



Report

of the Committee on Water Resources on its fourteenth session held virtually on 29 and 30 September 2021

Summary

The Committee on Water Resources of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) held its fourteenth session virtually on 29 and 30 September 2021. The Committee considered the items on its agenda, including integrated water resources management for improved water security in the Arab region and groundwater resources management. The Committee followed up on the implementation of recommendations issued at its thirteenth session, and on progress in implementing the activities set out in the ESCWA programme of work. Participants also discussed regional priorities in the field of water resources for the period 2021-2025.

The present report provides a brief account of discussions on each agenda item and the resulting recommendations.

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Introduction

1. The Committee on Water Resources of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) held its fourteenth session online on 29 and 30 September 2021, pursuant to ESCWA resolution 205 (XVIII) of 25 May 1995, concerning the establishment of a committee on water resources in ESCWA, which was endorsed by the Economic and Social Council in its resolution [1995/26](#) of 24 July 1995.

I. Recommendations made by the Committee on Water Resources at its fourteenth session

2. At the close of its fourteenth session, the Committee on Water Resources made recommendations to member States and to the ESCWA secretariat.

A. Recommendations to member States

3. The Committee on Water Resources issued the following recommendations to ESCWA member States:

(a) Welcome the progress made in implementing the activities in ESCWA's work programme on water issues and the implementation of the recommendations made by the Committee at its thirteenth session;

(b) Take actions to mainstream water-related goals and targets in national and sectoral development plans and commitments, including those related to food, energy and climate change, to promote integrated programming and policy development;

(c) Work to advance the goals of the International Decade for Action, "Water for Sustainable development", 2018–2028, and contribute to its midterm review at the regional and global levels through activities that support multisectoral and multi-stakeholder engagement;

(d) Strengthen regional coordination on climate action through active participation in relevant international meetings, continue to develop common Arab positions in global climate change negotiations and be guided by these positions in various forums;

(e) Welcome ESCWA's efforts to develop guidelines for groundwater extraction management in the Arab region and emphasize the importance of participating in regional and global groundwater dialogues, particularly at the Groundwater Summit to be held in Paris in December 2022;

(f) Continue to take the necessary measures to achieve integrated management of water resources by increasing funding for them and sharing regional expertise;

(g) Regularly inform the ESCWA secretariat of the efforts of member States in the area of water.

B. Recommendations to the ESCWA secretariat

4. The Committee on Water Resources issued the following recommendations to the ESCWA secretariat:

(a) Continue to provide technical support to Arab States, particularly least developed countries (LDCs) and countries affected by conflict and disaster, to promote integrated management of water resources and related goals, and to strengthen groundwater resource management interlinkage with the water, food and energy security nexus, taking into account regional and national specificities and needs, particularly those associated with capacity-building, technology transfer and finance;

(b) Provide technical support to activate Arab participation in international water conferences and forums to highlight the challenges faced by Arab countries, including those related to the follow-up and implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Paris Agreement, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development;

(c) Support member States in engaging with the International Decade for Action, “Water for Sustainable development”, 2018–2028 and coordinate regional preparations for the comprehensive mid-term review of the implementation of the Decade by organizing an Arab preparatory meeting, and by participating in regional forums including Cairo Water Week;

(d) Organize a regional dialogue in preparation for the Groundwater Summit to be held in Paris in December 2022;

(e) Continue to deepen regional knowledge on transboundary/shared water issues and provide space for regional dialogue on water security challenges, including the impact of changes in water availability on achieving food, energy and climate development goals;

(f) Continue to support the efforts of the Arab Ministerial Water Council in issuing guidelines for Arab cooperation in the field of shared water resources;

(g) Develop a digital groundwater knowledge platform to help decision makers and stakeholders benefit from the latest studies, reports and tools in this area, including those related to the impacts of climate change on groundwater, the economic and social cost of overexploitation of groundwater resources, water harvesting technologies and artificial recharge of aquifers;

(h) Support regional action on climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction, including transboundary challenges such as sand and dust storms, using RICCAR projections, and support efforts to enhance climate and water security in the Arab region;

(i) Support member States in efforts to mobilize climate finance, particularly in transboundary projects, and to develop proposals for projects that can be supported through innovative climate finance tools;

(j) Provide information on the ESCWA secretariat's water activities quarterly.

