



Convention of the Protection and Use of
Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes
Task Force on the Water-Food-Energy-Ecosystems Nexus
Ninth meeting
Geneva, Switzerland, 18 June 2025

ANNOTATED PROVISIONAL AGENDA FOR THE NINTH MEETING

To be held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva, Room III
on Wednesday, 18 June from 10.00 am to 1:00 pm and from 3:00 pm to 6:00 pm.

I. PROVISIONAL AGENDA

- Item 1: Opening, election of Chair and adoption of the agenda
- Item 2: Why Ecosystems are at the heart of WFEE Nexus
- Item 3: Water allocation and flow regulation: balancing water, hydropower, and ecosystems
- Item 4: A WFEE Nexus approach for more effective climate action
- Item 5: Future cross-sectoral activities under the Water Convention
- Item 6: Other business
- Item 7: Closing

II. BACKGROUND AND PRACTICAL INFORMATION

Background

The Task Force on the Water-Food-Energy-Ecosystems (WFEE) Nexus under the Water Convention is a well-established global platform - accessible to Parties and other States - to exchange their knowledge and experience on cross-sectorial cooperation in transboundary basins, particularly when it comes to questions of public policy and regional cooperation.

The Task Force was established in 2012 by a decision of the Meeting of the Parties and under the leadership of Finland, to gather interested policy makers, practitioners and experts, and more specifically to oversee the nexus activities that would have been carried out under the Convention from that moment on. Since 2019, the Task Force also oversees and provides a platform for discussing activities related to water allocation in a transboundary context.

Until today, the Task Force guided several activities at the global, basin and country levels, which resulted in the following main outputs:

- A methodology to assess nexus issues and solutions in transboundary basins;
- A handbook for water allocation in transboundary contexts;
- A toolkit for policy makers for renewable energy deployment with a nexus approach;
- Seven “nexus assessments” of transboundary basins, including one shared aquifer;
- A global stocktaking of nexus solutions and investments in transboundary basins;
- Dedicated support to the operationalization of nexus solutions in specific basins.

The ninth meeting of the Task Force will have a thematically focused part on ecosystems and biodiversity, as such providing a continuation of the discussion at the Global Workshop on Freshwater ecosystem conservation and restoration in transboundary basins organized under the Water Convention with partners on 16-17 June 2025.

A key challenge of water management is the reconciliation of multiple water needs, including those of ecosystems. This involves cross-sectoral water allocation and, where reservoirs are present, coordinated flow regulation. Coordinating water flows with a benefit-sharing approach that explicitly includes ecosystems and biodiversity can help preserving the functioning of wetlands, rivers, and floodplains, while ensuring water supply for irrigation, hydropower production, industry, and other direct and indirect uses of water. As climate changes increases the frequency of extreme weather events (too much water or too little water), such cross-sectoral coordination across grey and green infrastructure can also help to better adapt to changing conditions of water availability.

In transboundary basins, water allocation and flow regulation may become challenging due to political, social, and economic complexities. At the same time, discrepancies in infrastructure, governance, and technical capacity between countries often lead to inefficiencies in managing and regulating water flow and to obstacles to reconciling different water needs and addressing environmental concerns. Hence, building trust among neighbouring countries that may have competing interests regarding water use is an essential step to sustainable water management.

The ninth meeting of the Task Force will focus on these topics and will also discuss how to leverage cross-sectoral cooperation for more effective climate action. In fact, the WFEE nexus approach can help rationalizing climate action by minimizing trade-offs and enhancing synergies across sectors, promoting holistic solutions that address multiple climate challenges simultaneously. For example, improving water efficiency can enhance agricultural productivity, while renewable energy technologies can reduce pressure on natural resources.

Practical information

The ninth meeting of the Task Force will start at 10 am and end at 6 pm on Wednesday, 18 June 2025. It will be held at Palais des Nations, Geneva. The Task Force meeting will be preceded by the Global Workshop on Freshwater ecosystem conservation and restoration in transboundary basins, which will be held on 16-17 June 2025 at the same venue. The working languages are Arabic, English, French, Russian and Spanish.

