



First Coordination Meeting of the Global Water Analysis Laboratory Network

**IAEA Headquarters
Vienna, Austria**

18 - 20 June 2024

Ref. No.: EVT2304154

Information Sheet

Introduction

The UN 2023 Water Conference aimed to address the systemic reasons why the Sustainable Development Goal 6 (SDG6), i.e. Clean Water and Sanitation, was off track, and to develop ideas and actions that could aid in improving achievement of SDG6. Through a consultative process, five main areas of concern for why SDG6 was off track were identified. These were: (1) data and information; (2) capacity development; (3) innovation; (4) governance; and (5) financing. Whilst there are many ways in which these issues overlap and intersect, laboratories capable of timely generating reliable data are the cornerstone of any country's capacity to understand and manage their water resources, and to support national water governance. However, many countries do not have the technical and scientific resources to independently generate their own data. There are also challenges with how generated data is used and interpreted to best inform policy making decisions and to support water management strategies. Isotopic hydrology can help address this challenge.

The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) launched the Global Water Analysis Laboratory (GloWAL) Network at the UN 2023 Water Conference and registered the Network as a commitment to the Water Action Agenda. The core purpose of the Network is to empower Member States to generate their own chemical, biological and isotopic water data and to enable them to use the data in innovative and practical ways that directly feed into their national water management. Implementation of the GloWAL Network requires a consultative process, that will be initiated through the first GloWAL Coordination meeting, that accounts for the diverse needs within different Member States to tackle SDG6 and national water management.

Objectives

The purpose of the meeting is to develop and verify the implementation plan for GloWAL including the following specific actions:

- Defining the criteria and application process for nomination to different GloWAL nodes;
- Formulation of the technical and scientific advisory bodies to the GloWAL Network;
- Agreement on how often and through what mechanism the members of the GloWAL Network should meet;
- Identification of the criteria for new GloWAL challenges to be incorporated under focus area [1];
- Identification of the criteria for innovation developments to be incorporated under focus area [4];
- Defining key directions of the cooperation and partnership with UN Agencies to be incorporated under focus area [2];
- Liaison and complementarity between Technical Cooperation Projects and GloWAL Network Actions in capacity development and training.

Expected Outputs

- Identifying high priority areas of work for the GloWAL Network;
- Finalization of the implementation plan to enable the GloWAL Network to be operationalized.

Target Audience

Participants should be involved in the water resource sector in either a policy or water management decision making capacity or be directly involved in a water laboratory that provides isotopic and water quality analyses for Member States.

Working Language(s)

English

Structure

The meeting structure will consist of:

- An opening session consisting of welcoming addresses by representatives of the IAEA, Member States and cooperating organizations;
- Introduction to the GloWAL Network and its goals;
- Four panel discussion sessions, outlining the objectives and activities of each of the four focus areas (each with invited speakers and question time);
- A discussion session on the overall actions, agenda and implementation plan of the GloWAL Network;
- Agreement on the implementation plan;
- Wrap up and concluding remarks.

Participation and Registration

All persons wishing to participate in the event have to be designated by an IAEA Member State or should be members of organizations that have been invited to attend.

In order to be designated by an IAEA Member State or invited organization, participants are requested to submit their application via the InTouch+ platform (<https://intouchplus.iaea.org>) to the competent national authority (Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Permanent Mission to the IAEA or National Atomic Energy Authority) or organization for onward transmission to the IAEA by **10 June 2024**, following the registration procedure in InTouch+:

1. Access the InTouch+ platform (<https://intouchplus.iaea.org>):
 - Persons with an existing NUCLEUS account can sign in to the platform with their username and password;
 - Persons without an existing NUCLEUS account can register [here](#).
2. Once signed in, prospective participants can use the InTouch+ platform to:
 - Complete or update their personal details under ‘Complete Profile’ and upload the relevant supporting documents;
 - Search for the relevant event under the ‘My Eligible Events’ tab;
 - Select the Member State or invited organization they want to represent from the drop-down menu entitled ‘Designating Authority’ (if an invited organization is not listed, please contact InTouchPlus.Contact-Point@iaea.org);
 - If applicable, indicate whether financial support is requested and complete the relevant information (this is not applicable to participants from invited organizations);
 - Based on the data input, the InTouch+ platform will automatically generate the Participation Form (Form A) and/or the Grant Application Form (Form C);
 - Submit their application.

Once submitted through the InTouch+ platform, the application, together with the auto-generated form(s), will be transmitted automatically to the required authority for approval. If approved, the

application, together with the applicable form(s), will automatically be sent to the IAEA through the online platform.

NOTE: The application for financial support should be made, together with the submission of the application, by **8 April 2024**.

