

## Annex I: UN-Water Expert Group on Regional Level Coordination

### Workplan and Budget (October 2020 – September 2022)

The 30<sup>th</sup> Meeting of UN-Water adopted Decision 5 establishing the Expert Group on Regional Level Coordination (Rome, February 2019). The establishment of the Expert Group was recommended by the Task Force on Regional Level Coordination, which completed its work in 2018. The Terms of Reference of the Expert Group on Regional Level Coordination were adopted at the 32<sup>nd</sup> UN-Water Meeting (Rome, January 2020).

The 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.

Decision 10 adopted at the 32<sup>nd</sup> meeting invites the Expert Group to submit a work plan to operationalise its activities over the coming two years for consideration at the 33<sup>rd</sup> UN-Water Meeting. The following is a proposed structure for the two-year workplan, designed to support consultation with members of the Expert Group.

#### A. Work plan

Activity #	Activity description	Timeline	Implementing agency
<b>Function 1: Provides an open platform for the exchange of experiences and lesson learned from implementing regional-level work on water</b>			
Activity 1.1	Establish Expert Group Discussion Group, plus Five Regional Discussion Groups (on-line)	By December 2020	ESCWA in coordination with Regional Commissions
<b>Function 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</b>			
Activity 2.1	Develop a Contact Database of Regional Focal Points for each of the five RCP regions to populate the Regional Discussion Groups in Activity 1.1	By November 2020, with continuous updating	All EG members
Activity 2.2	Explore if Contact Database can be linked to UN-Water extranet and with respect to Activity 9.1	By July 2021	ESCWA, TAU
<b>Function 3: Consolidates and reports on inputs received from UN-Water Member and Partners on forthcoming regional-level meetings being planned on water</b>			
Activity 3.1	Consolidate a Calendar of Regional Meetings on Water via Regional Discussion Groups	Dec 2020 – Sept 2022	All EG members
<b>Function 4: Reports to UN-Water Meetings on the preparation of regional forums for</b>			

sustainable development that inform the High-level Forum on Sustainable Development and facilitates exchange on water-related regional collaboration for those events, as appropriate;			
Activity 4.1	Regular reporting to UN-Water Meetings on regional preparations for Regional Forums on Sustainable Development (RFSD) led by UN Regional Commissions	Prior to each SPM	Regional Commissions
Activity 4.2	Regional consultations on RFSD preparations through Regional Discussion Groups	Jan-July 2021; Jan-July 2022	All EG members through Regional Discussion Groups
Activity 4.3	Organize five regional water events that can inform the 2022 RFSD, with a view to Activity 8.1	Jan-July 2021; Jan-July 2022	Regional Commissions in consultation with all members through Regional Discussion Groups
Function 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.;			
Tbd			
Function 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;			
Activity 6.1	Explore how SDG6 monitoring and reporting can be showcased in RCP regional knowledge hubs	By August 2021	Regional Commissions
Function 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;			
Activity 7.1	Prepare listing of regional-level activities being conducted to support regional assessment and reporting on SDG6	Prior to each SPM	All members through Regional Discussion Groups
Function 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			
Activity 8.1	Support regional preparations for Mid-Pont Comprehensive Review of Water Action Decade through regional consultations, with a view to Activity 4.3	2021-2022	All members through Regional Discussion Groups

Activity 8.2	Support regional launches of UN World Water Development Report 2021 and 2022	March-May 2021; March-May 2022	UNESCO, Regional Commissions, other members
Function 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			
Activity 9.1	Explore if members of Contact Database and members of Regional Discussion Groups in Activity 2.1 can be linked to RCP Expert Database in each region	August 2021	Regional Commissions
Activity 9.2	Support the SDG 6 Global Acceleration Framework	Ongoing	All EG members

## B. Budget

A **budget of US\$ 435,270** is requested to support five regional in-person meetings (2 days each) in support of Activities 4.3 and 8.2 during in 2021 and 2022. The estimated budget is for the organization of in-person meetings convened at UN Regional Commissions offices to reduce meeting costs, with not more than 1 participant per sponsored country. The budget breakdowns are provided below.

### Budget – averaged across regions

Item	Averaged Unit Cost (US\$)	# Units	Units	Sub-Total (US\$)
Participant travel (sponsored)	2,081	175	participants	364,170
Interpretation	2,520	5	meetings	12,600
Contractual services – Misc.	1,000	5	meeting	5,000
Contractual services - Admin	2,972	18	work-months	53,500
<b>Total</b>				<b>\$ 435,270</b>

### Budget – per region and per fiscal year

Region (# countries)	Participant travel	Interpretation	IC-Misc	IC-Admin	Totals	FY 2021	FY 2022
ECA (54)	\$ 112,840	\$ 2,520	\$ 1,000	\$ 10,000	\$ 126,360		\$ 126,360
ECE (56)	\$ 38,832	\$ 5,040	\$ 1,000	\$ 12,000	\$ 56,872		\$ 56,872
ECLAC (46)	\$ 100,326	\$ 2,520	\$ 1,000	\$ 14,000	\$ 117,846		\$ 117,846
ESCAP (53)	\$ 74,200	\$ -	\$ 1,000	\$ 10,000	\$ 85,200		\$ 85,200
ESCWA (22)	\$ 37,972	\$ 2,520	\$ 1,000	\$ 7,500	\$ 48,992	\$ 48,992	
					<b>\$ 435,270</b>	<b>\$ 48,992</b>	<b>\$386,278</b>

Efforts would be made to complement this budget with additional human and financial resources and regional partnerships to support the implementation of the meetings.

Should insufficient resources be made available or if the continuation of the current health pandemic or emerging issues constrain the ability to convene face-to-face meetings, virtual forums would be considered. The estimated cost for each regional forum is US\$ 15,000/meeting. This would provide sufficient resources for meeting preparations and use of the online platform that allows for simultaneous translation. The revised budget would be US\$ 75,000. The budgetary status would thus be revisited at subsequent SPM meetings.