their [Permanent Missions to the United Nations Office at Geneva](#).

Participants planning to attend the meeting, whether virtually (Interprefy) or in-person (Palais des Nations, Room XVII), are kindly asked to register for the meeting **by 20 October 2020** using the link provided on the meeting's website (<http://indico.un.org/e/6thNexusTF>) as only registered participants will get access to the meeting. Please use as web browser Google Chrome or Firefox. In case of difficulties with registration, the participants are advised to contact Ms. Katri Veldre ([katri.veldre@un.org](mailto:katri.veldre@un.org)). A link to connect to the meeting and the instructions for it will be sent to the registered participants.

For programme related and organizational matters, please contact Ms. Annukka Lipponen (e-mail [annukka.lipponen@un.org](mailto:annukka.lipponen@un.org); tel. +41229172666)

### 3. ANNOTATIONS TO THE PROVISIONAL AGENDA

#### **Session 1 From joint identification of issues to intersectoral solutions (22 October, 10 CET-12 CET)**

##### **Item 1 Opening and adoption of the agenda (10:00 CET-10:10 CET)**

The Chair of the Nexus Task Force will open the meeting and will invite the Executive Secretary of UNECE Ms Olga Algayerova to make an opening speech.

The Chair, Mr Seppo Rekolainen (Finland), will invite the Task Force to adopt its agenda as set out in the present document.

##### **Item 2 From nexus assessments to nexus solutions (10:10 CET -10:30 CET)**

The Chair will invite the secretariat to present an update on work supporting intersectoral dialogues and assessments through the application of the water-food-energy-ecosystems nexus approach, in particular how the nexus assessments lead into joint identification of solutions in transboundary basins.

The Chair will invite representatives of the riparian countries of the recently completed nexus assessment of the North-West Sahara Aquifer System and on-going basin assessments (the Drin and the Drina River Basins, Nexus Assessment Phase II) to make brief interventions.

##### **Item 3 Synthesis Document on Nexus Solutions and Investments (10.30 a.m. -11.15 a.m. CEST)**

Background publication: *Nexus solutions and investments in transboundary basins: draft report – the scope, approach and the analytical framework (ECE/MP.WAT/WG.1/2020/INF.4 – TFWFEEN/2020/3)*

The Chair will invite the presentation of the draft Synthesis Document on Nexus Solutions and Investments by a consultant.

The synthesis document has two aims. The first is to clarify and demonstrate what is the added value of integrated approaches to natural resource management when it comes to concrete solutions to transboundary

issues, and related investments, and why looking beyond the river basin or aquifer is necessary. The second is to shed light on the implementation challenges faced by institutions including, notably, water authorities and River Basin Organizations, and how the challenges could potentially be overcome.

The synthesis is based on a desk review of nexus solutions and investments as well as on the results to a questionnaire<sup>2</sup> analysed by means of an analytical framework developed for the purpose of the synthesis exercise<sup>3</sup>.

Preliminary results from the synthesis, the main factors of success and obstacles to implementation of nexus solutions and investments will be presented by the consultant.

The Chair will invite selected speakers to present the solutions described in their responses to the questionnaire.

**Item 4 Regional experiences of designing and implementing nexus solutions (11.15 a.m. - 12.00 p.m. CEST and 2.00 p.m. – 2.30 p.m. CEST)**

The Chair will invite a panel of interventions about experience from regional nexus dialogues and processes, and invites the secretariat to facilitate the panel. Regional partners will make interventions, describing the main issues intersectoral issues faced in their regions of activity, advancement in applying nexus solutions and their experience facilitating regional nexus dialogues of transboundary relevance. The secretariat will invite partners to indicate possibilities for co-convening with the secretariat of regional consultations or webinars following the 6<sup>th</sup> Task Force meeting, to discuss the draft or final results (subject to timing) from the synthesis of nexus solutions and investments in different regions in view of applying the experience, financing the solutions and investments, and opportunities for linking them to intersectoral and transboundary cooperation frameworks and activities.

The regional partners include, for example, the United Nations (UN) Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA), Economic for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), Regional Environmental Center for Central Asia (CAREC) and the Global Water Partnership Mediterranean (GWP-Med).

The Chair will open the floor for questions, inviting participants to comment on the presentations so far to and add on the experience from these different regions, particularly in relation to the implementation of nexus solutions and challenges faced, as well as opportunities identified.

**Session 2 Financing and investing in nexus solutions (22 October, 2.30 p.m. – 4.00 p.m. CEST)**

**Item 5 Types of nexus investments and mapping financing opportunities**

The Chair will invite the consultant to present the typologies of nexus investments that emerged from the stocktaking exercise (presented under Item 3) and a preliminary mapping of nexus investments opportunities.

The Chair will open the floor for questions.

