

# Concept note and agenda

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## Upper Indus Basin Network

### REGIONAL STRATEGIC COMMITTEE MEETING

Date: 25 June 2020

### Time

	Afghanistan	Pakistan	India	Nepal	China	Australia
<b>Start time</b>	09:00	09:30	10:00	10:15	12:30	14:30
<b>End time</b>	12:00	12:30	13:00	13:15	15:30	17:30

Click [here](#) for the Microsoft Teams meeting link.

### Background

Climate change-related challenges transcend national boundaries. Recognizing the need for regional cooperation and knowledge sharing to address such challenges in the Indus basin, the Upper Indus Basin Network (UIBN) was formally established in 2014 as a knowledge-sharing network that works on climate research, community interventions, and policy making. The UIBN brings together researchers working in the basin to explore issues such as water availability and demand and emerging hazards and develop gender-sensitive solutions for all stakeholders within the basin.

In 2018, the UIBN's governance framework was adopted, with the Regional Strategic Committee (RSC) as the apex governance mechanism and Country Strategic Committees (CSC) in the four basin countries (Afghanistan, China, India, and Pakistan). The RSC meets biannually and is attended by two members from each country chapter, one member from a relevant international organization, and two members from the International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD). Participants of the meeting discuss the UIBN's progress, find ways to promote collaboration and offer guidance to the UIBN country chapters.

The RSC meeting held in August 2019 developed a Theory of Change and laid out future plans for the network, including the preparation of a joint project proposal on the impacts of climate change on water resources. To further discuss these developments, the UIBN had planned its regional UIBN annual meeting (RUAM) and RSC meeting in February 2020. However, in view of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, a virtual RSC meeting will be organized instead. The RSC will discuss country chapters' progress and devise a strategy and guidelines to address emerging challenges.

### Objectives

Assess country chapters' progress

Share recent updates on scientific findings in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic related to the Upper Indus Basin

Set strategic guidelines for the UIBN to help the network function more independently through its country chapters at the national and regional levels

Decide the next RUAM's outline, date, and venue

# Agenda

Time (Nepal)	Programme	Moderator
10:05–10:15	Participants register by logging on to Microsoft Teams	Ashmita Shakya, ICIMOD
10:15–10:45	<p><b>Opening session</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Welcome remarks <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>David Molden, Director General, ICIMOD</li> <li>Khalid Mohtadullah, Chair, UIBN</li> </ul> </li> <li>Objectives of the meeting and overview of the last RSC meeting – Arun Bhakta Shrestha, Regional Programme Manager, River Basins and Cryosphere, ICIMOD</li> <li>Opening remarks – Peter Budd, Australian Ambassador to Nepal</li> </ol> <p>(5 min each)</p>	Arun Bhakta Shrestha, ICIMOD
10:45–11:20	<p>Sharing recent updates on scientific findings in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic related to the upper Indus basin (10 min each, followed by discussion)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Air Quality Improvement in the UIB During COVID-19 and its likely Impacts on the melting cryosphere – SA Romshoo, University of Kashmir, India</li> <li>Recent updates on scientific findings in the context of COVID-19 pandemic related to UIB – MM Iqbal, NUST, Pakistan</li> </ol>	David Molden, ICIMOD
11:20–12:15	<p><b>A. Presentation of the final Theory of Change developed during the last RSC for endorsement</b> – Farid Ahmad, Head – Strategic Planning, Monitoring, and Evaluation Unit, ICIMOD (5 min)</p> <p><b>B. Presentation of country chapters’ progress by Country Coordinators/Co-ordinators</b> (8 min each)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Afghanistan Country Chapter – Mohammad Rafi Qazizada – DG Natural Resources Management</li> <li>China Country Chapter – Daming He, Yunnan University</li> <li>India Country Chapter – A P Dimri, Jawaharlal Nehru University</li> <li>Pakistan Country Chapter – Muhammad Riaz, Pakistan Meteorological Department</li> </ol> <p><b>C. Presentation on Joint research proposal</b> by Ghulam Rasul (5 min)</p>	Chair
12:15–13:10	<p>Discussion on strategic direction and guidelines for the UIBN country chapters focusing on the prevailing context</p> <p>Next RSC and RUAM meeting date, venue, and agenda outline</p>	Chair
13:10–13:15	<p>Outcomes and action points of the meeting</p> <p>Vote of thanks</p>	Ajaz Ali, ICIMOD