



Concept Note

**“Sustainable Water and Energy Solutions in support of
the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Paris Agreement:
Interconnections with ecosystem services”**

Technical seminar

Madrid, Spain

Date and time: 07 December 2019, 09:30-13:00

Venue: SDG Pavilion (Feria de Madrid, Spain)

BACKGROUND

Climate change is a threat multiplier. It is linked to many of humanity’s most pressing issues, including health, poverty, hunger, inequality, water and energy, among others—which are reflected in the Sustainable Development Goals. That is why addressing climate change also offers humanity’s greatest chance to positively impact these goals. At the same time, the achievement of the SDGs themselves provides an impetus towards a just and equitable transition to a climate-safe future. Given these multiple interlinkages, an integrated implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Paris Agreement could significantly accelerate progress and lead to many benefits.

Water and energy are central to such integrated response. Evident policy and operational linkages exist between the SDG 6 targets focused on ensuring water and sanitation for all and the SDG 7 targets aiming to ensure access to energy for all. These are magnified when climate change is considered within an integrated sustainable development context. Over the coming decades, the global demand for water and energy will continue to increase significantly, posing profound challenges that will need to be addressed in an integrated manner.

Freshwater ecosystems and tropical forests contribute to ecosystem services with strong influence on water and energy processes. Benefits from provisioning, regulating and supporting services include freshwater storage, flow regulation, water purification, groundwater recharge, climate regulation, soil protection and risk reduction associated with water-related disasters. This allows for the availability of water for human consumption, biological processes, industrial use, irrigation and hydropower generation. However, climate change and ecosystem degradation compromise the provision of these ecosystem services, putting water supply and industrial production at risk. Ecosystem services are the basis of business, yet they are often not valued.

Building on the work of the Global Sustainable Water and Energy Solutions Network, UNDESA and ITAIPU Binacional will co-host a technical seminar on “*Sustainable Water and Energy Solutions in support of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Paris Agreement*”. The seminar will bring together global leaders to discuss the risks generated by climate change in the water and energy sectors, showcase existing initiatives and mobilize actions to accelerate the adoption of integrated water and energy solutions towards achieving the Paris Agreement and the 2030 Agenda. The event will feature a dedicated session on the interconnection between water, energy and ecosystem services.

AGENDA

Saturday, 07 December	
09:30-09:45	Opening Remarks Itaipu Binacional
SESSION 1: Integrated water and energy approaches and activities supporting the Paris Agreement and the SDGs	
09:45-11:15	<i>Moderator: Mr. Ivan Vera, Senior Energy Advisor; former Chief, Energy, Water and Capacity Development Branch, UNDESA</i> Panel: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Itaipu Binacional - Ms. Radia Sedaoui, Chief, Energy Section, United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) - Ms. Meriem El Hilali, Counselor, Permanent Mission of Morocco to the United Nations - Mr. Alex Guerra, Director, Climate Change Research Institute (ICC), Guatemala - Ms. Cristina Díez Santos, International Hydropower Association Q&A
11:15-11:45	Coffee break
SESSION 2: Water and energy solutions and their interconnections with ecosystem services	
11:45-12:45	<i>Moderator: Mr. Manuel Menéndez, Water General Director, Ministry for the Ecological Transition, Spain</i> Panel: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Ariel Scheffer, Head of the Environmental Management, Itaipu-Brazil • Mr. Hilario Hermosa, Manager of the Division of Reservoir and Protected Areas, Itaipu-Paraguay <p><u>UNEP (TBC) Ms. Valerie Kapos, Head of Programme, Climate Change & Biodiversity, UNEP</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Patrick Burgi, Director of South Pole Funds & Platforms / Co-Founder-</u> Q&A
12:45-13:00	Closing Remarks <u>Itaipu Binacional Mr. Ulises Lovera, Director of the National Climate Change Directorate. Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development of Paraguay</u>

[LLS1] Comentário: Mr. Ernst Bergen, Paraguayan General Director, Itaipu Binacional

[LLS2] Comentário: Mr. Luiz Felipe Carbonell, Brazilian Coordination Director, Itaipu Binacional

PARTICIPANTS

Participants expected for this meeting include representatives of Member States, including developing countries, UN organizations, other international organizations and experts on water, energy and climate change interested in integrated approaches to the SDGs. The event will aim to attract all relevant stakeholders.

LANGUAGE

Simultaneous interpretation into English, Spanish and Portuguese will be available during the event.