



Convention of the Protection and Use of
Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes
Task Force on the Water-Food-Energy-Ecosystems Nexus
Seventh meeting
Geneva, Switzerland, 12-13 December 2022

ANNOTATED PROVISIONAL AGENDA FOR THE SEVENTH MEETING

To be held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva with a possibility of remote participation, starting on Monday, 12 December at 10.00 a.m. ending on Tuesday, 13 December at 16:30 p.m.

I. PROVISIONAL AGENDA

1. Opening, election of Chair and adoption of the agenda
2. Nexus activities under the Water Convention
3. The Transboundary Nexus Assessment Methodology and similar approaches
4. Operationalizing nexus solutions through transboundary cooperation
5. Water allocation in a transboundary context
6. Ecosystems in the nexus
7. Water and Energy Solutions to advance the Sustainable Development Goals
8. Next steps
9. Other business
10. Closing

II. BACKGROUND AND PRACTICAL INFORMATION

Background

A huge potential to generate benefits across water, food, energy, and ecosystems lies in transboundary river basins and aquifers around the world. As they generate 60% of global freshwater and are home to 40% of the world's population, they represent ecosystems of global importance and play a key role in global food and energy production, and socio-economic development more broadly. To be sustainable, and resilient to the increasing challenges brought by climate change, the exploitation of all these different benefits requires mutual understanding and strong cooperation, both across sectors and borders.

The Water Convention enhanced promotion of cross-sectoral cooperation in transboundary basins since 2013, when the Meeting of the Parties decided to include the theme of water-food-energy-ecosystems nexus in the Convention's Programme of Work. Since then, a Transboundary Nexus Assessment Methodology (TBNA) was developed to assess cross-sectoral issues and elaborate possible cooperative solutions, and it was implemented in six transboundary river basins and one shared aquifer. This work was carried out with the guidance of the Task Force on the Water Food Energy Ecosystems Nexus, a global platform open to Parties and non-Parties that involved over time hundreds of country and civil society representatives, experts, and practitioners.

In time, the Task Force allowed the transboundary water community in countries and basins to strengthen their cooperation with the energy sector, and in particular to explore the benefits and impact of renewable energy expansion. Continuing this cooperation helps sustainable energy and water solutions to be widely implemented and upscaled. In fact, strengthening cooperation between the water and energy sectors has a high potential for advancing the Agenda 2030, notably in transboundary contexts where lack of cooperation can cause frictions across countries.

Responding to the need of countries to discuss how trade-offs and synergies can be addressed concretely, the Water Convention supported in 2020-2021 a global stocktaking of “nexus solutions and investments”, and in the new Programme of Work (2022-2024) focused the nexus work area entirely on the “operationalization” of nexus solutions and investments.

As the stocktaking report highlights¹, transboundary cooperation plays a key role in enabling nexus solutions. In fact, on the one hand transboundary cooperation facilitates the implementation of nexus solutions, and on the other the nexus approach can help advance transboundary water cooperation. Hence, it is important to understand the specific role of transboundary arrangements as means for operationalizing nexus solutions and investments, and at the same time to continue integrating the nexus approach in technical studies, strategies and plans, and transboundary dialogues.

The 7th meeting of the Task Force will focus on:

1. The application of the Water Convention’s and similar approaches to transboundary nexus assessments and dialogues around the world;
2. The role of transboundary cooperation as a key to identify and implement nexus solutions and investments which in turn benefit both water management and cooperation;
3. Opportunities in water-energy cooperation in transboundary basins to advance the Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development.

Practical information

The seventh meeting of the Task Force will start at 10.00 a.m. on Monday, 12 December 2022 and will end at 16.30 p.m. on Tuesday, 13 December 2022. It will be held in a hybrid manner in the Palais des Nations, Geneva. The Task Force meeting will be followed by the [Global Workshop on Source-to-Sea Management](#), which will be held on 14-16 December 2022. The working languages will be English, French, Russian and Spanish.

The meeting is open to experts and officials representing governmental authorities, the private sector, non-governmental and international organizations as well as other interested stakeholders. Focal points are requested to disseminate information on the meeting and to facilitate the nomination of relevant representatives of their respective countries.

To attend the meeting, whether virtually or in-person, please register using the following link **by 28 November 2022**: <https://indico.un.org/event/1000668/>. If you require financial assistance, please fill in and send the financial request form by **2 November 2022**.

Kindly find some links towards instructions on:

- 1) How to create an indico account: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GeZuft5xQ4U>
- 2) How to register for an online meeting: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WaEj3hShn6U>

¹ Solutions and investments in the water-food-energy-ecosystems nexus: A synthesis of experiences in transboundary basins (UNECE, 2021)

The link to attend the meeting virtually (through the zoom platform) will be shared before the meeting.

For assistance with registration, please see the instructions on the meeting's web page or contact the secretariat by e-mail water.convention@un.org. For content-related issues regarding the meeting, please contact by e-mail: Ms. Lucia de Strasser, lucia.destrasser@un.org.

