The Nexus Dialogue Programme
Phase 1 (2016–2018)
The Water Energy Food Security Nexus

WATER, ENERGY & FOOD NEXUS
IN A NUTSHELL

The Nexus approach highlights the interdependencies between achieving water, energy and food security for human well-being, e.g. basic services and economic development, while ensuring ecologically sustainable use of globally essential resources. It is based on an understanding of the synergies and regulated negotiation of fair trade-offs between competing uses of water, land and energy-related resources.

The Nexus approach is a fundamental shift, from a pure sectoral approach to solutions that embrace a cross-sectoral, coherent and integrated perspective. It challenges existing structures, policies and procedures at global, regional and (sub)national levels.

The three ‘supply securities’ water, energy and food depend on ecosystems and on each other. The three resources land, water and energy (atmosphere) are part of this ecosystem and must be used and protected in a balanced manner.

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FACT SHEET
The Nexus Dialogues Programme (2016-2018)

The programme builds on 15 years of experience of international dialogue on addressing water, energy and food security challenges. For the first time, a Global Nexus Secretariat will support:

1. A sustained programme of Nexus Dialogues at the regional level which are implemented by regional organisations
2. A state-of-the-art knowledge management via the Nexus Resource Platform (www.water-energy-food.org)
3. Nexus trainings aimed at key persons, in particular women, who can act as ‘Nexus multipliers’ in their respective regions.

Regional Nexus Dialogues around the world are at different stages of development. This programme aims to help several Regional Nexus Dialogues achieve their full potential:

- In Africa by Niger Basin Authority (NBA), South African Development Community (SADC) and Nile Basin Initiative (NBI)
- In the Mediterranean Region by the League of Arab States (LAS)
- In Central Asia around the Aral Sea
- In Latin America by the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), the Latin American Water Directors, CODIA (with support from the Government of Spain), national governments and initiatives.
- In South East Asia (Mekong river basin)

Each Regional Nexus Dialogue will be supported in its aims to develop Regional and National Nexus Policies and Action Plans that serve as the basis for coherent multi-sector planning and investment and increased institutional capacity.

NEXUS AND THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS (SDGs)

The 2030 UN Agenda for Sustainable Development highlights the "indivisible nature" of the SDGs and the need to avoid a silo-approach for the implementation and follow-up of SDGs 6 (water), 7 (energy) and 2 (food security). The Nexus Platform is an important vehicle to stimulate an integrated and coherent implementation and follow-up of the 2030 Agenda. The Nexus Resource Platform itself can act as a “Bridging Institution” for different stakeholders in achieving the SDGs (in particular SDG 17).

NEXUS OUTLOOK — AN OPEN INVITATION

The Nexus approach bridges traditional divides between sectors and stakeholders and is an open invitation to join a common vision. It takes a long term perspective that is relevant to all major international processes aimed at sustainable development, including the achievement of the SDGs, UNFCCC, etc. The Nexus Dialogue Program is actively inviting different stakeholders to join the movement. Regional and global academic, civil society and other institutions interested in participating in the global and Regional Nexus Dialogues are welcome. Also, EU Member States and other donors are invited to support the global and Regional Nexus Dialogues. Please see the website www.water-energy-food.org for further information.