

# Overview of international guiding principles for WEF governance

SS Governing the Water-Energy-Food Nexus

14 September 2024

XVIII IWRA World Water Congress

# Background: Objectives of the WEF nexus



***Reminder:*** 2.2 billion people lack access to safe drinking water, 4.2 billion lack access to safe sanitation, 2.3 billion live in water-stressed countries 1,1 billion do not have access to energy (1/2 are in Africa) and about 815 million do not have secure access to food



# Background: Objectives of the WEF nexus

Tight interconnections between the water, energy and food sectors

## ➤ Nexus approach:

→ Recognition of the complex relationship and interlinkages between these sectors

→ Imperative: achieve water, energy and food security for all

⊙ Ensure access to basic human needs for all (*already in the Bruntland report Our common future 1987*)

➤ ensure the sustainable use of resources by avoiding waste and loss

## How?

→ Integrating management and governance across sectors, and perhaps across scales.

# 2030 Agenda (UN GA resolution 70/1 (2015))

17 Sustainable Development Goals with 169 associated targets

➔ **Due consideration and implementation by States in their national frameworks**

## Implemented through

- Partnership and cooperation
- **the HRs**
- **the sustainable development principle** (*3 dimensions: economy, environment, society*)

➔ The goals are defined as integrated and indivisible

➔ *some goals are transversal*



# 2030 Agenda (UN GA resolution 70/1 (2015))

## ➤ Partnership and cooperation (UN GA resolution 70/1 (2015))

“All countries and all stakeholders, acting in collaborative partnership, will implement this plan”.

→ not only between countries, but also between **stakeholders**

👉 challenge of identifying and involving all relevant stakeholders



# 2030 Agenda (UN GA resolution 70/1 (2015))

## ➤ **The HRs**



The SDGs “seek to realize the human rights of all”

Reference in the Resolution : Universal Declaration of Human Rights, international human right treaties, previous UN General Assembly resolutions related to development such as the Millennium Declaration, the 2005 World Summit outcome or the Declaration on the Right to Development which are based on the respect of the human rights.

- Human right to safe drinking water and sanitation mentioned explicitly
- Reference to the right to food

# 2030 Agenda (UN GA resolution 70/1 (2015))

## Close relationship between human rights and development

Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action (1993):

→ democracy, development, and respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms are interdependent and mutually reinforcing.

- Development creates the conditions for the effective enjoyment of human rights for all
- the fulfilment of human rights is essential to achieving sustainable development in its three dimensions: economic, social and environmental.

👁️ Link between human rights and development strengthened and confirmed with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development



# Right to water and sanitation

## UN GA Resolution 64/292 (2010)

recognizes the right to ***safe and clean*** drinking water and sanitation as a human right

☞ essential for the full enjoyment of life and ***all human rights***;

Criteria (UN GA Resolution 74/141 (2019)) :

- ✓ sufficient, safe, acceptable, physically accessible and affordable water
- ✓ without discrimination



***Full realization of the right responsibility of the States*** (UN GA Resolutions 68/157 (2013) & 74/141 (2019))



# Right to food

☛ *Recognised as part of the right to an adequate standard of living (Universal Declaration of HR 1948 (§25.1))*

☛ *Right to **adequate** food (article 11.1 International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural rights 1966, in force 1976, 171 Parties)*

- ✓ Availability
- ✓ Accessibility → economic and physical access
- ✓ Adequacy → satisfy dietary needs



☛ *Right to be free from hunger (article 11.2 ICESCR)*

- ✓ Obligation to improve the methods of production, conservation and distribution of food:
  - technical and scientific knowledge,
  - disseminating knowledge of the principles of nutrition
  - developing or reforming agrarian systems in such a way as to achieve the most efficient development and utilization of natural resources;

# 2030 Agenda (UN GA resolution 70/1 (2015))

- Goal 2: End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture

☛ *affirmed as a priority*

- Goal 6 : Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all

☛ *Recognized as supporting many SDGs: ending poverty & hunger, ensuring health and disease prevention, education, gender equality, energy and climate change.*

- Goal 7: Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all