Further information and relevant material will be made available on the following website in due course: [Seventh meeting of the Task Force on the Water-Food Energy Ecosystems Nexus | UNECE](#)

III. ANNOTATIONS TO THE PROVISIONAL AGENDA

Session 1. Monday 12 December – 10:00-12:00 CET

Item 1: Opening, election of Chair and adoption of the agenda (10.00 - 10.15)

1. The meeting will be opened by high level representatives.

Ms. Francesca Bernardini, Chief of Transboundary Cooperation Section, Environment Division, United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE)

2. The Task Force will be asked to elect a new Chair.
3. The Chair will invite the Task Force to adopt the agenda as set out in the present document.

Item 2: Nexus activities under the Water Convention (10.15 - 11.00)

4. The Chair of the WFEE Nexus Task Force under the Water Convention will present the work done so far and planned in the new Programme of Work and will invite partners to present the most recent and an upcoming project on the ground.
5. The Task Force will discuss the nexus work under the Water Convention, which initially focused on nexus assessments and related methodological approaches, then moved more towards the “operationalization” of nexus solutions and investments (in response to the issues and opportunities identified in the assessments) and to thematic issues such as renewable energy development and financing nexus solutions. Today, the work continues on the one hand by disseminating globally the experience and knowledge accumulated so far, and on the other by supporting nexus cooperation through projects on the ground.

Chair (TBD), – *Approach, activities, and new directions of nexus work under the Water Convention*

Mr. Tassos Krommydas, Senior Programme Officer, Global Water Partnership-Mediterranean (GWP-Med) – *Nexus solutions in the Drin and Drina river basins in South-Eastern Europe*

Mr. Matthew Griffith, Senior Programme Manager, Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) and **Mr. Takayoshi Kato**, Environmental Economist, OECD – *Nexus Investments in “Regional mechanisms for the low-carbon, climate-resilient transformation of the energy-water-land Nexus in Central Asia”*

Item 3: The Transboundary Nexus Assessment Methodology TBNA and similar approaches (11.00– 12.00)

Background document: [Methodology for assessing the water-food-energy-ecosystems nexus in transboundary basins and experiences from its application: synthesis | UNECE](#)

6. The Secretariat will present the Leaflet “Transboundary Nexus Assessment Methodology TBNA”. Presentations will follow from countries and donors carrying out or planning to carry out nexus assessments inspired by the TBNA methodology.
7. The Task Force will discuss the Water Convention experience on policy-oriented nexus assessments and dialogues in transboundary contexts, and how it can be useful for countries and basin institutions as well as for practitioners working on cross-sectoral issues in natural resources management around the world. With the objective of promoting nexus cooperation in transboundary basins globally through participatory assessments, the Task Force will discuss how the methodology developed under the Water Convention can be further disseminated, and further applied by countries and partners.

Ms. Irene Sanders, Coordinator of the Global Nexus Secretariat, German Agency for International Cooperation (GIZ) – *Nexus tools in the Nexus Resource Platform, and experience – online-*

Ms. Claudette Spiteri, Marine Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO (IOC UNESCO), International Waters Learning Exchange and Resource Network (IW:LEARN) - *GEF IW:LEARN 5 project and its Nexus activities*

Mr. Zharas Takenov, Senior Fellow, German-Kazakh University DKU – *Nexus training for public administration and university students in Central Asia – online-*

Ms. Maria Apostolova, Project Manager, United Nations Environment Program (UNEP) – *Transboundary nexus cooperation in the Amazon basin – online-*

Session 2. Monday 12 December – 14:30-16:30 CET

Item 4: Operationalizing nexus solutions through transboundary cooperation (14.30 - 16.30)

Background document: [Solutions and investments in the water-food-energy-ecosystems nexus: A synthesis of experiences in transboundary basins | UNECE](#)

8. “Stronger transboundary cooperation” ranks the highest among the factors of success in the implementation of nexus solutions and investments with transboundary benefits (UNECE, 2021). The involvement of energy, agriculture, environment and other sectors in transboundary water cooperation can take different forms: from their explicit inclusion in legal agreements and arrangements on water management, to ad-hoc sectoral arrangements (e.g. agreements on hydropower operations), to the development of integrated projects that create synergies across sectors, to cooperation under exceptional conditions (e.g. droughts and floods).
9. A set of presentations will illustrate different approaches to give a picture of how nexus solutions can be advanced at transboundary level. The objective is to stimulate thinking how

nexus solutions can achieve multiple objectives through a single intervention, prevent negative cross-sectoral impacts or strengthen intersectoral synergies between several interventions. Then participants will discuss the experience from different basins, with a specific focus on the role of basin organizations.

10. The Task Force will discuss: 1) In what way do or can nexus solutions and investments practically support transboundary water cooperation? 2) How can transboundary institutions like River Basin Commissions benefit from the nexus approach for reducing pressure on waters and achieving a better status of waters?

