

## ***34th Session of the Regional Conference for Europe (ERC 34)***

***14-17 May 2024***

### **Concept Note**

#### **Side Event – Water resource management for climate change mitigation and adaptation: A multidimensional approach**

Thursday, 16 May 2024, 14.00–15.30 hours (CEST/UTC +2)

Rome, Italy

#### **Background**

The urgency of addressing climate change has never been more apparent. Earth's average surface temperature in 2023 was the warmest on record, according to an analysis from the National Aeronautics and Space Administration in the United States of America. Against this backdrop of escalating climate challenges, this side event takes on added significance. Effective water management not only contributes to reducing climate change impacts but also enhances resilience in the agricultural, energy and ecological sectors and, ultimately, human health. The session is particularly timely, as the 2024 United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP29), to be hosted by Azerbaijan in the Europe and Central Asia region in November 2024, will present a pivotal opportunity to advance global climate action.

#### **Objective**

The objective of this event is to underscore the pivotal role of multidimensional water management strategies in climate change mitigation and adaptation. It aims to showcase innovative approaches, facilitate knowledge exchange and stimulate discussion on effective practices and policies that integrate water management into broader climate action.

#### **Guiding questions *[might be revised]***

- What roles do blue carbon ecosystems play in a comprehensive approach to climate change mitigation and adaptation?
- How can energy-efficient water and wastewater management systems bolster climate resilience?
- How does the One Health approach align water management with broader climate change mitigation and adaptation objectives?
- In what ways do innovative water management strategies contribute to climate change mitigation and adaptation in the agrifood sector?
- What are the key considerations for financing and investment in water management projects aimed at climate resilience?
- In what ways do innovative water management strategies contribute to climate change mitigation and adaptation in the agrifood sector? And what key role can FAO play?

#### **Key messages and expected outcomes**

- Enhancing understanding of the key role of water management in climate action.
- Showcasing innovative strategies and best practices in water management that address both climate change mitigation and adaptation.
- Promoting cross-sectoral and international collaboration for integrated water resource management.
- Discussing innovative financing and investment opportunities that support water management, nature-based solutions, and carbon farming to foster sustainable development
- Generating a set of recommendations or insights to inform discussions at COP29.

## Panel members

- Azerbaijan Representative: Addressing blue carbon and aquatic ecosystems in climate strategies (e.g. Caspian Sea or Black Sea case studies).
- Spain Representative: energy-efficient water and wastewater management for climate resilience.
- National Italian Society of Public Health, working group on “Environment and Health”: Exploring the One Health One Water perspective in water management and climate action.
- Kingdom of the Netherlands: innovative water management strategies contribution to climate change mitigation and adaptation in the agrifood sector
- European Commission, DG Clima: Emphasizing on the role of innovative financing mechanisms in supporting nature-based solutions and carbon farming initiatives, underscoring how these strategies can be integrated into broader climate resilience and adaptation efforts, and the vital role of partnerships in scaling these solutions effectively.

Moderator: Ms Sara Marjani Zadeh, FAO Land and Water Officer

## Agenda of the event

Time	Session
14.00 – 14.10	<b>Moderator:</b> Opening remarks by the moderator Ms Sara Marjani Zadeh, FAO SEC Land and Water Officer
14.10– 14.25	Presentation by H.E. Mrs. Ilhama Gadimova, Deputy Minister of the Ministry of Agriculture of Azerbaijan
14.25 – 14.40	Presentation by Dr. Emilio Nicolás Nicolás, Scientific Researcher, Irrigation Department CEBAS-CSIC, Spanish Ministry of Science, Innovation and Universities
14.40 – 14.55	Presentation by Prof. Anna Laura Carducci, Professor of General and Applied Hygiene at the Department of Biology of the University of Pisa, Member of Working Group of “Environment and Health” of the National Italian Society of Public Health
14.55 – 15.00	Ms Yvonne van Laarhoven, Agricultural Attaché, kingdom of the Netherlands: innovative water management strategies contribution to climate change mitigation and adaptation in the agrifood sector
15.00 – 15.10	Presentation by Ms. Christine Müller, Principal Administrator, DG Climate Action, European Commission on Strategic Investments for a Resilient Future: Financing Water Management and Nature-Based Solutions [online]
15.10 – 15.20	Keynote Speech on FAO Strategic Priorities on water by Dr. Lifeng Li, Director, Land and Water Division
15.20 – 15.30	Q&A Session
15.30	Closing remarks by the moderator

**Languages** Interpretation will be provided for the side event in English, French, Russian and Spanish.