II. Topics of discussion

A. Follow-up issues

Implementation of activities under the ESCWA programme of work and of recommendations made by the Committee on Water Resources at its thirteenth session
(Agenda item 4)

5. Under this item, the Committee considered document [E/ESCWA/C.4/2021/3](#) on Implementation of activities under the ESCWA programme of work pursuant to recommendations made by the Committee on Water Resources at its thirteenth session, held in Beirut from 27 to 28 June 2019.

6. The representative of the secretariat made a presentation covering the key activities implemented since June 2019 under ESCWA subprogramme 1 on Integrated Management of Natural Resources for Sustainable Development. These activities included providing support to member States in implementing global agreements, resolutions and initiatives, conducting studies, issuing publications and convening expert group meetings and capacity-building workshops. Key areas of work also include groundwater analysis towards enhanced water security in the Arab region, accelerating work toward the achievement of SDG 6, Integrated

Water Resources Management (IWRM) to achieve water security, advancing the Water-Energy-Food nexus approach and climate finance for water, climate change and adaptation. She also highlighted the implementation of recommendations made by the Committee on Water Resources at its 13th session. The floor was then opened for discussion and feedback from member States.

7. The representative from Yemen said that the document under consideration tackled several important issues related to Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) and that for a long time now discussions had been ongoing between Yemen and ESCWA to have a collaborative work on promoting IWRM. Because of the situation in Yemen, there was a large lack of knowledge on the concept and its linkage to SDG indicator 6.5.1. He requested clarifications on how work could be done to further improve this and asked whether there were any updates related to the implementation plan of the Arab Strategy on Water Security and its link to the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development.

8. The representative from Jordan said that he hoped that the meeting would be useful to exchange expertise across countries and that it would be a platform to discuss future initiatives. A modelling project had been developed at the ministry level in Jordan based on the RICCAR outcomes, and they were willing to share these outcomes to benefit other countries. In addition, he expressed his interest in receiving some of the climate models covering groundwater in Jordanian territory as well.

9. The representative from the Syrian Arab Republic said that the presentation by ESCWA covered important aspects of addressing the huge water challenge that had existed for a long time and was being aggravated by climate change and the COVID-19 pandemic. The Syrian Arab Republic faced a lot of challenges regarding the Tigris and Euphrates, however both the Syrian Arab Republic and Iraq were very cooperative and were able to properly manage the water scarcity issue at the time. He hoped to see more joint activities between Arab States aiming at advancing progress towards better outcomes.

10. The representative from the State of Palestine said that the entire Arab region was witnessing challenges related to water scarcity, climate change and the COVID-19 pandemic, however the case of the State Palestine was particular. On top of those challenges, the State of Palestine was suffering from occupation under which the renewable water resources available for use in Gaza did not exceed 15 per cent of the total, with the remaining resources being exploited by the Israelis. Israelis controlled access to that 15 per cent of renewable water resources and were not allowing Palestinians to develop their own water resources.

11. The representative from Egypt said that her country was very honoured to have been involved in the activities organized by ESCWA, notably the negotiation skills and capacity-building workshop and was looking forward to more advanced levels of those workshops. She also requested to have some synchronization on the level of information disseminated through ESCWA activities to allow all member States to participate and allow for dissemination of information to reach a wider audience.

12. In response, representatives of the secretariat welcomed participants' comments and answered some of their questions. Regarding the Arab Strategy for Water Security, they said it had been developed by the Arab Water Council in 2011 and since 2018 the Arab Center for the Studies of Arid Zones and Dry Lands (ACSAD) had been working on updating it in consultation with representatives of Arab States, to take into consideration the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development, specifically the water-related SDGs. The updated strategy would be presented to the Arab Ministerial Water Council. They reiterated ESCWA's commitment to organize capacity-building activities and encouraged Member States to participate in those trainings. They also expressed their interest in seeing how RICCAR data had been used and applied in climate-related modelling by Member States.