Ms. Lucia de Strasser, Environmental Affairs Officer, Water Convention Secretariat (UNECE) - *Lessons learned from a global stocktaking of nexus solutions and investments in transboundary basins*

Group 1 focus on institutional aspects

Mr. Mohamed Fawzi Bedredine, Regional Coordinator, Senegal River Basin Development Organization (OMVS) – *The evolution of cross-sectoral cooperation throughout the story of OMVS*

Ms. Furuza Nasyrova, Head of the Analytical Department and Secretariat of the International Fund for Saving the Aral Sea (EC IFAS) – *The reform of the International Fund for saving the Aral Sea*

Mr. Walter Bamidele Olatunji, Hydrologist, Niger Basin Authority – *Guiding principles to “nexus-proof” infrastructural investments in the Niger basin*

Group 2 focus on initiatives

Ms Jovana Rašeta Bastić, Deputy Secretary for Integrated River Basin Management and Water Planning, International Sava River Basin Commission (ISRBC) - *Promoting resilience and economic growth across sectors, through river connectivity – online-*

Ms. Sol Maria Munoz Aguillon, Soil and Water Resources Technician, Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources, El Salvador – *Experience from “water funds” in the Trifinio region*

Ms. Astrid Hillers, Senior Environmental Specialist, Global Environment Facility (GEF) – *Providing finance for cooperation on shared freshwater ecosystems*

Session 3 – Tuesday 13 December 10:00-12:00 CET

Item 5: Water allocation in a transboundary context (10.00 - 10.45)

Background document: [Handbook on Water Allocation in a Transboundary Context](#)

11. The Task Force is responsible for activities related to the water-food-energy-ecosystems nexus as well as water allocation. Therefore, participants will be updated on the recent activities and upcoming plans on Water Allocation under the Water Convention, and in particular the “Handbook on Water Allocation in a Transboundary Context”, which was adopted by the Meeting of the Parties in 2021. As highlighted in the Handbook, combining

water allocation with the nexus approach can help with broadening the scope of action and in-turn more appropriately addressing intersectoral issues and opportunities.

Mr. Remy Kinna, Legal Officer, Water Convention Secretariat (UNECE) – *Update on recent activities and upcoming plans related to Water Allocation under the Water Convention*

Ms. Zhanar Mautanova, Director, International Water Assessment Centre (IWAC) – *Workshop on Water Allocation in Central Asia - online -*

Mr. Stephen Stec, Professor of Environmental Law, Central European University - *Study on Flow Regulation in the Drina River Basin – online -*

Item 6: Ecosystems in the nexus (10:45 – 12:00)

12. Ecosystems have been since the beginning a part of the Water Convention’s scope of the nexus and consideration of the interlinkages, but there have been conceptual challenges in considering them. The Task Force will be informed about some recent progress in work on the role of ecosystems, their services and biodiversity in the water-food-energy-ecosystems nexus.

Mr. Enrico Lucca, PhD candidate, Department of Agriculture, Food, Environment and Forestry (DAGRI), University of Florence, Italy - *Untangling the role of Ecosystems and their Services in the Water-Energy-Food Nexus - online -*

Mr. Waleed Alhadidi, Head of Dam Safety Section, Ministry of Water Resources, State Commission for Dams, Iraq – *Water ecosystems in Iraq*

Mr. Babar Khan, Senior Ecosystem Management Specialist, International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD) - *Preserving ecosystems with a nexus approach, in the context of the Hindu Kush Himalaya (HKH) region - online -*

Session 4 – Tuesday 13 December 14:30-16:30 CET

Item 7: Water and Energy Solutions to advance the Sustainable Development Goals (14.30 - 16.00)

13. The Task Force will hear about the work of the Sustainable Water and Energy Solutions Network (coordinated by UN DESA and ITAIPU Binacional), and discuss possible synergies with the activities of the Task Force and cooperation opportunities. The Water Convention is part of the Network and as such, it actively promotes the identification, design, and implementation of water and energy solutions in transboundary contexts, with an eye to benefit sharing across countries.
14. The Task Force will discuss the promotion of water and energy solutions in transboundary contexts, to accelerate the implementation of the Agenda 2030.

Mr. Martin Niemetz, UNDESA - *The Global Network for Sustainable Water and Energy Solutions*

Mr. Ariel Scheffer da Silva, Head of Environmental Management, ITAIPU Binacional - *Satisfying multiple water needs in times of drought in the Paraná basin*

Mr. Adel Alobeiaat, Assistant Secretary General for Technical Affairs, Ministry of Water and Irrigation, Jordan – *Nexus solutions in the water sector and opportunities in regional cooperation.*

Mr Sean Ratka, Economic Affairs Officer, Economic Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) - *Tools for the Water-Energy Nexus*

Mr. Dario Liguti, Director of Sustainable Energy Division (UNECE) – *Water-Energy Innovations in Southeastern Europe and Central Asia*

Item 8: Next steps (16.00 – 16.15)

15. The Task Force will discuss future activities to be undertaken in the water-food-energy-ecosystems nexus area of work of the Water Convention’s Programme of Work 2022-2024.

Ms. Sonja Koepfel, Secretary of the Water Convention, UNECE

Item 9: Other business (16.15 – 16.25)

16. 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 10: Closing (16.25 – 16.30)

17. The Chair will close the meeting at 16:30 CET on 13 December 2022.
