Task Force on the Water-Food-Energy-Ecosystems Nexus under the Water Convention

Water Convention (UNECE), Union for the Mediterranean and Finland

Euro-Mediterranean Water Forum 2026 · 29 September – 2 October · La Nuvola, Rome

KEY INFORMATION

Date	1 October 2026
Time	09:30 – 13:00
Room	Tirreno (U-Shape)
Format	Roundtable
Language(s)	English, Arabic, French, Spanish, Russian

SUMMARY

The 10th meeting of the global Task Force on the Water-Food-Energy-Ecosystems (WFEE) Nexus under the Water Convention will bring together policymakers, experts, basin organizations and international partners to strengthen cross-sectoral cooperation on transboundary water resources.

As internationally shared rivers, lakes and aquifers face increasing pressures, the meeting will explore how to reconcile multiple water needs in a transboundary context.

Discussions will focus on the implementation of nexus strategies at regional level, including the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM)'s newly adopted WEFE Nexus Strategy for the Mediterranean and similar initiatives from other regions of the world. Participants will exchange experience on how to translate strategy into action at transboundary level, and how to enhance water resilience through cross-sectoral cooperation.

The meeting will also inform relevant initiatives towards and beyond the 2026 UN Water Conference - particularly under Interactive Dialogue (D) "Water for Cooperation, chaired by Finland and Zambia - and help shape future activities of the Task Force under the Water Convention.

AGENDA & SPEAKERS

MODERATORS

- Ms Lucia de Strasser, Environmental Affairs Officer, **Secretariat of the Water Convention (UNECE)**
- Mr Dario Quadri, Project Analyst, **Union for the Mediterranean**

SPEAKERS and PANELISTS

- Mr Roberto Amerise, Head of the Office for International Cooperation, Ministry of Environment and Energy Security, **Italy**
- Mr Frederic de Dinechin, Sr Policy Advisor, Water Stability and Resilience Division, **Union for the Mediterranean**
- Ms Annukka Lipponen, Chief Water Resources Specialist, Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, **Finland**

- Mr Romas Kamanga, Permanent Secretary, Permanent Secretary for the Ministry of Water Development and Sanitation, **Zambia**.
- Mr Ylber Mirta, Head of Department for Waters, Ministry of Environment and Physical Planning, **North Macedonia**
- Mr Laurent Javaudin, International Relations Officer for Water, DG Environment, **European Commission**
- Mr Aissa Hlami, Director General of Water Resources, **Tunisia**

- Mr Alfredo Reder, Scientist, Euro-Mediterranean Center for Climate Change (**CMCC**)
- Mr Samo Grošelj, Deputy Secretary for Protection of Waters and Aquatic Eco-system, **International Sava River Basin Commission (ISRBC)**
- Mr Niokhor Ndour, Secretary General, **Senegal River Basin Organization (OMVS**)
- Mr Nuruddin Samatov, Lead Specialist, Small and Micro-Hydropower Project Implementation Group, Ministry of Energy of the Republic of **Uzbekistan**
- Ms Alessandra Fidanza, Senior Expert, Directorate-General for European and International Affairs and Sustainable Finance, Ministry of Environment and Energy Security, Sogesid – TA Unit, **Italy**

BACKGROUND & RATIONALE

Transboundary waters – rivers lakes, and aquifers - count for more than 60% of water resources globally, hence multi-sectoral needs must often be reconciled across national borders. Transboundary water cooperation is the base for joint planning for institutions, and a platform for negotiations for policy makers. It helps reducing the political and financial risks related to infrastructural investments of regional importance, while promoting a joint vision of development that is rooted in sustainability and resilience, rather than resource exploitation.

The Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes (Water Convention) is a unique international legal instrument and intergovernmental platform which aims to ensure the sustainable use of transboundary water resources by facilitating cooperation. The United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) provides a Secretariat to the Water Convention.

The Task Force on the Water-Food-Energy-Ecosystems (WFEE) Nexus under the Water Convention[1] 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. It is a space for science-policy exchange on questions of public policy and regional cooperation.

The Task Force was established in 2012 by a decision of the Meeting of the Parties. It is chaired by Finland and gathers interested policy makers, practitioners and experts. It oversees the nexus activities under the

Convention Programme of Work. Since 2019, the Task Force also provides a platform for discussing issues of water allocation in a transboundary context.

[1] https://unece.org/environment-policy/water/about-the-convention/convention-bodies/task-force-water-food-energy-ecosystems-nexus

OBJECTIVES

The tenth meeting of the Task Force is organized by the Water Convention Secretariat in partnership with the Union for the Mediterranean, Finland and Zambia (co-chairs of Interactive Dialogue D "Water for Cooperation" for the upcoming UN Water Conference (Abu Dhabi, 8-10 December 2026).

Participants will:

1) exchange experience in the implementation of the WFEE nexus approach in the Mediterranean region and globally, leveraging the knowledge of participants to the forum while drawing from the global community of the Task Force.
2) discuss how to improve water resilience through nexus cooperation (on infrastructure and ecosystems)
3) discuss how to mobilize nexus cooperation at the UN Water Conference, and beyond.
4) inform future work on WFEE Nexus and Water Allocation under the Water Convention.

TARGET AUDIENCE

Policy makers, regional organizations, river basin organizations, financing institutions, academia and technical experts.

MORE INFORMATION (and official agenda): https://unece.org/environmental-policy/events/10th-meeting-task-force-water-food-energy-ecosystems-nexus

REGISTRATION: https://indico.un.org/event/1019024/