B. Actions required to achieve regional water goals

1. Integrated water resources management for improved security in the Arab region (Agenda item 5)

13. Under this item, the Committee considered document [E/ESCWA/C.4/2021/4](#) on integrated water resources management for improved water security in the Arab region. The representative of the secretariat reviewed the importance of the sustainable management of natural resources to achieve social development and economic prosperity as per the 2030 Agenda. He also discussed the initiatives implemented by ESCWA to help Arab States overcome the challenges in moving towards water security in the region, which included the Water Action Decade (2018-2028), a regional progress report on Integrated Water Resources Management in the Arab region (SDG indicator 6.5.1), a progress report on shared water resources management in the Arab Region (SDG indicator 6.5.2), guiding principles for Arab cooperation in the exploitation of shared water resources, training workshops to build negotiation skills for cooperation in transboundary water management and a Mashreq waters knowledge series. He then opened the floor for committee members to advise on further areas of work that the secretariat could pursue to advance work on IWRM for improved water security.

14. The representative from Saudi Arabia said that the method used in preparing indicators and reports was effective, however countries were facing a problem in following up and updating these figures, and the document may lack some updates on targets and indicators of shared water resources at the country level. The COVID-19 pandemic could have put distance between members of the committee who prepared the report and the States; thus, officers were needed in each country to effectively report the needed information.

15. The representative from the Syrian Arab Republic said that following traditional technology for managing water resources was no longer a viable option. There was a huge lack of data in the Syrian Arab Republic due to the unpreparedness of measuring stations, and incomplete measuring systems that were further complicated by conflicts and war in the country. ESCWA's help was needed to advise on the use of modern technologies and overcome this obstacle very soon.

16. The representative from ESCWA answered the question by the representative of Saudi Arabia by saying that indicators 6.5.1 and 6.5.2 were two indicators collected by their respective custodian agencies. SDG 6.5.1 was collected by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) through a form sent to national focal points responsible for conducting meetings and consultations with the responsible national offices. The same process was followed for indicator 6.5.2 which was reviewed by the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO). ESCWA's role was to look at these indicators from a regional perspective and better reflect the specificities, challenges and priorities of the Arab region.

17. The representative from Morocco commended ESCWA's efforts to improve water security in the Arab world, including the guiding principles on management of groundwater abstraction, and apply the nexus approach between water, energy and food. Morocco suffered from water scarcity and climate change, especially due to successive years of droughts. The country was at the time assessing and re-evaluating the quantity of water resources to update the strategy by setting a new vision and aiming for an emergency water supply plan that would extend to 2027.

18. The secretariat of ESCWA concluded the session by informing member States that the recommendations they had made, to both ESCWA and Member States, would be taken into consideration and summarized.

2. *Groundwater resources management* (Agenda item 6)

19. Under this item, the Committee considered document [E/ESCWA/C.4/2021/5](#) on Groundwater resources management. The representative of the secretariat highlighted the central role of groundwater in achieving the goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, while emphasizing the current challenges in terms of climate change and transboundary water. To support member States in the management of groundwater resources, ESCWA had recently launched initiatives including Guidelines for the Management of Groundwater Abstraction in the Arab Region, assessments of the impacts of climate change on groundwater resources and capacity development activities. In addition, work was underway to increase access to groundwater knowledge in the region through a digital platform and by providing pertinent analysis and assessments of groundwater resources.

20. The representative from Iraq said that groundwater was an important water resource in his country. However, a large portion of this groundwater was polluted and unusable due to overexploitation and the effects of climate change. Damam was the most important reservoir in Iraq, however it was extremely hard to manage due to the vast desert area and absence of a monitoring network. Capacity-building was needed to tackle this challenge. The country had advanced groundwater governance; a survey had been conducted 7 years previously of 90,000 wells to produce a complete database, but help was still needed to build capacity to do modelling and understand the way forward.

21. The representative from the Syrian Arab Republic said that most of the groundwater basins in his country had been studied and modelled between the 1990s and 2010. Even though data and information regarding aquifer and rainfall was available, the country lacked updated data for the previous 10 years, and part of the information had even been lost. Covering the data gap was crucial before continuing numerical modelling. Disruptive technologies might be the best solution for the problem, and hopefully ESCWA could provide the support needed to adopt such technologies. The survey in Iraq was welcome; he hoped to gain experience from it and expressed his interest in taking part in the knowledge platform being developed by ESCWA.

22. The representative from Saudi Arabia said that his country had a very large number of wells spread throughout its territory. It had conducted studies on all aquifers, it had a well-established network of monitoring wells and the yearly change in water level was also monitored and available on the website. Saudi Arabia had launched a new platform with the Group of 20 on water that could be accessed online by the public and where member States could share their success stories and lessons learned. Not all information on groundwater (especially on non-renewable) was accurate and some of the information could not be shared as part of their strategic security. Member States should hold a panel discussion to tackle the importance of having water security strategies based on groundwater because it is safe, available and accessible. He asked the secretariat whether the guiding principles for groundwater management were final and could be implemented by his country.

