

Accelerate climate action through regional cooperation on water, energy, food, and ecosystems

19 November, 17.00-18.30
Blue Zone, Nasimi Room

Concept and Session Objectives

Event summary

Event Description

The session will focus on how regional cooperation can help countries to plan for effective climate mitigation and adaptation strategies, and a more efficient use of natural resources such as water, land, and energy in a changing climate. Different resource base between countries generates potential complementarities, which can be seen as synergies that can be realized through integrated and transboundary water cooperation and regional trade of food and energy. These interlinkages need to be taken within the context of ecosystems, their carrying capacities and the critical functions they provide for our stability, security, lives and livelihoods. The session will be an occasion to reflect on the role of the water-energy-food- ecosystems nexus and transboundary and regional cooperation in relation to the NDCs, drawing from the experience of countries.

Logistics

- **Date:** 19 November | Food, Water and Agriculture Day
- **Time:** 17:00 – 18:30 | 90 mins
- **Venue:** Nasimi room, Blue Zone
- **Format:** Panel/Presentation
- **Level:** Ministers, Heads of International Organizations

Organizers

COP29 Presidency together with UNECE, WMO and UNEP.

Context, objectives and outcomes

Event Rationale

Climate resilience requires a mix of mitigation and adaptation, and this is becoming increasingly clear for policy makers in energy, agriculture, and water sectors among others. There is great potential for mitigating GHGs emissions through dedicated sectoral policies, and at the same time there is an increasingly urgent need to adapt to climate change (and more extreme climate conditions such as floods and droughts) in all sectors. This justifies a coordinated approach to climate planning, one that sees water at the center, and sustainable and equitable water management as a key element of it.

In this context, regional cooperation has a unique role to play. First of all, because around 60% of freshwater resources in the world are transboundary in nature. Secondly, because transboundary water cooperation is a powerful instrument for climate adaptation and potentially for climate mitigation. Thirdly, because pressure on water can only be reduced through bold action in water-using sectors such as energy and agriculture, recognizing the critical role that freshwater ecosystems play as the source of water, and looking beyond self-sufficiency to leverage the complementarities of natural resources.

The event will draw from the experience of member states, UN organizations and partners that benefitted from and applied a water-energy-food-ecosystems approach with a particular emphasis on regional cooperation. Their experience shows that regional cooperation can be a boost for climate action and at the same time provide a safety net for the most vulnerable communities.

Sustainable agricultural trade, clean energy corridors, transboundary water cooperation, and integrated water resources management are some of the key elements of global climate action and this event aims at discussing their potential to connect national climate policies and enhance their impact.

Through the event, countries will share their experience on the water-energy-food-ecosystems nexus and regional cooperation and will reflect on how it can be improved in the future to scale up climate action, giving concrete examples. This includes for example the nexus assessment of the Alazani/Ganykh basin, shared by Azerbaijan and Georgia, carried out in 2015-2017.

Objectives

- Demonstrate the value of regional cooperation on water, energy, food, and ecosystems to achieve climate and SDG targets
- Identify opportunities to scale up national climate action through regional coordination and cooperation

Outcomes

Announcements:

- Launch of the [UN-Water policy brief on water for climate mitigation](#)
- Launch of [the action-oriented document on mainstreaming transboundary management and cooperation into NDCs and NAPs](#)

Impacts & Legacy:

- Countries and stakeholders commit to integrate water and nexus considerations into NDCs and NAPs

Requirements for participation

- This event is bringing together high-level speakers and targeting high-level government officials from countries, technical experts and practitioners from organizations actively promoting regional cooperation on water for climate action.

Logistics [internal-facing*]**

Organizers

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