

# UN-Water Expert Group on Regional Level Coordination

## Terms of Reference

### Background

The 30<sup>th</sup> Meeting of UN-Water (Rome, 2019) adopted Decision 5 establishing the Expert Group on Regional Level Coordination. The establishment of the Expert Group was recommended by the Task Force on Regional Level Coordination, which completed its work in 2018. These terms of reference were prepared in light of United Nations System mechanisms aimed at furthering regional-level collaboration in the five regions framing the work of the United Nations Secretariat, as represented by the geographic coverage of the five United Nations Regional Commissions, and bearing in mind that each region faces specific circumstances and conditions and pursues region-specific priorities for action.

### Objective

The Expert Group on Regional Level Coordination aims to provide a platform for discussing and pursuing regional-level coordination and collaboration on cross-cutting issues being addressed by UN-Water. In doing so, it aims to provide a regular mechanism for the exchange of regional information, knowledge and experience and the coordination of regional-level activities on water, sanitation and water-related issues that are being jointly pursued by UN-Water Members and Partners. It also aims to provide an avenue through which UN-Water can interact with regional-level collaborative arrangements established by the United Nations Secretariat.

### Functions

The Expert Group on Regional Level Coordination aims to support collaborative regional efforts to implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and achieve its water-related Sustainable Development Goals, as well as other relevant related global policy frameworks, recognizing that each region may organize and pursue work on water differently. Specifically, the Expert Group:

1. Provides an open platform for the exchange of experiences and lesson learned from implementing regional-level work on water;
2. Compiles from UN-Water Members and Partners the names and contact information of their focal points responsible for regional-level work on water and regularly transmits those names to the UN-Water Technical Advisory Unit for posting on the UN-Water extranet;
3. Consolidates and reports on inputs received from UN-Water Member and Partners on forthcoming regional-level meetings being planned on water;
4. Reports to UN-Water Meetings on the preparation of regional forums for sustainable development that inform the High-level Forum on Sustainable Development and facilitates exchange on water-related regional collaboration for those events, as appropriate;
5. Generates regional knowledge products, on an *ad hoc* basis and depending on resource availability. This may include consolidating regional contributions to global reports, preparing policy briefs, reviewing UN-Water outputs from a regional perspective, translating or reviewing the translation of water-related knowledge products of relevance to regions, etc.;

6. Fosters collaboration on regional-level data and monitoring activities across UN-Water Members and Partner on SDG 6, including facilitating links between the UN-Water SDG 6 Data Portal and regional knowledge hubs and data hubs, as appropriate;
7. Supports regional assessments and reporting on SDG 6 progress at the regional level based on resource availability, including facilitating links with the UN-Water Integrated Monitoring Initiative for SDG 6;
8. Supports the coherent organization of regional-level activities undertaken by UN-Water on a demand-driven basis, e.g., World Water Day and World Toilet Day events, and regional collaboration on activities being led by other UN-Water Expert Groups and Task Forces, e.g., regional preparatory meetings mandated under the Water Action Decade 2018-2028;
9. Assist UN-Water undertake other regional level activities related to water and the water-related SDGs, such advocacy for the inclusion of water-related issues in the work of United Nations Regional Collaborative Platforms.

## **Membership**

Co-coordinators: ESCWA and ESCAP.

Membership is open to all UN-Water Members and Partners. Each institutional member is invited to nominate a lead focal point and an alternative focal point to serve on the Expert Group.

All UN-Water Members and Partners are invited to provide the name and contact information of their lead regional counterpart working on water in their respective regional offices, as appropriate. This information will be compiled in a database of regional focal points on water and will facilitate communications on regional-level activities being conducted by UN-Water and the Expert Group.

Other stakeholders may be invited to contribute to the work of the Expert Group on an *ad hoc* basis to facilitate exchange with Regional Collaborative Platforms and other arrangements working on water at the regional level.