



**SAHEL**

# DEEP DIVE ON WATER AS AN ACCELERATOR FOR DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOP

UNITED NATIONS INTEGRATED STRATEGY FOR THE SAHEL (UNISS)

**CONCEPT  
NOTE**

**DATE**

15 February 2023

**VENUE**

Radisson Hotel, Dakar, Senegal



## BACKGROUND

One of the major outcomes of the 13th Steering Committee meeting of UNISS held in N'djamena Chad, was the identification of Water as one of the key accelerating factors to drive development in the Sahel among other key accelerators. Water is a fundamental component for sustainable development and a critical component for human health and survival, food and energy production, environmental sustainability, transportation, and manufacturing. Overall, water is the lifeblood of healthy ecosystem's stability and conservation for which present and future generations depend. This is particularly crucial for the Sahel. As conceived in the UNISS vision paper, between 60% and 80% of the Sahel populations work in the blue and green economy (agriculture, livestock, and fisheries). However, a lack of shared and concerted natural resource management, limited access to land and water to all due to poor regulatory frameworks and policy as well as the risk multiplier effect of climate change are driving competition and conflicts over these common natural resources, limiting their economic opportunities, and threatening their livelihoods and jeopardizing social cohesion in the subregion across borders.



## RATIONALE FOR THE DEEP DIVE WORKSHOP

Among the many resources that place the Sahel region as a mineral-rich region is Water, Water resources are one of the major opportunities in the Sahel and constitute an important catalyst of its socio-economic development. It is also a driver of resilience to climate change. This means that investing in water would help the Sahel region meet the ECOWAP results, the 2030 SDG target as well as the UNISS strategy and its support plan, the Africa Water Vision for 2025, the African Union's 2063 Agenda targets, the SDG6 global acceleration framework, the Water cooperation for peace and stability and the 2022 World Water forum declaration for a "Blue deal". Even if the Sahel has a limited number of large rivers, lakes and limited access to ocean water, the Sahel region is home to large aquifers and reservoirs of underground water that could be used to accelerate the socio-economic development of the region.

To implement the recommendation of the UNISS Steering Committee members regarding the choice of development accelerators for the Sahel region, the UNISS Co-chairs are organizing a one full day deep dive workshop to unpack and prioritize actions identified in the technical paper prepared by the UNISS experts from the Resilience Working Group. Upon exploration of the horizontal aspects of the relevance of water - as a development accelerator, it is envisioned that the outcomes of the discussions will translate into developing a Global Sahel action Plan on Water as well as an Advocacy Plan to advocate with States to adopt/integrate into their national development plans at national and local levels. It will also be used to developed concrete programmatic interventions by the United Nations for subsequent advocacy with relevant other development partners including International Finance Corporations (IFIs), etc.



# OBJECTIVES

The overall objective of the deep dive session on water as an accelerator is to continue the conversation that started at the last UNISS steering committee meeting in Ndjamena in May 2022 to jointly agree on two or three main ticket items drawn from the UNSP and the UNISS Vision Paper or even beyond those, that UN AFPs can coalesce around to spur accelerated implementation of UNISS for the benefit of the Sahelians. As a result, the deep dive sessions are framed within the framework of advancing the UNISS Agenda by articulating key critical accelerator components and use their findings to develop integrated programmatic actions for the UN, States and other key partners working in the region including regional entities, Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs), and other development partners.

More specifically the deep dive will examine what is needed to support the achievement of the Sahel's vision around water as an accelerator covering:

- 01** ⇒ Gaps and opportunities
- 02** ⇒ Policy across sectors
- 03** ⇒ National and regional frameworks
- 04** ⇒ Investment in integrated sustainable water management
- 05** ⇒ Investment in water mobilization and irrigation
- 06** ⇒ Water and industrialization
- 07** ⇒ Blue economy; energy and climate
- 08** ⇒ Water – peace building and conflict resolution
- 09** ⇒ One water-One health (Agriculture, Livestock, and waterborne diseases, quality of care)
- 10** ⇒ Water for domestic and human consumption
- 11** ⇒ Water, sanitation and hygiene infrastructure, systems, and services

