

“Water for Sustainable Development: Valuing Water, Water-Energy-Food Nexus; and Sustainable Economic and Urban Development (SDG 6.3, 6.4, 6.5 and SDGs 2, 8, 9, 11,12)”



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Our starting point

- ***Without water, there is no development.***
- ***Without integrated water management there is no sustainable development.***
- Water valuation, the water-energy-food nexus, and sustainable economic and urban development are key elements
- ***Equitable access to clean and sustainably managed water for all .***



Valuing water - recommendations

The economic valuation of water services is key to *correcting* the water access imbalance

Development banks, both domestic and international, have a critical role to play in **financing water for sustainable development**

We must look to industry for thought-leadership on circular ecosystems that will **reduce water pollution and resource losses**



Valuing water – recommendations (ii)

Incentives to improve performance and attract private finance require **economic regulation for water services.**

Water service providers need to become more **technically and financially efficient.** Governance arrangements need to be clearer and more transparent.

We need to address and resolve current **regulatory barriers to investment** in secure access to water, such as a lack of **clear regulatory framework for wastewater reuse.**



Valuing water – guiding questions

Will a focus on **equitable outcomes for secure water access** resolve the impasse between a **rights-based** and a **valuation-based approach to water management**?

How can we grow the role of the **private sector** in supporting water innovation, both as investors and implementers?

How do we build up the **global water project pipeline** quickly?

Water – energy – food – ecosystems nexus: recommendations



Invest

- **Governments must invest in less water-intensive renewable energy.**

Protect

- **Boost efficiency measures** along the entire agri-food chain to help save water and energy. **Protect ecosystems** alongside agriculture and energy production to ensure environmental integrity.

Secure

- **Responsible agricultural water management** will help to secure equitable future access to water, food and energy.



Water – energy – food – ecosystems nexus recommendations (ii)

- Stronger **water management, sector reform** and greater efficiency and coherence is overdue across the water-energy-food-ecosystem (WEFE) nexus.
- Linkages between **rainfed and irrigated agricultures** must be developed through **innovative hydrological economic modeling**.
- Transformative applications of water management systems **must incorporate all elements of the water-energy-food-ecosystem nexus** – including adaptation to meet **the expanding needs of agriculture**.



Water – energy – food – ecosystems nexus: guiding questions

- What are the opportunities, incentives and trade-offs to **drive systemic change in water management** across food, energy, and the environment?
- **How do we achieve greater efficiencies in the agri-food chain in support of sustainable water use?**
- What are the **best alternatives** to water-intensive renewable energy generation?



Water and sustainable economic and urban development - recommendations

Sustainable economic and urban development **relies upon sustainably managed water**.

Urban planners need to **integrate system-wide water management** to limit the footprint that cities have on water quality, quantity, and on energy and agri-food systems.

Renew focus on role of **women, indigenous communities, the young, and vulnerable populations** in ecosystems stewardship and water governance.

Water and sustainable economic and urban development – recommendations (ii)

We must work with, not against natural ecosystems.

End water wastage: USD 200 billion is lost each year to treated water leaks from municipal water networks. For the same cost, we could rehabilitate these systems, improve water distribution efficiency and save water for other uses.

Invest in infrastructure: consistent strategies and data-informed tools are required to maximize financial efforts and deliver the highest impacts.

Mobilize the private sector: make water-impact disclosure mandatory, and work with standard setters on due diligence and regulation of financial markets.



Water and sustainable economic and urban development: guiding questions

Are policymakers and investors **speaking the same language** on sustainable economic and urban development? If not, how do we fix this?

How do we **create incentives for innovation in water governance and finance for water**?

What does **“best practice”** look like for effective and transparent water monitoring systems? How can innovation and digital data help?

How can countries **organize their water data systems to ensure no one is left behind**?





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Thank you!