



Concept Note and Agenda

Side event at the 2nd Dushanbe Water Action Decade Conference *Building Evidence for Water-related Policy Making* *: The SDG 6 Policy Support System (SDG-PSS)*

Date: 1:00-2:30 pm, Tuesday, 7 June 2022

Venue: Fireplace Hall, 1st floor, Building B, Kokhi Somon State Complex, Dushanbe, Tajikistan

Background

After seven years into the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) adopted in 2015, the world is still off track in achieving many goals according to the latest assessment on SDGs¹. In terms of SDG 6 'Ensuring availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all', billions of people still lack access to safe drinking water, sanitation and hygiene. 129 Countries are not on track to have sustainably managed water resources by 2030. Achieving SDG 6 plays a key role in accelerating implementation of the other water-related SDGs, as water is, by default, a cross-cutting dimension of social, environmental, and economic development. In the wake of the COVID-19, access to safe water supply and sanitation has become even more evident as an essential element of human life.

Ongoing water-related challenges coupled with the current pandemic urge governments to assess their capacities for water management and address weaknesses with structured policy based on reliable evidence. In many UN member states, particularly in low and middle-income countries, there is a lack of data - missing, fragmented and even conflicting - regarding water and sanitation that support policy and decision making. Collaborative evidence-based approaches need to be prioritized while engaging with water experts and development actors to collect critical data and evidence on the enabling environments of SDG 6.

To address the need for policy actions under limited data conditions, the United Nations Office for Sustainable Development (UNOSD) and the United Nations University Institute for Water, Environment and Health (UNU-INWEH) in collaboration with the Ministry of Environment of Republic of Korea (MOE) and the Korea Environment Corporation (K-eco) have developed a web-based tool named "SDG 6 Policy Support System (SDG-PSS)" that offers a platform for multi-sectoral experts to cooperate and analyze collaboratively data regarding water and sanitation. This tool was designed to generate evidence on the enabling environment of SDG 6 through a framework that shows strengths and weaknesses and missing data across all SDG 6 targets and indicators. The critical components of SDG-PSS include: Capacity Assessment; Finance; Policy and Institutional Assessment; Gender Mainstreaming; Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR)/Resilience Mainstreaming; and Integrity. Water professionals and policy makers can use SDG-PSS to translate trends and estimates into collaborative planning to develop, implement and measure

¹ The Sustainable Development Goals Report 2021: UNSTATS.UN.ORG/SDGS/REPORT/2021

the effectiveness of water-related policies while addressing national level SDG 6 targets. Government officials and water experts from the hub countries of the project including Tunisia, Pakistan and Brazil have been actively involved in the creation and implementation of SDG-PSS.

As part of “Water Action Decade” (2018-2028), the 2nd Dushanbe Water Action Decade Conference, co-chaired by the Prime Minister of the Republic of Tajikistan and the Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations, is expected to provide a platform for water-related policy dialogue, partnership, and action at the global, regional, national level. Some of the main focus of the Conference will be on promoting science-based solutions and tools, including data, technologies, and innovations; improving capacity building, knowledge and education through sharing information and best practices; showcasing successful partnerships, advocacy and networking actions by stakeholders at all levels; and strengthening cooperation at different levels by promoting dialogue, partnership and cross-sectoral approaches.

This serves as the perfect backdrop of this side event organized by UNOSD and the new project partner UNESCO International Centre for Water Security and Sustainable Management (UNESCO i-WSSM). The event will serve as a platform to showcase the SDG-PSS and to share the experiences of the hub-countries in using SDG-PSS as a powerful tool for supporting evidence-based policy and decision making to achieve SDG 6.

Objectives

This side-event at 2nd International Conference in Dushanbe aims to:

- Enhance awareness of the importance of evidence-based policy making in achieving SDG 6;
- Increase knowledge of participants on the SDG-PSS and how the tool can be used to produce evidence on water-related policy making;
- Share and discuss experiences, best practices, and lessons learned of the hub-countries in using SDG-PSS on implementing SDG 6; and
- Showcase the partnership between the partner organizations and hub-countries

Participants

The side event will gather country representatives, government officials, policy makers and experts from national and subnational institutions and other stakeholders in water sector concerned with the implementation of the SDG 6.

Agenda

Agenda (Tentative)	
1pm – 2:30pm, Tuesday, 7 June 2022	
Time	Content
13:00~13:10 (10')	Welcome Remarks <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • H.E. Mr. Liu Zhenmin, Under-Secretary-General for UN Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA) Opening Remarks <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Chun Kyoo Park, Head of Office, UNOSD
13:10~13:20 (10')	Importance of Evidence based policy making for water security and sustainable management <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Speaker: Ms. Dahae Park, Senior Programme Specialist, UNESCO i-WSSM

13:20~13:30 (10')	Introduction of SDG 6 Policy Support System (SDG-PSS) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ms. Yujeong Kim, Senior Sustainable Development Officer, UNOSD
13:30~13:45 (15')	Experiences in using SDG-PSS in Pakistan <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mr. Ashraf Muhammad, Chairman of Pakistan Council of Research in Water Resources Ms. Bareerah Fatima, Deputy Director, Pakistan Council of Research in Water Resources
13:45~14:00 (15')	Experiences in using SDG-PSS in Tunisia (pre-recorded video) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ms. Olfa Majoub, Head of the Chemistry Laboratory for Water-Soil-Biosolids, National Research Institute for Rural Engineering, Water and Forestry
14:00~14:15 (15')	Integrated Water Resources Management of the Republic of Korea <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mr. Ki-Young Park, Director of Global Cooperation Department, Korea Water Resources Corporation (K-water)
14:15~14:30 (15')	Q&A and Discussion <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Moderator: Ms. Chaela Shin, Associate Research Policy Development Expert, UNOSD

Organizers

This side event is co-organized by the United Nations Office for Sustainable Development (UNOSD) of the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA), and UNESCO International Centre for Water Security and Sustainable Management (UNESCO i-WSSM).

Format

The side event will be held both in-person and online via Zoom in a hybrid format to engage more participants in the event.

Contact

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<https://unosd.un.org/events/2022DushanbeConference>