# EXPECTED RESULTS AND OUTCOMES

It is expected that the following results will be produced at the end of the deep dive workshop: (1) Main actions on water as a development accelerator that the United Nations can coalesce around to support partners and Governments are identified and agreed upon; (2) A Road map of actions and deadlines for the implementation of the above point are agreed upon, including consultations with the UN Resident Coordinators on how the identified actions fit or can be linked to the national development plans or priorities; (3) Key discussions and recommendations of the workshop are used to inform the development of (i) A Sahel Action Plan on Water and (ii) An Advocacy Plan for the United Nations.

## FORMAT OF PARTICIPANTS

The deep dive will take place on 15 February 2023 at Radisson Blu Hotel in Dakar, Senegal. It will bring together key stakeholders notably:

- ⇒ **01** United Nations Integrated Strategy for the Sahel (UNISS) Steering Committee Co-Chairs
- ⇒ **02** USG Special Coordinator for Development in the Sahel
- ⇒ **03** UN Regional Directors
- ⇒ **04** UN Resident Coordinators
- ⇒ **05** UNISS technical focal points
- ⇒ **06** Key Partners working around water

A non-paper on water as accelerator for development in the Sahel has been prepared to serve as the working document to feed into and guide the discussions of the session. Technical panels consisting of key experts will be organized to engage a series of discussion on the different topics contained in the non-paper. The non-paper will then be further fine-tuned after the workshop and will define the further process in the form of a roadmap and common chapter to further guide the development of the action plan and advocacy strategy.



The number of participants expected to attend the meeting is fifty (50).



The meeting will be held over one full day, on February 15, 2023, from 8:30 am to 5:30 pm. A lunch and coffee breaks will be served during according to the hours indicated in the agenda.

# AGENDA

15 FEBRUARY 2023

08:00 – 08:30

ARRIVAL OF PARTICIPANTS AND REGISTRATION

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## SESSION I

### OPENING REMARKS & SESSION FRAMING

08:30 -  
09:30

Remarks by **Ahunna Eziakonwa**  
*UN Assistant Secretary-General, UNDP Assistant Administrator  
and Regional Director (10 mins)*

Remarks by **Giovanie Biha**  
*UN Assistant Secretary-General, Deputy Special Representative  
of the Secretary General, UNOWAS & UNOWAS OiC (10 mins)*

**MODERATOR**  
**NWANNE VWEDE-  
OBAHOR (OSCDs)**

Framing the Deep-Dive Session by **Abdoulaye Mar Dieye**  
*UN Under Secretary-General and Special Coordinator for  
Development in the Sahel (10 mins)*

09:00 -  
09:30

### GROUP PHOTO & COFFEE BREAK

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## SESSION II

### IDENTIFICATION OF SYNERGY ON WATER AS A DEVELOPMENT ACCELERATOR IN THE SAHEL

### DISCUSSANTS

**Objective:** This session will examine what is needed to support the achievement of the Sahel's vision around water as an accelerator covering key topics developed in the technical non-paper. The panelists will all interrogate the following: (i) Why an integrated approach? (ii) support to States for the implementation of different SDGs at the local, national, and regional levels.

09:30 -  
11:30

Framing the Session by **Ngone Diop**  
*Director of UNECA's Sub-Regional Office for West Africa (10 mins)*

**MODERATOR RD DCO**  
**YACOUB EL HILLO**

Presentation of the Non-Paper on Water as Accelerator for Development in the Sahel: An overview (**FAO & UNICEF**) (10 mins)

RD FAO, Mr. Robert Guei (10 mins)  
RD WFP, Mr. Chris Nikoi (10 mins)  
RD UNICEF, Ms. Marie-Pierre Poirier (10 mins)

Open Discussions (60 mins)  
Summary of Session/Action Points - Moderator (10 mins)

