The value of the nexus approach to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals: the experience of the UNECE Environment and Sustainable Energy Divisions

13.30-14.45, 10 May 2016
Palais des Nations, Room IX

Audience: Permanent missions, country officials, regional heads of agencies.

Objective: The objective is to demonstrate through concrete examples how UNECE and its partners can support countries in the practical implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development across several SDGs through integrated approaches, targeted partnerships, etc.

Background: The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) on water and sanitation (Goal 6), sustainable energy (Goal 7), food security (Goal 2), climate change (Goal 13), and ecosystems (Goal 15) are inextricably linked with each other and with societal developments, i.e. an intersectoral and integrated approach is necessary to make progress in their achievement. Valuable experience has been acquired in the work by UNECE’s Environment and Sustainable Energy Divisions taking into account interlinkages between the different SDG areas. One such example is a series of participatory assessments of the water-food-energy-ecosystems nexus, carried out with national administrations in selected transboundary river basins from South-Eastern Europe to Central Asia in the framework of the UNECE Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes (Water Convention). The resulting insights include diverse opportunities identified for intersectoral synergies, among others related to renewable energy, and ways to address the trade-offs through integration, cooperation, policy coherence and partnerships. The examples featured in the event highlight concretely the value of intersectoral cooperation not only between UNECE divisions, but first and foremost between the member States sharing borders and the sector ministries in the countries.

A light lunch will be provided on this occasion by the Permanent Mission of Germany to the United Nations and other international organizations in Geneva.
Programme

Welcome address:

- H.E. Mr. Ulrich Seidenberger, Ambassador, Chargé d’Affaire a.i., Permanent Mission of Germany to the United Nations and other international organizations in Geneva

Opening remarks:

- Mr. Christian Friis-Bach, Executive Secretary, UNECE

Panel discussion:

- Accounting for links to the SDGs 6, SDG 13 and SDG 15 in the work of the Sustainable Energy Division; Mr. Scott Foster, Director, Sustainable Energy Division, UNECE
- Contributing to achievement of SDG 7 and SDG 2 with the work of the Environment Division; Mr. Marco Keiner, Director, Environment Division, UNECE
- Lessons learned from the assessment of the water-food-energy-ecosystems nexus under the UNECE Water Convention: selected solutions to address interlinkages between SDGs; Mr. Renne Klinge, Deputy Permanent Representative, Permanent Mission of Finland to the United Nations and other international organizations in Geneva
- Towards improved food security (SDG 2) with a nexus approach, building on synergies with SDG 6, SDG 7, SDG13 and SDG 15; Representative of FAO (tbc)

Discussion and conclusion

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Background documents:

*Reconciling resource uses in transboundary basins: assessment of the water-food-energy-ecosystems nexus* (2015, UNECE)\(^1\) (will be distributed at the event)

*UNECE Renewable Energy Status Report* (2015, UNECE and REN21)\(^2\)

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\(^1\) Available at: http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=41427

\(^2\) Available at: http://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/energy/se/pdfs/gere/publ/2015/web-REN21-UNECE.pdf