The Chair will invite a panel of interventions from organizations who have experience in financing or investing in cross-sectoral projects or programs of transboundary relevance, and invite a representative of the IUCN to facilitate discussion. The panel consists of international financial institutions, international cooperation frameworks, funds, companies and basin organizations (for example, the World Bank, the Inter-American Development Bank, the Union for the Mediterranean, Itaipu Binacional and the Niger Basin Authority).

The presentations will highlight opportunities that exist to finance projects and measures of integrated or multi-sectoral character (nexus solutions) with transboundary benefits (e.g. though lending, public private

<sup>2</sup> Th questionnaire (in English) is available at : <https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=2zWeD09UYE-9zF6kFubccD9mJ2ggQWNCuV5GF7FBqKpUQVhEVIZDMVMyWUlaNDZPMVhITONWOENESSQIQCN0PWcu>

<sup>3</sup> The analytical framework is available in the document *Nexus solutions and investments in transboundary basins: draft report – the scope, approach and the analytical framework (ECE/MP.WAT/WG.1/2020/INF.4 – TFWFEEN/2020/3)*

partnerships, climate financing, water funds) and how they can support implementation of regional programs and strategies (e.g. climate action plans, basin level investment plans, transboundary strategic action programmes).

The representative of the IUCN facilitating the discussion will make some concluding remarks to conclude the panel.

### **Session 3–Promoting nexus approach: key themes and partnerships (23 October, 10 a.m. – 12 p.m. CEST)**

Background publication: UNECE, 2020 *Towards sustainable renewable energy investment and deployment: Trade-offs and opportunities with water resources and the environment*

The session aims at illustrating the latest results achieved by strategic partnerships between the Water Convention secretariat and various organizations including national actors and international organizations. These partnerships have supported the participatory assessment of shared basins (by application of the Transboundary River Basin Assessment Methodology), knowledge mobilization and capacity building activities at regional level, and the elaboration of tools to support policy makers in applying the nexus approach, notably in support of transboundary cooperation activities.

The session will include two panels reflecting two perspectives on the nexus as an approach to: 1) improve the use of natural resources in transboundary basins by reducing pressures on water by acting on external drivers (outside water management), and to 2) act more effectively on cross-cutting challenges and plans (e.g. policies, plans and strategies for sustainable development, climate action) of transboundary relevance.

The presentations and interventions will also highlight prospects for possible future cooperation contributing to work under the Water Convention. The organizations expected to present or intervene, include, among others, Germany, the Global Environment Facility’s International Waters Learning Exchange and Resource Network (GEF IW-LEARN), Joint Research Centre of the European Commission, KTH Royal Institute of Technology (Stockholm), UNECE Sustainable Energy Division/Group of Experts on Renewable Energy, The Nature Conservancy and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development.

#### **Item 6 Nexus approach to improve natural resource management and to foster cross-sectoral action**

First Panel: Promoting a more sustainable and efficient management of natural resources

The Chair will invite interventions from the participants.

Second panel: Fostering climate action and sustainable development

The Chair will invite interventions from the participants.

### **Session 4 Future nexus activities (23 October, 2 p.m. – 4.00 p.m. CEST)**

Background document: Report of the Meeting of the Parties on its eighth session: Programme of work for 2019–2021 (ECE/MP.WAT/54/Add.1)

#### **Item 7 Future activities on water-food-energy-ecosystem nexus and water allocation**

This session will aim at discussing opportunities for future activities and next steps in the nexus work under the Water Convention. Among the aims is also to agree about the process of completing the synthesis of nexus solutions and investments, including development of the content of the draft publication for review by the next joint session of the Working Group on IWRM and Working Group on Monitoring and Assessment (Geneva, 26-28 April 2021).

The Chair will recall what is in Programme area 3.2, “Supporting intersectoral dialogues and assessments through the application of the water-food-energy-ecosystems nexus approach”, in the present Programme of Work (2019-2021) under the Water Convention.

The secretary of the Water Convention will present on the process of developing the next Programme of Work (2022-2024), including gathering of proposals through an online questionnaire

The Chair, for Finland as the Lead Party for Programme area 3.2, and Hungary as the Lead Party for 3.3 “Supporting equitable and sustainable water allocation in the transboundary context” will present the initial ideas for possible future activities. By way of an introduction, the presentation by Mr. Péter Kovács (Hungary) will also inform the participants about the on-going development of a compendium-style Handbook on water allocation in a transboundary context, which draws upon existing practices worldwide.

The Chair will open a discussion, inviting suggestions and expressions of interest in future activities on these topics under the Water Convention.

#### **Item 8: Other business**

At the time of writing, the secretariat had no points to propose under this item. Delegates wishing to propose points under this item should inform the secretariat as soon as possible.

#### **Item 9: Closing**

The Chair will close the meeting at 4.00 p.m. on Friday, 23 October 2020

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