# AGENDA

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## SESSION III

11:30 -  
13:00

### MODERATOR

RC CAMEROON

MATTHIAS NAAB

## PERSPECTIVES FROM THE DAKAR DECLARATION ON WATER: SETTING A BLUEPRINT FOR WATER AS AN ACCELERATOR FOR DEVELOPMENT ACROSS THE HUMANITARIAN, DEVELOPMENT, AND PEACE & SECURITY NEXUS

**Objective:** This session will build on the Dakar Declaration on Water to explore and propose concrete opportunities and actions to reaffirm the centrality of water in the development process of the Sahel region in view of the Nexus approach that characterizes the particular situation in the region.

Framing the Session by **Robert Guei**  
*Regional Director, FAO (10 mins)*

Presentation by **Abdoulaye Sene**  
*President Global Water Partnership West Africa. Former Executive Secretary WWF9- Dakar 2022 (20 mins)*

Open Discussions (60 mins)  
Summary of Session/Action Points - Moderator (10 mins)

13:00 -  
14:30

## LUNCH BREAK

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## SESSION IV MANAGING GROUND WATER AND TRANSBOUNDARY AQUIFERS OF THE SAHEL

14:00 -  
15:00

### MODERATOR

RC CHAD

VIOLET KAKYOMA

**Objective:** The session will present and discuss technical approaches and solutions to manage ground water and transboundary aquifers efficiently and sustainably in the Sahel.

Framing the Session by **Dimitri Sanga**  
*Regional Director, UNESCO (5 mins)*  
Presentation by **Maha Sall** (15 mins)  
*Water Expert UNESCO*

Open Discussions (30 mins)  
Summary of Session/Action Points - Moderator (10 mins)

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## SESSION V

15:00 -  
16:00

## MULTI SECTORAL USAGE OF WATER: TECHNICAL PRESENTATIONS

**Objective:** The session will present and discuss some key approaches and solutions for use of water in multi sectoral dimensions: Agriculture, WASH, Education, Health and Nutrition, Food security, Industries, Blue Economy, Energy, Peace building and Conflict resolution; (Intersectoral approach on these areas- presenters will talk about the inter-sectoriality of their work in these areas; list not exhaustive.

# AGENDA

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**MODERATOR**  
**RC GAMBIA**  
**SERAPHINE**  
**WAKANA**

Framing the Session by **Lila Pieters Yahia**  
*RC Mauritania (10 mins)*

Panel: Available and tested techniques of multisectoral water management in the Sahel

- Water use and management in Agriculture and Livestock  
*Eugene (FAO) and Alemu Gebre (WFP) (5 mins)*
- Health, Nutrition and Education  
*Ruben Bayiha (UNICEF) (5 mins)*
- Water and Energy  
*UNDP (5 mins)*
- Water in Peace building and conflict resolution  
*FAO/UNOWAS (5 mins)*

Open Discussions (20 mins)

Summary of Session/Action Points - Moderator (10 mins)

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**SESSION VI**  
**WAY FORWARD**

**Objective:** This session is to reflect on concrete action points, solutions, and recommendations for the way forward.

**16:00 –**  
**17:00**

Review of overall solutions/general recommendations of the Technical Non-Paper on Water as Accelerator for Development in the Sahel (20 mins)

**MODERATOR**  
**RD UNHCR**  
**MILLICENT MUTULI**

Open Discussions (45 mins)

Summary of Session/Action Points - Moderator (10 mins)

**17:15 –**  
**17:30**

## **CLOSING REMARKS**

Summary of Workshop, Way Forward, Action Points by **Giovanie Biha**

*UN Assistant Secretary-General, Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary General, UNOWAS & UNOWAS OiC*

Remarks by **Abdoulaye Mar Dieye**

*UN Under Secretary-General and Special Coordinator for Development in the Sahel*

Remarks by **Ahunna Eziakonwa**

*UN Assistant Secretary-General, UNDP Assistant Administrator and Regional Director*



# SAHEL

*Working Together for a **Prosperous and Peaceful Sahel***

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