23. The representative from Jordan talked about the guidelines for groundwater management and the Mashreq Assessment. A groundwater monitoring system aimed at protecting groundwater and avoiding its depletion had existed in Jordan since 2002 and had been updated several times in the previous few years. He asked the secretariat whether the groundwater abstraction guidelines could be used to assess the existing Jordanian groundwater abstraction management framework.

24. The representative from Yemen said that despite his country's efforts on integrated water management on the basin level, and while many studies were being implemented, the efforts were not sustainable –when funding ended those projects ended as well. Yemen was facing problems of law enforcement which led conflicts between neighbouring areas over groundwater resources. Arab States should be classified based on their water needs, and Yemen should be given the highest-level priority level with urgent support and funding.

25. The representative from the United Arab Emirates said that his country was currently working on a 4-year project to develop a hydrogeological map for the country. It would be the first official detailed map to include all information on groundwater, and the first report was expected to be launched by the end of 2021. When the hydrogeological map was ready, the United Arab Emirates would be happy to share it with ESCWA and transfer knowledge and expertise on developing such maps.
26. The representative from Qatar said that his country ranked 17th globally in terms of integrated water resources management, yet it ranked 1st on the Water Resources Indices in terms of water scarcity risk. Qatar relied mostly on desalinated water followed by groundwater resources, with demand outstripping sustainable supply, thus leading to a severe problem in managing water resources. Four years before, a water policy had been developed, and Qatar had relied on it and generated a related strategy that included 26 initiatives and 20 indicators. At the level of the Gulf Cooperation Council, a digital data platform already existed that gathered all water-related data from GCC Member States.
27. The representative from Kuwait said that very limited studies on artificial recharge had been conducted in Kuwait and highlighted the importance of promoting legislation to protect groundwater while adopting innovative technologies.
28. The representative from the State of Palestine suggested the development of a clear policy document on water quality guidance that could be adopted by member States to limit pollution – no such policy was currently in place.
29. The representative from Egypt said that her country relied mostly on the Nile river and the Nubian aquifer, a non-renewable aquifer. A recent project had been launched by UNESCO in cooperation with neighbouring countries (Egypt, Sudan, Libya and Chad) to enhance the management of the Nubian transboundary aquifer. The aim of the project was to overcome the information gap and build the capacity of groundwater experts in the four countries to review national strategies to enhance shared water management.
30. The representative from Tunisia said that her country already had a digital platform for groundwater and surface water. Every year data was updated, but some information could not be disclosed by all countries for reasons of confidentiality. She asked whether this confidential information could be identified and shared on the digital platform proposed by ESCWA. Tunisia had been working continuously on the management of different water resources, however more attention should be given to safe groundwater extraction.
31. In response, the representative of the secretariat welcomed participants' comments and thanked them for sharing their respective experiences and lessons learned. He answered some of the questions raised by representatives of the Member States, though other questions would require bilateral talks between ESCWA and the concerned State. In response to the question from Iraq, which was also valid for other countries, on how to benefit from ESCWA's programme of work, a clear process was followed by the secretariat to respond to country-specific advisory services and capacity-building demands (that were not covered within ESCWA's program of work) by receiving and responding to such requests through ESCWA's Technical Cooperation Unit. As for the question by the Syrian Arab Republic, ESCWA would be happy to collaborate on convening the workshop on disruptive technologies among others and would encourage discussions between countries and exchanges of experiences and lessons learned. The groundwater digital platform that was still under development by ESCWA would be institutionalized in 2022 and a meeting would be held with member States to agree on the vision, instrument and information to be included in the platform in order to maximize its use and benefits. It was important that one focal point be assigned from each member State to be responsible for updating the digital platform with the necessary information and successful projects in order for the platform to serve its purpose and promote the exchange of experiences and lessons learned across countries. The guiding principles for groundwater management were in their final form and States could use them. ESCWA would be conducting a regional dialogue on groundwater that would inform a regional session within the Groundwater Summit to be held in Paris in December 2022.