To attend the events, please create an account in indico and register for the event using the following link by **9 June 2025**: <https://indico.un.org/event/1012055/>

Kindly find some links towards instructions on:

- 1) How to create an indico account: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GeZuft5xQ4U>
- 2) How to register for an online meeting: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WaEj3hShn6U>

For assistance with registration, please see the instructions on the meeting's web page or contact the secretariat by e-mail lien.mai-baby@un.org, telephone: +41(0) 22 917 32 31.

Further information and relevant material will be made available on the following website in due course: <https://unece.org/environmental-policy/events/9th-meeting-task-force-water-food-energy-ecosystems-nexus>

III. ANNOTATIONS TO THE PROVISIONAL AGENDA

Item 1: Opening, election of Chair and adoption of the agenda (10.00 - 10.05)

1. Following an opening, the Task Force will be asked to elect its Chair for 2025-2027.
2. The Task Force is invited to adopt the agenda as set out in the present document.

Item 2: Why Ecosystems are at the heart of WFEE Nexus (10.05 - 12.00)

3. The Task Force will discuss the special role of ecosystems services for water, food, and energy security, recalling that ecosystems have been an integral part of the scoping of the nexus under the Water Convention since the beginning. The discussion will draw from discussions at previous meetings of the Task Force and the recent workshop on freshwater ecosystems¹.
4. Participants will reflect on the interlinkages between ecosystems and sectoral developments and will discuss how to address trade-offs and create synergies at the policy and technical levels through a benefit-sharing and cost-sharing approach. On this basis, the Task Force will elaborate possible ways forward in the integration of ecosystems and biodiversity into sectoral dialogues, with a particular emphasis on shared freshwater ecosystems, providing key messages to the UN Water Conference and other relevant global multi-lateral dialogues.

Item 3: Water allocation and flow regulation: balancing water, hydropower, and ecosystems (12.00– 13.00 and 15:00-16:00)

5. The Task Force will discuss the importance of flow regulation to reconcile multiple water needs, including those of ecosystems. Starting from a conceptual discussion on water infrastructure and following presentations about relevant activities under the Water Convention, the Task Force will discuss how to operationalize water allocation and flow regulation through coordinated cascade management.
6. The Handbook for water allocation in transboundary contexts will provide the broader context for a discussion that will feature examples of coordinated operations of water infrastructure along rivers and across basins/catchments. Participants will discuss the role of international law, the Water Convention, and the Task Force, to inform cooperation processes at basin level.

Background documents:

- [Handbook on Water Allocation in a Transboundary Context | UNECE](https://www.unepce.org/documents/handbook-water-allocation-transboundary-context)
[Solutions and investments in the water-food-energy-ecosystems nexus: A synthesis of experiences in transboundary basins | UNECE](https://www.unepce.org/documents/solutions-and-investments-water-food-energy-ecosystems-nexus-synthesis-experiences-transboundary-basins)

¹ Global workshop on ecosystems conservation and restoration in transboundary basins, 16 - 17 June 2025. Salle XXVI, Palais des Nations, Geneva, Switzerland. <https://unece.org/environmental-policy/events/global-workshop-ecosystems-conservation-and-restoration-transboundary>

Item 4: A WFEE Nexus approach for more effective climate action (16.00 - 17.00)

7. As the impact of climate change through water increases the frequency of floods and droughts, it becomes crucial to discuss how water governance, management, and agreements can support climate action in practice.
8. Drawing from the discussion on the previous item on water allocation and flow regulation, participants will discuss how to unlock the potential of transboundary water cooperation for the clean energy transition and to upscale climate action, reflecting on recent activities carried out under the Water Convention in cooperation with partners.

Background documents:

- [UN-Water Analytical Brief on Water for Climate Mitigation | UN-Water](#)
- [Towards sustainable renewable energy investment and deployment: Trade-offs and opportunities with water resources and the environment | UNECE](#)

Item 5: Future cross-sectoral activities under the Water Convention (17.00 – 17.50)

9. The Secretariat will present the remaining activities in the water-food-energy-ecosystems nexus to be undertaken as part of the new Programme of Work 2025-2027.

Item 6: Other business (17.50 – 18.00)

10. At the time of writing, the secretariat had no points to propose under this item. Delegates wishing to propose points under this item should inform the secretariat as soon as possible.

Item 7: Closing

11. The Chair will close the meeting at 18:00 CET on 18 June 2025.