For additional information on how to apply for an event, please refer to the [InTouch+ Help](#) page. Any other issues or queries related to InTouch+ can be sent to InTouchPlus.Contact-Point@iaea.org.

Selected participants will be informed in due course on the procedures to be followed with regard to administrative and financial matters.

Participants are hereby informed that the personal data they submit will be processed in line with the [Agency's Personal Data and Privacy Policy](#) and is collected solely for the purpose(s) of reviewing and assessing the application and to complete logistical arrangements where required. The IAEA may also use the contact details of Applicants to inform them of the IAEA's scientific and technical publications, or the latest employment opportunities and current open vacancies at the IAEA. These secondary purposes are consistent with the IAEA's mandate. Further information can be found in the [Data Processing Notice](#) concerning the IAEA InTouch+ platform.

Expenditures and Grants

No registration fee is charged to participants.

The IAEA is generally not in a position to bear the travel and other costs of participants in the event. The IAEA has, however, limited funds at its disposal to help meet the cost of attendance of certain participants. Upon specific request, such assistance may be offered to normally one participant per country, provided that, in the IAEA's view, the participant will make an important contribution to the event.

The application for financial support should be made, together with the submission of the application, by **8 April 2024**.

Venue

The event will be held at the Vienna International Centre (VIC) where the IAEA's Headquarters are located. Participants must make their own travel and accommodation arrangements.

General information on the VIC and other practical details, such as a list of hotels offering a reduced rate for IAEA participants, are listed on the following IAEA web page:
<https://www.iaea.org/events>.

Participants are advised to arrive at Checkpoint 1/Gate 1 of the VIC one hour before the start of the event on the first day in order to allow for timely registration. Participants will need to present an official photo identification document in order to be admitted to the VIC premises.

Visas

Participants who require a visa to enter Austria should submit the necessary application to the nearest diplomatic or consular representative of Austria at least four weeks before they travel to Austria. Since Austria is a Schengen State, persons requiring a visa will have to apply for a Schengen visa. In States where Austria has no diplomatic mission, visas can be obtained from the consular authority of a Schengen Partner State representing Austria in the country in question.

Additional Information

The GloWAL Network supports improved access to water analysis capacity and data generation, provides focal points for technical capacity activities, and drives innovation in water analysis and management. These actions provide the key data, resources, and skills, required to enhance water management capacity at local, national and regional levels and provide guidance on the development of regulations and policy frameworks.

Key Objectives

The objectives of the network are to:

- Improve regional and national water laboratory analytical capacity;
- Assist Member States to independently generate water data;
- Support coordination and harmonization of national and regional approaches to water management and data reporting;
- Enhance regional and cross-boundary collaborations on transboundary resources;
- Facilitate development of more effective adaptation strategies to address the impact of climate change on water resources;
- Build trust among water stakeholders through enhanced transparency.

Key Activities

The GloWAL Network facilitates the following activities that support SDG6, and the Water Action Agenda.

- Provision of analytical services for the analysis of water samples, including isotope analyses, and participation in interlaboratory proficiency tests to ensure the validity of the data being generated and international acceptance of analysis results;
- Facilitation of technical and scientific capacity development actions including hosting of training fellowships and exchange of technical staff through IAEA mechanisms, including the Technical Cooperation Programme and Coordinated Research Projects undertaken through the Water Resources Programme;
- Support to national, regional and/or interregional research and development and Technical

Cooperation projects to address water management problems;

- Support to innovative development that addresses themes relevant to water resource needs;
- Integration of data management platforms for secure curation of data;
- Support to Member States in generating data needed to report on SDG6 indicators including support for the development of monitoring networks.

To ensure that the Network is able to fully deliver on this mandate, four focus areas have been defined:

[1] GloWAL Grand Challenges – Key scientific issues that are priorities for water management. For the GloWAL Network these issues are water scarcity, water quality and hydrological change.

[2] Data Management – Even when data is generated successfully, it needs to follow FAIR principles – data should be findable, accessible, interoperable and reusable. Furthermore, it should also meet minimum QA/AC standards.

[3] Capacity Development – To more effectively implement training activities in the water resource sector that take advantage of nuclear techniques and to integrate these activities with complementary activities being undertaken by other UN Agencies.

[4] Innovation – To drive innovation in nuclear applications to water resource management and water science for the benefit of all Member States.

Organization

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Subsequent correspondence on scientific matters should be sent to the Scientific Secretary/Secretaries and correspondence on other matters related to the event to the Administrative Secretary.

Event Web Page

Please visit the following IAEA web page regularly for new information regarding this event:
www.iaea.org/events/EVT2304154