



Concept Note
High-Level Event

**Scaling up climate action through integrated water and energy solutions:
Delivering on the Paris Agreement and the 2030 Agenda**

Madrid, Spain
09 December 2019
11:00AM - 12:15PM

BACKGROUND

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development includes fully dedicated SDGs on water (SDG6) and on energy (SDG7), recognizing the importance of these two critical factors in advancing sustainable development and poverty eradication. Yet the inextricable linkages existing 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* require suitable integrated approaches for their implementation. This is further magnified when climate change considerations (articulated in SDG 13) are taken into account. As the global demand for water and energy increases with rising populations, a warming climatic system is expected to further impact the availability of basic necessities like freshwater, energy and food security. Examining all these aspects as a system with a holistic lens will help identify synergies while minimizing trade-offs, and guide decision makers along the long-term path of sustainable development.

To mobilize and scale up multi-stakeholder action towards this goal, the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA) and Itaipu Binacional launched the *Global Sustainable Water and Energy Solutions Network* at the UN Climate Change Conference (COP24) in December 2018 in Katowice, Poland. The goal of this multi-stakeholder network is to provide a global platform for all stakeholders to enhance capacities and signal their high-level commitment to coordinated and integrated approaches to SDG 6 and SDG 7 in support of the achievement of the 2030 Agenda and the Paris Agreement.

One year after its launch, UN DESA and Itaipu Binacional, with support from other network members and partners, will co-host a side event at the SDG Pavilion at COP25 in Madrid, Spain, to share progress and on-the-ground experiences in addressing water and energy interlinkages in support of the 2030 Agenda and the Paris Agreement. The event will feature the launch of a report on “*Activities by Itaipu Binacional Supporting The Implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals And The 2030 Agenda For Sustainable Development*”, which has been developed in the context of this cooperation. The purpose of this report is to illustrate the variety of integrated activities that Itaipu is conducting in support of the SDGs and the 2030 Agenda. The work by Itaipu represents valuable information that could serve as a reference to other organizations and nations worldwide in their pursuit of sustainable development.

AGENDA

Monday, 09 December	
11:00 – 11:25	<p><i>Master of Ceremony: Ms. Isabel Raya, UN DESA</i></p> <p>Opening Remarks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Mr. Liu Zhenmin, Under-Secretary-General, United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs▪ Mr. Joaquim Silva e Luna, General Director, Itaipu Binacional, Brazil▪ Spain (TBD)
11:25-11:40	<p>Presentation: Summary of the report on “Activities by Itaipu Binacional supporting the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”.</p> <p>Mr. Ivan Vera, Senior Energy Advisor; former Chief, Energy, Water and Capacity Development Branch, UN DESA</p> <p>Panel: Scaling up action on Sustainable Water and Energy Solutions addressing climate change</p>
11:40 – 12:05	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Ms. Rola Dashti, United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA)- Mr. Manuel Menéndez, Water General Director, Ministry for the Ecological Transition, Spain- Mr. Richard Taylor, Executive Advisor, International Hydropower Association
12:05-12:15	<p>Closing Remarks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Mr. Ernst Bergen Schmidt, General Director, Itaipu Binacional, Paraguay

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.