



ACCELERATING SDG 7 ACHIEVEMENT

ACTION BRIEF 6

SUSTAINABLE WATER AND ENERGY SOLUTIONS NETWORK

7 AFFORDABLE AND
CLEAN ENERGY



ACTION BRIEF #6

SUSTAINABLE WATER AND ENERGY SOLUTIONS NETWORK

Developed by

UN DESA

In collaboration with

ITAIPU Binacional and Multi-stakeholder partners

Summary

Water and energy are essential for human development, and inextricably linked. With 90 per cent of global electricity generation requiring intense water output, and the water sector requiring energy to distribute, purify, and recycle water, the need for more sustainably managed natural resources has never been more urgent. To mobilise and scale up multistakeholder action towards this goal, the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA) and Itaipu Binacional (the Brazil-Paraguay dam management entity) launched the Sustainable Water and Energy Solutions Network at the UN Climate Change Conference (COP 24) in Katowice, Poland.

The network will work towards the sustainable use and management of water and energy resources so that more people have access to safe drinking water and clean energy, while also making the water and energy industries themselves more carbon neutral. Partners within the Solutions Network will leverage their skills, share best practices and quality data on water-energy interlinkages, and strengthen capacity building with a focus on planning, designing, implementing, and monitoring policies and business models that effectively address current shortcomings.

Stakeholders from all regions are invited to join the network to promote integrated approaches to SDG 6 (water) and SDG 7 (energy) in support of the achievement of the 2030 Agenda.

Background and Description of the Action Platform

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development recognises that improved access to both water and energy is needed in advancing sustainable development. Progress on SDG 6 on water and SDG 7 on energy will also have an effect on a range of other Sustainable Development Goals, such as those on health, food, poverty eradication, gender equality, economic productivity, and climate change. A transformative, integrated approach to water and energy lies at the heart of the success of these interconnected agendas.

Recognising the need to address the interlinkages between water and energy and their contributions to the advancement of other SDGs, UN DESA and ITAIPU Binacional, have joined efforts in a partnership entitled 'Sustainable Water and Energy Solutions' to promote water and energy sustainability and other SDGs. The initiative calls for a global sustainability network on SDG 6 and SDG 7 interlinkages, with a large number of stakeholders from all regions and constituencies. The aim is to bring together all stakeholders to promote integrated approach to SDG 6 and SDG 7 in support of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Vision

The Sustainable Water and Energy Solutions Network works toward the vision of a world where there is an equitable and sustainable use and management of water and energy resources for all, in support of human wellbeing, ecosystem integrity and a robust, inclusive economy, under the umbrella of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

The goal of this multistakeholder network is to provide a global platform for all stakeholders to enhance capacities and signal their high-level commitment to the integrated approach to SDG 6 and SDG 7 in support of the SDGs achievement. More specifically, the objectives will be to:

- Share best practices, experiences, and quality data on the water-energy interlinkages and their contributions to other SDGs.
- Strengthen capacity building with a focus on the planning, designing, implementing and monitoring of policies, regulations, business models, and investment to effectively manage the water-energy interlinkages and their implications on other SDGs.

- Mobilise and scale up multistakeholder actions aimed at stimulating integrated water-energy response addressing cross-sectoral barriers in other development sectors.
- Enhance advocacy, communications and outreach to help countries conduct evidence-based dialogues and facilitate broad-based implementation of SDG 6 and SDG 7.

Activities and Deliverables

During the initial phase of 2 years, it is proposed that the Network will undertake, the following activities, among others:

- Compile a series of case studies that present concrete examples of integrated responses to water (SDG 6) and energy (SDG 7), including impacts on other SDGs.
- Develop operational principles and practical guiding materials for designing, implementing, and monitoring integrated responses to water (SDG 6) and energy (SDG 7), building, inter alia, on findings from the case studies.
- Promote integrated sustainable water and energy solutions by creating incentives in the form of grants, research fellowships, internships, etc.
- Undertake capacity building workshops, using the case studies and operational principles/tool kit as background materials.
- Conduct global outreach and advocacy engagements to inform relevant international dialogues including the UN High Level Political Forum, UNFCCC COP, UN Decade for Sustainable Energy for All 2014-2024, and the International Decade for Action: Water for Sustainable Development 2018-2028, as well as other potential global, regional, and national related events.

A more detailed work plan will be developed with a group of initial partners. At the end of the initial phase (2 years), a forward-looking review of the Network will be conducted to take stock of key lessons and inform next steps.

Partners

To achieve its mission and vision, the Sustainable Water and Energy Solutions Network aims to partner with a wide range of stakeholders with demonstrated experience in managing water-energy interlinkages for sustainable development. This includes, among others, UN system entities and other international organisations, governments and government agencies at national and sub-national level, private sector companies, civil society organisations, academia, and others.

Besides UN DESA and Itaipu Binacional, initial members of the network include the Government of Spain, the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, the International Hydropower Association, the World Energy Council, the National Water Agency of Brazil, TERI School of Advanced Studies, the International Centre for Hydropower, the Sugar Association of Guatemala, the UN Economic Commission for Europe, the UN Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, and UN-Habitat.

The inaugural meetings of the network will take place on 13-14 May 2019 in Paris, in the margins of the World Hydropower Congress.

Call to Action

Stakeholders from all regions are invited to join the network to promote integrated approaches to SDG 6 (water) and SDG 7 (energy) in support of the achievement of the 2030 Agenda. The objective is to enhance capacities, dialogues and cooperation at all levels, for enabling cross-sectoral approaches, advocacy and knowledge management that address SDG 6 and SDG 7 and interlinkages with other SDGs holistically, in order to accelerate progress towards the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Partners will directly or indirectly support the activities of the Network on a voluntary basis, and help leverage skills, expertise and other resources that will support and advance its mission. While every effort will be made to leverage the existing capacities of the partners to undertake the activities, it is anticipated that the Network will require some financial resources to facilitate its work. Partners are therefore encouraged to consider direct or indirect contributions, or to support mobilisation of the resources from other donors on an as-needed basis.

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**HIGH-LEVEL POLITICAL FORUM
ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**

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