C. Programmatic issues

1. *Programmatic issues* (Agenda item 7)

32. Under this item, the Committee considered document E/ESCWA/C.4/2021/CRP.1 on regional priorities in the field of water resources for the period 2021-2025. The representative from the secretariat provided an overview of the challenges facing the region in accelerating the pace towards the water-related Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and water security. The discussion aimed to consider how to accelerate achievement of the water-related SDGs by leveraging global and regional initiatives with a focus on innovation, data and information, governance and financing to improve water security under climate change in the region.

33. The representative from Yemen suggested to institutionalize a shared platform or a cooperation network at the national level that involved all sectors and encouraged information sharing to facilitate decision and policymaking. There should be a national coordination mechanism or cross-sectoral committee to enhance ESCWA's work in addressing correlated issues while aligning them with ongoing activities.

34. The representative from the State of Palestine explained that the country was working on enhancing food and water security by addressing these issues in an integrated approach. Other members of the committee should discuss the issue of wastewater re-use and suggest any capacity-building activities or experience they may have that the State of Palestine could learn from or try to replicate.

35. The representative from the Syrian Arab Republic said that for the five coming years more attention should be given to the water-energy nexus, particularly when discussing groundwater abstraction and alternative energy. Some research had been done by ESCWA and showed the importance of this issue. The availability of low cost alternative energy and solar power had made groundwater more susceptible to exhaustion and thus guidelines were needed on how to properly manage renewable energy resources to avoid negative outcomes of groundwater extraction.

36. The representative from Saudi Arabia commented on the 2021-2025 plan by saying that he hoped the plan would tackle technical issues for policymakers including training sessions on management of groundwater resources and integrated management of groundwater resources. ESCWA should have a media centre to closely follow ministries, find any updated information, data, KPIs or surveys related to water resources in the region and gather all that information in one place.

37. The representative from Oman said that he agrees with the suggested priorities for the upcoming five years and proposed to foster integrated management of groundwater resources by implementing water quotas in different farms using smart meters and specifying water share for each of these farms to limit water loss, especially in agriculture, which was the largest water consuming sector. It was very important to expand the use of renewable energy resources to the level of desalination to reduce costs and expand the use of treated water through the development of laws or guidelines on the proper management of water resources in different sectors.

38. In response, the representative of the secretariat welcomed participants' feedback and suggestions on regional priorities. ESCWA was keen to have bilateral talks with each Member State to address their respective concerns and provide support as needed. ESCWA had a wide variety of capacity-building programmes that countries could benefit from, including on groundwater modelling. ESCWA had been providing support to Member States on transboundary water in the form of information, data and studies in addition to capacity-building workshops and support to the Arab Ministerial Water Council. ESCWA was looking forward to receiving country-specific requests on what type of support on transboundary water was needed and to advancing the work programme accordingly.

39. At the end of this discussion, it was agreed that these suggested regional priorities would constitute the focus areas of ESCWA's work programme for the coming five years.

2. *Date and venue of the fifteenth session
of the Committee on Water Resources*
(Agenda item 8)

40. The fifteenth session of the Committee on Water Resources would be held at the United Nations House in Beirut in 2023. The ESCWA secretariat would communicate with stakeholders to determine a specific date.

3. *Other matters*
(Agenda item 9)

41. No other matters were raised under this item.

4. *Adoption of the recommendations made by the Committee on
Water Resources at its fourteenth session*
(Agenda item 10)

42. At its closing session, the Committee adopted the recommendations issued at its fourteenth session as set out in the present report.

III. Organization of the session

A. Date and venue

43. The fourteenth session of the Committee on Water Resources was held online on 29 and 30 September 2021.

B. Opening

44. In his capacity as representative of the country chairing the Committee's thirteenth session, the representative of Oman opened the session. He welcomed all participants and thanked them for accepting the invitation to attend the fourteenth session of the Committee on Water Resources. He also thanked ESCWA for the great efforts in supporting member States in developing their water resources governance and for its hard work in organizing the session. The unprecedented circumstances of 2020 and the COVID-19 pandemic in particular were a wake-up call for the region to understand the importance of ensuring universal access to clean water, sanitation and hygiene to protect human health and well-being and the imperative need to achieve Goal 6 of the Agenda for Sustainable Development. Committee members had participated over the previous two years in the implementation of activities related to groundwater analysis, integrated water resources management to accelerate work towards achieving SDG 6 and work to strengthen the Water-Energy-Food nexus approach. He concluded his statement by thanking all Committee members and ESCWA for their support during his tenure as Chair of the thirteenth session of the Committee on Water Resources and by wishing the representative of the State of Palestine all the luck in chairing the fourteenth session.

