



DNC 2025 | The Future of Resources
Resources for the Future

First Circular

16 October 2024

1. Background

From April 8th to April 10th, 2025, the global Resource Nexus community will come together in Dresden, Germany, to discuss the future of integrated approaches to environmental resources management in research, education, capacity building and practice. DNC 2025 marks the 10th anniversary of the Dresden Nexus Conference which first took place in 2015 with a focus on Nexus approaches to Global Change and the SDGs.

DNC 2025 will coincide with other major events and anniversaries. DNC 2025 – the Future Nexus aligns with the United Nation’s mission to develop a post-2030 agenda for sustainable development, which was initiated by the Summit of the Future (2024) and the Pact for the Future. DNC will be one milestone event in the celebrations of the 50th anniversary of United Nations University, with UNU Rector and UN Under-Secretary-General Prof. Tshilidzi Marwala among our guests of honor, and the Prime Minister of Saxony Mr. Michael Kretschmer hosting the joint opening event of DNC 2025 and the Dresden Forum for International Politics at Frauenkirche (Church of Our Lady) in Dresden on April 8, 2025. For the city of Dresden, 2025 also marks the commemoration of 80 years of peace following World War II, 35 years as the capital of Saxony in a re-unified Germany, and 15 years of DRESDEN-concept, a research alliance of 40 prominent institutions in Dresden and the greater Dresden region. All this makes 2025 the right moment for having the World as our guests!

2. Conference Scope and Topics

The conference will on the one hand **look back** to highlight important developments, accomplishments and best-practice experiences of the recent past, particularly since environmental Nexus approaches have been popularized through conferences like the 2011 Bonn Water-Energy-Food Security Nexus conference or the DNC series of conferences. A global, inter- and transdisciplinary perspective will be taken on this, showcasing how the Nexus has contributed to advancing sustainability, but also for discussing the hindrances to the implementation of Nexus approaches in research and practice, and strategies to overcome these barriers. **Looking forward**, the conference encourages the exchange between scientists, policymakers, the community of practice and the young generation about ways to advance environmental Nexus approaches, both conceptually and in their implementation, with the goals of developing guidelines for the application of Nexus approaches in research and ISO documents for their implementation.

Contributions on the following topics are invited:

- Resource Nexus Approaches in selected fields, e.g. water/climate resilience, sustainable construction, circular economy, post-mining transitions, sustainable urban development
- Financing Resource Nexus approaches for sustainability transitions/transformations
- Advancing the Resource Nexus conceptually and in its implementation
- Knowledge Sharing and Science Diplomacy for the Resource Nexus
- Societal, economic and regional transformations to advance sustainability
- Governing the Nexus
- Resource Nexus, SDGs and the post-2030 agenda

3. Call for Session Proposals

In a first step, we are happy to invite session and side event proposals, which may be submitted by scientists and practitioners who have experience with the Resource Nexus, specific Nexus approaches (e.g. Water-Energy-Food, Water-Soil-Waste) or integrated approaches to environmental resource assessment and management (e.g., Integrated Water Resources Management, environmental footprints, Life Cycle Assessment). Sessions may be nature-, technology- or people-focused, or address the interconnections between these systems.

Sessions may be both of a more conventional scientific format (i.e. a mix of presentations and discussion), typically arranged in 90-minute slots, but may also have a different character (e.g. World Café, Workshop, ...). A session template is provided on which the session format and requirements can be indicated. Proposals shall be sent to dnc2025@unu.edu between 1 October 2024 and 20 November 2024. (Late proposals may be considered if space in the venue and programme allow; please enquire with us as needed by writing to dnc2025@unu.edu). Sessions and side events may be in person or hybrid.

Note that there will be a conference-wide World Café, and a guided tour of the [Sustainability Stories](#) exhibition during the conference.

4. Call for Abstracts

The call for abstracts will be launched on 2 December 2024. The deadline for abstract submissions will be 31 January 2025. Abstracts will be reviewed by the respective session convenors and the Scientific Committee. Participants will be notified by 15 February 2025 if their abstracts are accepted for a presentation or poster.

5. Conference Registration

Conference registration will open in early December 2024. The deadline for early registration is 31 January 2025. Please expect a conference registration fee of about 200 EUR for in-person participation, with discounts for virtual participation, participants from the Global South and for students.

6. Travel Information

Dresden is well connected by air and rail to major hubs in Germany and Europe. A wide range of accommodation is available in the city. The conference opening will take place at Frauenkirche (Church of our Lady), and the conference itself will be held at the German Museum of Hygiene, both of which are centrally located and easily accessible by public transport.

If you require a preliminary confirmation (e.g. for applying for a travel grant or approval) prior to the abstract selection and/or conference registration processes, please reach out to us via dnc2025@unu.edu at any time, indicating your anticipated form of participation in DNC.

7. Important Dates

October 2024: Launch of conference website, dissemination of first circular (call for sessions)

20 November 2024: Deadline for session proposals

December 2024: Dissemination of second circular (call for abstracts); conference registration opens

7 January 2025: Third Circular (reminder, and updates about conference planning)

31 January 2025: Deadline for session proposals

1 to 14 February 2025: Abstract review by session convenors

15 February 2025: Participants are informed about acceptance of their abstracts

1 March 2025: Full programme becomes available; early bird registration closes

8 to 10 April 2025: DNC 2025 takes place in Dresden

8. Scientific Committee

The scientific committee consists of a local organizing committee and an international expert panel. Note that this list is preliminary.

Coordinator of the scientific committee:

Prof. Dr. Daniel Karthe, UNU-FLORES, Dresden, Germany

Local experts

Prof. Dr. Edeltraud Günther, Director, UNU-FLORES, Dresden, Germany

Prof. Dr. Dominik Steiger, Academic Director, Centre for International Studies, TU Dresden, Dresden, Germany

Prof. Dr. Floor Brouwer, Adjunct Professor, UNU-FLORES, Dresden, Germany

International expert panel

Prof. Dr. Chrysi Laspidou, Vice-Rector of Innovation, University of Thessaly, Greece

Prof. Dr. Kaveh Madani, Director, United Nations University – Institute for Water, Environment and Health (UNU-INWEH), Richmond Hill, ON, Canada

Prof. Dr. Rabi Mohtar, Lead Scientist, WEF Nexus Research Group, Texas A&M University, College Station, TX, USA

Prof. Dr. Golam Rasul, Director, Department of Economics, International University of Business Agriculture and Technology (IUBAT), Dhaka, Bangladesh

Dr. Claudia Ringler, Director, Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research - International Food Policy Research Institute (CGIAR-IFPRI), Washington, DC, USA

Further members may be added over time.