45. The Leader of the Climate Change and Natural Resources Sustainability Cluster made a statement on behalf of the ESCWA secretariat. After welcoming participants to the fourteenth session of the Committee on Water Resources and thanking those who had participated in the joint session of the water and energy committees, she highlighted the expected outcomes of the session over the coming two days. Despite the unprecedented circumstances of the COVID-19 pandemic and the fact that the World Health Organization had recommended frequent hand washing to prevent the spread of this virus, tens of millions in the Arab region still lacked basic hand washing facilities. Given the importance of water to the Agenda for Sustainable Development, the United Nations General Assembly had launched the international Water Action Decade for

2018-2028 to intensify efforts towards addressing water-related challenges. Some of the most prominent challenges impeding progress towards sustainable water management in the Arab region were water governance, groundwater management and weak legislative frameworks for groundwater management, even as climate change effects further exacerbated those challenges. It was important to secure adequate funding for the development and implementation of water projects as an application of the principles of integrated management of water resources in the Arab region. Committee members were invited to discuss work priorities and build a tighter relationship between ESCWA and member States to achieve sustainable development that left no one behind.

C. Participants

46. Representatives of the following 17 ESCWA member States took part in the session: Algeria, Bahrain, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Morocco, Oman, the State of Palestine, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, the Syrian Arab Republic, Tunisia, the United Arab Emirates and Yemen. The list of participants is set out in annex I to the present report.

D. Election of officers

47. Rule 18 of the Terms of Reference and Rules of Procedure of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia provides that member States shall chair the sessions of the subsidiary bodies of the Commission on a rotating basis, in the Arabic alphabetical order employed by the United Nations. Accordingly, the State of Palestine assumed the chair of the fourteenth session of the Committee on Water Resources. The representatives of Oman and Qatar assumed the positions of first and second vice-chair, and the representative of Kuwait that of rapporteur.

E. Adoption of the agenda and programme of work

48. At its first meeting, the Committee adopted the agenda of its thirteenth session as set out in document [E/ESCWA/C.4/2021/L.1](#).

Annex I

List of participants

Algeria

Mr. Ismail Amirouche
Secretary-General
Ministry of Water Resources and Water Security

Mr. Sherif Aisio
Section Director of Agricultural Water Use
Ministry of Water Resources and Water Security

Mr. Ohussain Zuhair
Ministry of Water Resources and Water Security

Mr. Kouici Ahmed
Ministry of Water Resources and Water Security

Bahrain

Mr. Khalid Mansour Ahmed Hashem
Head of Abu Jarjour desalination plant with
reverse osmosis
Ministry of Electricity and Water Affairs

Egypt

Mr. Rajab AbdelAzim
Undersecretary of the Ministry and Supervisor of
the Minister's Office
Ministry of Water Resources and Irrigation

Ms. Tahani Mustafa Sileet
Head of the Central Department of External
Cooperation
Ministry of Water Resources and Irrigation

Iraq

Mr. Zeid Hmoudi Habib
Director General of the Planning and Follow-up
Department
Ministry of Water Resources

Mr. Ahmed Nazim Kuweir
Assistant Director General of the General
Authority for Groundwater
Ministry of Water Resources

Mrs. Luma Khalid Majeed
Chief Engineer
Department of International Water Studies
Ministry of Water Resources

Jordan

Mr. Jihad Al-Mahamid
Secretary-General
Ministry of Water and Irrigation

Mr. Mohamed Al-Dwairi
Assistant Secretary-General for Strategic Planning
Ministry of Water and Irrigation

Mr. Adel Al-Abobeiaat
Assistant Secretary-General for Technical Affairs
Ministry of Water and Irrigation

Kuwait

Ms. Sarah Al-Mutairi
Director of the Department of Chemical Work
Water operation and maintenance sector,
Ministry of Electricity and Water

Ms. Maha Yusuf Al-Hajri
Director of the Water Structure Project,
Water Operation and Maintenance Sector,
Ministry of Electricity and Water

Lebanon

Ms. Mona Fakhri
Water Manager
Directorate General of Water and Electrical
Resources
Ministry of Energy and Water

Morocco

Mr. Kamal Yaalaoui
In charge of the Water Resources Department.
Water Research and Planning Directorate
Ministry of Equipment, Transport, Logistics and
Water

Morocco (continued)

Mr. Omar Shafiki
Director General of Meteorology
Ministry of Equipment, Transport, Logistics and
Water

Mr. Rashid Al Safi
Head of the groundwater department
Ministry of Equipment, Transport, Logistics and
Water

Oman

Mr. Salem Al Khanbashi
Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Water
Resources

State of Palestine

Ms. Salam Abu Hantash
Head of Water Resources Management
Palestinian Water Authority

Mr. Omar Zayed
Director General of the Resources Department
Palestinian Water Authority

Ms. Magida Alawneh
General Directorate of Water Quality Laboratory
Sources
Palestinian Water Authority

Mr. Adel Yassin
Director General of the General Planning
Department and
Director of the Department of Sanitation
Palestinian Water Authority

Mr. Mouath Abu Saada
Water sources and climate change expert
Palestinian Water Authority

Ms. Rehab Zaher
General Planning Department
Palestinian Water Authority

Qatar

Mr. Fahad Yousef Tolfat
Director of Water Systems Affairs
Qatar General Electricity and Water
KAHRAMAA

Mr. Anbar Mubarak Alali
Director of Operation and Water Control
Qatar General Electricity and Water KAHRAMAA
Mr. Abdul Aziz Ali Al-Marsi
Ministry of Municipality and Environment

Saudi Arabia

Mr. Mutab bin Saeed Al-Qahtani
Director General of the General Administration of
Water Resources
Ministry of Environment, Water and Agriculture

Mr. Mishari bin Mohammed Al-Maliki
Director of Research and Water Studies
Department
Ministry of Environment, Water and Agriculture

Sudan

Mr. Gismalla Khalafallah Gismallah
Director General of Irrigation Operations
Ministry of Irrigation and Water Resources

Mr. Abdulsalam Mohamed Saleh
Project Manager
Ministry of Irrigation and Water Resources

Mr. Abdul Nassir Khodr Mohammed Osman
Executive Director of the Minister's Office
Ministry of Irrigation and Water Resources

Ms. Saida Osman Ahmed
Groundwater engineer
Ministry of Irrigation and Water Resources

Syrian Arab Republic

Mr. Osama Al-Akhras
Deputy Minister of Water Resources
Ministry of Water Resources

Mr. Jihad Kanaan
International Water Director
Ministry of Water Resources

Mr. Bassam Abu Harb
Director of Planning and International Cooperation

Ms. Maha Al-Raja
International Water Directorate
Ministry of Water Resources

Ms. Rana Al-Akel
International Water Directorate
Ministry of Water Resources

Syrian Arab Republic (continued)

Ms. Yasmine Malla
International Water Directorate
Ministry of Water Resources

Tunisia

Mr. Hassan Lotfi Frigui
Director General of Water Resources
Ministry of Agriculture, Water Resources and
Fisheries

Mr. Reza Gabouj
Director General of Rural Engineering and Water
Exploitation
Ministry of Agriculture, Water Resources and
Fisheries

Ms. Hayat Ben Mansour
Surface Water Manager
General Department of Water Resources
Ministry of Agriculture, Water Resources and
Fisheries

Mr. Samir Al-Hadiaoui
Kahia Director of Water Exploration
General Department of Water Resources
Ministry of Agriculture, Water Resources and
Fisheries

United Arab Emirates

Mr. Mohammad Al-Mulla
Director of Water Resources Department
Ministry of Energy and Infrastructure

Mr. Nasser Al-Kothair
Director of Dam Management
Ministry of Energy and Infrastructure

Ms. Hind Al Ali
Head of Policy and Water Resource Planning
Ministry of Energy and Infrastructure

Yemen

Mr. Najib Mohammed Ahmed Noman
Acting Undersecretary for Water
Ministry of Water and Environment

Mr. Nasser Mohammed Nasser Al-Yazidi
Minister's Advisor on Water Resources,
Programmes and Policies
Ministry of Water and Environment

Annex II
List of documents

Title	Item	Symbol
Information note		E/ESCWA/C.4/2021/INF.1
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